

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

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OSCAR PATTERSON III

VIETNAM EDITOR:

RON WARD

Published Bi-Monthly

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



S.S. ARGENTINA

1989 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1990

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Boston, MA 02130

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St. Louis, MO 63123

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AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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St. Louis, MO 63123

#Vietnam Veteran

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

April 14, 1990

Americal Museum, Ft. Devens, MA

1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

May 19, 1990

Americal Museum, Ft. Devens, MA

10:30 a.m. Business Meeting

ARMED FORCES DAY

May 27, 1990

National Cemetery Bourne, MA

2:00 p.m. Memorial Day Services

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR BALLOT?
RETURN IT TODAY!

COVER STORY

S.S. ARGENTINA

Built in 1929 at Newport News, Virginia, as the S.S. Pennsylvania, this ship spent the greater part of her pre-war/post-war commercial life in the U.S.-Latin American passenger trade. Her operator was the Moore-McCormack Line. She took the name Argentina in 1938 and went to work as a troopship in 1942 under the direction of the War Shipping Administration with sailing schedules as set by the U.S. War Department.

One of the most active U.S. troopers, she did her war service in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. In 1946 she was readied to carry war brides and was the first ship to bring them to the U.S. after the war.

When these duties closed out, she resumed duties as a passenger ship along with her two sister ships the Uruguay and the Brazil. With newer vessels on the line, however, the Argentina was laid up in 1960. After lying with the James River (VA) group of the Atlantic Reserve Fleet, she was scrapped in the fall of 1964.

The S.S. Argentina measured 613 feet in overall length, 80 feet in beam, and drew 34 1/2 feet. She had a turbo-electric drive and her twin propellers gave her a rated speed of 16 1/2 knots (19 m.p.h.). Her gross tonnage was 20,614. As a troopship, she had accommodations for 4,323 officers and men. This was in sharp contrast to her peacetime accommodations for 575 passengers.

In 1942, the S.S. Argentina served as the flag ship for Task Force 6814 carrying all the senior officers.

The photo and information on the S.S. Argentina came from Ed Oberle. His letter is below.

Dear Jim:

Enclosed is a picture of another flag ship of the task force fleet--USS Argentina. I thought you and the rest of the organization, Co. E & 182nd, and Americal Division Vets would be interested in seeing this photo of the flag ship of the fleet. You may note that the history of the ship fails to mention the "military cruise" to the Pacific. This was the first offensive convoy to leave the US in WWII. Except for the ship's commander, I was the only other Army officer whose identification permitted entry to all parts of the ship. I also had to attend all meetings on the bridge as called for by the ship's commander. Before closing, I would like to ask if any other ship in the convoy had civilian waiters and cabin boys? I could go on and on, but would end up writing a book.

As ever
Ed Oberle

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ralph R. Antonelli
39th MPs
Somerville, MAJames N. Baird
HHB 1/82 Arty
Rockcity Falls, NYDaryl D. Brown
Co. C 57th Engr.
Shepherd, MITerry Carter
Co. C 523rd Sig. Bn.
Memphis, TNJohn E. Derwort
82nd F.A.
Mooresville, NCNormand N. Drapeau
Co. D 182nd Inf.
East Hartford, CTDavid L. Heindl
Co. E 1/2 Inf. 198 Bd.
Big Bend, WIJames M. Kirkwood
H.Hq. Cò. 1/6 Inf. 198
Philadelphia, PAVincent Mattus
57th Engr.
Worcester, MAGeorge Morton
Co. B 125 QM
DelRay Beach, FLMarion S. Novinski
125 QM
St. Petersburg, FLJames L. Roach
Hq. Americal Band
Fenton, MORalph W. Sears
Btry A 245 F.A.
Montevallo, ALDavid M. Withrow
Co. D 723 Maint.
Palestine, TX

NEW MEMBERS

Dexter H. Atkinson
Hq. Co. 182nd Inf.
Wilmington, MA
#Joseph S. LefebureJohn W. Beaire
Americal Div. Hq.
Wheeling, WV
#Tom SheltonBruce T. Beal
Div. Hqs.
New London, CT
#Frank DiorioDaryl D. Brown
Co. C 57th Eng
Shepherd, MI
#Bernie ChaseMario Cenin
176th Avia., 14th CAB
Soldiers Grove, WI
#Kirk F. ShimekLawrence G. Cotter
Co. A 2/1 Inf. 196 Bd
Saugus, MA
#Roland T. CastronovaRobert R. Crews
Hq. Co. 1st Bn 182nd Inf
Kansas City, MO
#Bernie ChaseWilliam Curtit
Co. B 4/31 Inf 196 Bd
Southgate, CA
#Bernie CarrollMax J. Emberton
Co. D 5/46 Inf 198 Bd
Frenso, CA
#Tony May/Locate a BrotherJames Girvin
Co. L 3/1 Inf. 11 Bd
Pittsburgh, PA
#Nathan H. Embry, JrEarle Gleason
Co. D 5/46 Inf. 198 Bd
Penn Yan, NY
#Bernie CarrollRaymond C. Grudzinski
Div. Hq. 23rd Admin
St. Clair Shores, MI
#James BuckleDavid J. Harrison
HHB Div. Arty
Traverse City, MI
#Roland T. CastronovaAlonzo H. Hodgdon
Co. E 132nd Inf
Mount Desert, ME
#Robert ThorntonArchie (Al) Kellner
Co. C 2/16 Inf. 11 Bd
Douglass, KS
#E.R. HortonJames M. Kirkwood
Hq. Co 1/6 Inf. 198 Bd
Philadelphia, PA
#SelfGerald E. Komnick
196th Bd
Clinton, IL
#SelfRobert R. Kresge
23rd Admin 198th Bd
Annandale, VA
#SelfLloyd H. Martin
Btry. C 3/82 Arty
Pickerington, OH
#SelfRobert E. Moore
Co. B 1/46 Inf. 196 Bd
Greenwich, CT
#Peter J. GallagherJanice N. Nelson
Associate
Pontiac, MI
#Roland R. CastronovaBruce D. Nielsen
Co. B 2nd Inf
Trufant, MI
#James CrumFrancis J. Paris
Co. D 5/46 Inf. 198 Bd
Jermyn, PA
#John D. Hofer, DMDDewell Craig Pittman
23rd Admin
Bixoxi, MS
#Robert ThorntonDeward A. Pokorny
Btry. C 55th Arty,
Weston, NE
#Bernie ChasePhilip Rackliffe
Co. B 121 Medical
Blue Hill, ME
#Hyman ShermanJohn G. Riley
Co. A 1/3 Inf.
San Jose, CA
#Bernie CarrollJames L. Roach
Hq. Americal Band
Fenton, MO
#Ron WardDavid W. Rose
523rd Sig. Bn.
Sardis, OH
#Ron WardDavid H. Schumbs
Co. B 1/52 Inf. 198 Bd
Huntington Station, NY
#J. Pellegriti/M. SchaasJames LeRoy Sparks
174th AHC, 14th CAB
Susanville, CA
#Frederick ThompsonSpencer W. Wolfe
Btry C 3/82 Arty 196 Bd
Flint, MI
#Bernie ChaseThomas C. Wiggins
Co. E 5/46 Inf 198 Bd
Beethwyn, PA
#Bernie Carroll

TAPS

William E. Boss
57th Engr.
Medford, MA
January 1990William F. Davis
Co. B 57th Engr.
Piqua, OHDr. Alexander Epstein
164th Inf. Medical
Delray Beach, FL
July 1989Thomas C. Flaherty
Service Btry 221 FA
West Yarmouth, MA
January 8, 1990Paul McCabe
121 Medical Bn.
New Hyde Park, LI, NY
January 1990Harold A. Minehan
494 QM Depot
Methuen, MA
February 1990Lyle G. Miller
Co. D 720th MP BN
Saginaw, Mich.
February 10, 1990Howard Moulton
Co. E 182nd Inf
Danvers, MA
December, 1989Thomas J. Phippen
Co. E 164th Inf
Van, TX
October, 1989Morris A. Larssen
Co. G 164th Inf
Alameda, CA

HAVE YOU CALLED A BUDDY RECENTLY?

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR BALLOT?
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT
RETURN YOUR BALLOT TODAY!*****
YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR BALLOT BY NOW.
RETURN IT TODAY!
YOUR VOTE COUNTS

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

IMPORTANT

YOU SHOULD KNOW

DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES

MAY DUES NOTICES

1st Notice Dues membership card mailed in
ADVANCE of payment.

