

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1990

# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE

VIETNAM EDITOR: RONALD L. WARD

Published Bi-Monthly

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



## AMERICAN GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL



1990

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

1990

## NATIONAL COMMANDER

Ronald L. Ward  
St. Louis, MO 63123

## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Roland T. Castronova  
Peabody, MA 01960

## JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Peter J. Messina  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

## NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Robert N. Thornton  
Melrose, MA 02176

## NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Bernard C. Chase  
So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Kenneth R. Turner - Chairman  
Bernard C. Chase  
Joseph Anderson  
James J. Flynn  
Bernard Carroll  
Francis Guerriero  
Daniel J. Ramsey Jr.  
Hugh Murnaghan  
Leo Ciccola  
Francis Diorio  
John LeVert

## CHAPTER COMMANDERS

Edwin A. Kuja Cape Cod Chapter  
Stephen Dennison Eastern Regional Chapter  
Edwin A. Heartquist South-East Chapter  
William K. Maddox South Mid-West Chapter  
Rush J. Propper Great Lakes Chapter  
Lloyd J. Morrell Far West Chapter

Because of a by-law change that was approved by a National Ballot, the duly elected Chapter Commanders are now automatically members of the Executive Council.

\*\*\*\*\*

## AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle  
Wakefield, MA 01880

## VIETNAM EDITOR

Ronald L. Ward  
St. Louis, MO 63123

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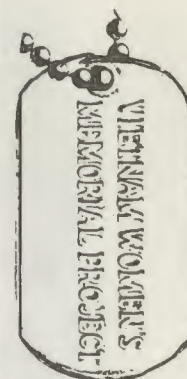
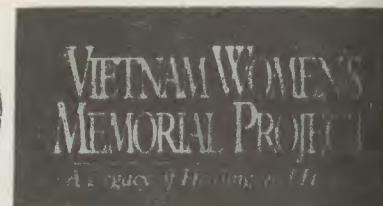
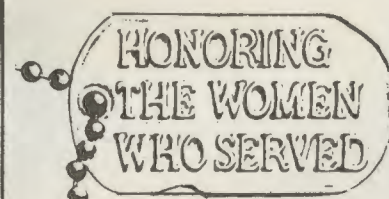
## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

With Veterans Day coming up soon, I hope that many of you are making plans to attend the various ceremonies that are held in Washington, D.C., each year on that date. Being at the Vietnam Memorial or at Arlington Cemetery on November 11 is the type of experience that you would never forget. I've been fortunate to attend many times and hope to continue that tradition as long as I'm able.

In addition to paying our respects to the men who made the supreme sacrifice, you will find this a good time to visit with fellow Americal vets. Our Division always has a good showing. The Association has funded a hospitality suite for the weekend at our usual spot, the Hotel Washington. We're located about a half hour walk from the Vietnam Memorial.

Last year the female Nam vets hosted a fund raiser for their memorial and I understand they'll be doing the same this year. Their "DMZ to DELTA DANCE" will be held at the J.W. Marriott on Sunday, November 11. It was obvious from last year that the ladies who served in Vietnam are held in great respect by their male counterparts. Let's all turn out again this year and show them our continued support for their memorial.

For more information on the dance, contact Linda Goettman Wilson, PO Box 4011, Arlington, VA 22204 (703) 920-2179



- ☐ Yes, I want to help honor America's women Vietnam veterans. My-tax deductible contribution is enclosed.
- ☐ Send me more information about how I can help make this dream a reality.
- ☐ I am a woman who served during the Vietnam era
- ☐ I have not yet added my name to "Sister Search". Please send me registration information.
- ☐ I am already listed with "Sister Search".

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail along with your contribution to:

Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc.  
2001 S Street, N.W., Suite 302  
Washington, D.C. 20009

## MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

October 13, 1990

Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA  
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

November 10, 1990

Americal Museum Ft. Devens, MA  
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

December 9, 1990

Christmas Party, Hanscom Air Force Base  
1:00 P.M.

## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

## DUES NOTIFICATION PROCESS

1st Notice Membership card mailed in ADVANCE of payment of dues.

2nd Notice Overdue notice printed in ADVA Newsletter.

## . IMPORTANT

## MAY DUES NOTICES

The May Dues Notices were mailed out during May 1990. 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.

## MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBERS

|      |      |      |     |     |     |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 0007 | 0073 | 0019 | 833 | 871 | 947 |
| 0015 | 0075 | 0126 | 837 | 882 | 962 |
| 0024 | 0081 | 0130 | 843 | 884 | 968 |
| 0027 | 0082 | 0132 | 846 | 886 | 972 |
| 0030 | 0083 | 0146 | 848 | 889 | 980 |
| 0031 | 0085 | 0150 | 853 | 892 | 987 |
| 0036 | 0087 | 0168 | 859 | 904 | 988 |
| 0038 | 0091 | 0171 | 861 | 922 | 989 |
| 0039 | 0103 | 0174 | 864 | 928 | 997 |
| 0041 | 0106 | 0180 | 867 | 932 |     |
| 0050 | 0110 | 0186 | 872 | 940 |     |
| 0061 | 0112 | 0188 | 874 | 943 |     |
| 0066 | 0116 | 830  |     |     |     |

## TAPS

George H. Barnes  
Co. M 182nd Infantry  
Everett, MA  
July 26, 1990

Jeffrey W. Chapman  
4/21 Inf. 11th Bde.  
Highland, CA  
June 27, 1989

Joseph R. F. Lachance  
Co. C 182nd Infantry  
Littleton, MA  
February 5, 1990

Edward P. O'Connor  
121 Medical  
Kennebunk, ME  
June 12, 1990

Charles Lee  
182 Infantry  
Hingham, MA  
Aug. 30 1990

Joseph White  
132 Infantry  
San Diego, CA  
July 1990

John J. Hughes  
121 Med Bn  
Homosassa, FL  
May 4, 1990

John J. Bent  
182nd Infantry  
West Concord, MA  
July 1990

Herbert Harrop  
101st Medical  
Royal Palm Beach, FL  
April 28, 1990

Thomas D. McMurray  
246th F. A. Bn.  
Palm Beach Garden, FL  
December 12, 1989

Louis J. Voyta  
Co. A 101st QM  
Marlboro, MA  
March 8, 1990

Lester Clements  
101 Engineers  
Lebanon, PA  
Feb. 27, 1990

Edwin Kuja  
57 Engineers  
Plymouth, MA  
Sept. 6, 1990

Herbert R. Hadley  
182 Infantry  
Chelmsford, MA  
Date Unknown

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Cortland B. Bacall  
101st - 125th QM  
Boxford, MA

Joseph R. D'Ambrosio  
Btry. C 221 F.A. Bn.  
East Boston, MA

Walter S. Dunn  
Btry. C 221 F.A. Bn.  
Lowell, MA

Randolph J. Gerard  
Co. B 101st QM  
Sanbornville, NH

Leon Gray Jr.  
Co. C 3/1 Inf. 11 Bde.  
Village Mills, TX

Larry E. Parrish  
26th Signal  
No. Myrtle Beach, SC

James L. Connolly  
Co. E 51st (LARP)  
Woonsocket, RI

Ltc. Douglas Dollar  
Co. C 1/52 Infantry  
Stillwater, OK

Larry B. Gelnett  
1st Plt. 23rd MP'S  
Pocasset, MA

Melvin C. Gillenwater  
Co. B 1/52 Inf. 198 Bde.  
Mt. Vernon, IN

Agapito M. Moreno  
Co. C 26th Engr.  
Beeville, TX

John A. Ramalho  
Americal Band  
Lowell, MA

Jack J. Weston  
Co. G 164th Infantry  
Solvang, CA

## NEW MEMBERS

Jerry D. Bodine  
Hq. Co. 198 Bde.  
Louisville, KY  
#Robert Thornton

Thomas P. Burns  
4/31 Inf. 196 Bde  
Maspeth, NY  
#Robert Thornton

John P. Careccia  
Co. B 2/1 Inf. 196 Bde.  
Selden, NY  
#Robert Thornton

Richard Del Rossi  
Co. D 4/21 Inf. 11 Bde.  
Reading, MA  
#Roland T. Castronova

