

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: OSCAR PATTERSON III

VIETNAM EDITOR: RON WARD

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



IN MEMORIAM

VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989

1989 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1990

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St. Louis, MO 63123

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#Vietnam Veteran

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGSOctober 14, 1989Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA
1:00 p.m. Business MeetingNovember 11, 1989Hall of Flags State House Boston, MA
9:30 a.m.December 10, 1989Christmas Party, Hanscom Air Force Base
1:00 p.m.November 5, 1989National Cemetery Bourne, MA
1:00 p.m.COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

From all reports, all those who attended the Americal Picnic at Ft. Devens, MA, enjoyed the music, dancing, and marching. The disc jockey, "Good Times," was excellent and agreeable to playing all requests, and before long all his calling cards were taken. We were very fortunate that the predicted showers never arrived, and we ate and danced in the grove of trees and then marched on the street in front of the Museum. It was nice to see so many old friends and new people enjoying themselves. Hope to see you again at the Christmas party.

I apologize to all the people who tried to phone me at the incorrect number listed in the Newsletter and also to the unfortunate family whose phone number was mistakenly listed and who had to receive and answer all those misdirected phone calls.

I don't know whether to court-martial the Editor-in-Chief, the printer, or some Gremlin, but we must try not to allow such an error to occur again.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Woodrow W. Cash Richard "Drap" Drapczuk
Co. K 182nd Inf. Co. B 1/46 Inf. 198th Bde.
Spring City, TN Cherry Hill, NJ

Daniel K. Herald Joe Leahy
Btry. M 6/11 Arty. Co. A 1/6th Inf. 198th Bde.
St. Johns, MI Cape May Court House, NJ

John Howard Parsons William Truffa
182nd Inf. R.C.T. Hq. Btry. 247th F.A.
Swanton, VT Leechburg, PA

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas L. Austin Bill R. Boyatt
523 Signal Co. B 4/31 Inf. 196th Bde.
Fort Wright, KY Oneida, TN
*Clifford Sevier *Self

LTC James C. Broadus, Ret. Laurendine T. Clark
Div. Arty, 196th Bde. Co. A 4/31 Inf. 196 Bde.
Alexandria, VA Marietta, GA
*Self *Robert Thornton

Francis S. Conaty, Jr. Malcolm P. East
21st Recon Co. B 723 Maint.
Chantilly, VA Lumberton, TX
*Frank Diorio *Charles T. Manchester

Marlin E. Egeland Donald G. Ellshoff
196th Bde. Co. L 132nd Inf.
Edmore, ND Tulsa, OK
*Gerald Hughes *Robert Thornton

Anthony Fields David B. Frayne
Co A HHC 1/52 Inf. 198 Btry B 3 Bn. 16th Atty.
Huntington, PA Park City, KA
*Rolly Castronova *Kenneth "Chief" Lewis

Jack Kanady Randall Kelley
Co D 2/1 Inf 196 LIB Co C 182nd Inf.
Springfield, IL Flint, Mich.
*Ron Ward *CMDR Rush Propper

Paul T. Loyd
Co B 2/1 Inf 196 LIB
Cannelburg, IN

Frank Lester Mathies
Co C 182nd Inf.
Kansas City, KN

Rev. Thomas B. Mendenhall Anthony J. Paluszek
Associate 198 LIB
Hutchinson, KN Penacook, NH
*Robert Thornton *Joseph Pellegriti

John Howard Parsons Richard Pikulski
182nd Inf. R.C.T. Co D 1/46 Inf. 196 LIB
Swanton, VT Vernon, CT
*Ralph K. Franklin *Self

LTC Robert C. Proctor Jr. Jesus R. Rios
6th Inf. 198 LIB Co E 1/46 Inf. 198 LIB
Hampton, VA El Paso, TX
*Paul T. Woerner *Robert Thornton

Joseph M. Salini Charles W. Sullivan
721 Ord. Co Co A 132nd Inf.
San Diego, CA Huntsville, AL
*Vernon L. Pierce *Frank Diorio

William R. Taylor Jane Reider Terry
Co A 26th Eng. Bn. 109th Station Hospital
Miami, OK Chevy Chase, MD
*Ron Ward *Arthur King

Dan R. Vaughn, Jr.
Co D 2/1 Inf. 196 LIB
Bridgeport, AL
*Kenneth "Chief" Lewis

*Sponsor

TAPS

John F. Mooney
182nd Inf.
Worcester, MA
May 1989

Francis W. Mullen
Co B 132nd Inf.
Philadelphia, PA
April 15, 1989

Maj. Charles I. Rogers, (Ret)
164th Inf.
Bakersfield, CA
June 14, 1989

PNC William T. Schmidt
51st Brigade
Hyde Park, MA
July 15, 1989

SICK CALL

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER Editor-in-Chief Oscar Patterson III took a bad fall in late July re-injuring his spine which had been repaired surgically less than three years ago. Original injuries came while in service. He is home and prepared this newsletter. Hopes for permanent recovery--walking alone--seem slim right now. But a few extra prayers wouldn't hurt.

Mrs. William (Helen) Dunphy, wife of our past National Commander, suffered a heart attack early in September. She is recovering well according to reports and should be at home by the time the Newsletter reaches you. Her address is 247 Willow St., West Roxbury, MA
(continued in next column)

02132. We are sure she would appreciate your cards and letters.

Mr. Sam Ravagno is now home after a serious illness. His address is 11 Ernest St., Saugus, MA 01906. We are sure he would like to hear from his friends in the A.D.V.A.

ADJUTANT'S NOTESIMPORTANTYOU SHOULD KNOW

DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES

JANUARY DUES NOTICES

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

2nd Notice Overdue numbers were printed in March-April Newsletter.

3rd Notice Overdue notice mailed June 1989.

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

How many other organizations carry an overdue member for one full year?

William E. Boos	Patrick J. Boyle
James H. Burdge Jr.	Harold F. Callihan
Nicholas Capezza	Edmar G. Costa
Arthur R. Cohen	William E. Davis
Frank DiSilvo	Matthew Enderle
Irvin M. Fox Jr.	Joseph Galanelli
Mayo K. Gravatt	Jimmie W. Hallbauer
Albert O. Hamel	Jim Hardy
Thomas M. Hayes	Richard Hazelgreen
Ray C. Hickman	John M. Hill
Robert W. Hunt	Walter W. Jackson
Edward W. King	Bruce F. Kipp
Charles H. Lee	Gilbert J. Paris
Donald T. Rawa	Justo Delos Santos
Robert W. Septor	John Sistrunk
Jimmy J. Stallings	Daniel J. Sullivan
Frederick B. Thompson	George C. West
William V. Wilson	Richard D. Young

Anthony Zanghi

IMPORTANTMAY DUES NOTICES

The May Dues Notices were mailed out during May 1989. Please remember that Dues are \$12.00 per year. This is your second notice since we mailed your card in advance of payment. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CARD NUMBER!

IF IT IS LISTED BELOW,
SEND YOUR PAYMENT NOW!

MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBERS

417	474	520	583	655	722
419	475	527	585	662	724
428	479	529	587	670	731
435	493	533	619	671	732
441	496	540	620	674	738

(continued on next page)

445	500	552	625	675	742
448	505	555	627	677	743
456	509	556	630	685	744
461	511	559	632	689	745
462	512	570	635	692	746
464	517	573	640	696	
469	518	582	653	716	

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN ADVA

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

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

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

DATE OF BIRTH_____AGE_____

SEND TO

Bernard C. Chase
National Adjutant, ADVA

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

A LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ADVA
IS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS
YOU CAN MAKE!

TAKE CARE OF YOURS TODAY!

HAVE YOUR MOVED? NEW ADDRESS?