2nd Notice Overdue numbers were printed in
September-October Newsletter.

3rd Notice Overdue Notices mailed Oct. 1989.

Final Notice In 30 days you will be removed
from the Roster.

HOW MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CARRY AN OVERDUE
MEMBER FOR ONE FULL YEAR?

Arthur G. Askeland	John H. Brawley III
Alfred A. Brown	Sigfredo Castillo
John P. Chopelas	Anthony Cianciotta
Patrick Conte	Donald M. Feliciano
John. B. Fitzgerald	Tony Frank, Sr.
Dale W. Fry	Francis J. Ganley
David E. Hart	William D. Highland
Phillip G. Hontz	Billy W. Hudson
Julius L. Lail	Herman H. Lee
Stephen Liddle	John L. Marks
David P. Martinez	Robert Moffatt
Richard P. Mosher	John C. Myers
Albert F. Riley	William A. Rose, Jr
Kirk F. Shimek	Ralph Tringone
Harry D. Van der Hoven	Charles L. West

JANUARY DUES NOTICES

The January Dues Notices were mailed out during
January 1990. Please remember that dues are
\$12.00 per year. This is your SECOND NOTICE
since we mailed your card in advance of pay-
ment. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CARD NUMBER!
IF IT IS LISTED BELOW
SEND YOUR PAYMENT NOW!

MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBERS

J-0009	J-0057	J-0735	J-0788	J-0855	J-0908
J-0010	J-0059	J-0741	J-0791	J-0863	J-0909
J-0011	J-0061	J-0743	-----	J-0867	J-0913
J-0012	J-0064	J-0744	J-0801	J-0871	J-0917
J-0016	J-0075	J-0746	J-0803	J-0876	J-0920
J-0039	J-0077	J-0750	J-0820	J-0877	J-0930
J-0041	J-0078	J-0753	J-0824	J-0878	J-0937
J-0042	J-0080	J-0761	J-0830	J-0879	J-0941
J-0043	J-0081	J-0764	J-0838	J-0880	J-0943
J-0044	J-0083	J-0765	J-0840	J-0883	J-0944
J-0047	J-0722	J-0767	J-0842	J-0888	J-0946
J-0051	J-0724	J-0771	J-0845	J-0901	
J-0054	J-0729	J-0773	J-0852	J-0906	

YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR BALLOT BY NOW.
RETURN IT TODAY!
YOUR VOTE COUNTS

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ADVA

ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS

YOU CAN MAKE!

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN ADVA

40 or under.....\$125	5 Payments*
41 to 60.....\$100	4 Payments*
61 to 70.....\$75	3 Payments*
71 and over.....\$50	2 Payments*

*Payments of \$25 in six-month intervals. Any
member who has paid his dues in advance will
receive credit toward LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
DATE OF BIRTH _____ AGE _____

SEND TO
Bernard C. Chase
National Adjutant, ADVA
[REDACTED]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

HAVE YOU MOVED? NEW ADDRESS?

CLIP AND MAIL TO HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAL NEWSLETTER
[REDACTED]
Boston, MA 02104

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE. MAIL TODAY!

AMERICAL ITEMS FOR SALE

Americal items may be purchased at the Americal
Museum, Ft. Devens, MA, or ordered from Ken
Turner, 71 Madison Avenue, Wakefield, MA
01880. See page 5 of the January/February
Newsletter for a complete lists of items and
costs. Listed below are just a few of the
items Ken has for our membership.

Association Patch (small)	\$1.00
Association Patch (large)	3.00
Americal Patch (Dress blue)	1.00
Americal Patch (Field uniform)	1.00
Window Decal	.50
Medical Combat Badge (Min.)	2.50
CIB (Min.)	2.50
Americal car plate	4.00
Americal Lapel Pin	2.50
Tie Bar w/shield	5.00

CHAPTER NEWS

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

Stephen Dennison - Commander

[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

Peter J. Messina - Sec./Treas.

[REDACTED]
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms



Dear Americal Veteran:

As you know, Pete Messina was made Chairman of
our 1990 Chapter reunion. In an effort to max-
imize participation we are holding our reunions
at different locations each year. Pete tells
me that he has signed a contract with the Cham-
berlin, on Chesapeake Bay, at Ft. Monroe, VA.
The rooms will be \$45 a day plus tax for a sin-
gle or a double with a free buffet breakfast
included. The Chamberlin Hotel is a national
and a Virginia historic landmark hotel. It is
even used by Elderhostel. The reunion will be
held Sept. 20-23, 1990. Thursday will be spend
on a walking tour of the Casemate that Gen.
Robert E. Lee helped design and where President
Jefferson Davis was imprisoned after the Civil
War. On Friday afternoon there will be a tour
of the MacArthur Memorial and burial site with
a tour of the Norfolk Naval Base where you will
have dinner. Saturday will be a combination
Colonial Williamsburg and Yorktown tour with a
banquet at the Chamberlin. More details later.
Keep the dates open.

I would like to wish all the chapter members a
very good new year, though a little late. The
original article sent to you in December was,
by mistake, sent to Maine instead of
Massachusetts. I hope this article about the
reunion reaches you in time for the March News-
letter.

Sincerely
Steve Dennison
Commander

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

The members of the Great Lakes Chapter of the
ADVA began gathering at the Knights Inn in Lan-
sing on Friday, October 13, 1989. The meeting
was brought to order by Rush Propper at 8:15
p.m., October 14, 1989.

Present were:

Rush and Ellen Propper, Frank and Novella
Klausing, Gil and June Abele, Herb and Cecile
Murphy, Paul and Joann Hastedt, Larry Parkins,
Joe Riccardo, and Dan Herald.

Joe Micek, Mitchell Przybycien and Fred Hitzman
wrote that they and their committee are working
on the Americal Division National Reunion which
the Great Lakes Chapter will host June 7-10,
1990, at the Marriott Hotel in Oakbrook, IL.
About 500 people are expected to attend this

reunion.

A motion was made by Herbert Murphy and
seconded by Frank Klausing that the membership
consider selling lapel pins at the National
Reunion. These pins would be blue, shaped like
our State of Michigan, and would help promote
the Great Lakes Chapter. The motion passed un-
animously.

Frank Klausing made a motion which was seconded
by Gil Abele to postpone our May 1990 meeting
until June when we will meet at the National
Reunion in Oakbrook. At that time we can hold
our chapter meeting. The motion passed
unanimously.

We were informed that approval was given by the
National membership of the ADVA at their
reunion held in Florida in 1989 to donate \$1.00
back to the individual chapters for each dues-
paying member.

New members that have joined our chapter
include:

Donald Ellshoff	Tulsa, OK
Clifton Burleigh	Flint, Mich.
Anton Kucaba	Downers Grove, IL
William McCowan	Pontiac, Mich.

Our October 1990 meeting will be in Flint at
the Sheraton Motel, Pierson Road and I-75.

There was no further business and a motion was
made to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

NOTE: Rush and Ellen Propper will be celebrat-
ing their 50th wedding anniversary during the
time of the National Convention.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
SOUTH-EAST CHAPTER

Edwin A. Heartquist, Commander
[REDACTED]
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

The next meeting of the South-East Chapter of
the Americal Division Veterans' Association
will be held on the weekend of February 9, 10,
11, 1990, at Perry's on Daytona Beach. This
has been the place most requested by the mem-
bers and we have always had a very successful
meeting when we meet there. The rate is very
reasonable for the weekend package and it in-
cludes the \$10 meal tickets and doughnuts and
coffee in the morning. However, this is a very
busy place so reservations must be made by
December 13.

A meeting will be held on Saturday at 10 a.m.
This should be convenient for the people who do
not stay over or for those who stay only one
night. Contact Edwin A. Heartquist for infor-
mation.

3 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. ARE YOUR DUES PAID?
2. ARE YOU A LIFE MEMBER?
3. HAVE YOU CALLED A BUDDY TODAY?

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR BALLOT?
DO IT NOW!

TO ALL ADVA CHAPTERS

ATTENTION!

Please send all chapter news to Jim Buckle or Oscar Patterson. It would be nice to include CURRENT news about each chapter in each NEWSLETTER. This can't happen, though, unless YOU send us the information ON TIME.

REUNIONS



43rd INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818

43rd INFANTRY "WINGED VICTORY" DIVISION (World War II, Korea and After)

September 7, 8, & 9, 1990
Coastline Inn

Augusta, ME 04330

For details contact: Howard F. Brown
East Greenwich, RI 02818

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 41ST ANNUAL REUNION/CONVENTION

August 2, 3, 4, & 5, 1990
Marriott O'Hare Hotel
Chicago, IL

Friday night informal dance....Association and auxiliary meetings on Saturday....Saturday night cocktail hour and formal dance....optional motor coach tour of Chicago.