Gerald Duwe  
HHD 6th Spt. Bn. 11 Bde.  
Iselin N.J.  
#Wayne Yarbrough

John L. Gibbons  
Co. A 1/52 Inf. 198 Bde.  
Houston, TX  
#Bernie Carroll

Harry F. Giromini  
Anti Tank 182 Infantry  
Malden, MA  
#James E. Peoples

Arthur A. Grodsky  
492 QM  
Overland Park, KS  
#David Hymelfarb

Gene L. Hockenson  
178 Ass. Sup. Hel. Co.  
Belvidere, IL  
#Ron Ward

Gilbert G. Boucher  
Btry. A 221 F.A. Bn.  
Walpole, MA  
#Bill Goldrick

William B. Burton  
Hq.+A Co. 16th CAG 123 Avn.  
Laquey, Mo  
#Steven T. Hill

Jackie L. Catron  
Co. C 3/1 Inf. 11 Bde.  
Iselin, NJ  
#Wayne Yarbrough

John H. Donovan Jr.  
Co. C 1/20 Inf. 11 Bde.  
So. Dennis, MA  
#Larry Gelnett

Larry B. Gelnett  
1st P't. 23rd MP'S 11 Bd  
Pocasset, MA  
#Brian Mulcrone

Melvin C. Gillenwater  
Co. B 1/52 Inf. 198 Bde.  
Mt Vernon, IN  
#Robert Thornton

Lawrence P. Grabowski  
Co. D 4/3 Inf. 11 Bde.  
LaGrange, IL  
#Bernie Carroll

Rickey P. Hanson  
Co. A-D 1/52 Inf. 198 Bd  
Russiaville, IN  
#Bernie Carroll

Frederick E. Hoyle Jr.  
Btry. G 55 Arty. A 3/8  
Andover, MA  
#Edward S. Alekel

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



## NEW MEMBERS

|                                                                                        |                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kenneth M. Hughes<br>HHC 2/1 Inf. 71 Ass Hel Co<br>Sacramento, CA<br>#Robert Thornton  | Gary Lee Hulburt<br>HHC 1/20 Infantry<br>Bedford, OH<br>#Robert Thornton                  |
| Sammie L. Knox<br>Co. C 3/21 Inf. 196 Bde.<br>Lathrup Village, MI<br>#Ed Marsh         | Lee Larson<br>Troop H 17 Cav. 198 Bde.<br>Coral Springs, FL<br>#Col. Richard D. Heroux    |
| Richard A. LeBlanc<br>Associate Member<br>Waterbury, CT<br>#Ken Turner                 | Gregory M. Linscott DDS<br>437th Medical Det.<br>N. Athens, OH<br>#Tom Chiki              |
| Roland J. Mantovani<br>Btry. B 6 Bn. 11 Arty.<br>Brooklyn, NY<br>#Roland T. Castronova | Kenneth H. McNab<br>Co. D HHC 1/6 Infantry<br>Ottawa, Ontario, Canada<br>#Robert Thornton |
| Mark D. Mentz<br>3/1 Inf. 11 Bde.<br>Greenbay, WI<br>#Bernie Chase                     | Ernest R. Mitchell<br>Ser. Btry. 3/18 Arty.<br>Chicago Ridge, IL<br>#Bernie Carroll       |
| Agapito M. Moreno<br>Co. C 26th Engr.<br>Beeville, TX<br>#Tony Alvarez                 | Louis F. Pearson<br>Co. C 523 Signal Bn.<br>Waukegan, IL<br>#Ronald L. Davis              |
| James T. Price<br>Co. E+D 1/6 Infantry<br>Columbia, SC<br>#Roland T. Castronova        | John A. Ramalho<br>Americal Band<br>Lowell, MA<br>#George Robinson                        |
| David L. Recob<br>23rd M.P. Co.<br>Topeka, KS<br>#Brian Mulcrone                       | George J. Reed<br>Co. B 57th Engr.<br>Niagara Falls, NY<br>#E.R. Horton                   |
| Dennis G. Regenne<br>11 Bde.<br>Bayonne, NJ<br>#Wayne Yarbrough                        | Albert Lee Tenley Jr.<br>Co. D 26th Combat Engr.<br>Seabrook, MD<br>#Robert Thornton      |
| Allen Thomas Jr.<br>Co. A 523 Signal Bn.<br>Erlanger, KY<br>#Robert Thornton           | William Vandembush 111<br>Co. C 3/1 Inf. 11 Bde.<br>Graham, WA<br>#Roland T. Castronova   |
| John R. Wallace<br>HHB 3 Bn. 18 Arty.<br>Rosemount, MN<br>#Roland T. Castronova        | Floyd L. Whiteman<br>Co. K 182nd Infantry<br>Gresham, OR<br>#Bernie Chase                 |
| Harold H. Wilkinson<br>Btry. C 221 F.A. Bn.<br>Norwood, MA<br>#Bernie Chase            | Douglas H. Wood<br>C Troop 1 Sgd. 1 Arm. Ca.<br>Springfield, MA<br>#Bernie Chase          |
| Russel Wright<br>Co. C 2/1 Inf. 196 Bde.<br>Ivesdale, IL<br>#Robert Thornton           |                                                                                           |

#Sponsor

Another big month in the membership drive. We have signed up a total of 180 new members in 1990, plus 10 members have been reinstated.

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

CHECK THOSE CARD NUMBERS ON PAGE 2

## CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CHAPTER  
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

Regional Commander  
Edwin A. Heartquist  
Tarpon Springs, FL 33589  
Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Regional Commander  
William K. Maddox  
Portland, TX 78374

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Regional Commander  
Rush G. Propper  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

\*\*\*\*\*

EAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER  
AK, AZ, N CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR,  
ND, SD, UT, ID, WA, WY

Regional Commander  
Lloyd J. Morrell  
Pleasant Hills, CA 94523  
Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

WILLIAM F. MCGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER  
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Canal

Cape Cod Chapter Commander  
Hugh Murnaghan  
West Yarmouth, MA 02673  
Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

## EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

DC, DE, KY, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV

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

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING A CHAPTER?  
THE CHAPTERS HOLD MANY INTERESTING REUNIONS!

CALL YOU CHAPTER COMMANDER TODAY

\*\*\*\*\*

Continues on Page 4

## CHAPTER NEWS

## SOUTH MID-WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

William K. Maddox  
Commander

Frank L. Schulgen      Jesse Mendoza  
Sectetary/Treasurer      Sergeant-at Arms

Dear Americal Veteran:

As most of you know, this Chapter was started by Charles T. Manchester, a Vietnam Veteran from Fort Worth, TX. His job and other commitments prevented him from being able to continue as the Regional Commander. He asked me to take over for him and keep the Chapter moving. I gave it a lot of thought and decided, since I am retired and would have plenty of time to devote to it, that I would. Since I have taken over it has been very exciting and rewarding.

At the National Reunion in Oak Brook, IL this past June, during the general membership meeting, Adjutant Bernard Chase asked our Chapter to host the 1992 National reunion in San Antonio, Texas.

The Reunion will be held June 18, 19, 20, 21, 1992. Y'all will like San Antonio. There are plenty of things to see and do.

We had an organizational meeting July 14, 1990 in Corpus Christi, Texas and elected Frank Schulgen Secretary/Treasurer and Jesse Mendoza as Sergeant-at-Arms. Both of these men are Vietnam Veterans.

We will have another Chapter meeting October 27, 1990 at the same place in Corpus Christi to put together the committees that will organize the 1992 Reunion. All Chapters members are invited to come and participate.

\*\*\*\*\*

## EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

Stephen Dennison  
Commander

Peter J. Messina      George Yates  
Secretary/Treasurer      Sergeant-at-Arms

By the time this Americal Newsletter is in the mail our Reunion will be history.

I wish to thank all the people that helped to put the Reunion together. That is what made it a success!

Stephen Dennison

\*\*\*\*\*

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT WE ANNOUNCE  
THE PASSING OF:

EDWIN KUJA  
SEPTEMBER 6, 1990

ED WAS THE NEWLY ELECTED COMMANDER OF THE  
CAPE COD CHAPTER

☆ GUADALCANAL ☆  
SOLOMON ISLANDS  
WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

There is no single memorial on Guadalcanal paying tribute to all the United States services that participated at great cost in the decisive victory which turned the tide in the Pacific War. For the United States, there exists only a haphazard scattering of modest memorials placed years ago by individual military units. (See Sept-Oct 1986 issue of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER for pictures and descriptions of these memorials).

On the other hand, the Japanese have erected an imposing and dominating three story monument, which includes a two story statue of a soldier. It is today a major attraction for visiting Japanese tourists and relatives of the 21,000 Japanese who died on the island.

A group of WW II Pacific veterans, visiting Guadalcanal in 1986, felt impelled to push for the erection of an appropriate symbol of the United States victory on the island. The Guadalcanal-Solomon Island War Memorial Foundation was formed and incorporated as a not-for-profit organization under the veteran's organization laws (IRS No. 36-3487460). It has operated with volunteer help with very little overhead or administrative costs. The Foundation was instructed not to use professional fund raisers.

Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke, a former rifleman in the Americal Infantry Division was elected Chairman, Luther Jordan Jr., an officer in the First Marine, was elected Assistant Chairman, Joseph Micek, a former platoon sergeant in the Americal Division was elected treasurer and Robert F. Reynolds, a former bomber pilot in the R.A.F. was elected secretary.

