

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

# AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JAMES C. BUCKLE  
VIETNAM EDITOR: DAVID L. RECOB

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Published Bi-Monthly

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



**GUN 2 BATTERY A 18 ARTILLERY  
LANDING ZONE CINDY JANUARY 1970**

1992

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

1993

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

NATIONAL COMMANDER  
Peter J. Messina  
[REDACTED]  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER  
John H. DeGroot  
[REDACTED]  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER  
William K. Maddox  
[REDACTED]  
Portland, TX 78374

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER  
Joseph B. Chin  
[REDACTED]  
Lincoln, MA 01773

NATIONAL ADJUTANT  
Bernard C. Chase  
[REDACTED]  
So. Yarmouth, MA 02664

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Robert N. Thornton  
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## CHAPTER COMMANDERS

William J. McLaughlin Cape Cod Chapter  
Stephen Dennison Eastern Regional Chapter  
Thomas P. McQuade South-East Chapter  
Ernest B. Carlson South Mid-West Chapter  
Rush J. Propper Great Lakes Chapter  
Joe. D. Feeler Far West Chapter  
Ronald L. Ward Central Mid-West Chapter  
Lloyd J. Morrell North-West Chapter

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James C. Buckle  
[REDACTED]  
Wakefield, MA 01880

Telephone [REDACTED]

## VIETNAM EDITOR

David L. Recob  
[REDACTED]

Topeka, KS 66611-2132

Telephone [REDACTED]

Recently there has been a large amount of direct mail requests for funds to aid the POW/MIA cause. Many are so called Non-Profit Organizations but actually profit only the organizers. Please be careful and not waste your money on fraudulent fund raisers. Know the organization you are contributing to.

The national election is over and people have voted for a change. Both the new Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs are old crusaders for veterans health care improvements. They have fought for the veteran from the outside and now represent the veteran from the inside. This should be a vast improvement. You may now get information easier on your benefits by dialing the VA on a toll-free number: [REDACTED]. This will automatically connect you to the regional office within your area.

Early in October, I wrote to Congressman Thomas Ridge, who represents Erie, PA regarding our "Equal Access To Justice Sought For Veterans" as published in our Newsletter. Tom, a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, is a member of the ADVA. He has graciously replied and his answer will be found elsewhere in this issue. By the way, there is talk that Tom may run for Governor of Pennsylvania in the next election.

Those members who attended the 1988 reunion were able to visit the U.S. Army Military Institute at Carlisle Barracks and saw quite a bit of material on file regarding the Americal Division. Now they want to acquire additional material that has to do with WWII and Korea. Vietnam will come later. The Institute will appreciate anything you may have that you wish to donate such as: official reports, V-mail, diaries, photographs, books, film, insignia, etc. They are also conducting surveys of individual military histories. If you want to participate in the survey or donate material you may contact: U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5008. Your point of contact is: LTC McLain at [REDACTED].

My understanding is that quite a few new members were signed up for ADVA on Veterans Day at the Wall during the moving program held there. I had planned on attending the ceremony but was prevented due to a lumbar laminectomy operation that kept me close to home. However, I did get the opportunity of seeing most of it on TV. Many thanks to all of you who phoned, wrote or sent cards. I appreciated it very much.

PETER J. MESSINA  
NATIONAL COMMANDER

## \*\*\*\*\* SCHOLARSHIP FUND \*\*\*\*\*

Dantzler E. Smith Jr.

Irene R. Brooks  
In Memory of  
Charles Brooks

PNC Bernard Chase

Anita Hintz  
In Memory of  
Richard P. Hintz

Shirley Collins Pohlman  
In Memory Of  
Arthur W. Collins

Louise M. McGoldrick  
In Memory Of  
PNC William F. McGoldrick

## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

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

February 7, 1993  
Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA  
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

March 1993  
NO MEETING

April 10, 1993  
Americal Museum Fort Devens, MA  
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

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## TAPS TAPS TAPS

Charles Brooks  
182 Infantry  
North Dighton, MA  
November 11, 1992

Arthur M. Hilgendorf  
132 Infantry  
Methuen, MA  
November 12, 1992

Joseph McConnell  
245 FA  
Blakely, PA  
November 5, 1992

Warren S. Todd  
221 FA  
Georgetown, ME  
November 30, 1992

Edward Vieira  
101 Med  
East Boston, MA  
September 11, 1992

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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 6 month intervals. Any member who has paid his dues in advance will receive credit toward LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO  
Bernard C. Chase  
National Adjutant ADVA  
[REDACTED]

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

\*\*\*\*\*

## REINSTATED MEMBERS

Dennis Botelho  
182 Infantry Co C  
Fall River, MA

Bill E. Marshall  
101 Med Bn  
Tulsa, OK

David Zbozien  
196 LIB B/3/21 Inf  
Dickson, TN

\*\*\*\*\*  
IF YOU KNOW OF THE DEATH OF A MEMBER, OR A MEMBER  
THAT IS ILL, PLEASE NOTIFY ADJ. BERNARD CHASE.

1931NL454601

## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

CHARLES BROOKS 182 INFANTRY

My husband Charles passed away on November 16th having suffered for eight months with the recurrence of cancer. It was a difficult period for him and a very emotional time for all of us. He was a wonderful father, relative and a great friend to all. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

I do want to extend my thanks for the thoughtful cards which members of the ADVA sent. He enjoyed reading and keeping them all close by so that he could allow all his friends to see them.

The Newsletter has great meaning to me because I followed the campaigns of the Americal Division quite closely while Charles was in the South Pacific. Some of the fellows who fought in Guadalcanal were present at the funeral home. It was a sad reunion but greatly appreciated by our family.

I would appreciate receiving the Newsletter. My son Brian is also a Vietnam, Americal, Veteran.

I am enclosing a check to be used in Charles memory.

Sincerely,  
Irene Brooks

Ed Note: The check was given to the Americal Scholarship Fund in memory of your husband. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. We of the Americal share your sorrow--you have lost a devoted husband and we have lost a comrade.

\*\*\*\*\*  
JOSEPH Mc CONNELL 245 FIELD ARTILLERY

On November 5, 1992 my beloved father, Joseph Mc Connell, died in the Hospital of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He had been very ill for quite some time. We miss him terribly.

My Dad's proudest accomplishment in life (besides having met and married my mother) was his service in the Americal Division of the U.S. Army during World War II. As far back as I can remember...he spoke proudly of his service. In fact, if his patriotism and loyalty were anywhere near the norm during World War II, it is no surprise to me that we won the war!

He very much enjoyed receiving and reading the Americal Newsletter. My brother is a proud Vietnam Veteran and my son served proudly during the Persian gulf War...but none so proudly as my Dad!

Joseph leaves his beloved wife Geraldine Mc Connell

Sincerely,  
Sharon (Mc Connell) Wysocki

(Sharon, it was because of families like yours that we won the war!)

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
CONTRIBUTED GENEROUSLY TO THE  
AMERICAN HEART FUND  
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

MITCHELL (MATT) J. SZPICKI 132 INFANTRY

It is with great regret I must report the death of one of our charter members, Mitchell Szpicki. Matt helped organize the 132 Infantry World War II organization and at one time served as chairman of the reunions.

Matt was in the National Guard when the Guard was mobilized. He was a Chicago policeman serving the city of Chicago. Upon his retirement he and his wife Janet bought a home in Antioch, a northern suburb, where he could spend his leisure fishing and enjoying the outdoors.

He wore his Americal tie clasp and his Americal pin with pride.

He will be missed by all his comrades.

Sincerely,  
Rocco A. Solto  
President 132 Infantry  
World War II Association

\*\*\*\*\*

## CONVALESCING

121 MEDICAL BATTALION

Hyman Forman  
56 McCusker Drive  
Braintree, MA 02184

121 MEDICAL BATTALION

PNC Sam Ravagno  
11 Ernest St.  
Saugus, MA 01906

## 132 INFANTRY

Jesse R. Drowley  
523 East Wabash Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99207

How about sending a card gang?

\*\*\*\*\*

## ALL YOU SNOWBIRDS

HOW ABOUT LETTING US KNOW WHEN YOU ARE HEADING SOUTH AND WHEN YOU PLAN TO RETURN? THE POST OFFICE CHARGES FOR ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND IT HAS BECOME QUITE EXPENSIVE.

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We would like to have your story to print in the Americal Newsletter. Pictures would be great! Please put your name on the back of the picture and it will be returned as soon as the Newsletter is mailed.

Vietnam veterans please send your stories to Dave Recob. He types all stories of the Vietnam era and prepares them for printing.

PLEASE--Include your telephone number with all correspondence. Many times a question comes up and it and a phone call can solve the problem quickly.

Thanks,  
The Staff

\*\*\*\*\*

## ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

## CHAPTERS

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

Regional Commander  
Thomas P. McQuade  
[REDACTED]  
Nalcrest, FL 33856-6345

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

Regional Commander  
Ernest B. Carlso[n]  
[REDACTED]  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
Telephone [REDACTED]

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

Regional Commander  
Rush G. Propper  
[REDACTED]  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

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

Regional Commander  
Joe D. Feeler  
[REDACTED]  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*  
WILLIAM E. McGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER  
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Canal

Cape Cod Chapter Commander  
William J. McLaughlin  
[REDACTED]  
Marston Mills, MA 02648

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
ARE YOUR DUES PAID?  
HAVE YOU JOINED A CHAPTER?