Hotel registration and reservation is separate from convention reservation. Call 1-800-228-9290 for hotel reservation. For convention registration contact...25th Infantry Division Association, Midwest Chapter, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

AMERICAL DIVISION FIELD ARTILLERY ANNUAL REUNION

May 2, 3, 4, & 5, 1990
Best Western - Patrick Henry Inn
Williamsburg, VA 23187-3647
Phone: [redacted]
Toll Free: [redacted]
Toll Free: [redacted]

Mailing address: Patrick Henry Inn, PO Drawer S, Williamsburg, VA 23187

YOUR VOTE COUNTS.
GET IT IN THE MAIL TODAY!

The Sales Manager has blocked 50 rooms for the reunion at \$59.00 single occupancy and \$65.00 double occupancy plus 6 1/2% tax. A deposit of the first nights' room rate is required to secure a reservation. These special rates apply to those who wish to arrive early or stay over additional nights.

In making your reservation be sure to mention that you are a member of the Americal Division Field Artillery Reunion or Association.

Buffet Dinner will be at the Best Western Patrick Henry Inn, Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. Price is \$20.50 per person. Dress: informal.

Bobby Dixon, a videographer will tape our upcoming reunion if I can get him 20 or more orders. Twenty video tapes will cost \$20.00 each; 35 will cost \$16.00 each, and 50 will cost \$14.00 each. Contents of the video tape will include the name of the division, place, date, name of those attending, and any other information desired. It will be a two hour tape or up to a six hour tape. Let me know by April 15 so that I can get back in touch with him. Let's give him a big order for our reunion and the tour of Colonial Williamsburg.

If other information is needed regarding the reunion, write to:

E.R. Horton
[redacted]
Timberlake, NC 27583
Phone: (919) 364-2620 evenings only

26TH YANKEE INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Outfit reunion will be held June 14, 15, & 16, 1990, at Ashworth-by-the-Sea, Hampton Beach, NH. For additional information write or call:
Leslie F. White Sr.

Beverly, MA 01915

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL NEEDS HELP

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial--The Wall--is visited by more people than any other memorial in Washington, DC. One thousand artifacts per month--combat boots, field jackets, flowers, photographs, American flags--are placed at the base of this great healing stone.

And the Wall was built by you, paid for by you, not the American government. Over 250,000 of us made our personal sacrifice so that this monument to the 58,000 dead and 2.7 million who served could be dedicated in 1982.

The Wall needs your help again. A number of cracks in the granite panels have been found. Eventually these panels must be replaced. A claim has been filed against the contractors, but the Wall can't wait.

Replacement panels have been ordered, we need your help to pay for them,

In addition, over 3.5 million people visit the

GENERAL COLIN POWELL--AN INSIDE VIEW

By Caspar W. Weinberger

No matter how accurate newspaper writers may be and no matter how well-intentioned they are about conveying accurate word portraits of people in the news, it is well-nigh impossible for anyone who does not have deep personal knowledge of his subject to do the job properly.

General Colin L. Powell is much in the news now as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest post in our military service, and the principal architect of our Panama operation. It seems certain he will continue to be one of our most important and most written about leaders. So I think it appropriate to share my knowledge of General Powell, based on my nearly 20 years of personal friendship and close professional relationships with him.

FIRST, he is a superb soldier whose greatest ambition has been to command troops in the field. He has done that many times, including tours in Vietnam [one with the Americal Division], where he was wounded. But his other talents have attracted Presidents and cabinet members whose urgent pleas for his services he has heeded regardless of his own preferences.

SECOND, he is a great patriot in the best and truest sense of the word. He is not blind to America's faults. He has suffered under them--fighting a war in Vietnam we never intended to win; and his wife and family, while he was away fighting that war, living in the miserable conditions that prevailed in parts of Alabama in the Sixties. None of that embittered him nor did anything but convince him that he should fight harder to correct those faults, which he has consistently done.

THIRD, he has a truly global, nonparochial view of the world and the leadership role we play in it. His work as chief military assistant to the Secretary of Defense and as National Security Advisor to the President uniquely qualifies him to know the extent and vital necessity of our commitments, and leaders, civilian and military, with whom he will be working.

He is also a particularly effective administrator-manager who anticipates and prepares for the various twists and turns events can take.

He is a born leader with whom and for whom people in all walks of life like to work. He has both staying power and the flexibility to change quickly and decisively when necessary. That comes from being a skilled infantry commander of troops.

Colin Powell is a man of high moral standards, with a model family to whom he is devoted.

He will never take us unprepared into any kind of situation that our civilian leadership requires. He will not hesitate to advise the President of his true opinions, whether they are popular or not.

Wall each year. Ongoing maintenance costs and the constant wear and tear of this constant crush of visitors has resulted in the need for urgent repairs.

Finally, we need to add 61 names to the Wall and change the status of over 140 others. To do all of this we must raise \$376,000. If you can help, \$10, \$25, even \$50, please send your gift to:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Inc.
National Processing Center

Washington, DC 20090-6764

VA BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Burial arrangements at national cemeteries now can be made on weekends and holidays, because of new scheduling procedures introduced by the VA.

Previously, burial arrangements by funeral directors or families had to be made during normal work-day hours. The new service, which is offered at VA's 113 cemeteries, will prevent delays in making cemetery arrangements when a death occurs late in the week, or on a weekend or holiday.

VA now refers telephone calls during those periods to staffs of three national cemeteries open every day. Eligibility for burial will be confirmed and local scheduling arrangements completed.

VA officials estimate that more than 58,000 eligible veterans and family members will be buried in national cemeteries this year.

"This is a small but important difference the VA can make in easing the many burdens families face when a death occurs," said Veterans Affairs Secretary Edward J. Derwinski
AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

REMEMBER DECEMBER 13TH

As well as December 7th, we need to remember December 13th. On that date in 1942 Company I, 182nd Infantry, Americal Division, Stoneham, MA's National Guard landed on Guadalcanal. This was the first major offensive against the Axis powers undertaken by United States forces in World War II.

It has been 47 years now, but there are still some of us around who remember the Matanikau River and Bloody Ridge and how, on December 28th, 1943, we landed on Bougainville to become acquainted with the Torikina River, the Numa Numa Trail, and Mount Bagana.

It is a shame that the National Guard has been emasculated as it has been. There used to be a lot of hometown pride and esprit-de-corps in the old Guard.

Let's remember our ancient honors and keep sacred the memory of December 13th.

James L. Standish

In Panama he knew well in advance of the actual decision to intervene that in all likelihood we would have to do just that. That is why, within a few hours, we were able to deploy very strong forces that were able to achieve all their important objectives in a few days, and to turn a criminal dictator into an impotent fugitive within a few hours.

Carping will be, and has been, heard, as is always the case whenever the U.S. does anything—Grenada, or Libya, or anywhere. But I have expressed these thoughts because I believe it is essential that we really know the person we have in charge when it is necessary to call on our armed forces.

And to those who may say, "Oh well, you are hopelessly prejudiced, having known and worked with him for 20 years," I would only respond that, if you have worked closely with a person for 20 years, and you are indeed hopelessly prejudiced in his favor, that, too, tells you something about him.