Our objective is to erect a lasting tribute to honor Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Air and Coast Guard men, and Fiji Armed Forces--who participated in the Guadalcanal Campaign and the subsequent battles up the Solomon Island Chain through the Bougainville Campaign.

The following is only one of the six segments to be engraved on the first directional wall at Skyline Drive.

WELCOME TO THE AMERICAN GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL

THIS MONUMENT IS A LASTING TRIBUTE HONORING THOSE AMERICANS AND THEIR ALLIES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN FROM 7 AUG 42 TO 9 FEBRUARY 43. IT PAYS SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THOSE SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES AND AIRMEN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE CAMPAIGN THAT LED TO THE LIBERATION OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS. THIS REMEMBRANCE WAS ERRECTED THROUGH THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE GUADALCANAL-SOLOMON ISLANDS WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, U.S.A. AND THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION. MAY THIS MEMORIAL ENDURE THE RAVAGES OF TIME UNTIL THE WIND, RAIN, AND TROPICAL STORMS WEAR AWAY ITS FACE BUT NEVER ITS MEMORIES.

Continues on next page



## AMERICAN GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL (Continues)

## About the monument:

Congress, at Senator Steven's initiative, appropriated \$150,000. Private funds need to be raised to reach a total estimated cost of \$500,000. Land at Skyline Ridge overlooking the battle sites has been purchased. Design for the memorial has been approved by the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Fine Arts Commission in Washington, D.C.. The memorial site was handed to the United States government which holds the land in perpetuity.

Dedication ceremonies for the United States memorial are planned for August 7, 1992, the fiftieth (50) anniversary of the Marines landing. The Australian, Fijian, and New Zealand officials will participate. The Solomons Islands Government is a member of the Commonwealth, so appropriate United Kingdom representation would be called for.

It is anticipated that senior United States officials will participate in the dedication, and is hoped that United States and Allied naval vessels will be at Guadalcanal on that date. As in the past they could provide necessary hotel space for the distinguished visitors and add luster to the event.

The Guadalcanal Memorial has been a private effort, which spontaneously developed from concerns of a group of World War II Pacific veterans. The battle for Guadalcanal deserves full and appropriate recognition for what it was--the turning of the tide in the south Pacific during World War II.

At Skyline Ridge overlooking the Matanikau River the American Monuments Commission will build a marble obelisk. In addition four directional walls will point out the various battlefields such as Savo Island, across Iron Bottom Bay and Tulagi. A third wall points out Red Beach, Henderson Air Field, the Ilu River, Edson's Bloody Ridge and the battle for Henderson Field at Fighter Strip-One. The fourth wall points to Mount Austen and Hill 43 where the Americal and the 25 Infantry Division fought.

There will be several peripheral obelisks, (see sketch at end of article), with attached plaques to describe the various battles and events during the Guadalcanal Campaign. These include Edson's Bloody Ridge, The Tenaru River fight, Gen. Vandergrift's Headquarters near the Japanese "Pagoda", Mount Austen battle, Hill 43, Wright Road, and the End of the Struggle,

At Henderson International Airfield will be a 'Hero's Wall' containing plaques honoring the Medal of Honor and Victoria Cross Awardee, not only on Guadalcanal but for the Solomon Island campaigns up through Bougainville Island.

All Air units that fought the Japanese at Guadalcanal, central Solomons, and Bougainville, will be listed on a plaque.

Another plaque listing all American and Allied Naval ships sunk or damaged during the

Continues next column

## American Guadalcanal Memorial (Continues)

Guadalcanal and Solomon Island Campaigns, will be on the 'Hero's Wall'. In addition, all the ground troops that participated in the Guadalcanal, Central Solomons, and Bougainville campaigns, will be listed.

Contributions are needed to complete this lasting memorial to all American and Allied servicemen who fought in the Guadalcanal-Solomon Island Campaigns. A total of approximately \$350,000 has been raised. Of this the United States Government gave \$150,000. A Balance of \$150,000 will complete the Memorial. This lasting memorial will not ever be built unless the WW II generation builds it! A contribution from each Pacific Area Campaign Veteran, whether large or small, will provide the necessary funds.

## HELP US BUILD THIS FITTING AND BEAUTIFUL MEMORIAL

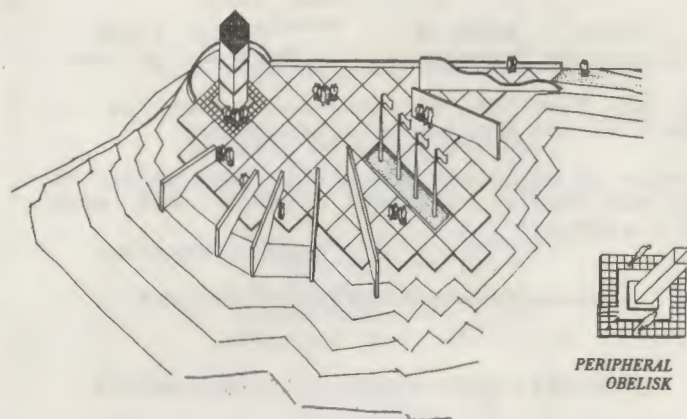
ED NOTE: At the National Convention of the Americal Division Veterans Association, in June, the membership voted overwhelmingly to contribute \$10,000 to the American Guadalcanal Memorial. It was also voted to request individual donations through the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. There is a special fund set up within the Americal. Please send your donations to:

Americal Division Veterans Association  
Robert Thornton  
[REDACTED]  
Melrose, MA 02176

All donations, large and small will be gratefully accepted. We would like to send one LARGE check to the Memorial committee. The names of the contributors will also be forwarded to the committee.

## DO IT NOW!

\*\*\*\*\*



PERIPHERAL  
OBELISK

LET THIS MEMORIAL BE YOUR LASTING TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE BITTER BATTLES OF GUADALCANAL AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS DURING WWII.

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

## VIETNAM HELICOPTERS CREWMEN ASSOCIATION

This past July the Vietnam Helicopter Crewmens Association held their annual reunion in St. Louis. National Commander Ron Ward was privileged to attend and make some new friends as well as seeing some old ones. I along with old Americal door gunner, Steve Fredendall, passed out some applications for membership in the ADVA. There were many aviators in the Americal and we hope that we can sign them all up. Many of us owe our lives to the guys who resupplied us, gave fire support, and most important, hauled out our wounded. The crewmen were honored to have as a guest, Gary Wetzel, who as a gunner with the 1st Aviation Brigade, was awarded the Medal of Honor.

If you served as a helicopter crewman in Vietnam and want to learn more about their Association, Contact: Duane Heda HC 87 Box 470 Mountain Home, ID 83647-9805



STEVE GREDENDALL GARY WETZEL



STEVE FREDENDALL GARY WETZEL RON WARD DENNIS SCHUMACHER



## NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

## High Commander (Salute)

Once again let me congratulate you on being the first commander who is a Vietnam veteran. Yes, it will be an honor for me to serve as the next Sgt. at Arms on your staff. I don't know how many functions I will be able to attend but will do my best to get to some. I have received the last Newsletter and Mamma and I were thrilled to see our picture and the accompanying caption. Chicago was a great reunion and we had a good time. All of the pictures appearing in the Newsletter looked great. The reunion committee should be commended for a great job. Dutch and Janice, Brian and Mimi, New York Joe O'Brien, Jim "Pig-Man" Crum and his whole army looked great.

Thanks for printing the info about the Virginia Monument in the Newsletter. We need all the help we can get. We had a "Vietnam Revisited" this last weekend as a fund raiser and did very well. Sammy Davis C.M.H. and the cast from "Tour of Duty" attended as our guests. Well I'll close now and let you get along humping the boonies with the mail. Until we see again, keep your weapon clean and your point man well out front!

Warren Reed MSG Ret.

196 LIB

Editor, Americal Newsletter;

I recently read an article featuring R. Marshall Storeby, the character portrayed by Michael J. Fox in the film "Casualties of War". Storeby is the soldier who refused to participate in the 1966 rape and murder of a Vietnamese woman. During the movie, our Americal Division logo was highly visible, suggesting another "Mai Lai" type event. In contrast, a photo of Storeby at the scene of the kidnapped woman's village hut soon after the incident clearly shows a Cav patch on Storeby's left arm. His unit may have been part of Operation Oregon, predecessor to the Americal Division, but the fact remains, the Americal Division did not come into existence (in Vietnam) until 1967.

The public should have the right to expect a film "based on a true story" to depict the proper combat unit, especially where criminal conduct is the theme. Unfortunately the media seems unconcerned and irresponsible. Filmmakers label their efforts to pinch pennies and spectacularize events as "Poetic License". In fact, the buck is their bottom line.