CLIP AND MAIL TO HEADQUARTERS

Americal Newsletter
P.O. Box 1381
Boston, MA 02140

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY/STATE/ZIP_____

AMERICAL PICNIC

On Saturday, August 19, 1989, the Americal Picnic was held at the Americal Museum, Ft. Devens, MA. The weather forecast that was given out on Friday by Boston's TV stations for Saturday (the day of the picnic) was for rain and more rain. In fact, it was raining when some of the people who attended left their homes. At 10:00 a.m. the sun broke out and Mother Nature gave us a beautiful day. A great

(continued in next column)

many members and their wives were in attendance.

After having coffee and doughnuts inside the museum and greeting some of our old comrades, many of them for the first time since the S.W. Pacific, we set up our tables and chairs in the picnic area to reminiscence about our war experience. National Commander Bernie Carroll had hired Tom Bastian, a disc jockey and MC, who started the proceedings with one of the great marches that we all drilled to when we were in the Army. About 10:45 p.m. from the loud speakers came the familiar Field Artillery Song. Just at this time Sgt. Joe Nolan, one of C-221 F.A., made his appearance in a class A summer uniform with the Americal Patch on his left shoulder. The many ex members of C-221 present thought that Sgt. Joe had reenlisted. We all know how Joe loved the Army.

After lunch, Tom Bastian our disc jockey and MC got the crowd up dancing by playing some great tunes. Later Commander Carroll put the ladies through some close order drill in front of the museum. He gave them some instructions on how to do "to the rear march." After that the ladies put on quite an exhibition of close order drill. Not to be out done by the ladies, the ex members of the Americal did a little close order drill of their own. Even though it hurts to admit, I think the ladies did a much better job.

Around 5:30 p.m., the members started to leave for their homes and they all agreed that they had one great time and they all promised that they would attend the Americal Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10, 1989, at Hanscomb Air Force Base, time 1:00 p.m. Jack Smith of C-221 and Jim Buckle took many pictures and we hope to print a few in the Newsletter.

CHAPTER NEWS

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER
Robert T. Hock - Commander

Reading, PA 19601

Dear Americal Veterans:

The officers of our chapter wish you a joyous and happy holiday season. Through the efforts and hard work of John & "Honey" O'Keefe, you will find below the schedule of events for our 1989 chapter reunion.

Hotel rates will be as follows:
SINGLE: \$ 64.00 per night
DOUBLE: \$ 68.00 per night

The Friday night dinner will cost \$ 20.00 per person. This will be payable at the registration desk on Friday afternoon between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Please mail your reservations directly to the hotel using the form printed below.

(continued on next page)

If you have any questions, please direct them to:

Mr. John O'Keefe

Point Pleasant, NJ 08754

PHONE: _____

(continued on next page)

We'll be looking forward to seeing you there.

Yours in Comradeship

Robert T. Hock

Regional Commander

National Headquarters is sorry to announce that Eastern Regional Commander Bob Hock will not seek reelection this September. Commander Hock stated that due to poor health of a member of his family he could not devote enough time to run the chapter the way he has for the last six years. At the Chapter Reunion this September a new Commander will be chosen.

(continued on next page)

Bob, we at the National Office as well as the members of your own Chapter are sorry to see you step down. We congratulate you for the marvelous work you have done with your Chapter. The Eastern Regional Chapter has by far the most members of ADVA on its Chapter active roster. It's easy to see that some one has put a lot of time and effort into making this possible. We wish you well on your retirement as Commander and expect to see you at many of our future ADVA events.

RESERVATION FORM
EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER REUNION

MAIL TO: Reservation Manager

Days Inn

Absecon, NJ 08201

FOR: AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS REUNION
September 22, 23, & 24, 1989

No. of People attending_____

No. of Rooms required: Single _____

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____

STATE/ZIP CODE_____

196TH LIB

On Saturday, July 15, 1989, around 150 former members of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade paid a visit to the Americal Museum at Fort Devens, Ayer, Mass. The 196th members were in the Boston area on a very successful reunion. While at the Americal Museum, Joseph O'Brien, Life Member of ADVA and also a past member of Company B, 196th LIB, presented to National Commander Bernard Carroll of the ADVA the flag of the 196th Brigade. Other gifts were also presented and will be added to our Vietnam collection. National Commander Carroll wishes to thank the 196th for their generous gifts to the

(continued in next column)

museum.

The 196th left Fort Devens many years ago and proceeded to Vietnam. The commanding officer at that time was Col. Francis G. Conanty, Jr. who was a past member of the Americal's 21st Reconnaissance Troop in World War II days. No wonder they were such good jungle fighters, their C.O. had a lot of good training in World War II days.

Col. Conaty joined ADVA at the museum that day and we expect a few more of the 196th members who were present to also join our ranks.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

NCO CLUB

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE
BEDFORD, MA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1989

SEND RESERVATIONS TO: Bernard Carroll

Boston, MA 02130

NAME:_____

NO. OF RESERVATIONS _____

NO. OF GUESTS IN CAR _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/ZIP _____

Tables may be reserved

Take Routes 4 & 225 North from 128 -- Follow signs to Hanscom Air Force Base

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: December 3, 1989
NO TICKETS WILL BE SENT--COMMITTEE WILL CHECK AT ENTRANCE.

MENU

Salad

Roast Top sirloin of beef with brown gravy

Whipped potatoes

Fresh Vegetable Medley

Rolls and Butter

Tea and Coffee

Ice Cream Pie with Strawberries

Cocktails 1:00 p.m. till 2:00 p.m.

Dinner 2:00 p.m.

\$20.00 per person

Live Dance Band Lou Columbo

We will have some Christmas prizes to be given out free.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING OR SEND A SMALL
CASH GIFT FOR OUR VETERANS
IN THE V.A. HOSPITALS.

182D INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

Our annual cookout was hosted by Commander Doug and Joan Tarbox at their homestead on August 18, 1989, with 35 of our folks in attendance. A highlight of the affair was the presence of several who recently had major operations or illnesses and are now on the mend (Charlie Boyington, Gert Boyington, PC Joe Cirino, Barbara Cox, Ruth Duke, and Claire Malenchini). It was great to see you folks back in the fold. A fantastic day was had by all!

The Annual "Gift-O-Rama, Dinner Dance and Installation for 1989-1990 Officers" will be held at the Everett Lodge of Elks 642 Building at 42 Church Street, Everett, MA, on November 2, 1989. Reservations can be had by contacting our Committee Chairman, PC Don Tibbetts at 889-0846.

To all ADVA members who served with the 182d Infantry at any time. Recently you received a special newsletter inviting you to "come join our Association." This is a "one time" invite which will not be repeated! We hope many of you will see your way clear to join the roster of your former compatriots. A special "thank you" to Managing Editor Jim Buckle for his assistance in producing the address labels necessary to support this special mailing. This type of coordination makes us feel like we are all "one big happy family." We appreciate it.

Charles L. Doyle

Everett, MA 02149
Vice Commander

THE WAY IT IS

The August 7, 1989, edition of the Boston Globe carried a four column picture of peace doves being released in Japan and also many columns of story. This was the anniversary of the A-Bomb attack on Hiroshima.

This was also the anniversary of the Marine landing on Guadalcanal--the first step on the long road to Tokyo. I read the Boston Globe from front to back but there was not one word mentioned about this, the 47th anniversary of the Marine landing--not one word about the young Marines giving their lives to restore peace to the Pacific.

(continued in next column)

It seems that the news media is also willing to help the Japanese re-write history. They should never forget Pearl Harbor!

Forty seven years ago October 13, 1989, the 164th Infantry Regiment landed on Guadalcanal to assist the hard pressed Marines. This marked the birth of the Americal Division as a combat Infantry Division.

On November 11, 1942, the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 182nd Infantry landed on this tropical island called Guadalcanal and by Christmas 1942 the entire Americal was engaged.