FORBES, Jan. 22, 1990

THE 11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

The 11th Infantry Brigade was originally organized in the Regular Army on 4 December 1917 at Camp Forrest, Georgia, as an element of the 6th Division and served as a part of that Division during World War I. At that time the brigade included the 51st and 52nd Infantry Regiments and one machine gun battalion. The brigade was in the line for approximately 40 days during the latter part of 1918. Its first assignment with the 6th Division was in the Vosge Mountains under French control. While in the Vosge, the brigade participated in training, in active defense roles (i.e., defense plus patrolling), and in several route marches. The marching was part of the "Belfort Ruse," a diversionary action designed to draw German attention away from the Allied Meuse-Argonne Offensive. It was for this activity in the Vosges, from late August to October, that the 11th Brigade earned credit for the "Alsace 1918" Campaign. On 10 October 1918 the 11th Brigade with the 6th Division began moving into First Army Reserve, in the Clermont Area, for the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. On 2 November, the division moved forward to become I Corps reserve with the brigade utilized as reconnaissance seeking to maintain contact with the Germans. The brigade was not committed to an attack role during this period. On 11 November 1918, the brigade and the division were back in First Army Reserve. It was for its action during the period 12 October–11 November that the 11th Brigade received credit for the Meuse-Argonne Campaign. After inactivation in 1921, the 11th Brigade was assigned, on inactive status, variously to the 6th Division in 1939, and was completely disbanded, even as an inactive unit, on 1 July 1940. The 11th Brigade was reconstituted on 15 April 1966 as a Regular Army unit, and was activated on 1 July 1966, just 26 years to the day after being disbanded. The Brigade was composed of:

HQ and HQ Company, 11th Infantry Brigade
3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry
4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry

1st Battalion, 20th Infantry
Troop E, 1st Cavalry
6th Military Police Company (-)
Prepared by HQ/HQ Co, 3/1, 11 LIB

FIRST LADY OF ARMED FORCES RADIO VIETNAM

The Vietnam War Museum in San Antonio is now proudly displaying Chris Noel's effects from Vietnam. Chris is the "First Lady" of Armed Forces Radio Vietnam with a program called "A Date with Chris." Her program aired from 1966 into 1971 and was so successful in building morale among the troops that the Viet Cong put a \$10,000 price on her head. In spite of the bounty, Chris took no special precautions as she visited many isolated bases throughout the countryside coming under enemy small arms fire and artillery fire—even crashing in a helicopter.

"I feel really great now that I've found a place for my artifacts," Chris said as she was showing part of her display to visitors. "These items have been collected from all over Vietnam," she said referring to I, II, III, and IV Corps.

The Vietnam War Museum is across the street from the Alamo and has over 14,000 square feet of display area including a replica of a "hooch," a doughnut dolly station, a theatre showing combat footage and documentary films, a 12 x 15 foot model of a fire base, a library, a chapel, various weapons and booby traps, and a PX. Under construction right now is a 225 foot long jungle trail complete with tunnel complex and traps, and in the near future a field aid station, Saigon street scene, and a Vietnamese restaurant will be added. The Vietnam War Museum is open seven days a week: Mon-Sat 9 a.m.–7 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m. It is privately funded and donations are always welcome.

A SMALL STONE CHAPEL

For most Americans a small chapel is the symbol of quiet worship. But when that chapel is 10 thousand miles from home, surrounded by the bloody horrors of war, it becomes a place to reaffirm hope for a peaceful world...a place of meditation for the weary infantryman...a place of guidance for the commander...a house of mental rebirth.

Such a chapel overlooks the Song Tra Cau Valley on the coastal plains of southern I Corps. It is the LT James E. Laird chapel, a small stone structure at Landing Zone Liz, a fire support base of the Americal Division's 11th Infantry Brigade.

With the help of local Vietnamese, SFC Julius S. Cross built the chipped stone chapel. "The people in Vinh Hein helped with the project," said Cross. "They gathered and prepared most of the stone for the building."

When the 11th left Vietnam, they left behind a symbol of freedom—a small stone chapel.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR BALLOT?
RETURN IT TODAY!

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

125TH QM

Jim Buckle, Americal Newsletter

A note of appreciation and thanks to "Red" Carrol and Paul Santogeanos in getting a bunch of the members of the 101st and 125th QM at a meeting. It was great to see guys I hadn't seen in 45 to 47 years. If and when there is another similar get together I strongly suggest that any members of the 101st and 125th who can attend a meeting go out of their way to be there. It was well worth the extra effort.

Joe Anderson
125th AM

VIETNAM

Dear Ron Ward,

I have enclosed my dues for another year. I have enjoyed reading your newsletter when it comes out.

In your last issue you asked about the Kokomo, Indiana Annual Viet Nam Veterans reunion. I just got a letter from them and it's planned for September 14, 15, & 16, 1990, and the location will be the same as last year on the grounds of Howard Johnson's and Ramada Inn. They are using this location for at least one more year. They have a toll-free number for information on events, hotels, etc. It is 1-800-445-1840 or write to Howard County Viet Nam Veterans, P.O. Box 6104, Kokomo, Indiana 46904-6104. I'm going to try to get down there on the 15th. I can't stay the whole weekend due to another Veteran event on Sunday. But I heard so much about this event and I do want to make an attempt to visit for at least one day. The weekend is a bad one for Wisconsin Vets since there is also functions at our State Memorial in Neisville, WI at the same time.

I also plan to bring my wife and a contingent of other Vietnam Veterans to the Americal National Reunion in June in Oak Brook (Chicago), IL. However, I probably will only be there for the Saturday events. I hope to see some of those vets from the 1/1 Cav, especially A Troop. I was in Vietnam in 1970. I'm starting an address list for all 1/1 Cav Troops. If you were with 1/1 Cav at any time in Vietnam send me your name and address for the list. That way, when there is a Vietnam reunion I can let you know about it and we can attend as a group. I've already got a pretty good list started.

See you in Chicago in June

Terry (Doc) Babler

New Glarus, WI 53574

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER
PLEASE PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER.

GIVE IT TO A V.A. HOSPITAL

PUT IT IN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

G CO 182ND INFANTRY

PNC James C. Buckle
Wakefield, MA

Dear Jim:

An old buddy from 2nd Platoon, 21st Recon asked me for help in finding someone who remembers his brother, S/Sgt. Ernest R. Grice, of G Company, who was killed on Cebu in the night attack on Hill 21 as detailed in UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS as perhaps the only time in the Pacific War that a United States Army unit had made a bayonet charge against an entrenched enemy position at night. AS the author put it, "It would seem as if the enemy had a patent on this type of attack." The dates were April 12–13, 1945.

Ernest was known to his men (he was platoon sergeant of the 1st Platoon) as "Ick" or "Baldy." I met him on Bouganville at a little party we had before shoving off for the Philippines and he was a lovely guy.

John "Okie" (for his home state) Grice wonders if there is someone out there in our group who remembers him, and who might even have a picture of him. His family does not have a single picture and would love to get one to copy.

Okie says Ick joined the regiment on Fiji.

We have had over 200 acceptances of our invitation in the October Newsletter to the 1991 50th Anniversary Reunion on Cape Cod and they are still coming in from every corner of the country. I wonder now if the capacity of the hotel will be big enough. They only seat 850 at the most.

Sincerely,
Bill McLaughlin

CO D 4/3 11TH
LIB

Dear ADVA Members:

I would like to introduce myself to fellow members of the ADVA. My name is Lindley (Linn) Hoopes and I served in 2nd Platoon, Co. D, 4/3, 11th LIB from July 1969 to February 1970.

I was a grenadier and also senior RTO. Our platoon was called "Shack's Raiders" after our platoon leader Lt. Shackleford. Our firebase was San Juan Hill, west of Duc Pho and our AO included 515 valley, Iron Mountain, the lowlands around LZ Liz and Max, and the Rice Bowl, south of Duc Pho. In February 1970, I became dispatcher with HHC 4/3 motorpool and also manager of the EM club until I rotated back to the world in September. I would like



AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL REUNION - JUNE 7-10, 1990 - OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS 60521

EVENTS

- 6/7 THURS. 1 - 6 P.M. Registration
3 -11 P.M. Hospitality (Marquis Room). Entertain. @ 8 P.M.
- 6/8 FRI. 9 - 11 A.M. Meeting for Membership
9 - NOON. Ladies, visit fabulous Oak Brook Shopping Center, directly across-the-street.
1 - 4 P.M. Memorial Service @ Cantigny War Museum
4 -11 P.M. Hospitality (Marquis Room). Entertain. @ 8 P.M.
7 - 9 P.M. Registration
- 6/9 SAT. 9AM - 2PM. Chicago Sight-Seeing Bus Tour
NOON- 4PM. Hospitality (Marquis Room).
6 - 7 P.M. Banquet - Cocktails (Cash Bar)
7 - 9:30 P.M. Banquet - Dinner/Speeches/Entertainment
9:30 PM - 12:30 AM. Dancing/Socializing (Cash Bar)
- 6/10 SUN. 7 - 10 AM. Farewill "Brunch" Breakfast
Church Services (Check Bulletin Board & Hotel Desk)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Two (2) free drinks are included with your banquet ticket. Our Hospitality Room will be manned by Reunion Committee members. Drink prices will be very nominal. Enjoy !

While in the Chicago area check with the Hotel desk for many other activities like, sports events, plays, movies, museums, etc. (There are many things to do in the Chicago & Suburban area).