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT  
ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA  
[REDACTED]  
PEABODY, MA 01960

## CHAPTER NEWS

## SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Hi, and a Happy New Year to all our buddies of the Americal, and to their families.

As your new Chapter Commander I would like to hear from each of you by letter or by telephone. My telephone number is 1-210-997-9846. (note change in area code) Please send your letters to:  
Ernest Carleton  
[REDACTED]

Fredericksburg, TX 78624

I joined the Americal in the Fiji's in 1943 and went North to Japan and finally East to the U.S.A in December of 1945. During my tour of duty I served in D Company, Battalion Headquarters and Regimental Headquarters, 182 Infantry.

As no doubt you already know, it is once again dues time. Just like all good outfits we have to keep our numbers up and current. Members of the South-Midwest Chapter members should send their dues to our Treasurer:  
Malcolm East  
[REDACTED]

Lumberton, TX 77656-9429

## CHAPTER DUES GO FROM JANUARY 1 TO JANUARY 1

I would like any ideas or suggestions from Chapter members, concerning a meeting in 1993.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Chapter Commander of the Far West Chapter, Joe Feeler, underwent knee replacement surgery back in November. The Editor did not learn of this before the November-December 1992 issue went to press. The operation was a success and Joe is still convalescing. I am sure that he would still appreciate a card to let him know that you are interested in his well being.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## CHAPTER NEWS

## EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER  
Stephen Dennison  
[REDACTED]  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227  
Phone [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS  
Peter J. Messina Sec  
[REDACTED]  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
Phone [REDACTED]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

I would like to start out by announcing that the 1993 chapter reunion will be held in Buffalo, New York. The arrangements are still being worked out at this time. The chapter reunion held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was attended by 42 members. Even though this was a small number everyone that I talked to had fun and enjoyed themselves.

Our reunion dinner business meeting was held on Saturday, September 11, 1992. Our guest speaker was Pete Messina, our National Commander of the Americal Division. He spoke about the Americal family, the new scholarship fund set up by national and other topics pertaining to the Americal Division.



Commander Steve Dennison presenting National Commander Peter Messina with a gift from Eastern Regional Chapter



Vietnam Veterans attending Eastern Regional Chapter Reunion September 1992

The officers elected for 1993 are as follows: Steve Dennison, Chapter Commander; Peter Messina, Secretary/Treasurer; and George Yates, Sergeant-at-Arms. All were elected unanimously.

It is not too far away for any member of the chapter to start thinking about whether they want to run for any chapter office. You may let either me or Pete Messina know if you have a desire to be a chapter officer.

I would also like to issue a challenge to every chapter member. Let's sign up one new member. Let's show our national commander what our Eastern Chapter is made of.

Just to let everyone know we are working on plans to host the 1994 national convention. At the present time we are working on suitable prices. Hopefully in the next article we will announce the site of the 1994 convention.

I hope all chapter members have a very enjoyable holiday season this year.

Steve Dennison  
Chapter Commander

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

I received an inquiry for membership in the Far West Chapter a few days back and when I told him I was from Co. H 164 Infantry he remarked, "Oh, you were in the Avenging Second". That got me thinking. I looked through my old Army pictures and sure enough I came up with a picture of the Battalion insignia. The photo below was taken on Bougainville in 1944.



I will be forever grateful to the Guadalcanal veterans that shared their experiences with me when I was a raw recruit on Bougainville. I am sure it was their help and guidance that saw me through some rough times and allowed me to return home.

During a recent stay in the hospital for knee replacement surgery, I signed up two members and sent out applications to four who called or wrote asking for information concerning the ADVA and the Chapter. I got to thinking, if I can do that while laying in the hospital, surely some of you can get out and recruit just one member.

So I am putting my faith in you that you will all do your best to recruit new members. I have about 150 more possibles to send out letters to, for the second time. After that I am at a loss for names to contact. I know they are out there.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

## CHAPTER NEWS

## FAR WEST CHAPTER NEWS (Continues)

You have all received a form to apply for your decorations or awards, courtesy of Herb Holt. You have also received a questionnaire on a reunion. Please return this questionnaire if you have not already done so.

I go to the 164 Infantry Reunion every two years and a couple of months in advance I write a letter to everyone in my Company that I have an address for. Last year Company H had 29 present--the largest of any of the Companies. I feel that letters help.

If you know of a member who is sick please let Herb Holt, our Chaplain, know. His address is:

Herbert Holt

Selma, CA 93662  
Herb will send a card to any sick member. Contributions to our Card and Flower Fund are welcome and may be sent to Herb. Above address.

Herbert L. Holt  
Secretary

Joe D. Feeler  
Chapter Commander

\*\*\*\*\*

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

PROUDLY THEY SERVED

The late Arthur R. Wood entered the Army on March 18, 1941, from Boston, MA. He was in Headquarters Company, 182nd Infantry, Americal Division and saw combat on Guadalcanal and Bougainville. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two battle stars, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense, American Campaign and the Good Conduct medals and ribbons. On his return from overseas in 1944 he married Marie L. O'Rourke who was stationed at Fort Adams, RI. Marie entered the Women's Army Corp in January of 1943, from Washington, DC, where she had been working for the War Department in the Pentagon. She was stationed in the States and her medals and ribbons include the Women's Army Corps, Good Conduct and World War II Victory. The Woods were married 45 years and had three children. Arthur was a member of the Southeast Chapter of the Americal Division and after his death it was renamed the Arthur R. Wood Southeast Chapter of the Americal.



(The above appeared in the Citrus County (FL) Chronicle Tribune on Friday, November 6, 1992.)

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

As we begin the New Year I know that I can depend on the members of the Arthur Wood-South East Chapter to make it a year that will surpass the successes and achievements of 1992. We want the memory of Arthur Wood and his hard work to go forward in even greater strides. We will have a Spring Meeting at Daytona Beach in April and we invite all Chapter members and National ADVA members, who is eligible to become members of the Arthur Wood-S.E. Chapter, to come and see what a GREAT bunch of guys we are. The door is always open to you. Bring along your wife or guest to meet our Auxiliary members. I am sure you won't regret it. For reservations to this Gala Affair contact: PERRY'S OCEAN SIDE RESORT 2209 S. Atlantic Ave. Daytona Beach, FL 32118

Calling from out of State  
Calling from Florida [REDACTED]

Our rate is: \$165.00 for April 23 - 24 - 25 - 1993  
\$75.00 Deposit to hold room. (ASAP)  
Be sure to mention AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSN.

Reservation includes: Evening Dinners  
Homemade Doughnuts and coffee each morning

WISHING YOU ALL A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR 1993!

Elmer E. Matola, Secretary-Treasurer  
1284 W. Redding St.  
Hernando, FL 34442  
[REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

AMERICAL'S COMBAT RECORD TOPS ALL OTHERS

In a recent article in the Army daily newspaper "The Pacifican", the 32nd Infantry Division was quoted as claiming the highest total combat time amassed "by any U.S. Division in any war."

But they figured up the total without looking at the Americal's record. The 32nd "Red Arrow" Infantry Division sweated through 607 days and 14,494 hours of Pacific combat from Buna to Aparri up to July 27th according to their figures. But it isn't a record.

An impressive and brilliant a job as the 32nd has done, its record is below the 635 days and 15,230 hours that the Americal has put in from the battle of Guadalcanal through the present day of the Cebu campaign.

The Americal spent 3 months and 28 days on Guadalcanal from October 13, 1942 to February 9, 1943, 11 months from December 25, 1943 to November 25, 1944 in large scale drives or unit patrolling actions on Bougainville, and has been in combat in the Philippines, with the exception of the 13 day period in March, since January 28, 1945.

(Story on the 32nd Infantry Division that was printed in Time magazine July 30, 1945.)  
Sent in by Joe Feeler

# VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK



## KING OF BATTLE'S FIERY TEST

As told by Bob Hornlein

Reprinted from Vietnam Magazine Oct 1992 Issue.

Since the advent of gunpowder in the Middle Ages, the artillery has prided itself on being the "King of Battle!" Certainly, when it comes to American combat operations, the artillery almost always has played a major role. In Vietnam, as in past wars, it provided deadly fire support for the infantry "grunts" on the line.

Until the American Civil War, artillerymen had often been on the front lines themselves, sometimes even emplacing their cannons in front of the infantry and firing directly into the advancing enemy forces. With the advent of the long range rifled bullet, however, gunners could no longer survive in such exposed positions. As a result, the artillery developed indirect fire, flat-trajectory howitzers that could fire over the heads of friendly troops from protected positions well in the rear.

But in Vietnam the artillerymen often found themselves back in the role of their Civil War predecessors. Guns and howitzers were often deployed in exposed, forward fire-support bases, where it became necessary to once again level the tubes and fire directly into the advancing enemy infantry. Such was the case with the American Division's Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery.

In January 1969, the battery's two 8-inch howitzers and two 175mm guns had been deployed to Landing Zone [LZ] Cindy near the Special Forces camp at Tra Bong in southern I Corps, about 20 miles southwest of Chu Lai, to maximize area coverage by the long range 175mm guns. Located near a river, the Song Tra Bong, the Special Forces camp there had been constructed in 1965.

At first it was a quiet area, with the artillery providing indirect fire support for the Special Forces camp. These fire missions included "contact" fires to give close support to troops engaged with the enemy, "zone penetration" fires to clear landing zones of enemy forces, "support" fires called for by commanders on the ground, and "harassing and interdiction" [H&I] fires against areas of probable enemy activity. On a typical night the battery would fire 50 rounds of H&I fire in a 360-degree radius at predetermined targets.