I do not expect the Boston Globe to mention the fact, come November, that it is the anniversary of the 182nd Regiment's landing on that far away island. That is sad because the 182nd came from Boston and surrounding towns. But--that's the way it is!

Our children should never be allowed to forget the men who served our country. They should never be allowed to forget the sacrifice and suffering of our servicemen that made their freedom possible.

Jim Buckle

POETRY CONTEST OPENS
SERVICE PEOPLE INVITED TO ENTER

Poets may enter the American Poetry Association's contest now. Over \$11,000 in prizes will be awarded to 152 winners. Entry is free and everyone is welcome to enter.

The grand prize is \$1,000 and the first prize is \$500. Other prizes include cash awards and publication.

"People in the military are personally invited to enter this contest," said Robert Nelson, publisher for the Association. "Their poetry has unusual vitality, probably because of the kind of lives they lead. We would like to see more of their work."

Poets may enter the contest by sending up to six poems, each no more than 20 lines, name and address on each page, to American Poetry Association, Dept. CT-62, 250-A Potrero St., P.O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Entries should be mailed by December 31.

Every poet receives a free copy of "The Poet's Guide to Getting Published," a four-page booklet full of useful information.

Each poem is also considered for publication in AMERICAN POETRY ANTHOLOGY, a leading collection of contemporary verse. Accepted poets may be asked to buy a copy to insure inclusion.

There is no obligation to buy a book to win a prize. Winning poets will be published and receive a free anthology in addition to other prizes.

(continued on next page)

During seven years of sponsorship, the American Poetry Association has run 32 contests and awarded \$145,000 in prizes to 3,040 winning poets.

TOUCH FOOTBALL & HILL #260
NOT FAR APART

Chicago, Ill. (June, 1989)--Touch football and hill #260 on Guadalcanal are not far apart to Father Gorman as he recalls his experiences nearly 50 years ago as an Infantry Chaplain to the 132nd regiment of Chicago young men in the U.S. Army.

It all began in 1940 when Father Gorman was a chaplain at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Chicago and his daily touch football games with the interns. One day a staff physician asked Father Gorman: "How would you like to be a chaplain in the National Guard?"

"What is that?" Father Gorman inquired.

"Well, you go for a meeting one evening a week for about an hour. And if the government should pass the Selective Training Act, you go down South, bring your clubs, and spend the winter," his doctor friend responded.

"OK, I'll consult my parents." And later than evening when he told his mother, she said: "You weren't ordained for the Army, of course not."

That appeared to abruptly end a budding Army career for Chaplain Gorman. When the doctor learned about his decision, he told Father that since he depended upon his mother's decision, perhaps he didn't belong in the service after all. "That was fine for me," Father reported.

About a month later, Colonel Nelson, commanding officer of the 132nd, paid a visit to Father Gorman. He had known Nelson as a civilian in his parish of Our Lady of Mercy.

"Now listen," Col. Nelson asserted, "all the interns have been given the rank of 1st lieutenant in the National Guard and I'll give you a chaplaincy right away. All you have to do is get permission from your superior in the Chancery, go down South for a year and that's the end of it."

Father Gorman decided to do it and received permission from the Chancery. The one year with the 132nd training was abruptly ended with the bombing of Pearl Harbor when the regiment was activated for urgent duty in the South Pacific.

A zig-zag journey to the East coast and a voyage through the Panama Canal ended in Melbourne, Australia. They were later convoyed by submarines to New Caledonia and told to "defend" the island since it was feared that the Japanese might attempt to cut supply lines.

Later in the year, Father Gorman and the regiment landed in Guadalcanal to support the Marine effort there. Here, Father Gorman

(continued in next column)

prayed the Act of Contrition and offered absolution to Catholics and Protestants alike before they went into battle.

Hill #260 became an epic battle on Guadalcanal, and the heroic efforts of the 132nd from Chicago were widely reported in the Chicago dailies.

Later, when Chaplain Gorman was sitting in his tent one evening, a young soldier came to him. "Kneel down," said the Chaplain. "But I'm not a Catholic," said the young man, "but whatever you said to us before we went to hill #260, I wish you would do it again."

Soon it was on to Bougainville, the largest island in the Solomon group, and more bitter and bloody battles. An offer came for Father Gorman from Corps HQ looking for a chaplain and offering him a promotion.

"I told them I wasn't looking for a promotion and that I had buried boys on Guadalcanal and Bougainville and had no ideas of leaving my unit."

Chaplain Gorman's loyalty to his "boys" is warmly recorded on a plaque presented to him during the 48th annual reunion of the 132nd. It reads: All we can do, and this we pledge ourselves to do until that day we die, is to remember in our daily prayers, our buddies who have always marched to the tune of the eternal victory march, and who have been decorated with the medal of eternal reward."

There are reminders of Guadalcanal in his room--a large cross, some newspapers from the 1940s now yellowed, and pictures of Chaplain Gorman and the boys of the 132nd. Touch football and hill #260, fading but not forgotten.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

196TH REUNION

At the most recent reunion of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association, held in Somerville, Mass., 196th troopers visited the Americal Museum at Fort Devens. In this photo we see members of the group presenting a glad to ADVA National Commander Bernie Carroll. From left to right it's Joe O'Brien, Bernie Carroll, and Bill Knight. O'Brien is a life member of the ADVA as well as the 196th LIB Association. As for Bill Knight, how about getting him signed up with the ADVA, Joe?





In this next photo we see the Vietnam Veterans Monument in Somerville, Mass., where the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association held a candle-light memorial service and laid a wreath to honor fallen members of the unit.

WAS OUR SACRIFICE ALL FOR NOTHING?

Our Supreme Court makes me wonder why I fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam when I read that one can now burn the American Flag.

I wonder about all of the great men under my command who died fighting for our flag.

I wonder...if it was all in vain?

Robert W. Carbray
Col., U.S. Army, Retired

MASS COUPLE DONATES PLAQUE IN MEMORY OF MICHIGAN PAIR

A Massachusetts couple are dedicated to Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Vietnam service men and women and as a result of that dedication not only donate fifty hours a week to his non-profit business, but the couple donated a beautiful plaque to the Ontonagon County Historical Museum in memory of two of Ontonagon's war dead.

Dudley and Barbara Farquhar of North Reading are active in Operation Triumph, Inc., a non-profit Vietnam Veteran run group dedicated toward a full accounting of all POWs and MIAs. The Farquhars said the group began as an instrument to give "public awareness" of the men and women who remain prisoners of war and/or are listed as missing action.

Although this was Dudley's first visit to Ontonagon, his wife Barbara has been here numerous times, the first time for Ernie Skinner's funeral in April, 1967. She said she met Skinner while he was stationed at Ft. Devens, Mass., six months before he was shipped to

(continued in next column)

Vietnam. When here Monday, Farquhar remembered the Vietnam war veteran with flowers on his grave.

While in Ontonagon, the couple presented Charles Willman, local museum curator, with a beautiful plaque engraved with "In loving memory of Ernie Skinner and Billy Lundberg--April 20, 1967...Presented to the Ontonagon Historical Museum--Operation Triumph."

Dudley goes on to say that the two vets that we dedicated the plaque to were both killed in action while serving with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade during 1967.

ADVA MEMBER PUBLISHES BOOK

James "Pigman" Crum, ADVA member, has published a new book on Vietnam titled PIGMAN VIETNAM 1968 - 1969. The book is the true story of one M-60 machine gunner (Pigman) who served with Bravo Company 2/1 196th LIB. The book is based on memory, letters home, and facts. You will find the book easy reading, hard to put down once you have started, filled with details we all wish to remember, but short on the blood and guts. It is a book about a 19 year old's feelings about a war he does not understand.

PIGMAN VIETNAM 1968-1969 is self published by the author and is available only by mail from the address given. The book is available from

Jim "Pigman" Crum

Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614

The book costs \$7.00 per copy plus \$2.00 postage for a total of \$9.00. Send your order to Jim if you would like a copy.