For further information contact: Joe Micek, 4935 Frank Pkwy., Norridge, IL 60656. Tel. # [REDACTED]

RESERVATION REQUEST

CHICAGO
Marriott.
OAK BROOK

[REDACTED]
Oak Brook, Illinois 60521
[REDACTED]

Name (print) _____ Club Marquis # _____
Address _____ Phone # () _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
For arrival on _____ Depart on _____
(day) (date) (day) (date)
Estimated time of arrival _____ am or pm*
Please reserve _____ No. of Rooms for _____ People
No Smoking Rooms ☐ yes ☐ no (No Smoking Rooms based on availability)
Name(s) or person(s) sharing accommodations _____

☐ Check or money order enclosed ☐ Diners Card ☐ Discover Card
☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ Carte Blanche
☐ Master Card (Please include interbank # directly below card #) Amount \$ _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ Phone # () _____

I authorize the Oak Brook Marriott to charge my account for one night's deposit and all applicable taxes.

*Rooms may not be available for check-in until after 4:00 p.m. Check out time is 12 Noon.

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED BEYOND THE CUT OFF DATE ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. ROOMS MAY STILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE CUT OFF DATE BUT NOT NECESSARILY AT THE SAME RATE. PLEASE APPLY 6% SALES TAX TO THE ABOVE RATES. TAXES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Americal Division
National Reunion
June 7-10, 1990

ROOM RATES

Singles.....\$53.00
Doubles.....\$53.00
Triples.....\$53.00
Quads.....\$53.00

Cut Off Date: May 18,1990

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL REUNION - JUNE 7-10, 1990 - OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS 60521

The Chicago area is noted for it's Reunion facilities. Your 1990 Reunion Committee has planned an active and fun-filled National Reunion. Join us by mailing in the Reunion Registration Form shown below. All of your paid tickets will be picked up at the Reunion Registration Desk, Marriott Hotel.

The Chicago-Marriott Oak Brook Hotel is located directly across the street from the World Famous Oak Brook Shopping Center. The hotel is only a 20-minute drive from O'Hare Field and close to a major super highway. The hotel has ample parking, a swimming pool with sauna and whirlpool, lounges and two fine restaurants, a gift shop, game-room, and a night-club style Hospitality Room for our reunion.

The Oak Brook Shopping Center has 15 restaurants, lounges, Marshall-Fields, Lord & Taylor, Bonwitt Teller, Neiman-Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, I. Magnin, etc., etc. (THE LADIES WILL LOVE IT !).

THE REUNION IS FOR ALL, THAT IS, YOU, YOUR SPOUSE, YOUR BUDDIES & FRIENDS. GIVE YOURSELF A TREAT, COME TO THIS REUNION. YOU'RE WORTH IT !!

Joseph G. Micek (132nd.Inf.)-1990 Reunion Chairman

of my life.

Well, I won't bore you with the details, but suffice it so say, it was not what I expected. For one thing, the drill instructors at Ft. Sill never told us those damn 155's would move around as much as they did.

Well, compared to the grunts, my tour was reasonably mild. At least to the extent that I took the chance and extended for about two months so I could get out of the Army five months early.

I'll never forget when I processed out: checked through personnel (S-1); cleared security (S-2), supply (S-4), and medical; got the "decorations" squared away; the whole nine yards. The last place we had to go before they'd let us go was the RE-UP hut. I told the mellow, rather apologetic E-7 there I had NO, repeat, NO intention of staying in the Army. In fact, I wanted out so badly I had taken the unbelievable step of extending nearly two months in the RVN to get out of the Army. He shrugged rather apologetically and handed me a packet of information that included some stuff about the ADVA. All I remember is checking to see if there was anything "important," then trashing the whole packet.

If anyone had come up to me on that day and even hinted that I would, of my own free will, join the Division Veterans' Association I'd have popped him in the mouth. I don't care if it was Westisface himself. I was just that determined to put it all behind.

Of course, as years went by things mellowed out and I got more and more interested in "getting involved" in veterans' affairs. One day, while

ALL RIGHT! I'm finally done. Once again, thanks for your efforts and keep up the good work. I'll have a whole life time to appreciate it.

Sincerely,
John E. Derwort
[REDACTED]
Mooresville, NC 28115

John: Thanks for the great letter. I had the same thoughts you had when I was discharged many years ago. Bernie Chase

GEN. POWELL

Dear Jim:

The other morning on ABC News, Gen. Colin Powell who is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was commenting on the recent military action in Panama. The first thing I noticed was the Americal patch on his right shoulder! What is his connection with the division? He had a left shoulder patch also but I couldn't make it out. This Newsletter is one thing I always look forward to but one small error was made with James Bales name under new members for November and I gave him the application. It was mistakenly printed Bates. Correct name is James M. Bales.

Sincerely
Ed Loeb

P.S. Certainly hope to make the 50th at Hyannis. I spent many summers on the Cape prior to the war.

to hear from anyone I served with in the field and the rear area.

Sincerely
Lindley (Linn) Hoopes
[REDACTED]
Dike, Iowa 50624

125th QM & CO B 132ND INF

To all my good buddies from the 125th QM Company and from Company B 132nd Infantry. I am truly looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the June 7, 1990, Americal Reunion at the Chicago Marriott, Oakbrook Hotel.

Now that I am retired, for two years, and I am a permanent resident of Laguna Hills, CA and an ex resident of Chicago, I am still very familiar with Chicago and plan to have a fantastic visit back home where my roots are. Of course, if anyone needs any special guiding around Chicago, I will certainly be available to help.

At our last reunion in Orlando, FL, I had a hell of a good time, but I was very disappointed that I only saw about 20 of my good buddies that I know. So I am writing this note and hoping there will be a greater turnout this year in Oakbrook, IL. I'm sure who ever shows up will have a good time and who knows, I may even bring my bugle with me, just to give

While in the Chicago area check with the Hotel desk for many other activities like, sports events, plays, movies, museums, etc. (There are many things to do in the Chicago & Suburban area).

For further information contact: Joe Micek, 4935 Frank Pkwy., Norridge, IL 60656. Tel. # [REDACTED]

worked for Col. Jerry Whittington, later CO of Long Binh. My boss as Asst. S-2 was Capt. Besner. The S-3 was Maj. Bonta. When the brigade reconstituted an information office in July 1970 in the wake of the My Lai reports, and the visit of the Peers Commission, I was again made IO under Col. Clemons. I originally succeeded 1Lt. Joe Hebert as the brigade IO. He was a year before me at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. One of my writers was Sp4 Bill Eftink, who has also graduated from the same school with me in 1968. One of our photographers at division was Sp4 Lazlo Kondar, one of whose photographs appeared in LIFE. In early 1970, one of the stringers working for me was Sp4 Tim O'Brien of the 5/42 inf at LZ Gator. His first book, IF I DIE IN A COMBAT ZONE won the Pulitzer Prize and his first novel GOING AFTER CACCIATO won the National Book Award.

Thanks for your assistance. I look forward to receiving your newsletter.

Sincerely
Rob Kresge
[REDACTED]
Annandale, VA 22003

BTRY A 1/82ND FA

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed my check for \$25.00. This

RESERVATION REQUEST

CHICAGO
Marriott.
OAK BROOK

[REDACTED]
Oak Brook, Illinois 60521
[REDACTED]

Name (print) _____ Club Marquis # _____

Address _____ Phone # () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For arrival on _____ Depart on _____

Estimated time of arrival _____ am or pm* _____

Please reserve _____ No. of Rooms for _____ People

No Smoking Rooms ☐ yes ☐ no (No Smoking Rooms based on availability)

Name(s) or person(s) sharing accommodations _____

☐ Check or money order enclosed ☐ Diners Card ☐ Discover Card

☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ Carte Blanche

☐ Master Card (Please include interbank # directly below card #) Amount \$ _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

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Cut Off Date: May 18, 1990

WWII. It always tickles me when some would-be WWII history buff starts spouting off about the 25th or 1st Divs being the "Army's first to hit the beach!" I just know I'm gonna win another bet...not to mention the opportunity to help set the record straight.

It's unfortunate, though, because that the exploits of the Division in WWII deserve far more notice, but in many cases these actions were overlooked due to the unit's association with USMC divisions (I have a WWII vintage shoulder patch reference pamphlet that lists the Americal as a Marine Division!)

Well, I think that's a big part of the work that the ADVA performs. It certainly helps get more recognition (of the right sorts) for the Division and its veterans.

Speaking of Americal vets, I guess I could tell you a little about myself. I enlisted in the Army back in June 1968. After completing Basic and AIT I got orders for RVN. Upon arriving at Cam Ranh Bay on 5 Dec 68, I was assigned to the "23rd (AMERICAL) Infantry Division." I had heard of the Division, of course. A number of our instructors back in The World had been in it. But I didn't know much about it.