The vast majority of combat troops made proper moral decisions under the circumstances, yet now suffer the misrepresentations cast by this film and other media. Truth remains the major casualty in "Casualties of War".

J. Heath  
198th. LIB  
1967-1968

## RECRUIT !

OUR ORGANIZATION WILL ONLY GROW IF YOU DO YOUR PART.



## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

196 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

Dear members;

I am in the process of writing a history of the 196th. LIB. So far I've completed six chapters of the period 1965 to 1967, this is based entirely on the Quarterly Reports and Combat After Action Reports and other official documents... the dry facts, so to speak. What I would like to have is some personal accounts to add to it.

My reason for writing such a history is not for personal gain but because I became fed up with all the other histories that have been written. They certainly were not based on the same information that I have accumulated. One statement that really pissed me off was in Shelby Stanton's "Rise and Fall of an American Army" that the 196th. Brigade had cracked under fire during the "Battle of Attleboro". I was there and didn't see anything that would indicate any validity to that statement. I will admit, there was a lot of confusion and mistakes were made. But when you consider we were slightly outnumbered, lacked the fighting experience that the 9th. VC Division had, plus the fact we had them backed into a corner. I dare say, both sides were satisfied when contact was broken the afternoon November 5, 1966.

Sincerely,  
Lewis L. Cole  
CSM USA Retired  
Millston, WI 54643

D/4/21 INFANTRY 11 LIB

Dear members;

I am in need of your help. I served in D 4/21st. 11th. LIB from Dec. 1970 to the time of deactivation about June 1971. I volunteered for detached duty with this LRRP and sniper unit. I recently asked DA for copies of my 201 file. Unfortunately, one, there is no record of this duty. Two, during one of my missions I was marked AWOL 1-11 May, 1971. This situation could be remedied by an affidavit from two of my comrades or my Lieutenant. Needless to say, I no longer have the addresses. If you are able to help me, here are some names: Lt. Schmedline, E-4 Roger McGuire, CA, E-5 Jack O'Reilly, NJ. Those are the only names I am able to remember. If you require any further info, do not hesitate to call me collect at [REDACTED]. This is extremely important to me. Any help you could provide would be extremely appreciated.

Charles Niewadowski  
[REDACTED]  
Stuart, FL 34997

D/4/3 INFANTRY 11 LIB

Editor;

Reference to the Americal Newsletter July/Aug there is a correction to be made on my unit. I was listed as Co B 3/4th. Infantry. It should read Co B 4/3rd. Infantry 11th. LIB. I'm proud of my former Battalion, the "Old Guard". Could you please make the change.

Sincerely,  
Al (Fast Freddy) Salazar

D/4/3/ INFANTRY 11 LIB

Dear Ron;

Thanks for getting my picture squared away in the latest newsletter. I was surprised and very pleased to also see the letters. I heard from a few guys who were in the ambush with me and we're getting our act together and possibly writing a book on that time period. I've also heard from a former pilot and an ex-door gunner from the 174th. AHC. I've sent them both copies of the "Sharks". The tri state reunion in Dubuque seemed like a big success. Over 200 vets had pre-registered with about 125 more showing up at various times over the week end.

Word has it that there will be a huge Vietnam vet gathering in Denver next June. It's going to be a big parade similar to the one in Chicago a couple of years ago. In fact it's being organized by those who were involved with Chicago. They've got Mile High Stadium already reserved and are pushing big name acts for a concert. As soon as more facts become available, I'll pass them on.

Linn Hoopes  
D/4/3 11th. LIB

Dear Ron;

I enjoyed Jim Blaylock's letter in the last ADVA Newsletter and appreciate his fire missions shot for for us from LZ Siberia. Like Jim I also confirm the firepower Jesus Christ gives us in facing life's problems. A few months ago I began attending Wed. evening Bible study taught by a veteran 2/11th. cavalryman based at Chu Lai during 1966-67'. The word of God takes on real meaning when our faith is made strong in the belief that Christ is the truth, the way, and the life. The lessons learned in combat seem to be put in the right perspective when I'm studying the Bible. It's taken twenty years but am pleased to say I've found the answer. Anyone in the Atlanta area is welcome to contact me and I'll give directions to the weekly 8pm Wednesday meeting.

phone [REDACTED]  
evenings & weekends

Regards,  
Jim Sobery

196 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE  
Dear Bill & Ron;

I noticed in the veteran locator section your ad concerning members of the 196th LIB. I was a 1st. Lt. M.S.C. in the 198th. The reason for this letter is that I'm looking for my best friend 1st. Lt. Bruce Molten, M.S.C. of the 196th. LIB. He was stationed in DaNang 1970-71 at the Army Hospital (old Marine Hospital). He was from the state of Mass. and was last known living in the Dallas, Texas area. For the past three years I have tried every way I know of to find him, but nothing has turned up yet. I thought he might make contact with you or someone else may mention him. If you come up with anything that might help me locate him I would appreciate hearing from you or if you have any suggestions that might be helpful I would like to know them.

Friends, I know this would be a lot of trouble but I'm sure as veterans you realize the importance to me to find my best friend. Thanks for everything and GOOD LUCK.

Paul W. Walker  
[REDACTED]  
Poyen, AR 72128

## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

COMMO PLATOON HHC 198th LIB REUNION

I am pleased to report that the Commo Platoon of the HHC 198th LIB had a good turnout for our reunion July 14-15 in Pittsburgh, PA. We ended up with 15 veterans and 11 wives, and everyone had a good time. Don Therling furnished us with a VCR tape that he had converted from 8MM movie camera film that he took while he was with us in Chu Lai. It only lasted 15 minutes, but it showed LZ Bayonet, LZ Baldy, the two Marine jet bases at Chu Lai, the bomb dump still exploding 8 hours after it was hit during TET, our teletype jeep being loaded on a Chinook when it was taken to Kham Duc, aerial shots from a helicopter of the Chu Lai area, and numerous beer parties we had whenever anyone got their orders to DEROS. I've enclosed two pictures that were taken at the reunion.

I would personally like to thank everyone that attended and made our reunion such a great success. Special thanks to Ron Kappeler and his wife Mary Ann for obtaining most of the addresses and phone numbers that made our reunion possible.

It should be noted that during our dinner on Saturday, when we were all together, we observed a moment of silence for our radio repairman Don Kilberg of Arlington, Texas, who was killed by a drunk driver about ten years ago. Don kept our radios and teletypes running when no one else could, and we were all sad to learn of his death. If anyone knows his parents, or his son, please tell them we all think he was a great guy, and one we could all look up to.

Steve Monroe  
HHC 198th LIB



Front row left to right, Morris Spadaccini, Canaan, CT; Larry Dowless, Lumberton, NC; Pete Lutz, Fairfield, CT; Russ Marceau, Clayton, NY; Don Thering, Shepherd, MI; Jerry Merkle, Tonawanda, NY; Back row left to right, Bill Duncan, Upland, IN; Jim White, Annadale, NJ; Charlie Lockett, Quakertown, PA; Ron Kappeler, Pittsburgh, PA; Mike Moses, Newcomb, NY; Jerry Bodine, Louisville, KY; Steve Monroe, Cameron, WV; Mitch Moses, Newcomb, NY; Rich Sommer, Belgium, WI.



Plannin' to

MOVE???

Please send us your NEW ADDRESS!

OTHERWISE, WE'LL BE CHARGED 30 CENTS

FOR EACH AND EVERY NEW ADDRESS!

Jim Buckle

Wakefield, MA 01880

COMMO PLATOON HHC 198th LIB REUNION



Front row left to right, Kathy Monroe, Pat Schommer, Dolly Spadaccini, Betty Jo Dowless, Kay Duncan  
Back row left to right, Maureen Lutz, Janice Lockett, Barbara White, Sue Merkle, Claudia Bodine, Mary Ann Kappeler

B/3/82 ARTILLERY 196 LIB

Dear Bob:

I want to see the Guadalcanal-Solomon Islands Memorial become a reality. Therefore I'm jumping on Ron Ward's bandwagon and making my personal contribution.

Best wishes and GOOD LUCK.

Sincerely,  
Ed  
B/3/82 Arty

\*\*\*\*\*

THANKS

Thanks to Al 'Fast Freddie' Salazar we have a copy of a Newsletter put out by the 4/3/Infantry.

I will use some of the stories in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER at a later date.

Both Al and John Riley wrote in to say we had their units listed incorrectly. The are both proud to be listed as members of the 3 Infantry--THE OLD GUARD!

The THIRD INFANTRY REGIMENT has a long and glorious history.