WOMEN IN VIETNAM

Former Americal Donut-Dolly Linda Wilson remains hard at work in her efforts to see that the ladies who served in Vietnam receive their monument just like us dog-faces. She sends us the following summary of her progress.

In October 1987, the VWMP obtained permission from the Secretary of the Interior to present a proposed statue to be placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the Commission of Fine Arts for approval. This permission was based upon the Secretary's conclusion that we were an addition to an existing memorial and thus not subject to the Commemorative Works Act of 1986 which requires legislation to establish a memorial in Washington, DC or its environs. The Fine Arts Commission voted 5 to 1 that the proposed site at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was not adequate to provide sufficient memorial to the women who served.

The VWMP then went to Congress and requested legislation authorizing the placement of a statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (essentially bypassing the Commission of Fine Arts). The Commemorative Works Act became central to the legislative process and testimony was provided by the three approving (- continued on next page)

organizations under it: the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Secretary of the Interior. Only the Secretary of the Interior supported our proposal. Of course, many organizations support us, but they lacked the authority to approve our proposal.

The Commemorative Works Act of 1986 (CWA) was passed by Congress because of serious concerns about the rapid loss of very limited space to commemorate major events in our nation's history. At that time it was estimated that only 50 suitable sites remained, but the rising consciousness of Americans from all races and ethnicities, as well as others devoted to specific causes were demanding space for recognition in our capital. A recent list compiled by the National Park Service identifies 13 recent laws authorizing memorials on National Park Land, 17 bills pending before Congress, and 25 known efforts to obtain support for memorials (including 4 specific to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and another by Tom Hayden to honor anti-war protesters).

The CWA defines two areas for memorials. Area one includes the Mall, where the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located, the Elipse, Lafayette Park, West Potomac Park, Lady Bird Johnson Park, and Theodore Roosevelt Island. Area two includes all other federally controlled land in the District of Columbia. Criteria established for Area one are: 1. Commemoration of declared wars or major military conflicts and branches of the military service. 2. Commemoration of groups or individuals when the last surviving actively involved individual has been dead for at least 25 years. 3. The memorial must be shown to be of preeminent and lasting historical significance to be in Area one. In addition, new memorials must not encroach upon existing memorials and must be in surroundings relevant to the event to be commemorated.

In order to build a memorial in either Area one or two, Congress must first pass authorizing legislation. Once the bill is signed into law, established procedures must be followed to obtain permission for Area one.

There was extensive debate and a number of last minute maneuvers just before Congress adjourned before the election. The Board of Directors of the VWMP concluded that accepting a bill with generic language of the CWA was better than continuing a long legislative process into 1989 which, even then, could not guarantee the specific language we sought.

Our final bill authorizes us to establish a memorial in Washington, DC or its environs subject to all the approval process. Included with the bill is a statement that it is the sense of Congress that the proposed memorial be located within 2.2 acres of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This procedure avoided the effect of having Congress legislate art...a matter CWA specifically attempts to avoid.

We are now locked into an approval process which includes separate steps for site and design. We must make a presentation to the Nat (- continued in next column)

ional Capital Memorial Commission to justify Area one, using the criteria noted above. If the Memorial Commission approves (they did so in March), they will develop language for a joint resolution to be passed by Congress and submit it to the Secretary of the Interior for approval. This could take three weeks to one month. We do not believe the Secretary's position on us will change even though there is a new Secretary. The proposed legislation must go to the Office of Management and Budget for review and comment. This could take one to three months. The bill will then be sent to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The Congress has 150 days to act, or the request will be considered denied. The absolute test and work case scenarios for this process are probably four to nine months.

Once our request for Area one is approved, we must go through an alternative site selection process. This should go quickly since we believe the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is clearly the most appropriate site.

Our specific site must then be approved by both the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. They meet monthly and it should not be difficult to make those presentations. There are other procedures and reviews necessary, but these two are the ones with veto authority. The terms of all members of the Fine Arts Commission will have expired by October, 1989, and an entirely new commission might be in place.

Once the site is approved, we must develop our design proposal and go back to both commissions for design approval. At this point, it will be late in 1989 or even into 1990. The memorial must be approved and build, however.

196TH REUNION

The first 196th Locate-A-Brother reunion was held this past June in St. Louis. It was an unbelievable success. There were more than 400 people in attendance and of that, 231 men registered. Tony and I would like to thank all of you for attending a sharing time we will not soon forget. The "CHARGERS" are some very special men. Tony and I consider it an honor to have served with you. The 196th Locate-A-Brother continues to grow at an incredible pace as we have now located more than 2000 of our 196th comrades. Can you imagine the next reunion? For those of you than would like to purchase a VCR tape of the reunion, please send \$27.50 and request a copy of the 196th LIB Reunion Tape...20 Years to Remember.

Hoover's Audio Visual
Video Duplication Dept.

St. Louis, MO 63103

Tony and I would like for you to write for an update print of your unit and time. If you would like information on events your Battalion took part in, let us know! Let's keep the Locate-A-Brother network busy and send in that information.

Tony May
Phoenix, OR 97535
B 3/21 '68

Jim (Pigman) Crum
Canal Fulton, OH 44614
B 2/1 '68-69

CHICAGO PARADE VS WOODSTOCK

I noticed in LIFE Magazine that they are making a big deal out of the 20th anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival. They want people to let them know what they thought of the thing then and what they are doing now. Although I wasn't there, I took the opportunity to give them some information about the Chicago parade and compare it to Woodstock. I enclose a copy of my letter to LIFE. I doubt that they will ever print my letter or anything about the parade, but I took my best shot. Give my best to Rollie Castronova and the boys.

As Always
Jim Craig, 196th LIB

LIFE Woodstock Editor
Time & Life Bldg.
Rockefeller Center
New York, NY 10020

Dear Sirs:

For three days in the summer of 1986 between 300,000 and 500,000 Vietnam veterans (many had family members with them) met in Chicago for a parade and reunion. The city and people of Chicago went all out to make us feel at home and "welcome us home." Over 200,000 people lined the streets from Navy Pier to Grant Park. Some of the signs in the crowd were such that they brought tears to the eyes of the vets. The emotion that moved between the crowd and the men and their families in the parade was so strong that I could only describe the whole experience as something close to a religious revelation. I think that if you talk to any of the people there, they will give you a similar description. Renewals of old friendships, emotional grieving scenes at the moving "Wall" in Grant Park, and 60s style music in the park followed. I submit to you that the vast social importance of this event far exceeds any significance of a pop music festival with people freely using unlawful drugs, engaging in open nudity and sex, and in general living like unwashed street people for a week. Of course, the media has largely ignored the parade.

Sincerely
Jim Craig

CASUALTIES OF WAR

I was reading an article about the film CASUALTIES OF WAR and it kind of annoyed me. I wrote this rebuttal and I was wondering if it could be put in the Americal Newsletter. I understand the actors wear Americal Division shoulder patches in the film.

When is someone going to come out with a movie (continued on next page) that praises the efforts of our Vietnam veterans instead of knocking us down?

Anyway, I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit.

Sincerely,
Mike Fox

Well it seems that the Vietnam veteran is being attacked again. We are being depicted as half crazed animals who raped, pillaged, and plundered Southeast Asia.

This time it's a movie called CASUALTIES OF WAR. A film directed by Brian De Palma. De Palma is a self proclaimed draft dodger. He evaded the draft by having his doctor claim he had asthma. He claims that he was fervently against the war. I, for one, am fervently against any war, but I do believe in a duty to this country.

It seems that Mr. De Palma is just another hypocrite who is still trying to justify his actions and is using veterans as his scapegoat. While he was trying to save his hide, good men were fighting and dying.