After completing in-country training at the Division's base at Chu Lai, I was assigned to Btry A, 1/82nd Field Artillery (155mm T/8" SP). Thus began one of the more interesting phases of my life.

Well, I won't bore you with the details, but suffice it so say, it was not what I expected. For one thing, the drill instructors at Ft. Sill never told us those damn 155's would move around as much as they did.

Well, compared to the grunts, my tour was reasonably mild. At least to the extent that I took the chance and extended for about two months so I could get out of the Army five months early.

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If anyone had come up to me on that day and even hinted that I would, of my own free will, join the Division Veterans' Association I'd have popped him in the mouth. I don't care if it was Westisface himself. I was just that determined to put it all behind.

Of course, as years went by things mellowed out and I got more and more interested in "getting involved" in veterans' affairs. One day, while

paging through a VFW magazine I happened to see a notice for the ADVA. I cut it out, then promptly buried it on my desk. There it remained for God knows how many months till I finally cleaned up my AO and found it again.

I thought: "Why not?" So, I've been a member now for over six years. I have never regretted it. In fact, I enjoy it immensely. The only thing I do regret is not joining sooner. I am proud of my RVN service, and doubly proud to have served in the AMERICAL. The Division had one hell of a job to perform. The men who served in my unit and throughout the Division have a lot to be proud of. I don't think we or anyone should forget that.

OK, then! That just about does it. I didn't mean to babble on so, but I figured the least I could do was let you know who I am, why I'm a member, and how much I appreciate the work that the ADVA has done. I'm sure you'll all keep it up.

Oh, I almost forgot. I recently bought a new truck. Would it be possible to get another ADVA sticker? I had one on my old car and you'd be surprised how many AMERICAL vets I've run into. Most copy down the address on the sticker so they can bet back with you, or I give them an enrollment form. If you could just send that along with my 1990 card, I'd appreciate it. If there's any charge, just let me know.

ALL RIGHT! I'm finally done. Once again, thanks for your efforts and keep up the good work. I'll have a whole life time to appreciate it.

Sincerely,
John E. Derwort
[REDACTED]
Mooresville, NC 28115

John: Thanks for the great letter. I had the same thoughts you had when I was discharged many years ago. Bernie Chase

GEN. POWELL

Dear Jim:

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Sincerely
Ed Loeb

P.S. Certainly hope to make the 50th at Hyannis. I spent many summers on the Cape prior to the war.

Ed,

Sorry about the mistake with Mr. Bales name. Such things do happen. Also, I refer you to page 15 of the January/February for our story on Gen. Powell as well as to the story in this issue about him. I don't have specifics on his exact unit with the Division, if anyone has that information I would appreciate it. Oscar

A.D.V.A.

Dear Jim:

Here is a picture of a recent meeting of the co-chairmen for the 1991 "50th Anniversary Re-union" scheduled for June 6-9, 1991, in Hyannis, Mass. Adjutant Bernie Chase also attended, but left early for a funeral. The meeting was held in East Sandwich, Mass., on January 11th. Left to right we have Bill McLaughlin and PNC John Carey.

Bill McLaughlin



CO I 182ND INF

Dear ADVA Members:

I would like to hear from anyone who was in Company I 182nd Infantry when the big guns were shooting over our heads while we were on Cebu. I am trying to get a service-connected disability for hearing loss.

Yours truly
Eldridge Roddy
[Redacted]
Wilburton, OK 74578

CO L 182ND INF

Dear Jim,

I see by the Newsletter that you are now Managing Editor and Oscar Patterson in North Carolina is Editor-in-Chief. I don't know who does what so I'm sending this to you.

I thought that the article I recently had printed in the Stoneham paper might make interesting copy for the Newsletter. Also something

else that has been inside my head for a long time: could you dig up and print the lyrics to the song "Atabrine" to the tune of Tangerine that Jerry Martell used to sing to us over in the islands?

Sincerely,
James L. Standish
[Redacted]
Stoneham, MA 02180

Jim: Thanks for the article. We will use it as soon as possible. As to the song, I'm not familiar with it but if another ADVA member is and will send me the lyrics, I'll be happy to print them. Oscar

CO G 182ND INF

Dear Jim:

Here are a couple of pictures I took on Bougainville just prior to the Hill 260 campaign. The pictures are of members of G Company, 182nd Infantry, 2nd Platoon. We called the group "Roy's Raiders" after our platoon leader, Lt. Roy.

In the first picture the shack in the background was built by Sgt. Simmons and myself and was the only one like it at the time. Notice the double roof. The banana tree on the left was planted by me at about 12 inches high and you could almost watch it grow. They really do grow fast.

Sorry to say, I can't remember all their names, but I sure remember the faces and all we went through together. It would be nice if someone could name some of these guys for me in later issues of the Newsletter.

Please return the pictures when finished with them.

Thank you,
Patrick J. Farino
[Redacted]
Runta Gorda, FL 33950



1/52 INF 198 BDE

Dear Americal:

Thanks to the Americal Newsletter my squad leader from Vietnam found me. His name is Mike Schaas who is also a member of ADVA. We served in Vietnam together in 1968. We were with the 1/52 Infantry, 198th LIB. We were reunited last spring in Washington, DC, at the Wall. It was a very emotional and healing experience for both of us. I wish to thank you for being there when I needed all the help I could get.

I was wounded on June 2, 1968, with a gunshot wound on my right leg and back and have not heard from anyone since. It is so comforting to know that I was still remembered after all these years.

Enclosed is a listing of some other brothers who Mike and I found with some good detective work. All of them were 1/52nd Inf. Thank you very much for the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Sincerely,
Joseph Pellegriti

Joe, thanks for the letter. We have sent all your former brothers an application to join the Association.

AMERICAL VETS IN EUROPE

We have received a letter from Bob Gibney and he is trying to start a chapter in Europe. If any of our members who are on active duty in the European Theatre or are retired and live in Europe or who just live in Europe, are interested in a chapter, contact Bob.

CW2 Bob Gibney
[Redacted]
APO NY 09059
Tel. ETS [Redacted]

523RD SIG BN

Dear Sir:

I am a previous member who failed to renew my subscription to the Newsletter. I am sending \$20.00 for membership renewal. Could you please send me a copy of the Sept/Oct and Nov/Dec Newsletter.

I met Ron Ward in Washington, DC over Veterans Day and many other Americal vets. Keep up the good work with the Newsletter.

Thank you,
Dave Rose

HQ CO 1ST BN 182ND INF

Dear Bernie:

Received your letter today with information I had requested. Thanks for your prompt reply. I had lost track of the Association. Was glad to hear they still exist. I was a former member when just the WWII vets were eligible. At that time I was Adjutant for the State of

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR BALLOT?
DO IT NOW!

Missouri. So I guess I'm not a new member but a reinstated member. Glad to be back in the fold again. Please find my application and papers attached.

The Newsletter is better than the Old Days. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Robert R. Crews
[Redacted]
Kansas City, MO 64111

723RD MAINT BN

Dear Mr. Chase:

Here is my first payment towards Life Membership. I cannot figure out why I've been an annual member for over 10 years now and never signed for Life Membership.

I'd also like to tell you how much I enjoy the Newsletter, over the years it's improved 100%.

One more thing, I do not see many guys joining from the 723rd Maint. Bn. We had four companies and a HQs operating all over Quang Ngai Province even on the LZs such as Bronco in Duc Pho where I was. I would like to see more of the 723rd in the Association.

Sincerely,
David M. Whitrow
Palestine, TX

PURPLE HEART CONVENTION

The State of Pennsylvania Annual Convention of the Order of the Purple Heart will be held June 6 thru June 9, 1990, at the Capri Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. The cost of registration is \$40.00 per person plus lodging. After May 5, 1990, the cost is \$55.00 per person. For more information contact:

Commander Tom Hutt
Chapt. 63 OPH
64 Palomino Court
Horsham, PA 19044
(215) 441-0278

SIMON AND FONDA DO LUNCH

According to a Tribune INC column, Illinois Sen. Paul Simon recently treated Jane Fonda, husband Ton Hayden and the kids [cute!] to an intimate little lunch in the Senate dining room.

Hosting those two characters wasn't very smart on the good senator's part. Not only have they always been tiresomely controversial, the woman's conduct during Vietnam was unspeakable, if not downright treasonable.