The 8-inch howitzer was the most accurate artillery piece in the U.S. inventory. It consistently could put a 204-pound projectile into a foxhole as far away as 12 miles. The 175mm gun could reach out more than 20 miles, but it sacrificed accuracy for greater distance.

In August 1969, however, range suddenly ceased to be a factor at Tra Bong. The base came under direct North Vietnamese Army [NVA] ground assault. The enemy kept coming. Finding themselves surrounded, the American artillerymen literally had to fight for their lives.

One of the artillerymen who was tested at Tra Bong was Bob Hornlein. Vietnam senior editor Al Hemmingway talked with Hornlein about his experiences there with Battery A of the 3/18th Artillery.

Vietnam: When did you arrive in Vietnam, and where did you get your training?

Hornlein: I arrived in March 1969. I underwent basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and from there I was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for artillery school; then to Vietnam.

Vietnam: How many types of fire missions did the artillery have?

Hornlein: Basically, there were four. One was the contact fire mission. This is where troops were engaged with the enemy. In most of these situations we had to walk the rounds in because the battery I was assigned to had 8-inch and 175mm guns which could not fire smoke rounds which were normally used to mark targets. The men themselves had to direct us. However, a contact mission meant troops were in trouble, so we'd drop everything we could to help them.

Vietnam: What about the other three types of fire missions that the artillery had?

Hornlein: Zone preparation was just lobbing rounds at a specific target prior to the infantry being dropped into that area. Support fire was used if they [the American commanders] spotted movement or wanted a specific target destroyed. In H&I firing, the targets were probable locations of enemy activity. If there were intelligence reports that said there were VC hiding in certain locations [old B-52 shell craters are a good example], we would target these holes. VC would slip into the shell craters thinking we would never target them again.

Vietnam: Would you describe the 8-inch and 175mm guns and the different types of shells they use?

Hornlein: Both pieces were the U.S. Army's heavy artillery in Vietnam. The 8-inch shell weighed about 204 pounds with a range of about 10-12 miles, and the 175mm shell weighed about 175 pounds and had a range of about 21 miles. The 8-inch was a lot more accurate than the 175mm gun. At max range, you could put a round into a foxhole every time. Most of the rounds we fired were very close to our area. The majority of our targets were in support of the Special Forces at Tra Bong. We also had an 81mm mortar that was crewed by the cooks and the first sergeant-all REME's [soldiers assigned to duties in the rear], interestingly enough.

Vietnam: What was the camp like at Tra Bong?

Hornlein: The camp was located by the Song Tra Bong River. There was a large Montagnard village nearby that would harvest cinnamon. In fact they called it Cinnamon Valley. You could smell it in the air at harvest time. When I first got there in March of 1969, I humped rounds, helped build bunkers and stood perimeter duty with the CIDGs [Civilian Irregular Defense Groups].

Vietnam: Your area of operation was considered hot?

Hornlein: Not really. However, someone told me that LZ Cindy was the hottest LZ in I Corps during the siege in 1969.

Vietnam: What happened?

Hornlein: We knew something was up. We had a feeling of apprehension. It's hard to describe.

The first we knew we were under attack was when a friend of mine, Jim Kessler, the gunner, came running into our bunker telling us the Montagnard village was getting hit. We ran out and could see the enemy mortar flashes and watch the rounds hit the village and Special Forces camp. There was a lot of smoke, and the smell of cordite was heavy in the air.

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

# VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Vietnam: What did you do?

Hornlein: We jumped on our 8-inch howitzer where I was assistant gunner. Because we were short-handed I also ran the breech. We didn't know what to do because, normally, we got our firing commands from the Fire Direction Center [FDC]. Just then our chief of firing battery, whom we called "Chief of Smoke," started giving orders. I wish I could remember his name because he was terrific. He was a Korean combat vet, and he quickly calmed us down. I'll never forget him saying to us, "Boys, we're gonna kill us some Reds tonight!"

Vietnam: What were your orders for initial targets of fire?

Hornlein: The Chief of Smoke told us we were going to shoot direct fire at the NVA mortar positions. He asked if I could see anything through the scope, or what they called the assistant gunner's quadrant. It had several cross hairs and a level. Depending on which powder charge you were using, you could select the proper cross hair that corresponded with that powder charge and fire on the target. Because it was at night, it was difficult. Also, the illuminator was broken in the scope. I couldn't see anything. So, the Chief of Smoke told us to load up a round and lower the tube until he stopped us. He looked down the tube of the gun like a shotgun and instructed Kessler to move it "a little to the left" and "a little to the right," and he said to me "a little lower," and when he was satisfied he ordered us to fire. Then we would repeat the procedure, and when we observed another mortar flash, we'd fire again. We let loose five or six rounds, and then our hydraulic system stopped working!



GUN 2 AND CREW BEFORE NVA ASSAULT ON TRA BONG

L to R standing: Bob Hornlein, Rich Richardson, Cpl. Jim Kessler, Sgt. Russell McVey, Tim Paganelli. Kneeling: Mike Baron, Wayne Craig, Elijah Hill, Robert Massey, and Dick Dombrowski

Vietnam: The hydraulics were responsible for automatic operation of the piece?

Hornlein: Exactly. We had to do everything by hand, which included loading and elevating. We couldn't load the round automatically. It was normally taken from ground level to the gun carriage via the hydraulic auto rammer, but now we had to manhandle the shell into the howitzer. I watched our gun sergeant, Russell McVey,

actually pick up a 200 pound shell by himself and drop it in the loader. Then, using a ramming staff, we would ram it home. After that I would put in the powder charge and slam the breech closed.

Vietnam: Sounds like something artillerymen were doing in the Civil War.

Hornlein: Exactly. I would crank the tube down while our Chief of Smoke bore-sighted the gun, similar to a Civil War cannon! That's how we continued firing. Meanwhile, mortar rounds were landing close by. I think we put out about 20 rounds in this manner. Needless to say, we were completely exhausted.

Vietnam: Did you ever find out what had gone wrong with the gun?

Hornlein: Yes. We had started the gun, and the batteries that operated the hydraulic system had gone dead. The hydraulic pump had drawn all the juice out of the batteries. We were forced to operate by hand because we honestly thought we were going to be overrun. What a time for batteries to go dead! In front of us were about six outposts and they were all burning. We could see the Montagnard village burning and fighting going on there. It really didn't look good. Also, there was a huge firefight by the airfield.

Vietnam: Were you finally able to repair the gun?

Hornlein: I got a jeep from the motor pool and placed it alongside the batteries to jump start them. We continued firing by bore sight. Everything quieted down about 3 o'clock in the morning, and the Chief of Smoke told us to get some sleep.

Vietnam: Then what happened?

Hornlein: About 6 o'clock, Wayne Craig and I went to the perimeter to relieve two other guys. Another firefight erupted while we were out there. I saw 10 to 15 jets roar in at treetop level. Three of them were wingtip to wingtip, and I watched the whole mountain just explode when they dropped their cluster bomb units [CBUs]. Also, A-1E/H Skyraiders from the South Vietnamese Air Force, called Spads, were strafing along our river perimeter. A "Puff the Magic Dragon" [AC-47 gunship] was brought up and worked out alongside our western perimeter. I remember thinking that it didn't look as pretty as it did at night. You could hear the unmistakable sound of Puff's cannon firing 6,000 rounds per minute of 7.62mm ammunition. NVA were everywhere! This went on all day long. It was apparent to us that we were completely surrounded.

Vietnam: The NVA repeatedly assaulted your lines?

Hornlein: They certainly got real close. However, our air power saved the day. That night we had a briefing. The Chief of Smoke told us to take off our dog tags and place each one in the laces of our boots. I understood this was standard practice for the Marines. This was done in case you were blown away and only your boots could be found. Also, he said an attack was imminent and not to be taken prisoner.

Vietnam: How were you and your battery supposed to avoid being taken prisoner?

Hornlein: If overrun, we were instructed to try to work our way back to the Special Forces camp, and the Army would try and get us out as best they could. We planted thermite charges on the guns to destroy them in case the enemy did manage to penetrate our lines.

Vietnam: Then what happened?

Hornlein: Elijah Hill, Dennis Lape and I went

# VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

out to the perimeter to man our bunker. It wasn't really a bunker, it was a box with empty powder canisters that we filled with sand and used as reinforcement. We had an M-60 machine gun in there, too. This position was the closest to the airfield. I'm thinking: We're supposed to be in the rear with the gear, not fighting like grunts!

Vietnam: Did the NVA attack again?

Hornlein: At about midnight a horrendous firefight broke out in the Montagnard village. It got closer to us. We found out afterward that the NVA had taken the villagers and used them as human shields and pushed them toward an old French fort, where the Special Forces and their Civilian Irregular Defense Group had a fortified position. In the fort was a tower, and the Special Forces soldiers put a .30 caliber machine gun in it. The old fort was completely surrounded. I was adjusting fire for our 81mm mortar that was putting our illumination rounds to support them.

Vietnam: Did the NVA try to hit your position?

Hornlein: Yes, we did start to take mortar rounds. There was a distinct difference between the mortar rounds of the local VC [Viet Cong] insurgents and a regular NVA unit. The VC seemed to walk the rounds in on us, but the NVA used one shot. I saw rounds land right in the gun and mortar pits. In fact, the next day one round landed right next to me. The only thing that saved my life was the powder canisters we used to reinforce our fighting hole. The canisters deflected and absorbed most of the shrapnel. Except for a loud ringing in my ears I walked away without a scratch.