I would like to dedicate a poem to the draft dodging director of CASUALTIES OF WAR. This poem was sent to Dave Blanton, B 2/1 196th LIB in 1969. The only reason it's still around is the keen memory of JuJu Deriscavage, B 2/1 196th LIB.

I would also like to urge all veterans to boycott this movie and any other movies of its kind.

Sincerely,
Mike Fox, B 2/1 196th LIB

THE ONLY ONES

You peace boys rant from your easy chair
But you don't know what it's like over here
Burn your draft cards and march at dawn
Plant your flags on the White House Lawn
Use your drugs and have your fun
and then refuse to use your gun
I'll hate you till the day I die
You made me hear my buddy cry
I say his arm a bloody shred
I heard them say this one is dead
We had the guts to fight and die
He paid the price what did he buy
He bought you life by giving him
But who gives a damn what a soldier gives
His wife does and so does his sons
But they're THE ONLY ONES

KHAM DUC SURVIVORS

Sorry this took so long. I hope I'm in time with the photos. I can't help with all the names due to the fact that there were so many different group shots at different times. Please let the 22 signers of the poster know that I'm trying to find a photo shop that can reproduce the original and I'll send them a copy if they'll write to me. Some of their signatures are not too legible.

As far as a synopsis of Kham Duc, I only have limited background data on it. I know that for weeks we were laying in troops and supplies and then on Sunday morning, May 12, 1968, we got a scramble alarm for an extraction out of there. It was the longest day of my life. Never saw so much aircraft go down on one operation. Upon arrival, confusion ruled the day. It seemed (continued on next page)

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

CEBU, 1945

Dear Sirs:

I was injured in the assault on Cebu 3/26/45 by the blast of a land mine which killed the soldier next to me and again on 3/30/45 by gunshot through the left ankle and shrapnel in the left elbow. The VA recognizes the ankle injury but shows no record of beach injury where I was thrown by the mine, looked over by a medic, and returned to duty. Probably no record was made in the heat of the invasion.

I would like to contact anyone from Company I 182nd Infantry who landed on that beach in Alligators on 3/26/45. If there is any way to find a man by the name of "Picolby" (I may not be spelling it correctly) who was first scout of our platoon, I would be very grateful. I think he could verify the action.

Thank you for your help in advance.

Wayne D. Weber
Fairfield, OH 45014

P.S. Would also like to locate a man known to me as "Gumbo," who while under constant fire dragged me and the other wounded off the hill the afternoon of 3/30/45.

GUADALCANAL

Bernie:

It just about 47 years ago that we landed on the "Canal" and I figured you'd probably mention it in your next monthly paper.

So, if you can find room in it, please place this little tribute in there for others to see.

Yours in Comradeship
Don Drake
Sacramento, CA 95828

Say hello to Al Hudson and Ernie Lackhance and do you remember Alois Turcotte?

IN MEMORY

Here on this forsaken land
They lay in Gods Abode
The boys who gave what they loved most
In order that we hold
The peace and freedom of our states
Democracy that's true
So we may live in peace again
Beyond the ocean blue.
They lived and loved their country
Just the same as you and I
And gave their life in action
So our faith would never die
May they be remembered
For that we're sure they shall
Here lay the boys who fought so brave
on the isle of Guadalcanal!

like we were taking fire from all sides. We had to be careful of return fire because of so much uncoordinated aircraft in and out of Kham Duc and also of the ground troops constantly changing position on the runway. Our lead ship going in was taken out with a .50 cal and crashed on the runway. The door gunner jumped from the ship and smashed both knees on the runway. Thanks to three or four of the ground troops, he was pulled to cover. We met one of those grunts who saved him at the Locate-A-Brother reunion. He signed the Kham Duc poster but I can only make out his first name which is Art. I hope this info helps and thanks to Jim Crum and Tony May for a great time.

Tony Percoskie
178th Aviation (doorgunner)



Tony Percoskie center in fatigue shirt holding poster



Left to Right: Tony Percoskie, Richard Morton, Mike Payne, Dan Shopleck, Todd Regan

198th LIB

Dear Mr. Chase:

I am a member of the Americal Division Veterans Association having served as an infantry platoon leader and battalion adjutant in the Republic of Vietnam from August 14, 1970, through June 11, 1971, in the following units:

1st Battalion
6th Infantry
198th Infantry Brigade
Americal (23rd) Infantry Division

For your further information I enclose a copy of my DD Form 214.

I am interested in obtaining a complete list of the names and ranks of officers which served in my battalion during this time period, along with any other information available about these officers, including for example their last known or current addresses. I would appreciate your advising me whether the Association can provide assistance in this regard or otherwise advising me how this information can be acquired.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Sincerely yours,
Henry A. Schutz III
Peterson & Pesner, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
Tyson Square Office Park
8214-C Old Courthouse Road
Vienna, VA 22182-3855

(continued on next page)

EDITOR'S NOTE: We do not provide lists of members but will hope that publication of your letter will assist you in obtaining the information you desire.

CO D 2/1 INF 196TH LIB

Dear Sir:

Please accept my membership in the ADVA. I served with D Company 2/1 196th LIB from August 1968 until August 1969. I hope through my membership to contact as many of my buddies as possible. I would also like to learn more about the history of all the Americal units from World War II through Vietnam because we are all brothers. No matter what unit we served with or what war we fought in, we are all united by four stars on a blue shield. I will work to ensure, as we all should, that those who served and those who gave their lives "Under the Southern Cross" are never forgotten.

Most Americans seem to think that the only units in I Corps were the 101st Airborne, the 1st Cavalry, and the Marines. What hurts is when you tell them you served with the Americal and they reply, "Yes, I heard of the Americal. Weren't you the ones at My Lai?" It's true that My Lai is a dark cloud over the Americal, but it's only a small cloud, and it should not be allowed to overshadow the gallant and heroic sacrifices of those members of the Americal who gave their lives for the people of South Vietnam.

(continued in next column)

I saw this sacrifice first hand when D Company 2/1 196th LIB went up Hill 187 near Tien Phouc in March of 1969. In the first three days of fighting we sent from around 140 men to less than 40. We were not firing on women and children, but were facing a deadly and determined enemy who tried in vain to rout us from our positions on top of the hill. Many brave men were lost on Hill 187 as they were with all the other hills the Americal Division has climbed over the years since World War II. I am proud to have served with the men who fought and died "Under the Southern Cross."

Dan R. Vaughn Jr.
"Dangerous Dan"
[REDACTED]
Bridgeport, AL 35740
205-495-3458

Dan: We at the ADVA are proud to have you as one of our members.

NOUMEA, 1989

Dear Sir:

Having got your address from Mr. H. Daly who is the author of books on American presence in New Caledonia during the second World War, I apply to you to tell you that I have several photos and souvenirs (memories of war) of the U.S. Army and particularly of the 1st BN 132nd INF in my possession. My family has got a lot of contact with this section.

As you will celebrate the 45th anniversary next year, I have thought that if ancients are interested in photos and souvenirs I would give these with pleasure.

(continued in next column)

I should like by the same to have news about Mr. Paul A. Kuffel (Ex. Sergeant) and about Mr. Zefferino DiSalvo (Ex. Corporal) of the 132nd. My family corresponded with them until 1965. Their war address was HQ Wet, 1st Bn 132nd Inf APO 502 C/O Postmaster San Francisco, CA. Their civilian addresses were 4711 N. Manor Avenue, Chicago, IL 60613 and Paulina St., Chicago, IL.

Last year I went to Chicago on holiday. I thought it would be easy to find them. Unfortunately, the US administration is not easy and with the population of the city, two weeks was not enough.

I would like to have a penfriend who knew my family in Kone Village, Baco Road on the west coast.

I mention to you some names that my family has known or has not forgotten: Steve Wise, Green-bay WI and Supply Sgt. Perry of Los Angeles.