Since the ex-radical and campus cut-up entered politics, they're striving mightily for middle class respectability--fooling absolutely no one.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, April 1985

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Dear Vietnam Editor:

Please refer to a letter you wrote to me a month ago. It was in response to an inquiry I made to your HQ in Boston. I was seeking a patch I thought would be work by members of the 59th Scout Dog Platoon during their stay in Vietnam. It has come to my attention that you used the facilities of your Association publication to help with my search as a member wrote me mentioning the Newsletter. I communicated with one of the members of the 59th who promises to send me a patch.

I received two offers from military suppliers who were helpful in other respects. Dave Grieger of Columbus, GA, was exceptionally helpful.

Is it possible to get a copy of the Newsletter in which you mentioned my search?

Thank you,
Russell M. Erickson
[redacted]
Bensenville, IL 60106

Editor's note: Mr. Erickson's letter originally appeared in the Nov-Dec issue. His son was KIA while serving with the 59th. I want to thank Dave Grieger and the other unknown member who responded to his request for help.

TAPS

From Ed Deverell comes a death notice. Steven J. Fuller, former platoon leader of 3rd platoon, Co. B, 4/21, 11th LIB, died January 3, 1990, as the result of a fall from his roof. He is survived by his wife, Susan, daughter Aleta, and son Steve. He was in Vietnam from '70 to '71. Ed wrote: "on page 15 of our Newsletter for Jan-Feb there is a little paragraph about writing or calling a buddy. PLEASE tell our comrades to take time to do this. I talked to Steve on January 1, 1990, when he called to wish me and my family a Happy New Year, two days before he died."

Dear Vietnam Editor:

I'm very happy to inform you that through our Americal Division Newsletter I was able to make contact with Terry O'Neals sister, Nancy, after 22 years of hoping and praying I could. Terry's brother, Donald (whom I didn't even know existed) made the effort to travel down to Lehigh to visit with me. Don and his cousin Dennis (also a Vietnam veteran) from Sarasota spent an enjoyable evening talking about our time in country. I was able to give the family a little insight on Terry's year with the 1/6th 198th LIB.

Your newsletter misprinted the unit as the 196th, but I'll not hold a small detail like that against you as I would never have been able to make this contact without your help. I've even made contact with another long lost friend from the 3rd platoon thanks to Nancy

O'Neal. Sometimes good things do happen.

Thanks to Anthony Lupperelli, an Americal member who contacted the O'Neals. Please keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Ted C. Block (Doc)

Editor's note: My records indicate that Sgt. Terry O'Neal was KIA May 23, 1968.

Shawn Russell, whose father Thomas Patrick Russell saw service with H Troop 17th CAV of the 198th LIB, is looking for men who served with his father in Vietnam during 1969. I don't have the exact dates of the action but sometime that year Thomas Russell reportedly saved the life of a LT who suddenly became separated from one of his legs. The trooper's son is seeking to have a decoration of valor awarded to his father and needs to locate some witnesses. If it sounds familiar, contact Shawn at the address below:

Shawn Russell
[redacted]
Florissant, MO 63034
[redacted]

From the 196th Locate-A-Brother we received a letter that was read by former Brigade Commander Col. Louis Gelling. The letter was read aloud to all who attended the last Locate-A-Brother reunion in St. Louis. We can all share this one.

To the men of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade--The Chargers--The Relentless Brigade.

First, my congratulations and sincere thanks to Tony May and Jim Crum for their hard work and dedication to the task of forming an alumni association. Their efforts will be rewarded by a deep sense of gratitude which others will be conscious of for many years.

For all others--I know you are proud of your service in the 196th as I am and I know from experience that you will cherish the few days you can spend at reunions in years to come. Combat molds men--infantry combat binds them for life. I'm sorry I won't be there with you in St. Louis, but I look forward to another opportunity, another year's reunion.

Sincerely,
Gen. Frederick Kroesen
[redacted]
May '68 to May '69

Dear Ron:

I have a brother "Nam Vet" who lives in Rhode Island and also belongs to the ADVA. We don't see each other too often but still remain "tight." His name is Tom McCarthy and he was a door gunner near Chu Lai. I always kid him that he was the guy that kicked us grunts out of the chopper when we couldn't get too low to the ground.

In January of 1985 I went on an Outward Bound Survival trip through the mountains of New Hampshire and Vermont. It was there that I once again "humped" with Tom McCarthy. He was experienced and I was out of shape. His inspiration and our memories of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade enabled me to live out there and climb that never ending mountain.

I know Tom is an avid reader of our Newsletter and I was hoping you could relay my deepest thanks and wish him a life of peace.

Sincerely
Rick Savinen
A Co 2/1 196th LIB

Dear Vietnam Editor:

It is always great to find the Americal Newsletter has arrived in the mail. The work of everyone involved in really appreciated. I am looking forward to including the national reunion as part of our vacation this summer. It is a bonus to return to Chicago to visit friends and family since accepting a position as a staff dentist at the VA in Wilkes-Barre, PA a year ago.

I spent seven months as a medic with B Co 5/46 198th LIB before becoming a REMF in Chu Lai and Duc Pho. I hope we get a good turnout of Vietnam vets and am interested in talking to anyone who spent time in Ky Tra or Dragon Valley. It is always an icebreaker at the dental clinic when anyone

recognizes the Americal patch hanging on the wall. I have two guys from the 198th I am treating now and one is a retired Major that got an application from me. He should be attending the reunion (if he wants his crown.) It would be a real boost to all Americal veterans if General Powell could attend the reunion. It would give a lot of overdue recognition to a division that had its share of bad press during Vietnam.

Currently I'm a LT in the Naval Reserves. I thought the Navy would insure clean sheets and better chow but the unit I'm with supports the Marines so it's back to the field again. I do let the Marines know that they were not the only ones fighting at Guadalcanal and the other islands that the Americal fought on.

The photo was taken on ridge 302 Ky Tra Valley in November 1970. That's me and Paul Tello (wearing the M16 bandoleers). The next morning we found a recently abandoned NVA base camp. I hope Paul gets the Newsletter and makes it to

the reunion.

See you there!
Dr. John Hofer
[redacted]
Dallas, PA 18612
[redacted]

Dear Vietnam Editor:

As a new member I have high hopes of hearing from old friends. I served with B Co 4/31 196th LIB during 1968. I have about 100 slides with a lot of faces but no names. For some reason, I've gotten a mental block. So, if anyone remembers our Bravo Company "Bastards of the Valley Flag," the valley was the Que Son Valley, and the hill was Hill 445 "Gobblers Nob" fire support base. Here's a list of some of the names I do remember: Al Hansen of Lincoln, Nebraska, Feld, Utterback, Miller, Lacy, Kolar, "San Tan," "Spanky," McCory from Michigan, Lee from Frisco, Paul Vetter my first squad leader. Also I'd like to find someone who served with the 2nd Armored Division 2/41st and ended up in the 198th LIB, especially an old friend, Adolph Gilkey of South Dakota. I would also like to hear from those of you who didn't ship out from Ft. Hood with the newly formed 198th but ended up, like me, with the 196th LIB. Please feel free to write to me. It's been a long 22 years.

Bill Curtit
[redacted]
South Gate, CA 90280
(formerly from Omaha, Neb.)

Dear Ron:

In reply to an article in the Jul-Aug Newsletter by Mr. Bill Laurie concerning the VC activities in Hau Nghai Province, yet not to start a controversy, I will describe the Hau Nghai Province as I knew it in late 1966 and early 1967.

I agree with Mr. Laurie that many of the current historians who write supposedly "true articles" on the Vietnam War do so based on incomplete or inaccurate information.

For information, LTC John Paul Vann's Vietnam tour as the Senior Advisor to the 7th ARVN Division was finished in April 1963 when he returned to the US and was retired from service. He returned to Vietnam in 1965 and was with the USAID Program. Later he became a Senior Civilian Advisor to the GVN and died in a helicopter crash in the Central Highlands in 1972. He may have been in the Province in 1966 as an USAID official. I seriously doubt that he was there as an Advisor to the 7th ARVN Division.

In the article, Mr. Laurie describes his travels throughout the Province in an unescorted jeep. The situation in 1974 may have permitted it. Had he attempted to do the same in late '66-early '67, he may have found himself either in a body bag at Graves Registration or as a guest of the VC in the Cu Chi Tunnel System. I was with the 196th LIB when it arrived at Tay Ninh (Aug '66) and with it when it moved to Chu Lai in April 1967. During this time all supply

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GET IT IN THE MAIL TODAY!

convoys arriving at Tay Ninh had to be escorted by a heavily armed force through Hau Nghai Province. In fact, there were only two methods of travel--by air or by armed convoy.