Vietnam: Did the NVA attack on the Special Forces camp succeed?

Hornlein: No. The camp miraculously survived the night. We were told to stand down, and I returned to my hootch and collapsed. I was later awakened by a terrible clattering noise. Grabbing my M-16, I rushed outside. To my utter amazement, I saw a Cobra gunship hovering over our hootch strafing the perimeter with rockets. Behind that, I could see my gun firing at a high angle. This told me the NVA were close. Kessler informed me that the enemy had returned to retrieve their dead. We just slaughtered them with our firepower. I was astonished at how much the NVA could take—but they kept coming.

Vietnam: And you kept right on putting out the fire?

Hornlein: We were given orders to "fire at will". This was unheard of in a 175mm and 8-inch battery.

Vietnam: How was your battery getting resupplied?

Hornlein: The NVA by this time had shut down the airfield. We were getting resupplied by Caribou aircraft. As soon as they landed, the NVA mortars start dropping. I witnessed a Caribou scooting around the airstrip trying to avoid mortar blasts. There was a taxi area on the airfield, and this little plane was circling as the mortar rounds exploded all around it. They were just dumping the supplies out all over the place so they could take off like the bombers in the movie "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo". They would rev up their engines until the plane was straining, and then they would let loose and rocket down the runway-right into the face of the mortar rounds. That was the last plane that landed at Tra Bong for a while.

Vietnam: What about choppers?

Hornlein: There were two chopper pads. We had

one and the Special Forces had another. One Chinook took some .51-caliber machine gun hits at our pad, and they stopped the choppers after a while. I saw the NVA firing air-burst mortar rounds at the fixed wing aircraft coming in. You have to remember, the Phantoms and Skyhawks were coming in real low. But that didn't stop our pilots—they kept right on coming.

Vietnam: The NVA anti-aircraft fire was effective?

Hornlein: It sure was. There was a knoll overlooking our airfield where the NVA had dug in. They established a position in a cave surrounded by huge boulders. Our commanding officer, Captain Duvall, took one of our 175s out of its gun pit to direct fire right into the cave. The jets could not take out this enemy position. They dropped napalm, bombs, you name it. The 175s were firing a maximum powder charge, which means the projectile is travelling as fast as an M-14 round—and only 500 meters away from the target! It seemed as soon as they fired, the round exploded. We fired round after round, and the cave just split in half. You could actually see the bodies, rocks and trees fly in the air. It was unbelievable!

Vietnam: I never heard of a 175mm gun being used in that manner.

Hornlein: I'm not aware of another instance, but it was a desperate situation. Later on that afternoon, the NVA started dropping rounds into our gun pits. On gun No. 1, if I remember correctly, the sergeant's name was Red Marsten. He and the others got on their 8-inch howitzer and drove it down to the wire so it was pointing down at the NVA mortar position.

Vietnam: Your battery was on a knoll?

Hornlein: Yes, the battery was located on a slight rise in the valley floor. So...the crew of this 8-incher had the tube depressed all the way. The NVA were sharp. They had set up their firing position just below the knoll so they could lob their mortars right in on top of us. Well, on the back of an 8-inch howitzer is a device called a recoil spade. This recoil spade was then cranked all the way down, which caused the rear of the gun to be elevated just enough for the tube to fire down on the enemy. Meanwhile, Captain Duvall ran his jeep into the wire and jumped out to man the M-60 machine gun mounted on the back, to deliver suppressing fire to protect Marsten's crew.

Vietnam: Did they succeed?

Hornlein: When they fired, the backblast of the round, plus tree trunks, shrapnel and other debris, flew back at us! They took out that NVA mortar position with about three or four rounds. What bravery! And none of these guys, to the best of my knowledge, ever received any medals or other recognition.

Vietnam: Sounds like you artillerymen rose to the occasion.

Hornlein: We were improvising all the time. You have to remember, we were artillerymen transformed into infantrymen overnight. We were using these guns like oversized M-79 grenade launchers. Tra Bong was out of range of our other sister artillery batteries, and no other artillery battery in the Americal Division could reach us. That's why we were in such dire straits.

Vietnam: What about those CIDGs?

Hornlein: Those Special Forces guys worked wonders with them. They were fighting for their homes. Here are those CIDG troopers, militiamen

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

# VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

if you will, charging right into the guns of seasoned NVA regulars.

Vietnam: What happened next?

Hornlein: We started taking enemy rockets. Luckily, we had one remaining lookout post with a searchlight equipped with an infra-red scope. One night the NVA were observed by this outpost setting up rocket launchers. I saw the M55 [an anti-aircraft vehicle armed with quadruple .50-caliber machine guns, or "quad-50s"] start up, and they ran the truck down to the wire. The NVA had established their rocket launchers on the other side of this crest. Artillery can fire directly or indirectly, but the problem is, there is a blind spot that was out of reach of both the direct fire and the high angle fire of our 175mm and 8-inch guns.



TOP: Battery A's Gun No. 4, an M-107 self-propelled 175mm gun, fires directly at an entrenched NVA mortar position.



Vietnam: They were smart.

Hornlein: Incredibly so. But we were smarter. The quad .50 crew chief figured out the trajectory by looking through the indirect firing tables for high angle fire. They fired the quad 50s straight up in the air. Whatever goes up must come down. The bullets rained straight down on the enemy just on the other side of the hill. The following day, Special Forces and CIDG soldiers took that hill. We had 11 confirmed dead—and we knocked out the rockets.

Vietnam: You had a ringside seat to witness most of the U.S. firepower employed during the war.

Hornlein: Yes, that's true—everything but the USS New Jersey! We also had an AC-130 circling us throughout the night and literally bathing us in a huge white spotlight that covered an acre. And another interesting thing, because we could see their mortar flashes and target them, the NVA concentrated their attacks on us in the daytime. You didn't see that too often in Vietnam. They always say the enemy ruled the night. Well, not that time.

Vietnam: The artillery can take great pride in their fire support, both direct and indirect, that you provided on the battlefield. Many Americans are alive today because of the valor and dedication of the "King of Battle".

Hornlein: That's true. But I can recall one time firing in support of a Ranger patrol. We had to bring the rounds virtually right in on top of them. We had no choice because they were being overrun. We lost radio contact and never heard from them again. It was very traumatic. The NVA normally tortured captured LLRP [long range reconnaissance patrol] team members to death. Recently, a former Ranger, Pete Mossman, reassured me that we did the right thing. That statement made me feel a lot better. We tried our very best to support those guys in the bush. It was our job.

Suggestions for further reading: Field Artillery 1954-1973, by David Ewing Ott [US Government Printing Office, 1975]; and Green Berets at War, by Shelby Stanton [Presidio Press, 1985].

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ALPHA COMPANY 46 INFANTRY 196 - 198 LIB

Anyone that served with or was attached to "A" Company in Vietnam is welcome to our fifth Reunion. It will be held in Louisville, Kentucky during July of 1993. We currently have 120 Vet (1967 - 1972) on our roster. For additional info contact: Frederick Cowburn [REDACTED]

Camillus, NY 13031

Telephone [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*  
CAN YOU HELP THIS MAN?

I am not a Vietnam Veteran but I am extremely interested in the history of the 23 Infantry Division (Americal) as a Division, its component sub units and the battles in which these units participated.

I am seeking literature on the Division, its sub units and its predecessor Task force Oregon. I am also interested in photos, memorabilia, patches and badges.

Anything you can help with will be greatly appreciated. Write to:

Nicholas C. Jewell [REDACTED]

Collinswood, Adelaide

South Australia, 5081 Australia

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HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?



## VIETNAM

## NEWS NETWORK

## VIETNAM EDITORS COMMENTS

Have you ever noticed when we see General Powell in his Uniform on television that He has the Americal Division patch proudly on his right shoulder?

When General Schwartzkopf was on active duty, he wore the Americal Division on his right shoulder too.

Many of our active duty soldiers both Officer and Enlisted also proudly wear the Americal patch on their uniforms.

Although the division colors were cased and sent home from Vietnam in 1972 for retirement, the division lives on. It lives on in the hearts and in the minds of those who fought with it in WW2 and in Vietnam. As long as just one Americal Division veteran has a breath in his body, our division will be before the public eye.

Where veterans congregate for military events, you will always see someone with a faded Americal patch on a military jacket or bush hat, or a flag, or some identifiable object that will support it.

It is by this means, that the 23rd Infantry Division [Americal] will be remembered by Vietnam veterans, and simply the Americal Division by those who wore the patch in WW 2.

Recently, General Frederick J. Kroesen, USA Ret., a former Division Commander [1970-1971] and former USAREUR Commander-In-Chief, mentioned to me that he wondered why no one ever counted how many Generals served in the Americal division from 1942 to 1972. He bet no other unit could match us. I agree with him. In fact, I'd like all of our Generals who are Americal division alumni to send me the names of Officers under their command who became General Officers, and if someone could get the Department of the Army to dig into the archives to locate former Americal Officers who achieved star rank, and furnish the names to me, I will make it a joint project and we will list their names and dates of service in the newsletter. I sure hope that General Powell will read this request and perhaps open some doors for me to obtain this information. I'll be glad to do the work, if I can get into the right door. Thanks General Kroesen, I accept the challenge. Let's do it guy's for the Americal Division.