The LINEAGE of the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, the OLD GUARD goes back to 1784. June 7, of 1784 it was born as a Company of the First American Regiment. The unit saw action in the War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Indian Wars, Spanish War, Philippine Insurrection, served in France in WW II,

Continues on next page (9)



## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

and fought in some ten counteroffensives in Vietnam.

The 4/3 Infantry was decorated with Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968-1969.

E Company of the Third Regiment also received a PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION and it follows:

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)  
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM

TO

THE RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON  
COMPANY E, 4TH BATTALION, 3D INFANTRY  
11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION  
UNITED STATES ARMY

The Reconnaissance Platoon, Company E, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in action against a hostile force near the hamlet of Phuoc Loc, Quang Ngai, Republic of Vietnam on 6 and 7 September 1968. The platoon of 27 men was conducting a combat sweep operation on 6 September when it became engaged with a battalion-sized enemy force entrenched in fortified defensive positions. Exposed to the heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from the estimated 400-man enemy force, the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon gallantly fought against the numerical odds and established defensive perimeters, maintaining their positions integrity, men of the platoon, with complete disregard for their own safety, braved the heavy fire to bring their fallen comrades within the perimeter. Although under heavy fire and repeated attacks from the enemy, the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon valorously held their positions, directed airstrikes and artillery fire on the enemy positions, and repulsed all enemy efforts to overrun their defenses.

The Platoon was able to engage the enemy force until reinforcements arrived during the early morning hours of 7 September. A sweep of the battlefield on the morning of 7 September revealed that the Reconnaissance Platoon had killed 48 enemy soldiers. Intelligence from captured prisoners indicated that the enemy force had suffered 88 casualties, rendering it ineffective as a fighting force. The Reconnaissance Platoon is credited with spoiling an impending attack on the city of Quang Ngai by discovering by discovering and inflicting heavy losses on one of the key enemy forces poised for attack, thereby sparing free world forces and the population of the city of Quang Ngai much loss of life, equipment and personal property.

The heroic actions of the men of the platoon aided in the defeat of major enemy forces which had been poised for attacks on the major cities of Quang Ngai Province. The gallantry and devotion to duty of the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon, against numerically superior enemy forces, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon themselves, and the Armed Forces of the United States.  
(Sent in by D.J. Sobery)

A/4/3 Infantry 11 LIB

Correction:

When my membership appeared in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER, it listed my outfit incorrectly. The correct one is;

Co. A 4/3 (Old Guard) Infantry

Thank you,  
John G. Riley

\*\*\*\*\*

WE CAN'T FORGET INC.

Dear Brothers:

First let me start by saying that it's great to be back with the greatest outfit in the U.S. Army! Both of my tours were with the Americal. First tour 1969-D/4/21 Inf 11 LIB, second tour 1972-C/3/21 Inf 11 LIB. I would be interested if anyone has any pictures from these units. I lost all my items while moving.

The main reason that I'm writing is to put out a call for help from all the brothers of the Americal. Let me explain. A couple of years ago I met a veteran, Ken Smith, who just so happened to be a Medic with the Americal in Vietnam. Ken had a dream back then to open a shelter for homeless veterans, and to be run by veterans. This would be a shelter to help the veteran get back into the main stream of life and regain that pride he had when he was one of the Nations best. Ken ran into a lot of dead ends and a lot of "it can't be done", by a lot of top people.

Over one third of the people living on the streets of America are veterans. Ken would not take 'no' for an answer and because of his persistence a year ago Ken opened the doors of the old V.A. building on 16 Court St. in Boston, MA. A new name went up on the outside of the building--New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

It is home now for about 150 brothers. We need HELP to keep it running so we are asking the brothers of the Americal for help. We can use everything at the shelter. What ever you give the brothers will be grateful--clothing, food, books--there is nothing we can't use and we all know that it takes money to run a shelter.

For more information please write to:

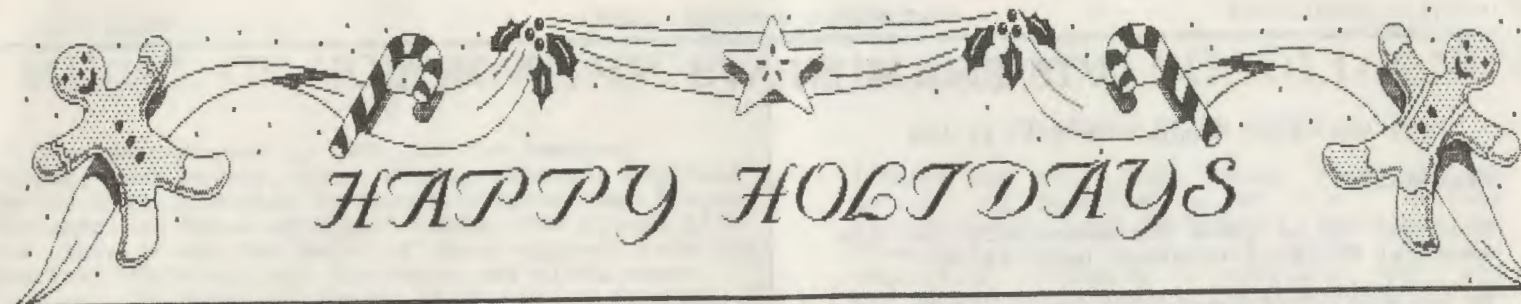
The New England for Homeless Veterans  
Boston, MA 02108

Let them know that you are from the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Your brother,  
Dick Del Rossi  
Reading, MA 01867

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID



AMERICAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9, 1990

1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

HANSCOMB AIR FORCE BASE

BEDFORD, MASS.

TICKETS \$20:00 per PERSON

ROAST BEEF DINNER

CASH BAR 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

CUT OFF DATE FOR TICKETS DECEMBER 1, 1990

LIVE MUSIC - LOU COLUMBO'S BAND

No tickets will be mailed. The committee will

check you at entrance.

Make checks payable to Americal, and mail to.

ROBERT N. THORNTON

NASON DRIVE APT. 304

MELROSE, MASS. 02176

Don't forget to bring a cash gift so we can make

Christmas a little better for our Veterans in the Hospital.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_



## VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

123 AVN Aero Scouts D/3/4 11 LIB

Dear Roland:

Enclosed is my check for membership in the Americal Division Veterans Association.

My brother, SP/4 Harold Lee MacDonald was on his second tour of duty in Vietnam when he was K.I.A. At that time he was with the 123 AVN, B Co. Aero Scouts.

His first tour of duty was served with D/3/4 Inf 11 LIB 1968.

One of his buddies was Pat McAllen from New York. I would like to hear from Pat or anyone else who knew my brother.

I would also like to have a patch from the 123 Aero Scouts.

Sincerely,  
Janice M. Nelson

Tel [REDACTED]  
Pontiac, MI 48054

Janice: Sorry that your letter did not appear earlier but it was overlooked during the change of Editors.

\*\*\*\*\*

## VIETNAM AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER ASSOCIATION

Greetings:

I am writing to your organization to inform and seek your assistance in passing along information about a new veterans organization. It is for ARMY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS who served in Vietnam.

I am hoping to reach many of the approximately 15,000 or so men and women who worked as ATC during the Viet Nam War, in country and out. It is my hope to reunite many of these people in class reunions of the ATC school at Keesler AFB, and Ft. Rucker. Also unity personal from the many different units to which they were assigned. We served and were assigned to aviation units within Infantry, Cavalry, Airborne divisions, as well as aviation brigades, and Corps in Germany. This will not be an easy task, but with the help of your organization may render through the publication it puts out, this will happen.

Write to the following address for info:

VIET NAM AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER ASSOCIATION  
c/o William J. Palmergunner

Penngrove, CA 94951

If you have any questions or suggestions please call. Any help will be appreciated.

Home phone [REDACTED]

Again Thank You,  
William J. Palmergunner  
RVN 1/1/68 to 12/31/68  
RVN 9/27/71 to 12/5/71

1 INF DIV  
1 AVN BRG

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HAVE YOU WRITTEN TO THAT BUDDY YET?



THIS ILLUSTRATION DEPICTS NVA MORTARMEN HAVING LAD IN L.Z. ONLY AT 400 METERS CLOSE IN AND HAVE JUST BEGUN TO SHELL THE GUN PITS OF 'A' BATTERY 318 IN. 'RED' MARSHALL, CHIEF OF SECTION, HAS DRIVEN HIS IF BOWTIEZ OUT OF ITS PANTRY AND INTO THE PERIMETER FIRE TO DIRECT FIRE ON THE ENEMY POSITION. CAPT. DAVIS IS SHOWN LAYING DOWN COVERING FIRE FROM THE MMS MOUNTED ON HIS JEEP. ALTHOUGH SHRAPNEL FROM THE EXPLODING IF BOWTIEZ FUMED AROUND THEIR EXPOSED POSITION, GUN ONE CONTINUED TO LOAD AND FIRE ROUNDS INTO THE TARGET UNTIL THE NVA WEAPON WAS DESTROYED.