Wishing a positive response to my letter and news of Mr. P.A. Kuffel and Mr. Jeff DiSalvo.

Sincerely Yours,
Madame Francoise Leonard-Lethezer
C/O Mobil International
[REDACTED]
Noumea, Nouvelle Caledonie
(continued on next page)

196TH LIB

Hi Jim:

It was great seeing you and the others again. Thanks for the warm welcome.

I've been to Ireland and back since I saw you last. The pictures weren't developed before I left, so as promised, I am enclosing a picture of the presentation and the 196th wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Monument in Somerville.

Take care,
Joseph P. O'Brien
[REDACTED]
Flushing, NY 11355
[REDACTED]



196th LIB wreath laid at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on July 14.

COMPANY A 26TH ENGINEERS

I would like to receive information on becoming a member of the ADVA. I was with Company A (continued in next column)

26th Engineers of the Americal from March 1968 till March 1969. I'd also like to hear from anyone who served with my unit during that time period.

William R. Taylor
[REDACTED]
Miami, OK 74354

CONVOY 6814, THE SANTA ROSA

Dear Jim:

I am enclosing a picture given to me while I was in the Pacific during World War II. A friend of mine said that it was the cemetery on Guadalcanal. You can read the names and the unit numbers on some of the crosses. Others you have to use a magnifying glass to read them.

I was in Convoy 6814 on the Santa Rosa that left New York in January 1942. We arrived at (continued on next page)

[A second, handwritten letter, accompanied the letter above. It follows below.]

I introduce myself. My name is Mrs. Francoise Leonard-Lethezer. I am the march daughter who is the son of Ludouis Lethezer. My grandmother lived on Baco road at Kone. She was washer woman in American time.

It is why my family has had a lot of contact with the U.S. Army.

Today I work in an American petroleum company, The Mobil International Petroleum.

I would like to have some contacts with ancients to keep up a correspondence and also to earn English. That I study for my job.

Next year I am planning to go to Los Angeles on holiday. I would like to meet people of this epoch, if possible.

Salutations
Mrs. Francoise Leonard-Lethezer

247TH F.A.

Dear Mr. Thornton:

Thanks for the prompt and courteous reply to my letter. I'm so glad to receive the newsletter sample and the membership information. Enclosed is my order for two copies of the division history, UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS. I have read the book and am delighted to be able to have a personal copy for myself and my sister. I have also enclosed the membership application. I assume that as an "associate member" I filled out the form correctly as my service record could not be necessary. However, I am honored that my father was in the Americal Division and here is his service information as (continued on next page)

I have it. If this is helpful for your records I should be most honored that he be included as an American veteran.

Burl C. Mendenhall #37012695
Born: 1/31/17, Thorny, Ark.
Died: 11/16/79 Wichita, KA where he is buried
Service: 8/12/41 to 8/31/45
Rank: Staff Sergeant (Feb. 1945)
Attached to the 247th FA Battalion, HQ & Service Bty in the liaison section.
Initially assigned to FA Replacement Company at Ft. Bragg.

Thanks for letting me be a part of your organization. I can think of fewer ways better to honor him and his service career. I only wish he were still with me to tell the stories that I previously didn't ask to hear. My loss. Thanks for the help in making connections with a very important part of our family's history.

Rev. Tom Mendenhall
[REDACTED]
Hutchinson, KS 67502

Melbourne and then proceeded to New Caledonia and then on to Guadalcanal. I never did see the cemetery personally so I hope it is authentic. We had anti-aircraft guns around Carney Field. When I left New York my outfit was the 70th AAA. Later it was changed to the 925 AAA (AW) Battalion. I spent 3 1/2 years in the Pacific. I came back to the States from Leyte in the Philippines.

I will look through the rest of my pictures and see if there is anything the museum may be interested in. If there are and someone can make duplicate copies for me, I will send the pictures on to you.

If anyone should see this picture and recognize the name of a family member, have them write to me and I will send them a copy.

Sincerely
Albert D. Price
New Orleans, LA 70129



196TH LIB

Dear Sirs:

As a former member of the Americal Division from May 1948 to April 1969 with the 196th LIB, I recently attended the first reunion ever of the 196th LIB held in St. Louis June 23-25 and met people that twenty years ago I may have met while on combat operations but knew as GIs with no names.

As a Demo man I was always going to the field on missions and taking part in numerous operations with these men and I always someday wanted to be able to talk to them and get to know most by name. The reunion did that for me and more. I also learned about the Division and its role in World War II and I also met people who I was with on my last operation in (continued in next column)

1969 when I, along with ten other men from my platoon were wounded in the Antenna Valley where South Vietnamese forces, F Troop 17th Cav, and my unit, A Co. 26th Engineers, were all combined to relocate civilians again back in their village near the river.

Some of the men of my platoon had been with me since AIT and we'd all tried putting off going on R&R till we were short enough to really enjoy ourselves. I made it to within 38 days of completing my tour and that ended my being a member of A Company 26th Engineers of the 196th LIB and the Americal Division.

I learned a lot about the Division and the Brigade, but to tell the truth, I know very little about the 26th Engineers which I belonged to for over ten months. Since we Demomen always seemed to be headed out on a mission or returning from one that may have lasted a week or more, we never had much time to learn about our battalion.

I do not know for sure how many companies were in the Battalion, five I think, and other things such as how long were we with the 196th LIB (that would be A Company only) even what our Battalion Crest looked like. And this was one question asked me at the reunion that I couldn't answer.

I wrote to see if anyone knew anything about the 26th Engineering Battalion and I do recall hearing that at one time the Battalion had been in Panama, I think about 1956. This is just about all I do know. So, is it possible to learn how long A Company was with the 196th LIB even what the Battalion Crest looked like?

To finally learn and know these answers after all these years is really something I know I must do. Twenty years ago all I wanted to do was complete my full tour, I didn't get to! Today I'd like to learn and get as much information I can on the 26th Engineering Battalion (Combat) so at the next reunion I will have the answers when people ask me about my unit.

Maurice W. Henson
Capay, CA 95607

D COMPANY 182ND INF

I, too, was a member of Task Force #6814 leaving Camp Edwards in January of 1942 to the Port of Embarkment in New York. We sailed on the SS Argentina, a former luxury cruise ship. I was a member of the 182nd Infantry, Company D. This ship had not been entirely stripped down and I can remember the mirrored walls, the bars (not open, of course) and the swimming pool. There were approximately 6,000 troops on board and needless to say, it was pretty crowded. The bunks were about five tiers high and just about enough room between them to turn over. It was so hot that a lot of us slept on the deck nights, just to escape the infernal heat. We were at sea 43 days--a long ride. We headed for the Panama Canal which we eventually went through. Some experience!

Does anyone remember the salt water showers?
(continued on next page)

AMERICAL INVITATION

Americal family member Dom. Pantaleo, President of the Brockton Federation of Musicians, Local 138, extends a cordial invitation to Americal members and guests to Local 138's Annual Scholarship/Benefit Dance on Sunday, November 12, 1989, from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm at Savinis Motel, Route 138, North Easton, MA. This is located south of Stoughton Center.

The Dance will feature Americal family member John Shea and his big band direct from Moseley's Ballroom, Dedham, MA along with Jay Richard's Dixieland Band and Andy Maness. Admission is \$7.50 per person. Tables of ten will be available. Reservations are on a first come first served basis. Make remittance to: Local 138 Scholarship Fund and mail to Local 138, 22 Nilsson St., Brockton, MA 02401. For information call Dom. at 508-747-1406 or the union office between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Monday through Friday. Mention the Americal to seat everyone together.

John Shea and Dom. Pantaleo were members of the 101st Medical Regiment Band. At the 101st Med. Rgt. reunion last August, Bill Dunphy and Dom. agreed this event would be a good occasion for an Americal get together.