Again, to those of you who proudly wear the Americal patch on your uniforms on active duty, or on your ex-military jackets or clothing when you congregate as military veterans, thank-you for carrying on the tradition of keeping the memory of the best fighting division in the annals of the United States Army active and alive in the eyes of those who see it being perpetuated by those who wear its insignia of identification.

You are all Ambassadors de-facto of a proud military unit.

As General Schwartzkopf said: "Its unit cohesiveness" that keeps a unit together.

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THE FORT LEAVENWORTH TOUR FOR THE 1993 ANNUAL REUNION IS IN DOUBT, DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL, DUE TO LOGISTICS AND COSTS INVOLVED. WILL KEEP ALL ADVISED IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

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

## "Equal Access To Justice Article"

Reprinted below is a letter to Hon. Tom Ridge, Member of Congress, Washington, D.C., asking why Congress chose to "slight" veterans under the equal access to justice law when appealing claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs:

[Ref: Pg 25, Sep-Oct Issue ADVA Newsletter].

Hon. Tom Ridge, MOC

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Tom:

As a former member of the Americal Division serving as an enlisted man during the Vietnam war, you are very familiar to the many promises made to the military during war time.

As a member of Congress you are aware of the promises made by the administration to the military during the Persian Gulf war. Everything sounded good until the fourth of July parade, and then the military "was forgotten".

There are many "key issues" that I could take up, but would like to ask you only about one issue at this time. On the surface it seems that veterans have equal justice or what seems to be equal access to justice. In its wisdom Congress established the Court of Veterans Appeals. This is the only judicial review open to veterans. Yet they are unable to operate under the provisions of the Equal Access to Justice Act [28 U.S.C. 2412].

Why did Congress decide that it was in the veterans best interest not to give the Court authority to use the Equal Access statute? Other Courts similarly established have been given the authority by Congress because they are not established under the same portion of the Constitution. The Court of Veterans Appeals utilize this statute in its proceedings.

The veteran is effectively denied equal access to justice when trying to right a wrong in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

I would like to pass the word along to our members and tell them what Congress is doing to correct this slight to the veterans. Can you tell us what you, as a veteran or Congress is contemplating doing in this regard?

Yours in Comradeship,  
Peter J. Messina  
LTC USA Ret  
National Commander

Ed note: We will print the answer when it is received from Congressman Ridge.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Perhaps every member of ADVA could obtain an answer from their member of congress if you wrote each of them a similar letter and asked them to supply an answer to this important question.

\*\*\*\*\*  
HIEP DUC: TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY  
"Reprinted with permission of Army Magazine"  
In December, 1968 the people of Hiep Duc, the western district of Quang Tin Province, were living in refugee camps in the east, near Tam Ky the province capital. They had been there for up to three years, following the destruction of their district during the 1960's by the Viet Cong and by the early incursions of the North Vietnamese Army.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE



## VIETNAM

## NEWS NETWORK

John B. Gideon 3/1st Inf 11th LIB. 10-30-92  
721 1st Ave South  
Glasgow, MT 59230

## A DAY IN THE LIFE

I believe it was in May of '68, when our company was patrolling the beach just north of LZ Bronco. This part of the beach was a portion of our area of operations, that we B-3/1st Inf tried to keep secured. We entered a village and positioned ourselves to watch the coast line. SGT James Furst took me and a buddy of mine called Horrible Haar, [Marvin Haar], into a hootch. As we entered, a Mama-San and her Son scurried out when they saw we were going to stay. The hootch was furnished with just a few sticks of furniture and a few belongings as most were. Furst made a quick look around and decided to tear the wall down that faced the direction he wanted covered. Here "horrible" and I were set-up. A bamboo bed sat against the place where the wall once stood. It was here I sat. SGT Furst told us to watch the beach for any movement. Now I had been in 'Nam just a short time, and when I was told to do something, by the one who had been there a while, I listened. Although I was trying to do what I was told, eventually my mind started to come up with little games to play to help pass the time. "Horrible" was on the other side of the hootch, and to talk we would have to raise our voices, so talking was held to a minimum.

Anyway, as I sat watching the beach from my position on the cot, I noticed a large earthen jug of water and a gourd dipper. Next to this was a bamboo pipe protruded from the sand. The water was cool and refreshing as I sat scouring the country side. As my thirst abated. I started to pour the remainder of the water down the pipe. The gurgling sounds the water made as it travelled down the pipe was a great distraction as I sat surveying the beach. After about an hour of watching the beach and pouring water down the pipe, my legs were falling asleep. So, I decided to stretch my legs a little. As I stood to bring some life back to my dead legs, my right leg went straight through the sandy floor. Immediately, I jerked my leg and boot free. Up

with my leg and foot came this wooden box, trapped on my foot. The box was rectangular in shape, the bottom of which was V-shaped. By this time, "Horrible" came over and together we examined the hole. Either the commotion we made, or one of us summoning SGT Furst, brought him into the hootch. All three of us studied the hole. We decided it was just a food storage hole, hidden from "Charlie". Still - it had to be checked out! Furst sent someone to get some CS, but there was none to be found. So we used yellow smoke as I remember. After the smoke grenades were tossed in, we covered the hole with plastic.

While the three of us were holding the plastic over the hole, envisioning all sorts of thoughts as we watched the smoke bulge under the plastic. Suddenly - "a face appeared in the smoky interior, molding itself into the plastic!" All visions of grandeur fled my mind as fear catapulted me backward. No Olympic gymnast could have executed a better back-flip as I did that day. You'll have to remember, when holding down the plastic, my own face wasn't to far above the face that appeared inside the hole. Retriving my M-16, I joined the others in "ordering the gook out of the hole!"

I tried to quell the shakes that shuddered through my body, bringing additional discomfort to my instantly gorged bladder, as the procedure was repeated, still another gook was pulled from the hole. Further checking of the hole revealed nothing else could be found.

Others of the company were interrogating the prisoners. Horrible and I were, by this time, over the initial shock and involved in patting each other on the back, while the prisoners were dispatched grunt style.

The stories and ribbings went on for days as you can imagine. To this day, I'm sure, some would wonder as they did on that day: "How the hell did they get soaking wet?"

Ed comment: Me too, Bro. Me too.

## NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Due to circumstances beyond our control, space or time value, articles submitted for publication in the Newsletter may be delayed being printed. We try to make every story fit, and try to treat each story as important to our readership, as it is to the writer who submits it. Sometimes we just cannot keep up with the demand for space as costs escalate the printing of the newsletter beyond its budget. My promise to all is this: "If space becomes available, your letter or article WILL BE PRINTED if you will have patience. Not all stories or letters get to the printing phase as writers sometimes don't want to provide a guarantee to truthfulness or facts in the article, or cannot for some reason provide same. When this happens, we decide what to do. It is the Vietnam Editors policy to not print anything unverifiable. Please consider these things when submitting to the Newsletter items to be published for everyone's reading enjoyment and information.

Items printed are not the opinion or policy of the Americal Division Newsletter Staff nor any of the Line Officers unless specifically mentioned to be such.

The Editorial Staff reserve the right to reject any submitted items believed not to be in the best interests of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

## NOTE

"Fred L. Brown will embark on his Gold Star Transamerica Bicycle Tour on Mothers Day of 1993. His tour will begin in Oakland, CA., at the grave of Benji Yamane. He would be interested in talking to anyone who knew Benji Yamane and would be interested in more information about the Tour. He plans to be in Washington, D.C. at the Memorial Wall on Fathers Day 1993"....

Write Him: Fred L. Brown

Call Him: [REDACTED]

Fax Him: [REDACTED]

Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Brown is Editor of Combat Ready Publishing, same address.

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PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

IT NEEDS YOU!



## VIETNAM

## NEWS

## NETWORK

VETERANS DAY - WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ron Ward

11-25-92

St. Louis, MO 63123

Dear Dave:

Hope that some of the men have sent you some pictures from Veterans day. I gave your card to several guys with cameras and told them to send you anything that would look good for the newsletter. We had one helluva crowd of Americal vets. Hospitality room at Hotel Washington was a success and very well attended. Saw a lot of familiar faces, MP's, Grunts, Engineers, 'Chopper pilots. the works! Paul Woerner was there, came all the way from ALASKA! Also, saw quite a few men from CANADA. Hard core veteran platoon sergeants Aime Thomas and Howard Walker were in attendance. Thomas made a beautiful piece of leather work encased in a glass plaque to be placed at the Wall. It commemorated the action in which Capt Kern Dunagan was awarded the Medal of Honor. Dutch DeGroot could not attend, but sent a beautiful plaque via Larry Gelnett which had our Division insignia along with Crossed Pistols of the MP's. Both of these items were placed at the Wall, alongside our Americal floral wreath. The Smithsonian has set up a special display of artifacts that have been left at the Wall, and I am sure that these two items will eventually find their way into the Museum.

Special thanks to the men who made donations to the "kitty" for our hospitality spot. There were plenty of refreshments. Some of the guys who tried to save a few bucks were able to bunk in our suite free of charge. The morning I was pulling out of town, I figured out our Hotel/Bar tab and was about \$100.00 short, in the hole!

Thanks to Mitch Leeds [196th LIB] who came up with a hundred dollar check to even it out. Mitch deserves a MEDAL for that one.

We want to thank Joan Lewis, Wife of Ken Lewis [196th & 11th LIB] who took the time to arrange a swell floral wreath on Veterans Day. She delivered it herself to the Wall. She does such good work, and we may ask her to take that job as a permanent part of the pilgrimage.