Above is a sketch I did from memory of some action during the siege at Tra Bong in August '69. Like most GI's in the bush or on remote LZ's we just survived. No rank, no medals, no nothin', just DEROS. But at times we did some hairy-assed John Waynes to stay alive and protect each other. This drawing is of just that kind of stuff. It's been twenty years and I've not forgotten what those Red Legs did that day!

R.W. Hornlein  
18 Arty

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## AUSSIES WANT PEN PALS

Two former members of the Royal Australian Infantry, who were disabled during the Vietnam War, would like to correspond with American veterans who were also disabled in that war. Peter J. Godley writes "though it is now 20 years since we stood together, we feel that the bond of mateship has strengthened over the years". He said that he and his friend, identified only as Keith, "will repl to any correspondence received from anybody who would like to wrtie". His address:

Peter J. Godley  
Midway Point,  
Tasmania, 7171 Australia

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## MIA REMAINS FOUND IN VIETNAM

Hanoi-Joint US-Vietnamese teams searching for American soldiers killed during the Southeast Asia war have found 20 sets of American remains in central Vietnam, the Hanoi government said yesterday. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said experts have found 70 sets of human remains since they began the latest search earlier this month.

Boston Globe Aug. 17, 1990

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

## MEDAL OF HONOR PLAQUE

On Saturday, August 4, 1990, at the Americal Museum, Fort Devens, Ayer, Mass., National Adjutant Bernie Chase presents to Museum Director Ken Turner the Americal Medal of Honor Plaque. The plaque list the names of all the Medal of Honor winners from the Americal Division, and the dates and place where they won the Medal of Honor. It is now on display at the Americal Museum.

Sr. Vice Commander Roland T. Gastronova suggested that we have a plaque made to honor our Medal of Honor winners. He did all the research and the design work for the plaque.

We were having a hard time locating a Medal of Honor that we wanted to be the center piece for the plaque. One of our members John M. Wills who served with Companys A, C, D, E, and HHC 1/52 Infantry 198 Bde. came to our rescue and not only located a Medal of Honor, but he also donated it to the Association to be used on the plaque. A special thanks and appreciation goes to John in behalf of all the members.



## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

## TEN MILLION MILITARY MEDICAL RECORDS FOUND

It has recently been disclosed that some ten million military medical records have been found, which would help replace records lost in the 1973 fire. These may help many World War II and Korean War Army and Army Air corps veterans file for VA disability compensation claims.

VFW Service Officers nationwide, working with the VA, hope to assist veterans whose claims had previously been denied because no records were available to confirm medical disabilities that occurred in the military service. Contact the Service Officer at your Post.

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THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION MAKES A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION THE THE AMERICAN HEART FUND AND TO THE AMERICAN CANCERE SOCIETY, EVERY YEAR, IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

## DISREGARD FALSE RUMORS

A false and misleading rumor sweeping the nation is plaguing us at the Veterans Administration and leading to thousands of veterans such as you to write to us requesting dividends on insurance that you had in force in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Congress DID NOT pass any new law giving veterans a dividend based on the amount of months their insurance was in force while on active duty. The information you received regarding such a dividend is a HOAX.

Also false is the rumor that individuals who served in the military after 1965 and were insured under SGLI (Serviceman's Group Life Insurance) program are entitled to a refund. There have never been any dividends, rebates or refunds due to surplus of funds in the SGLI program.

You can help us eliminate these rumors by passing this information along to any of your friends or to any veterans' group to which you belong.

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## QUELLING RUMORS ABOUT VA COMPENSATION

For many months there have been rumblings in Washington that the newly created Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and it's secretary, Edward J. Derwinski, secretly have taken steps to change the amount and types of benefits that veterans currently receive. While no one could identify these changes, the stories have persisted.

In an unusual move, Derwinski wrote directly to TROA Chairman of the Board, Gen. John W. Roberts, USAF Ret., expressing his concern and dismay at these rumors. In no uncertain terms, Derwinski related that, while there is an on-going study to examine changes in benefits for future veterans (those not yet in uniform), current veterans need not fear any loss of benefits.

Derwinski went on to state that, if and when changes for future veterans are formulated, these proposals will be sent to all service organizations for comments and suggestions.

In a related conversation with Col. Chris Giaimo of the TROA Legislature Affairs staff, VA Deputy Secretary Anthony J. Principi reaffirmed Derwinski's letter and emphasized that current veterans need not worry about existing benefits.

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The story about back pay on a pay differential for servicemen serving during 1972-1973 is also false. These stories were picked up by the news media and printed without checking the facts.

Whoever is spreading these rumors is causing a delay in the everyday business of the VA.

\*\*\*\*\*

RECRUIT !



## SICK CALL

Angelo Cataldo is recovering from surgery and would like to hear from his friends. His address:

Angelo Cataldo  
Lakewood Village Lot 176  
Vero Beach, FL 32966

The following men are 'under the weather' or 'confined to quarters' and would like to hear from their old friends:

Michael Doyle      Sam Demarco  
Haverhill, MA 01830      Watertown, MA 02172

Rev. John S. Franklin  
Masonic Home  
Charlton, MA 01507

Please drop the men a line. They will be glad to hear from you.

Received a letter from George Lloyd, 247 FA, suggesting that we start a 'Sick Call' column in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. We have had such a column right along but we do not receive notification when a member is ill. PLEASE fellow members, let us know when you hear of a sick comrade and we will be more than happy to put his name in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER.

Thanks very much for writing George. I appreciate your concern. Jim

\*\*\*\*\*

The sympathy of the Americal Division Veterans Association is extended to Harry Corliss in the loss of his brother.

\*\*\*\*\*

## REUNIONS



1883      1955  
164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES

Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-1111

A reunion of the 164 Infantry was held on the week-end of October 5 - 6 - 7, 1990.

The Radisson Inn in Bismarck, North Dakota was the location.

The event will be over before this Newsletter reaches you but the notice did not arrive in time for the July-August issue.

The return address that was given is:  
164 Infantry Association  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

This information is given in the event you want to contact the 164 Organization.

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## MY APOLOGIES

In the July-August 1990 issue of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER I made the statement that I believed that M/Sgt Warren Reed was the only member of the Americal Division Veterans Association to have served in three wars. I am guilty of trusting to memory instead of looking at the records.

First--I must apologize to Col. Robert Carbray. We have have corresponded many times and I should have remembered that he served in the 132 Infantry, Americal Division, during World War II, 19 Infantry, 24 Division in Korea, and 3/61 Infantry, Americal Division in Vietnam. (I tried to call him to apologize but he has an unlisted number).

Second--I apologize to Carlo DePorto for he too served in three wars. (Our records do not show this however) Carlo served in the 247 FA, Americal Division in World War II, 43 Surgical Hospital in Korea, Hdq, U.S. Army Medical Command in Vietnam.

Carlo's military career started in October of 1939 To October of 1972. He spent three years in the NY National Guard, thirty one years in the Regular Army, and has spent six years, so far, in the Maryland Militia Force.

Carlo, make yourself known to me at the Convention next year and I'll buy you a drink.

I am certainly proud of these three men. They have served their country well.  
Jim Buckle

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ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

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## REUNIONS

WINGED VICTORY DIVISION

43d INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SUNBELT CHAPTER



SUNBELT CHAPTER - 43rd INFANTRY DIVISION  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

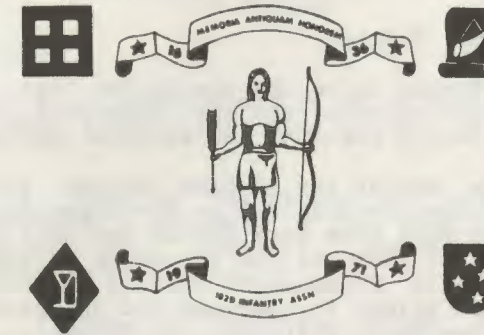
January 24 thru January 27, 1991

Ramada Orlando Central  
Orlando, Florida 32808

For additional information please contact:

William E. Head  
Crystal River, FL 32629

## THE TRIPLE AFFAIR



DINNER DANCE      GIFT-O-RAMA  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Date: Saturday November 17, 1990  
Place: V.F.W. Crystal St. Malden,  
Attitude Adjustment: 6:30 P.M. Cash Bar  
Dinner: 7:00 P.M. SHARP  
Tickets: \$10.00 Member \$15.00 Guest

Dancing until MIDNIGHT!

Returns to: 182 Infantry Association  
Everett, MA 02149  
Or Call Don 889-0846 Doug 387-5461

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## FIRST CORPS of CADETS

A SALUTE!