AMERICAL PICNIC

The Americal picnic held at the Americal Museum, Fort Devens, MA, on August 19, 1989 was a big success. We had a great many members who came, some of those who attended left before we took photos. As you can see from the pictures below, the 221st Field Artillery did a great job getting their members who lived near to attend.



Members of Btry. A., 221 FA, Americal Picnic August, 19, 1988 (continued, next page)

Also, the barrage balloons overhead while we were leaving New York? We had a King Neptune ceremony aboard ship when we were crossing the Equator. I remember going through a canvas tunnel about 2 1/2 to 3 feet in diameter and being flushed through by a high pressure salt water hose that dunked you into the pool. At the far end of the pool, King Neptune sat on a throne and meted out punishment. There was not much to do to keep occupied so there was a lot of card playing. Mess lines were long and tedious.

It is hard to believe that our defense on shipboard consisted of .50 caliber machine guns and .30 caliber water-cooled machine guns strapped to the ship's railing. Our submarine defense was 37 millimeter anti-tank guns. How things have changed. Before leaving Camp Edwards we were issued World War I helmets and full winter regalia which was useless for our destination. Upon reaching New Caledonia we were issued summer gear and the winter wear was discarded in a large field.

We disembarked in Melbourne, Australia, and after unloading the ship, sent to an Australian Army barracks, not too far away. We spent about two weeks in Australia--eating plenty of lamb and mutton, cooked every way possible. The people there were very nice to us.

We then left for Noumea Harbor and were put aboard large barges to land in Noumea--not knowing if the island was controlled by the Vichy French or the Free French, but luckily it was Free French controlled. We marched inland the first day, approximately 10 miles, then camped along the road. By the next week or two we were in our training area where we stayed until around October 15 when we embarked again to go to the island of Guadalcanal. I think we went on the SS Jackson, a Naval troop transport.

When we hit the beach at Guadalcanal around the first week of November, we were hit by 32 Japanese dive bombers. Our Air Force, Navy, and Transport Beach defenses knocked out 31 of the 32. That is a number I will always remember. Quite a feat at that time.

After Guadalcanal we had R&R in the Fijis along with more training. Beautiful island and we were treated well by the natives. From there on to the island of Bougainville. After that was secured we went on to Leyte, Samar, and finally Cebu, in that order.

I was finally able to leave for home--having high points--but as luck would have it, the war was declared over and we were dropped off on Manna Island Naval Base where we stayed for a month. Our ship was needed to bring over the occupation troops to Japan. Finally, I arrived in Massachusetts sometime in October 1945. It was a long siege!!

Gerry Sellers, Staff Sergeant, Company D, 182nd Infantry, Americal Division now lives in Wellesley, Mass. He is retired from the Town of Wellesley Electric Division after 37 years of service. By the way, where are all the guys from Company D?

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION

The reactivated Americal Division owes its early history to the formation of a task force which deployed to the South Pacific in World War II.

In 1942, a task force was formed to defend the island of New Caledonia. The organization, designated Task Force 6814, was commanded by Brigadier General Alexander M. Patch. It left New York on January 23, 1942, for New Caledonia, going by way of Panama and Australia.

The original Task Force 6814 was composed of the 132nd, 164th, and 182nd Infantry Regiments; the 245th, 246th, and 247th Field Artillery Battalions (Light); and the 221st Field Artillery Battalion (Medium). (continued on next page)

Forty-five percent of the strength came from Massachusetts troops of the 26th Infantry Division's 51st Infantry Regiment; the remainder came mostly from Illinois and North Dakota.

The troops trained on board ship while enroute to New Caledonia and after arrival at Noumea, New Caledonia on March 12, 1942, continued training for combat in jungle terrain.

On May 27, 1942, the task force was reconstituted and organized as the AMERICAL DIVISION. The name derived from combining "American Forces in New Caledonia."

The newly-designated division adopted a shoulder patch of four white stars on a blue field. The stars are in the form of the Southern Cross, indicating organization of the division south of the Equator.

The division continued training until the 164th Infantry Regiment went into action on Guadalcanal on October 13, 1942--the first U.S. Army unit to conduct an offensive operation against the enemy in any theatre during World War II.

Elements of the Division defended Henderson Field against heavy enemy attacks during October 23 through October 25, and took part in the offensive across the Matanikau River in November. Organized resistance ended in January and the Division left front lines on February 6, 1943.

The Americal Division moved to the Fiji Islands beginning March 5, 1943, to assume the defense of the main island of Viti Navu and to engage in extensive training. During the period December 25, 1943 to January 12, 1944, the Americal landed on Bougainville. The Division went on the offensive during March and April 1944, driving the Japanese east of the Maravia River and seized strategic hill masses and commanding terrain. Training and long-range patrol activity then continued until November 30, 1944, when the Division was relieved.

On January 8, 1945, the Division moved to Leyte and Samar to take part in cleaning out the remaining Japanese forces on those islands. Lea-

(continued in next column)



Members of Btry. C., 221 FA, Americal Picnic August, 19, 1988



Ladies at the Americal Picnic, August 19, 1989, Ft. Devens, MA



ADVA members at picnic, August 1989

ving on March 15, 1945, from Leyte, the Division landed on Cebu on March 26 and seized the city airfield in two days. Divisional combat teams made landings on Bohol Negros and Mindanao where they cleared out pockets of resisting Japanese. On June 17 the Division returned to Cebu, arriving on June 25. Training continued on Cebu for the proposed invasion of Japan.

On September 10, 1945, the Americal Division landed in Japan and took part in the occupation of the Yokohama-Kawasaki-Yokosuka area. Elements began to leave on November 29, 1945, for the United States where the Division was inactivated on December 12, 1945, at Fort Lawton, Washington.

Battle Credits and Awards

Campaign Participation Credit

World War II

Guadalcanal

Northern Solomons

Southern Philippines

Leyte

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation

GUADALCANAL

Philippine Presidential Unit

Citation

Oct. 17, 1944 - Jul. 4, 1945

Distinguished Unit Citation to

Company E, 182nd Inf.

Mar. 10 - Mar. 11, 1944

In February 1967, COMUSMACV, General William C. Westmoreland formed a planning group to organize an Army task force to send to the troubled I Corps area of South Vietnam.

This planning group, led by Major General William B. Rossom (later Lieutenant General) formed a multi-brigade force comprised of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade; the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (later designated the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division).

The task force became operational on April 20, 1967, under control of III Marine Amphibious Force (IIIMAF), with the 196th beginning operations near Chu Lai, in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces, and the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry conducting search and clear operations in southern Quang Ngai Province. In May, 1967, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne arrived at Duc Pho and began operations in the jungles west of there.

Early offensive operations conducted by Task Force Oregon included: Malheur I and Malheur II, Hood River, Benton, and Cook. On September 11, 1967, Operation Wheeler was launched against elements of the 2nd NVA Division in the area northwest of Chu Lai.

On September 22, 1967, Brigadier General Samuel W. Koster assumed command of the task force, succeeding Major General Richard T. Knowles.

On September 25, 1967, Task Force Oregon was reconstituted and redesignated as the Americal Division with an organization to consist of the 196th, 198th, and 11th Light Infantry Brigades.

(continued on next page)

Operation Wheeler continued and on October 4, 1967, the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was placed under operational control of the Americal Division. The brigade immediately launched Operation Wallowa in the northern sector of the Americal's area of operation.

On October 22, the 198th LIB arrived in Vietnam to become part of the Americal Division. The 198th deployed initially to Duc Pho for combat training. Upon completion of the training, the brigade moved to the Chu Lai area and relieved the 196th Brigade in place. The 196th then assumed responsibility for the operational area of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which departed the Americal Division for II Corps Tactical Zone on November 26, 1967. Operations Wheeler and Wallowa were combined on November 11, and the Wheeler/Wallowa operation conducted by the 196th LIB and the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cav set the pace for Americal action in Quang Tin Province and part of southern Quang Nam Province.