Next year for Veterans Day we'll be dedicating the "Women's Memorial". MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW GUY'S! We will be looking for plenty of Veterans to be in town for that one. I hope, that as usual, the Association will arrange for a similar set up for Hospitality. Happy holidays.

Ron Ward, PNC  
Chairman Scholarship Fund

Ed note: "Guy's you did not send the photo's! Send them, and I'll put them in a mosaic.

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For the past several years, on Veterans Day, the Vietnam Veterans gather at "The Wall" in Washington, DC to pay homage to their fallen comrades.

The Americal is always well represented and the coordinator and leader for the Americal Division Veterans Association is PNC Ronald Ward. This past Veterans Day, November 11, 1992, was no exception.

The following column is made up of pictures taken on that date. Not all persons in the photographs could be identified. We Have Gary Noller to thank for supplying these pictures.



At "THE WALL" Larry Gelnett - Unidentified



RON WARD - RON ELLIS - LARRY GELNETT



## VIETNAM

## NEWS

## NETWORK

## MY SCAR IS BIGGER THAN YOUR SCAR

There are all kinds of scars from all kinds of injuries, and Americal vets of Vietnam, have some of the biggest. Vietnam left a huge scar on some of us that cannot and will not ever heal. Physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually. Try as some of us might, we can never really forget that place and perhaps, forgetting is not really the answer, but rather, remembering.

After all these years of carrying around these hideous scars, maybe hearing about how they happened to other vets can bring healing to our innermost being.

I never went to therapy groups as some of you may have, and I had no friends, and even less to say to those who thought they were or wanted to be. I could not keep a steady job for more than a few days, before I told someone to go and visit the devil. I don't remember how many jobs I have had. I couldn't relate to people about even the simplest things. I was a loner and an outcast. I knew something was wrong with me, but I just didn't know what to do about it. I knew I had to deal with all the hurt and anger I had brought home with me from 'Nam. So I tried to give myself an education and went to a junior college under the GI Bill. I tried a heavy equipment school, beauty school, this school and that school. None of them helped me. So, I said to myself: "To Hell With All Of It!"

I could not seem to fit into society, so the only thing left to me was to become an outlaw of sorts. I wasn't an outlaw type really, but I tried to fit in among a group of misfits at a construction job. They were really nasty, but I was too. They were extremely vulgar, but so was I. They were thieves and murderers, and me? well, I had belonged to the 'green machine' and had been accused of much worse things: Baby killer, infidel, commie, traitor, etc., spit on, talked about, and made fun of, for a few examples.

I was in the 'right place, at the right time', even though I had no idea what was just up the road ahead.

I had managed to somehow to make a few fair weather friends, quite an accomplishment for me. Away from the job, I had no friends at all.

I walked my way up the ladder to become the biggest, meanest, nastiest, one of all, and became head of a group of laborers. Our intent was to do absolutely little as possible, while getting as many hours as we possibly could. As luck would have it, we couldn't hide from work forever, and one day we got caught by the Boss's "yes man". To my amazement, he never even mentioned the fact that we had not done a lick of work. But instead he related to us the fabulous gospel of Jesus Christ and how the Son of God had come to save us and give us eternal life. As the words of truth came gushing from his mouth, I was mesmerized by the stunning power of what he was saying, and somehow I knew all of it was true. How come I had never heard it from anyone before?

I went to Church as a kid, and what was the reason God spared me for the many times I should have died in Vietnam? How come these words all had the ring of truth?

All these questions, and more, I asked almost ten years ago, when I first discovered that there was something better for me, the hope of life eternal, through Jesus Christ. I had tried every thing else and nothing worked.

But - then Jesus Christ came into my life and brought the healing to me I sought all those terrible years of my life explained above, by healing the scars I carried for so long. Jesus

is a saviour and a healer. I started putting my life and mind back together again slowly. I was given freedom from nightmares, smoking, drinking and drugs. Now - I can talk about Vietnam, and face the hurt once suffered, and even cry if necessary. I cried every day in Vietnam because I was scared of dying. But now I have peace with God through Jesus Christ who saved me and who healed me. Every day is a new opportunity to tell someone, perhaps a brother from Vietnam about the glorious death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and how he came to save us from our sins and destructive ways. He made my life all new again, and he can do it for you too. Please, let him come into your life, and heal you from these horrible scars and invite him to be your saviour. Its the best thing I've ever done, and it will be for you too. God bless you all, my warrior brothers! I give God the glory for your healing.

Anonymous

Ed note: If this can help just one vet come out of the wilderness, drop his monkey, and regain his life, we owe this writer thanks for sharing!

## SPECIAL NOTICE TO VIETNAM VETERANS

Genesis Travel Co, [REDACTED], Knoxville, TN 37928, Tel: [REDACTED], is putting together a RETURN TRIP TO VIETNAM FOR AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION.

Suggested tour dates in 1993 are:  
January 3 to 16.  
February 7 to 20.  
March 7 to 20.  
April 18 to May 1.  
May 9 to 22.

Everybody who was involved in the Vietnam war has some special memory of a place they would like to return to see what has happened to that place since last viewed by the person involved.

To make sure that the trip is most rewarding, the Company is asking for suggestions from individuals or organized groups within the Association to call or write and advise them of where and what the majority of travelers would like to see and go to.

Cost of the trip for one individual is \$2,550.00 plus air fare.

For further information contact Genesis Travel Co.

They have said that they will donate a portion of their fee to the Americal Division Scholarship Fund in the name of each traveller taking part in the trip.

The Americal Division Veterans Association is not responsible for acts of the Company making this offer. Travelers are to make their own individual arrangements and in so doing they will be placed in the Americal Group being formed on one of the above suggested dates.

From what has been said and written, it looks like a good tour can be had, if enough people sign up for it.

Give them a call. See for yourself if you'd like to participate in such an adventure.

## \*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

IT NEEDS YOU!



## VIETNAM

## NEWS

## NETWORK

## \*\* SEARCH FOR SON CONTINUES \*\*

I was sitting on my porch in 1968 or '69 reading my American Legion Magazine when I spotted a small item from a Mr. William E. Skivington seeking information about his son William Jr. who was listed as missing in Vietnam. What really caught my eye was the name Skivington and the address - Jackass Flats, Nevada. Bill McGoldrick had just dropped by and I showed him the article, as Bill's son, William Jr., was also an Americal Division member, serving in Vietnam. We decided to write to Mr. Skivington. In our letter we stated that any information he had concerning his son, would be published in the Americal Newsletter. The first article appeared in the March 1970 issue.

Mr. Skivington then joined the ADVA as an Associate Member and the following year he sent in a poem entitled "The Forgotten Men of S.E. Asia", which was published in the January 1971 issue of the Newsletter. This past week I was reviewing the old issues of the Newsletter and came across these two articles.

To the best of my memory we never heard from anyone who knew William Skivington Jr. At that time we did not have many Vietnam Veterans as members of the ADVA and the request just fell by the wayside. With the present large membership of Vietnam Veterans, including many from the 196 LIB, I am once again asking if anyone remembers anything about William Skivington Jr. Any little information will help.

Mr. Skivington Sr. has dropped his ADVA membership so I am also seeking his present whereabouts and will forward any information to him, or to the proper authorities in Washington, DC, such as Senator John Kerry who is a member of the committee seeking information about the MIA's and POW's in Southeast Asia.

In the past I have been successful in seeking information for members searching for a loved one or for a former buddy, through articles placed in the Americal Newsletter. If you have the smallest piece of information please forward it to the address listed below and I will see that it is forwarded to the right channels.

The following two articles were published in the March 1970 and the January 1971 Newsletters:

March 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Skivington of Jackass Flats, Nevada are still holding out hope that their son, who is missing in Vietnam, will return up alive and well.

Their son, William, was serving with the Americal Division and according to Mr. Skivington, his entire platoon is missing. The following information is printed in case any of our readers may have information on this mysterious case.

The Date: May 10, 11, 12, 1968

The Place: Kham Duc, South Vietnam

The Unit: Recon, Echo Co., 196 LIB

The missing men: Lt. Fred Ransbottom (Plt ldr), William E. (Skip) Skivington Jr. (RTO), "Doc" Stroller and "Doc" Sisk (Medics), Sgt. Johnny Carter, Sgt. Maurice Moore, Sgt. Julian Long, Sgt. Ed Pigg, Antonio Guzman, Tiny Widdison, Bobby Bowers, Randall Lloyd and a man named Coen, plus a few others, names unknown.

CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

January 1971  
THE FORGOTTEN MEN OF S. A. ASIA  
By W. E. Skivington Sr.

They went to the aid of people in need,  
And reap their reward for glorious deed:  
Captured, pummeled, spat on, debased,  
Tortured, degraded, their lives erased.  
Has man progressed to such primitive state?  
To suffer fellow men this terrible fate?

Perhaps it's time we all shed a tear,  
For fifteen hundred we all hold dear;  
And pity those of the other side,  
Who can't seem to stem the rising tide.  
Of misery, cruelty, distrust, and hate:  
And hold the key to our missing men's fate.

We pray this inhumane treatment will end,  
God, have you forgotten these heroic men?

PLEASE FORWARD ALL INFORMATION TO:  
PNC William L. Dunphy  
[REDACTED]

West Roxbury, MA 02132

\*\*\*\*\*

11 ARTILLERY "C" COMPANY 21 INFANTRY

Vernon Hughes (Brother Blue) was a member of 6/11 Arty from September 1969 to February 1970. He was also a forward observer with Company C 4/21 Infantry and is looking for some one who remembers him when he was in Vietnam.