My first observation of the Province was on Dec. 22, 1966, when I was returning from the hospital on a flight from Tan Son Nhut to Tay Ninh aboard an L-20 Beaver. I had a good look at the destruction. Shortly after leaving Tan Son Nhut the artillery shell holes and bomb strikes began to appear, these became heavier the closer we got to Cu Chi Base. The area along the Saigon River in both Binh Dong and Hau Nghai Provinces had already taken on the appearance of the surface of the Moon.

In Jan 67, the 196th took part in Operation Cedar Falls in the eastern portion of Hau Nghai. The 3/21st operated in an area between the Filhol Plantation and the Ho Bo Woods. My company, B-3/21, was located about 2 1/2 miles north of the Troung Lap ARVN post. This area was also above a section of the Cu Chi tunnels, although we did not know this at the time.

With us at that fire base was B Btry 3/82nd Arty, an engineer platoon, and a section of quad 50s. While at the base we had sniper fire, home-made mines blown in the area, mines and booby traps along a road that was being built, night ambushes, and were shelled by mortars. The following day when searching for this mortar position, the company discovered a base camp and the tunnel entrance to a VC HQ.

Although we were aware that the 25th Div had encountered tunnels when it arrived in early 1966 at Cu Chi Base, we were unaware of the extent or the trace of the tunnel systems. It is a distinct probability that during this operation we walked to within 15 to 20 feet of large groups of VC and did not realize they were underneath us.

At the end of Cedar Falls I returned to Tay Ninh aboard a truck in the convoy. This convoy was escorted by a strong security force of armored personnel carriers and tanks until we were well out of Hau Nghai Province. At that time a large percentage of the Vietnamese civilians had moved to temporary villages along the main highway in an effort to escape the heavy shelling, bomb strikes, and frequent combat operations. However, a few villages, evidently sympathetic to the VC, had remained at several locations in the Province.

As further evidence of the VC activity, a good friend of mine was the 1st Sgt of Co 4, 4/9, 25th Div. He was KIA when the VC attempted to overrun the company position near Phu Hoa Dong on 26 Feb 67. For his actions during this attack he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation is on page 164 of the book AMERICA'S MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS.

The only ARVN I know of was at Troung Lap and Cu Chi with a few RF-PF outposts scattered along the main highway. From my observations and experience in the area, I would estimate the GVN controlled a very small portion of Hau Nghai Province.

I am certain a more detailed description of the

VC activities could be obtained from the men of the 196th who were transferred to Cu Chi in Dec 66 as part of the personnel exchange with the 25th Division.

Lewis L. Cole

Millston, WI 54643

Dear Members:

I was in the Americal at Chu Lai from Oct. '68 to Oct. '69. I was in a small unit called the G-55 Arty Quad 50s. I found out about the ADVA in the Vietnam War Almanac. I still keep in contact with a few guys I was with but would like to know some more. I would like to know if you can help me with some names to this unit. We had 24 Quads around the Chu Lai area. Our HQ was up west of the helicopter pad. I would like to know if I can get some maps of the Chu Lai area. It might help me find some of the LZs I and the others were on. We have had reunions for about the last six years but I have been the only one from the G-55th there. But every year I'm hoping that somebody I know will be there. I hope you can help me out.

A Proud Vietnam Vet
Deward (Popcorn) Pokorny
Weston, Nebraska 68070

Dear Vietnam Editor:

Recently there has been a lot of discussion about My Lai in the news media, on TV, etc. It has almost crept into our newsletter on occasion. Although there is a fair and reasoned explanation for why it happened in the Sheehan book A BRIGHT SHINING LIE, the event is for me and for others, I'm sure, a continuing source of frustration and shame. To have fought hard and honorably in the Americal Division and to constantly have this disgrace pounded into us for 20 years is hard to take. Maybe our Newsletter can be a forum to come to grips with this thing.

Yours,
R.W. Hornlein
A Btry 3/18th

COLONEL MAGGIE

During WWII, she toured with the USO; entertaining wherever troops were located. She was in her mid-twenties.

During the Korean War she was there, serving as an Army Reserve Nurse.

From 1965 to 1974, she was a constant companion in Vietnam. She spent over two years there, more than the average soldier. Her service went "above and beyond the call of duty." She was the only performer to venture to the most remote out-posts, often for a handful of GIs. She became known as "The Old Lady of the Boon-docks," a name she cherishes.

Her close ties with Special Forces earned the honorary rank of LTC, a tiger suit, Special Forces insignia, a green beret, and their love and respect. Her Green Beret is on display at the Museum at Ft. Bragg, NC.

In Vietnam, she was often in combat situations. She was wounded twice and received two Purple Hearts.

At the 1st Medical Battalion, Danang, despite her chopper being waived off, she jumped out and treated badly wounded Marines, spent hours helping the wounded, then entertained. In November 1969 at the 71st Evac Hospital in Pleiku, she was asked to speak to a wounded GI. She donned a mask, cap, and gown and entered the OR. Realizing he was a Mexican-American, she began speaking with him in Spanish.

Her work did not stop when she returned home. In Vietnam she collected letters from the troops for delivery at home; at home she collected letters for delivery in Vietnam. In 1969 alone, she hand delivered almost 300 letters.

In his book A SOLDIER REPORTS, Gen. William C. Westmoreland called her, "...a grandest trouper of all." Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Green Beret MSG Roy Benavidez said, "...there is no more dedicated lady.

She arrived in Vietnam at 49, she left at 56. During those years when she was there for us, often at great personal risk, her efforts never flagged.

For all of this and more, she has yet to receive full recognition from our government. In part, this may be because of her own selflessness. Throughout her work in Vietnam she refused attempts to publicize her exploits. She felt the people back home needed to hear about their loved ones, not her.

Martha Raye is now 73 years young. It's time for "her troops" to tell her story and get her the recognition she deserves in her lifetime.

We are two Women Vietnam Era Veterans and members of the Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans, Albany, NY. We are asking all who met or were cared for by COL Maggie during WWII, Korea, or Vietnam to write us of your experiences. We hope to hear from many of you because it will be of great help in getting her the recognition she deserves.

Please send your responses to:

Noonie Fortin or Belle Pellegrino
Albany, NY 12205

VETERANS JUDICIAL REVIEW

On November 18, 1988, President Reagan signed into law Public Law 100-687, the Veteran's Judicial Review Act.

For the first time in history, U.S. veterans have the right to court appeal of decisions of

the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) involving benefit claims. Prior to enactment of the new legislation, decisions of the BVA were final and court appeals were barred as a matter of law.

The new appeals court, to be known as the United States Court of Veterans Appeals (CVA), will consist of a Chief Judge and from two to six associate judges, all appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The new Court began operations on October 16, 1989, in Washington, DC.

In hearing appeals, the CVA will decide all questions of law and may review actions of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Court may force the Secretary to act and can reverse, modify, or remand to the BVA those decisions which are not in accordance with governing law. A BVA finding of a material fact can be reversed only when it is found to be "clearly erroneous." The CVA, however, is not permitted to give a veteran a new trial of the facts as found by the BVA. Appeals may be taken to the CVA from BVA decisions where a Notice of Disagreement was filed on or after November 18, 1988.

In addition, the new legislation prohibits the CVA from reviewing either the VA disability rating schedule or any action of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revise the rating schedule. A decision of the CVA can be appealed--except for factual determinations--to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Veterans must pay a fee of not more than \$50 to file an appeal with the CVA, and the notice of appeal must be filed within 120 days after the BVA has mailed its notice of decision to the veteran.

Case records and decisions issued by the CVA will become public records and open to inspection by the general public. However, the new law provides that the CVA can prevent the disclosure of confidential information--by placing the information under seal--to protect the veteran's confidentiality, when required. Decisions of the Court will be published for use by veterans, veterans organizations, and their legal counsel. Although the CVA will be headquartered in Washington, DC, it is authorized to convene at any place in the U.S.

The new CVA will give veterans for the first time the right to independent, federal judicial review of all BVA decisions. Increased benefit allowances should be anticipated, and it may be that changes in allowance rates and patterns throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs will emerge as a result of CVA decisions, reversals, and remands.

John D. Sawyer
Hudock, Sawyer & Azarcon
Vienna, VA

AGENCY PROVIDES INVALUABLE SUPPORT

The U.S. Army and Joint Services Environmental Support Group provides records research and claims substantiation at no charge. Contact: Donald Hakenson, Director, ESG, Room 210, 1730 K Street, NW, Washington, DC.



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MARCH - APRIL 1990

Mr. John DeGroot
[REDACTED]
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

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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

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