This is a salute to the First Corp of Cadets, Massachusetts National Guard. (211 Coast Art)

The history of the First Corps of Cadets may be traced to 1726, at which time the Cadets served as a bodyguard of the Governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, bearing the title of the Company of Gentlemen Cadets. They have been authorized to use October 16, 1741, the date of the commission of their first commander, Lt. Col. Benjamin Pollard, as a charter date. Their subsequent service has been uninterrupted, with the exception of an official suspension between 1174 and 1776.

The First Corps of Cadets was one of the first units the Massachusetts National Guard to be Federalized during World War II. That date was September 16, 1940.

This year, September 16, 1990, the Cadets are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of their induction by holding a reunion at the Naval Air Station in Weymouth, MA.

History does repeat--the first unit of the Massachusetts National Guard Army Reserve will be mobilized this weekend for duty connected with "Desert Shield". This week end will include September 16!

Units of the Massachusetts Air National Guard were mobilized on August 17, 1990.

The National Guard gives good value for the money the government spends on them.

You may sleep tonight--YOUR GUARD IS UP!

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## NEW CALEDONIA

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of Mr. Henri Daly, Chairman of the newly formed organizing committee to promote a celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the landing of U.S. Military Forces on New Caledonia, 12 March 42, I am writing to inform you of our preliminary objectives and to gain any advice or aid that you may be able to give.

The concept of a celebration has been met with full support from the local French government which includes the High Commissioner from France, the President of the Territorial Legislative Congress, and the Mayor of Noumea. Mr. Henri Daly is in Paris to contact the American Ambassador to France and to enlist the support of the United States Government.

The initial steps for this project are:

1. To establish a date on or around 12 Mar 90
2. A consensus regarding the participation of American War veterans of all services who were on New Caledonia during WW II - including wives.
3. to obtain names and addresses of directors of other veteran organizations - American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars etc.
4. to arrange for the best possible rates on airfare, hotels, etc...in order to attract as many visitors as possible.

Depending on transportation schedules the celebration and sojourn in New Caledonia should last about one week. A monument for that moment of history of New Caledonia is in it's incipient stage and dedication would take place during the celebration.

We turn to the Americal Division Veterans Association, first, since it's history started on New Caledonia and our contact with members of the staff has been a link of friendship over the years.

Thanking you in advance for any advice or information that you may be able to give us.

Yours sincerely,  
Emery C. Level III  
Noumea, New Caledonia

Ed. Mr. Paul Demene also wrote to us and his letter was translated by Mrs. John S. Franklin. There has been an organization in New Caledonia, for many years, called the "Friends of the United States". The purpose of this organization is foster better relationship with the United States and to memorialize the men that served on New Caledonia during WW II.

This letter is late in appearing in the Newsletter because of a delay in translation and the letter from Mr. La Valle III was sent to another party and had just recently arrived at the Newsletter. These letters will now be turned over to National Headquarters.

Mr. La Valle III is the son of an American that settled in New Caledonia after the War.



## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

721 Ordnance CO.

Dear Jim:

I enjoy reading the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER and have always been proud of the fact that our division was the first U.S. Army (ground troops) troops to go on the offensive in World War II--the BIG ONE! Thanks to the 164 Infantry Regiment who supported the Marines on Guadalcanal.

I was a member of the Americal from it's inception on New Caledonia having arrived there with Task Force 6814 and served with the Americal until discharge 5/27/45. I was a member of the 721 Ordnance Co.

Enclosed are some pictures that I took on the Canal.  
Regards,  
Leo Bauer

Ed Note: Thanks for the pictures Leo. As you can see we used some of the immediately and the rest will be used at a later date. All pictures are welcome, along with a story and dates.

To answer your question about the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans Association--we share many members with them and have a good relationship.

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Southern Exposure -- Leo Bauer

109 STATION HOSPITAL

Dear Mr. Buckle:

Many thanks to Mr. Ed Oberle for the history and letter about the S.S. Argentina in the March/April issue of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER.

I was one of the 30 Army nurses with the 109th Station Hospital on the Argentina. The nurses were from Fort Devens and Cmp Edwards so winter clothing was the order of the day. Not until Panama were we able to buy some summer things to wear and did not get Army uniforms until Melbourne and Noumea.

My memories aboard the Argentina include the loading of cases of bee and coca-cola for over two days at the Brooklyn Navy Yard with never a taste of any of it until the hospital was set up at the Orphanage in Noumea. Learning to play cribbage using the "Mae Wests" for seats; the 182 Infantry and the 101 Quartermaster officers were the teachers. the show and party at the swimming pool on crossing the equator with King Neptune presiding. And, who can forget the nightly out".

After the reloading of the ships in the convoy in Melbourne, the 109th was changed to the Santa Elena for the trip to New Caledonia.

I hope that the picture of the Argentina, and Mr. Oberle's history and letter has reminded others of that "military cruise", as he calls it, that in spite of all the discomforts, there were some good things too. Even the cribbage games stopped when going through the Panama Canal, and the locks, and finding the Southern Cross became a nightly event.

Each issue I look for a familiar name listed with the 182 Infantry and the 101 Quartermaster, the two units that I knew best. The 109th moved several times on New Caledonia, and I knew some of the Q.M. units--a unit at Bourrail, and Headquarters in Noumea. This has been a good chance to "look back" and remember.

Sincerely,  
Jane Reider Terry

Ed: Thank you so much for your letter Jane. I believe you are the first nurse to write to the NEWSLETTER since I have been associated with it.

I hope that some member, that remembers you for taking care of him while he was wounded or sick will write in to thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

AMERICAL DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

Bernie:

Enclosed is balance on my Life Membership.

I haven't heard whether there were any past NEWSLETTERS available. If so they would be interesting reading to catch up with the guys from the 26 Infantry Division who became members of the Americal Division through Task Force 6814.

Regards,  
Al Conrad

Col. Akio Tani's Pistol Pete

## LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

101 MEDICS

Dear Jim:

RE: the 178 Door Gunner's letter wanting to ad "23 Infantry Division to our Decal and Lapel Pins".

It is not my intention to start a controversy, however, I do have a few thoughts and comments opposing the aforementioned additions.

1. Please wait until ALL of the original Americal Veterans Veterans who served in the SOPAC have answered the final Roll Call before you modify our singularly distinctive designation. We are proud of it as it now stands. It takes only a few words or comments to proudly answer the question, "What is an Americal"?

2. Our comrades who served and died in the SOPAC did so under the non-numerical designation. Just think, the only Division in the entire U.S. Army to be recognizes by the War Department and having it's name chosen by an Enlisted man. Spare us the distinction of carrying it to our final resting places. Then and ONLY THEN change as you will!

3. As a closing thought: I would suggest that since our beloved ADVA is incorporated under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, proper legal procedure be researched before any changes are attempted lest we incur the wrath of the law.

Sincerely, yours in comradeship,  
Herb O'Brien

Herb, all I can say is AMEN!

\*\*\*\*\*

101 ENGINEERS

Dear Mr. Buckle:

I was one of the original members of the 101 Engineer Regiment, when it was called up for duty in 1941. After war was declared against Japan, the 101 Engineers was shipped to Australia and then to New Caledonia, where became part of the Americal Division.

Unfortunately I was left behind because the Regiment and Division had made a commitment to 6 Corp Headquarters for me as a draftsman. I had graduated from Drafting School at Fort Belvoir and apparently they needed my expertise. I was later transferred back to the 101 Engineers, which had been reactivated and was placed under the command of Col. Gustavison. I remained with the outfit until we were separated from the 26 Division and placed under Eastern Command and redesignated the 61 Combat Engineers. I was made 1/Sgt and sent off to Colorado with a Cadre, which became the 271 Engineer Light Combat Bn. From there I was sent to Camp McCoy where we activated the 1141 Engineer Combat Group. Eventually I ended up on maneuvers in Tennessee and then the 1130 Combat Group in Oklahoma.

(Continues next column)

Many of my old comrades of the 57th kept up their correspondence periodically during this period of time. However, I am trying to locate a few of them, and would like to know if it is possible to get back issues of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER? I understand that Sgt. Gavaza, who was a close friend of mine, died about six years ago, also Capt. John E. Rowan, who was my Captain. I would imagine that have been articles about the 57 Engineers in the Newsletter from time to time. I would like to obtain issues which might have information about the 57th's doings etc.

I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your interest and courtesy.

Sincerely,  
Chester L. Somers  
Lowell, MA 01852

Hey you Engineers, how about getting a note off to Chester?

\*\*\*\*\*

182 INFANTRY

Dear Jim:

My father is a member of ADVA. I spoke with Arthur Pope last week. I told him I was looking for a copy of "Under the Southern Cross" by Francis Cronin. He suggested that I contact you as he bought the book from you. Can you help?