He remembers a Mac and a Butch from the 4/21 Infantry and C. J. Johnson from the 6/11 Arty. He needs help to verify his claim with the V.A.. If you remember him please contact him at:

Vernon Hughes  
[REDACTED]

Martinsburg, WV 24501

\*\*\*\*\*

"B" COMPANY 6 INFANTRY 198 LIB

I am a new Life Member of the ADVA. I served with B/1/6 Infantry 198 LIB Americal in 68-69 and I am anxious to contact any former members of that unit.

I would especially like to hear from any of my old pals in my old outfit. I am interested in any stories on the 198 LIB during 68-69 and would like to swap info.

Sincerely,  
Bill "MAC" McMurry

Ed: Welcome to the ADVA and thanks for writing. Your records have now been corrected.

\*\*\*\*\*  
IN THE CENTER FOLD OF THIS ISSUE OF THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND AN INVITATION TO BE PART OF A HISTORY BOOK THAT IS BEING WRITTEN ABOUT THE AMERICAL DIVISION.

MR. TURNER, OF THE TURNER PUBLISHING CO. ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLY AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN SAN ANTONIO AND WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO PROCEED WITH THIS PROJECT.

PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED GUIDELINE TO PRESENT YOUR STORY. KEEP IT BRIEF, INTERESTING, AND FACTUAL!

## VIETNAM

## NEWS

## NETWORK

## 1993 TOPEKA REUNION

In the March-April and May-June Edition of the ADVA Newsletter you will find information on who to call for room reservations and flight information to get to Topeka and the Holiday Inn Holidome at 6th & Fairlawn located on I-70 West. At this writing, it appears that a package deal will be in the below range:

## Package #1:

Three nights lodging, three breakfasts, three dinners, wine and cheese party. All taxes & gratuities included:

\$280.00 - Single. \$404.00 - Double.

## Package #2: Same as #1 but for 2 Days only:

\$195.00 - Single. \$289.00 - Double.

Final quotes will be included in the issues of the newsletter as stated above.

\*\*\*\*\*  
INTERSERVICE RIVALRY  
THE REASONS  
THE BRANCHES  
OF THE ARMED

SERVICES CANNOT GET ALONG IS  
THAT THEY DON'T SPEAK THE  
SAME LANGUAGE. FOR EXAMPLE

IF THE NAVY WAS TOLD TO  
"SECURE A BUILDING",  
THEY WOULD TURN OFF THE  
LIGHTS AND LOCK IT. THE ARMY  
WOULD OCCUPY IT AND NOT LET  
ANYONE ENTER. THE MARINES  
WOULD ASSAULT IT, CAPTURE IT,  
AND DEFEND IT. THE AIR FORCE  
WOULD LEASE IT, AND TAKE

AN OPTION TO BUY IT.



NOVEMBER 11, 1992 - OUR ALLIES WERE THERE

(Photo by Gary Noller)

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

WORLD WAR II FRIENDS  
December 1992

This year, 1992 has been a memorable one for many of us. Fifty years ago we served in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji, etc.

During the past two years I have attempted to locate some of you and have compiled a list of names, addresses and some telephone numbers. Some names were furnished by others who had knowledge of your whereabouts. It may have had errors, but thought you might find some familiar names. (The Americal Newsletter was mailed to all the names on the list).

My wife, Edith, and I were able to go to Guadalcanal last summer for the August 7th dedication of the memorial to Allied forces that fought on the Canal. It was an impressive ceremony. National Geographic was there making a documentary to be shown in early 1993.

Fifty years have brought significant changes to those islands where we lived in tents among coconut trees! Honiara, the capital of Guadalcanal has some permanent buildings, a telephone system, electrical power, taxis, a bank and some stores. It is still a small town with limited facilities.

One of the three motels, where we stayed, The Mendana, is modern, air-conditioned, and JAPANESE owned! In recent years many veterans have returned to Guadalcanal and found the site of their former bivouac areas, fox-holes, etc. While much progress is evident, there is still much poverty and primitive living conditions on the island.

Henderson Field is a small international airport, served by several regularly scheduled airlines. The small terminal building has very limited facilities. The original control tower has been refurbished and during our visit it was dedicated as a historic monument. It was in use on its original site until 1954 when it was replaced at another location by a more modern facility.

After Guadalcanal, we went to New Caledonia for several days. There we were warmly received by the French Government. For months they had planned this occasion to honor Americans who arrived there in 1942. They knew that our arrival stopped the Japanese advance. We were treated like VIP's during our stay. There were receptions, luncheons, dinners, ceremonies and tours. The highlight of our visit was the dedication of a magnificent memorial to our military forces. It is located in the downtown area of Noumea.

Noumea is a modern city with high-rise hotels, condos and apartments. Also the beaches are beautiful. Remember Anse-Vata? The international airport at Tontouta is large and modern and is served by several international carriers.

Our visit to the South Pacific was a memorable experience. If any of you should want to make the trip you would be pleased to relive our time there in much more pleasant conditions.

Time is taking its toll on those of us who were part of Task Force 6814. Our sincerest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

This is our Christmas and New Year's greeting to you and yours.

Sincerely,  
Earl and Edith Cook

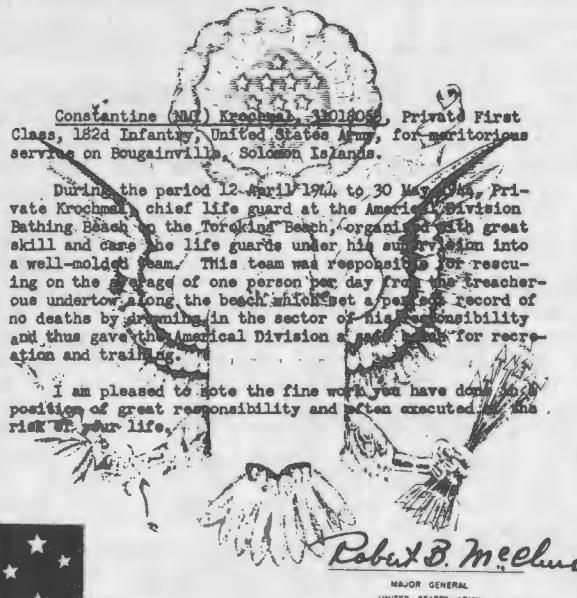
Ed Note: The above letter was written by Earl Cook, a member of the 26th Signal Company. Earl mailed this letter to every known member of the 26th Signal Company. You can contact him at:

Earl P. Cook  
Atlanta, GA 30309-2627

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HEADQUARTERS  
AMERICAL DIVISION

**COMMENDATION**  
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICES



F COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

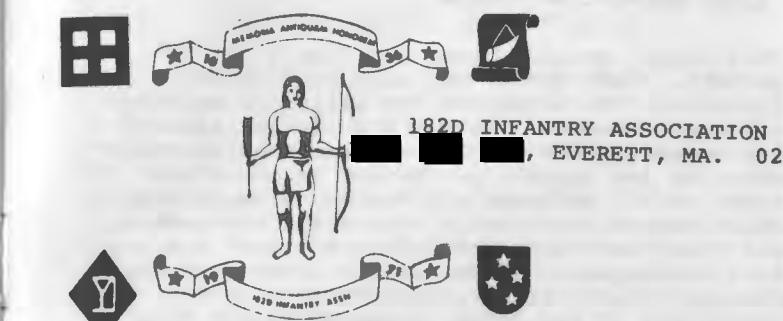
The above photo is a copy of the COMMENDATION given to "Connie" Krochmal for his part in saving a man from drowning while he was on duty as a lifeguard, during his stay on Bougainville. (The full story can be found on Page 10 of the March - April 1992 issue of the Americal Newsletter.)

Connie is still interested in hearing from anyone that remembers that Day At The Beach in 1944.

Connie was a member of F Company, 182 Infantry and you can contact him at:

Connie Krochmal  
[REDACTED]  
Peabody, MA 01960  
(Tel. [REDACTED])

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD



During a ceremony held at Camp Edwards on Saturday, September 12th, 1992, The 182d Infantry and The 101st Mechanized Infantry Battalions were consolidated and reorganized as "The 182d Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Mass. ARNG. The organizational colors of The 101st Mechanized Infantry were formally retired to the State Military Archives. The Commander of the "old 101st" assumed command of the "new 182d". Attending the ceremony were representatives from The 101st Infantry; YD Veterans; 26th ID; and 182d Infantry Associations. Collation was served after the ceremony.

On Sunday, September 13th, 1992, a formal ceremony was held in the City of Malden to celebrate the formal move of Company B, 182d Mechanized Infantry from the Chelsea Armory, to the reactivated Malden Armory. Captain Joseph Schwarz commands the reorganized Company B (formerly Company A and Company B). Dignitaries attending included Mayor Lucey of Malden; Major Vernon MacDonald, Commander of 182d Battalion; Major John R. Rose, Executive Officer 182d Battalion. The 182d Infantry Association was represented by Vice Commander James E. Lane, Past Commander Ronald V. Gibbons Sr., and Adjutant Robert A. Cox. Collation was served following the ceremonies.

Elements of the new 182d Mechanized Infantry Mechanized Battalion are programmed as below.