An official change of colors ceremony was held on October 26, and the Americal Division became the seventh Army Division fighting in Vietnam. General S.W. Koster, Commanding General, Americal Division, was promoted to Major General on the same day.

Battalions of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division were employed in the Duc Pho area of operations throughout 1967 and in 1968 controlled Operation Muscatine. Maneuver battalions of the brigade were also deployed in the northern provinces, and took part in continuing Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. The 3rd Brigade conducted combat operations in the mountains west of Duc Pho, and assisted in the combat orientation of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade which arrived in Vietnam on December 20.

Operation Muscatine, a multi-battalion operation in the northern districts of Quang Ngai Province, was launched in early December by the 198th Brigade and units of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry. The 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry assumed control of the operation on January 2, 1968, but it was released from the operational control of the division later and moved south into II Corps. The "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Brigade deployed initially to Duc Pho, and underwent combat training in that area. Combat operations were later begun in the Duc Pho area of operations when the Brigade took over Operation Muscatine.

Wheeler/Wallowa became the responsibility of the 196th LIB and the 1st Squadron, 1st Cav. The 1st-1st had been operating in the general area since September, 1967, and officially became part of the Americal Division on January 10, 1968. The 198th LIB remained responsible for securing the immediate area around Chu Lai.

Task Force Baker was formed in February by elements of the 11th LIB to rout the Viet Cong from an area considered an enemy stronghold for 20 years. It was concluded successfully in April, 1968.

Another task force, Task Force Miracle, was formed in February during the enemy's TET off-

(continued in next column)

ensive when the city of Da Nang was threatened by the 60th Main Force Viet Cong Battalion. The Division's 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry and 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry assisted the Marines in the fighting which amassed an enemy body count of 317. After four days of fierce fighting, the threat to Da Nang was obliterated and the task force was deactivated and returned to the Americal AO. From January 25 to February 15 the enemy lost 1,407 dead.

The pacification program, although hampered somewhat immediately following the attacks, was affected little by the TET attacks in the southern portion of I Corps.

Operation Norfolk Victory was begun by elements of the 11th LIB on April 8, 1968, in the mountainous terrain southeast of Quang Ngai City. By its conclusion a major enemy base of operations had been destroyed, a weapons cache uncovered (126 individual and crew-served weapons plus numerous enemy munitions) and 45 Viet Cong killed.

MORE OF THE DIVISION'S HISTORY IN NEXT ISSUE

REBELLION IN BOUGAINVILLE

The foliage pressed the narrow path on both sides as the patrol of 10 Papua New Guinean soldiers moved their prisoners through the mountains overlooking the giant Bougainville copper mine.

The patrol was near Irang village, returning in single file with men they wanted to question about a rebel sabotage campaign against the mine, when out from the jungle ahead a small boy appeared.

The boy, standing beyond a small gully, had stepped out only after the patrol's two scouts had passed.

Lt. Steven Yandu, 20, and Pvt. Martin Romas, 21, moved forward with a third soldier to see what the boy wanted, according to reliable sources.

It was a rebel trap.

As they stepped into the hollow they were ambushed from the side, cut down by a barrage of shots--Romas was killed instantly and Yandu, hit in the upper body, died later from loss of blood in the long hike out of the mountains.

The deaths of the soldiers, the first PNG troops killed on active duty, gave a new and violent edge to the rebellion by a group of perhaps 500 Bougainvilleans with disparate interests.

Until the ambush on April 6, the Bougainville dispute had mainly been directed at company property, through the blowing up of transmission pylons powering the CRA-owned mine at Panguna.

Led by a former mine surveyor, Mr. Francis Ona, the dispute is ostensibly over the sharing of the spoils of the giant mine. More and more it

(continued)

is looking like an attempt to focus long-standing secessionist feeling held by many Bougainvilleans.

The murder of the soldiers was a blow against the unity of PNG with its variety of regional and ethnic interests. It was a bloody reminder that many Bougainvilleans resent central authority and would like to see the island become an independent nation.

In the past weeks the violence has continued with at least one other soldier and a policeman wounded by gunshots. Alleged brutality by the security forces have brought claims of human rights abuses. In the latest incident, a man believed to be one of Mr. Ona's senior activists was killed by police.

The PNG Prime Minister, Mr. Namaliu, has told the nation that the rebel violence had little, if anything, to do with concerns about the mine.

The attack on the soldiers was against "the Government itself."

"The division they seek to create...of one citizen against another, of one provincial group against another, if allowed to grow, can only lead to further tragedy and wider disaster," Mr. Namaliu said.

CORRECTION

In the July/August issue of the Newsletter an error was made on page 9 when we identified the photo in the upper left corner. Arthur R. Wood, who passed away on June 8, 1989, was the Convention Chairman. It was brought to our attention that Art Heartquist is Chapter Commander. If we are still in error, please write to the Editor-in-Chief and correct us. We apologize for the error.

EDITOR'S NOTE

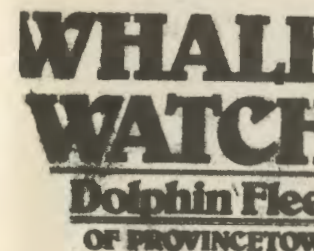
This has been a most difficult issue of the Newsletter to get out. First, your editor was injured, then his hometown was hit by a flood that killed several people, this was followed by hurricane Hugo which threatened, but did no major damage, and finally the computer printer used for the Newsletter decided to balk and not space the first two lines in each column properly.

We hope that the newsletter gets to you within a reasonable period of time and that you, our faithful readers, will try to overlook the problems in this issue. We plan to have the printer fixed before another issue comes out. We also hope that the weather stabilizes and that there are no more floods or hurricanes this season.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

ARE YOU A LIFE MEMBER?

IF NOT, WHY DON'T YOU OBTAIN YOUR LIFE MEMBERSHIP TODAY? WHY WAIT?



Plans are in the works for our 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION.

It will be 50 years in 1991 that units which later formed the AMERICAL DIVISION were called into Federal Service.

The 132nd Infantry and 123rd Field Artillery of the Illinois National Guard, the 164th Infantry of the North Dakota National Guard, the 72nd Field Artillery of the U.S. Army Reserves at Fort Bragg, N. C. and units of the 26th "Yankee" Division of New England: 182nd Infantry, 180th Field Artillery (later the 221st FA Bn), 101st Medics, 101st Quartermaster Corps, 26th Signal, 26th M.P.'s and the 101st (later 57th) Engineers.

To celebrate this event a reunion is planned for Cape Cod, Massachusetts probably June 6 - 9, 1991 at the Sheraton Motel in Hyannis. We need to know how many plan at this time to attend this once in a lifetime event. We are pulling all stops to make this the greatest reunion in our history, and as we all know, the days are dwindling down. Old buddies are planning to meet once more before "Call to Quarters" sounds.

Please fill in and return the questionnaire at the bottom of the page, so we can make firm plans for the size group we may expect. We must know right now to get things rolling.

THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE

Return to: Bill McLaughlin, [redacted] Mashpee, MA., 02649

☐ Yes, at this point I plan to attend the 1991 Convention.
☐ I'm afraid I can't make it in 1991.

(Signed) _____

Address: _____

Unit: _____

WIFE } ☐ YES ☐ NO
 GUEST

"When You Think of Seafood, Think of Sandwich!"





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Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

Dedication

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

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:		Telephone:	
Address — Street:		City:	State:
Zip:			
Americal Unit:	Rgt.	Bn.	Co/Bty.
Other:			
Dates of Service — From:		To:	Serial No.:
Date of Birth:		Blood Type:	Religion:
V. A. Claim No.:		V. A. Office — City:	State:
Occupation:		Wife's First Name:	
Date:		Signature:	
Sponsored by:		(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$16.00	

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)