I will also be sending you some of my father's pictures taken during the 1941 Carolina Maneuvers. Thank You,  
Paul Botelho

Paul; I turned your request for a book over to Ken Turner, the Museum Director, and he will send it as soon as possible.

Thank you for the pictures. They will be used at a later date. Jim

\*\*\*\*\*

182 INFANTRY

Dear Jim:

I recently attended a Retired Enlisted Men's National Convention in San Antonio, TX. While there I met two men who fought on Guadalcanal. One was from the 25 Division and the other from an Artillery unit. I can't remember his unit but I did get his name and address and told him him I'd ask National to send him an application so that he may join.

While going over old issues I notices the picture of the "Million Dollar Tree" on Bougainville. There was no name under the tree. I'm sure it is named for Lt. Dick Roy of the 2nd Platoon of G Company, 182 Infantry. He was our leader and our Platoon was known as Roy's Raiders.

Yours in service,  
Pat Farino

(Continued on next page)



LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

(Continued on next page)

Ed Note: Pat, I am unaware of the "Million Dollar Tree" being named in memory of anyone. I went through that skirmish and have quite a bit of information in my files on that "Tree" but I have never heard that it had been named for Lt. Roy.

Thanks for those pictures. I will go through my files (the mess on my desk) and get it back to you shortly. See you next June on Cape Cod. Jim

\*\*\*\*\*

COMPANY D 121 MED BN

Mr. Buckle:

Do you know if there is a Medical Chapter of those who served overseas?

I would like to contact Capt. Marshall or Capt. Raymond of the Co. D 121 Med Bn. They were on Bougainville in May of 1944.

Thank you,  
Joseph Pavlina  
York, PA 17402

Can anyone help Joe?

\*\*\*\*\*

57 ENGINEERS

Dear Jim:

I am writing to inform you of the death of one of our comrades. He was a member of the 57th Combat Engineers, Co. B, who served under General Howard Elliott in Task Force 6814 and on Guadalcanal where he was injured. Lester B. Clements passed away on February 27, 1990 in Lebanon, PA and was buried Saturday March 3rd. He was a dear friend and will be sorely missed.

Sincerely,  
John Gentile

\*\*\*\*\*

101 QUARTERMASTER

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is my check for the Guadalcanal Memorial. I just wish that it could be more.

It is an excellent cause and I hope you get good response from the membership.

Herb Page

\*\*\*\*\*

CO. D 121 MED BN

Dear Jim:

I had been concerned about the future of the AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION after the WW II Americal veterans have been written into the "Book of Memories".

(Continues next column)

Well, my mind is now at ease, and the WW II Americal veteran, I think, will agree. Our brothers-in-arms, the Vietnam veteran, have come to the rescue; they have assured a sound and indestructible existence for the ADVA.

This can be compared, in a sense, to Mom and Pop, who, after having established a family store, can now happily retire with confidence, because their children will assume the responsibility of operating the family enterprise, the grandchildren in turn standing by to continue with management at a later date.

Therefore, a resounding round of applause for and our hats off to the Vietnam veterans of the Americal Division! And a hearty congratulations to National Commander Ron Ward and SVC Roland T. castronova in their newly elected positions!

Just like Mom and Pop, the ADVA can rely on Ron and Roly, as well as on other Vietnam veterans, for a lasting and glorious existence. The ADVA is in capable hands!

Sincerely yours,  
Al Cotta  
Co. D 121 Med Bn

\*\*\*\*\*

26 SIGNAL COMPANY

Dear Jim:

Just want to say a word of thanks to you and others for all the good work. As member of the original Task force 68114 I was part of the Americal Division Signal Office and the 26th Signal Company. After 39 months I was rotated home from Leyte.

Since our ranks are thinning rapidly, the Newsletter brings back memories of times when our Nation was united as we may never be again. Thanks to all of you for keeping those memories alive.

Sincerely,  
Earl P. Cook

Earl including a clipping from the Atlanta Constitution which reads; Retired Maj. Gen. Crump Garvin, a highly decorated combat veteran of World War II died of cancer on September 5, 1990. He was 91.

Gen Garvin graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1920 and at the outbreak of the war he became Chief-of-Staff of the Americal Division in the battle for Guadalcanal. He commanded the 164 Infantry in the Fiji Islands and during the fighting on Bougainville Island.

The future general became Chief-of-Staff of the XXIV Corps and participated in the battle for Leyte.

Gen. Garvin was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit many other medals, including 10 battle stars.

\*\*\*\*\*

221st F.A. Bn.

Bougainville Island February 1944. Just about two hundred yards of the coast of Bougainville at the mouth of the Torokina River there was a small island. From this small island about 5:45 a.m. every morning a Japanese Soldier would row a small boat to the main Island of Bougainville. No one ever saw him return to the small island but the next morning he would be rowing ashore again. On this particular day from the Americal Division Observation Post the Division big brass saw him and were discussion what this soldier was doing every day. Colonel Landers Commanding Officer of the 221 F.A. Bn. said "I don't know what he does every day, but this is the last day he will ever do it. Later that morning Colonel Landers had Battery C 221 F.A. number one gun register on the middle of the water way between the small island and Bougainville.

The next morning at exactly 5:45 a.m. the Japanese Soldier got in his boat and started to row towards Bougainville. The 221 F.A. Bn. twelve gun crews were standing by their 155 howitzers, and when the Japanese Soldier reached the middle of the water way between the two islands, the command was given to the Battalioin to fire three rounds. Thirty six rounds were delivered on the the target area in about twelve seconds. Needless to say the Japanese Soldier was never seen again. A false rumor spread around the Division that the 221 F.A. BN. painted a picture of a Japanese Battleship on the barrel of there 155 howitzers.

\*\*\*\*\*

221 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

FIRE MISSION: Shell HE Charge 5 Fuze Quick #1 Gun Loaded and ready to fire SIR

Dear Barney Chase and Americal members:

Many thanks for the C Battery News. Was saddened to hear of Chief Gun Sergeant Manny Frates passing. I was looking forward to seeing him at the Americal picnic on August 4.

I have received some great letters from Frank Mader. For the past five years Frank has been getting six men from C Battery together for a mini reunion. At a reunion in Battle Creek, MI Larry Wigman, Louis Marra, Vic Savari, Frank Mader, William Matheson, and James Garrett attended. They are getting together this year at the home of Bill Matheson in Sou Saulte Marie, MI.

I enjoyed the National Convention in Chicago very much and I am looking forward to the Eastern Region Reunion in September.

Would like to hear from some of the old gun crews. Especially Dominick Russo. I would like to thank him for saving me from being killed or wounded while we were getting our Gun into position during the invasion of Cebu. The firing was coming from my side of the truck and Russo hollered, pulled me aside and blazed away with his Thompson Sub-Machine Gun. .OI sure would like to thank him after all these year.

Best regards and God Bless,  
Leo W. Orfe  
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

245 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Dear Sir:

The Americal Division Artillery on the week-end of May 5, 1990 in Williamsburg, VA. Enclosed is a picture of--left to right--George Stone, Howard Thompson, Willie Jones, Paul Kistler, and William Smith.

Sincerely,  
Howard Thompson



Picture forwarded to the Newsletter by Bill McLaughlin. Bill attended the reunion but had to return early.

\*\*\*\*\*

26 SIGNAL COMPANY

Hello Jim:

You may like to publish this note;

I am an Italian who came to America as a boy in 1935. I proudly served 43 months in the Pacific with the 26th Signal Company, Americal Division.

I believe this information will be of interest to all our ADVA members--it made my blood boil! The The Italian Army, World War II Veteran receives a monthly pension from their government. How do you like that fo apples?

The Italian people think the American veteran receives a much bigger pension because we are the richest country in the world. They are shocked when I tell them otherwise.

My best wishes, especially to the ones I served with in the 26th Signal.

Anthony M. Albani

Guess we should have lost the war Tony. It seems I am always hearing a familiar quote though--Ask not what your country can do for you--but what you can for your country.

We won't be the richest country in the world, if we still are, for long if we keep giving all those countries aid. Jim

\*\*\*\*\*

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER AMERICAL NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 1, 1990.

If you letter was not in this issue it will be in the next issue. Many, many letters this month. THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Jim





JAMES C. BUCKLE  
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#### Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

#### Dedication

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

### AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

|                          |      |                                             |               |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Name:                    |      | Telephone:                                  |               |
| Address — Street:        |      | City:                                       | State: Zip:   |
| Americal Unit:           | Rgt. | Bn.                                         | Co/Bty. Other |
| Dates of Service — From: |      | To:                                         | Serial No.:   |
| Date of Birth:           |      | Blood Type:                                 | 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)