NEW UNIT	LINEAGE TAKEN FROM	ARMORY LOCATION
HHC (-)	HHC 101/182 (HQ)	Melrose
HHC	HHC-101/182	Dorchester
CO A	CO A/101	Stoughton
CO B	CO A & CO B/182	Malden
CO C	CO C/101	Braintree
CO D (-)	CO D/101	Dorchester
DET-CO D	CO B/101	Fall River
CO E	CO E/101	Weymouth

Company C and D (old 182d), Cambridge Armory, were reassigned to The 181st Mechanized Infantry, Worcester. If projected 1993 DOD cutbacks become factual, the only remaining battalion size combat infantry elements will be The 182d Mechanized Infantry.

CORRECTION CORRECTION CORRECTION

The above is a partial rerun of the article on the new 182 Mechanized Infantry Battalion. There were several typographical errors in the November - December 1992 issue of the Newsletter.

Sorry about that -- Jim.

\*\*\*\*\*

WATCH FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. IT WILL CARRY THE DETAILS FOR THE 1993 NATIONAL CONVENTION THAT WILL BE HELD IN TOPEKA, KANSAS. DAVE RECOB IS HARD AT WORK PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE PROGRAM.



AUSTRALIA HELPS WITH THE GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL

The RAAF's 1SD has played an important part in helping to transport a granite memorial from Melbourne to the Solomon Islands.

1SD transport section trucked the granite blocks from a Melbourne stonemason to Victoria Docks. The memorial will be dedicated at Honiara on August 7, 1992. Installed on Skyline Ridge, the 90-tonne granite memorial will honour all servicemen who fought and died in the campaign to free the Solomon Islands from Japanese occupation, 1942 to 1943. The dedication will mark the 50th anniversary of the day when the US First Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal.

The wall blocks were loaded onto the Jervis Bay. However, a container ship with the necessary tackle was required for the heavier obelisk blocks.

AC Colin Wright (left) and AC John Forrest of 1SD motor transport section, RAAF Tottenham, are pictured loading granite at Victoria Dock. Photo LAC Nick Gregg.  
(Thanks to Geoffrey Tierney for sending Article).

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU NOTICED ---

I have noticed in the various veterans magazine running fiftieth anniversary stories, VFW, American Legion, and the DAV, that they fail to note the part that the AMERICAL DIVISION played in winning the Pacific war. They either fail to mention the AMERICAL or they put the wrong dates making our contribution to the war appear to be insignificant. I have written to correct many of these stories--receiving an acknowledgment from the Editor but never a correction or a story using the information that I had furnished.

It is my sincere hope that when a member of the ADVA reads an article where the AMERICAL is slighted, he or she, will write and let the author know that the AMERICAL was there!

## ANNUAL REUNION

## 101ST MEDICAL REGIMENT

The Third Annual Reunion of the 101st & 121st Medics is now history, which was held at Anchorage By The Sea, Ogunquit, Maine, October 18, 19 and 20th, 1992. Our attendance was down a few due to the time frame of age and sickness (what else is new?) The committee reported that Sam Ravagno, Bob Keenan, "Vi", Tony Deyeso's wife, Martti Takki and Ed Haddad (182nd Inf) were unable to attend. All the attending members signed 'get well cards' which were mailed to their homes.

With deep regrets and sadness in our hearts a list of the seventeen (17) departed medics of the past year was posted. May they rest in peace.

This was the second year we have started the reunion on Sunday and departed on Wednesday and once again it worked out very well being as we are all retirees with no work commitments.

By 3:00 PM Sunday every one has checked in and we all gathered in the assigned HOSPITALITY HOUSE allowing all to relax and talk over old times and the incidences of the past year. The Hospitality House was the central meeting place day or night. In all the years we have attended reunions this was the Jackpot. Living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and a well equipped kitchen, plus two TVs. Compliments of Anchorage By the Sea.

Monday morning all members were invited to compete in the "First Annual Gerry Guerriero Putting Tournament named for Gerry by a voice vote of the members. Everett Roper and Cliff Rogers our past two Champions chaired the tournament. Each member was allowed six practice shots plus three for score. Bill Dunphy unseated the past two champions and was presented the prize kitty, but was immediately challenged by the past two champions, Everett and Cliff, who could not take the defeat from a novice Bill Dunphy who is not a "Golfer". The next morning Bill was defeated and had only held his title for 24 hours. Cliff regained his title as the annual Champion. It was rumored that Everett and Cliff spent the wee hours of the morning practicing. Bill Coronella who used his cane instead of a golf club made a perfect score with the six practice shots but went down in defeat. Maybe next year Bill!

Nora and Ralph Serino assisted by Bill Coronella directed the Bingo Game and Al Cotta was the Jackpot winner, and he came all the way from Gulfport Miss to attend. Al resides in a Naval retirement home, as he joined the Naval Reserve after WWII for 17 years. The Bingo Game is the one item that the group looks forward to because of the injected humor of Nora, Ralph and Bill. Many thanks for a load of fun.

We had two other members who travelled afar - Bob and Marilyn Beschle. Last year they had just completed a six month tour of the USA, Western Canada and Alaska and did not attend. This year they plenty of stories about their wonderful trip. Jack and Peg Vanderbeck from Forest Hills, NY had just arrived when the heater in their car sprung a leak. A local repair shop did a by-pass, (sounds like a heart operation). They had the coldest ride ever with no heater, but for \$275.00 at home they now have heat.

## 121ST MEDICAL BATTALION

This years' reunion theme was "Let's Get Together". Each member was more or less on their own. No schedules for eating or meetings so everyone was on their own to either take sightseeing trips or just get together in their rooms or the hospitality room. On the final night we all gathered at Jonathan's where the Green Room was set aside for us and everyone ate from the menu - Lobster to whatever - a four course meal. There was an attendance prize courtesy of Jonathan's and Anchorage By the Sea consisting of one night at the motel and dinner at Jonathans. Frank MacDonald was the lucky winner. John Shea asked to speak to all since he had been home convalescing from a very serious operation last year. He thanked all who had sent cards, and called his home inquiring of his health. It is people like John Shea and John O'Neil who are the backbone of the Bandies, by keeping new rosters and Newsletters up to date.

After dinner everyone returned to the Hospitality House for an evening of entertainment. Clif Rogers on the keyboard with the able assistance of his wife Virginia led the group in a sing-along of the "Oldies". We had a ball. Thanks to Clif and Virginia. The evening closed after many more stories of the "Big War", plus trips, grandchildren, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you did not attend this year's reunion mark your calendar for next year to be held on old Cape Cod, where our army life brought us all together. The "RED JACKET BEACH", So. Yarmouth, MA, October 17, 18 and 19th, 1993. Contact either 'Bill' so we can place your name on the mailing list. This will allow us to contact you and help us to make plans for how many will attend. Hoping for a greater turnout next year.

William S. Coronella

Somerville, MA.

William L. Dunphy

West Roxbury, MA.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR - OCTOBER 1993



John Shea presenting Bill Dunphy with the prize kitty for the putting contest  
Please Note: Bill Coronella on right with his lucky cane.

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## 221 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Fate recently took me to the grave of an Americal Division soldier in the Beverly National Cemetery in Beverly, New Jersey. While I was in the cemetery, looking at a new section that had been put in for servicemen that had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross. Directly across from this beautiful area is the grave of an Americal soldier. My heart was saddened as my thoughts went back almost 50 years as I noticed he was my age and he died January 30, 1944. His headstone reads

KENNETH R. NELK  
PENNSYLVANIA  
P.F.C 132 INFANTRY  
AMERICAL DIVISION  
WORLD WAR II  
JANUARY 2, 1923  
JANUARY 30, 1944

This soldier was killed in a battle known as the 'Hornet's Nest. He and ten other brave soldiers from the Americal were killed during this battle.

I was born in Beverly, New Jersey and with the exception of the time I spent in the Army, I have spent my entire life here. I am a Charter Member of our Avenue of Flags Committee which honors the dead by displaying The Flag on Veterans Day, Flag Day, July Fourth, Memorial Day and December 7th.

Take care and God Bless You All,  
Leo W. Orfe

\*\*\*\*\*

## JOE MICEK APPOINTED EDITOR OF GUADALCANAL ECHOES

After many years as a faithful and successful Editor of the Guadalcanal Echoes, Ted Blahnik has resigned in order to spend more time with his family and attend to other personal matters that he has neglected due to the time consuming job of running the "Echoes".

Joe Micek has been appointed as Editor protom. Mr. Micek comes well qualified for the job due to his extensive experience with veterans organizations. Joe served with the 132 Infantry during World War II and has been active in the 132 Infantry Association for many years.

Joe was the Chairman of the 1990 Americal National Convention that was held in Chicago, IL.

He was also treasurer and project manager of the Guadalcanal Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation. After several years of planning and hard work, this project was brought to a successful conclusion on August 7, 1992 when the Memorial was dedicated on Guadalcanal.

The March-April 1993 issue will be Joe's first effort and he looks forward to your support. So, keep sending in those stories and pictures.

From one Editor to another I wish Joe success in his new venture. To Ted Blahnik I say, "WELL DONE" if no one else knows and appreciated the time and effort you have put into the publication--I do.

\*\*\*\*\*

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

## REUNION

## YANKEE DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The annual Yankee Division Veterans Association will be held:

JUNE 10, 11, 12, 1993  
CAPE CODDER HOTEL  
HYANNIS, MA 02601

## CONTACT

ROBERT R. RANEY - CHAIRMAN

PEABODY, MA 01960

\*\*\*\*\*  
SOUTH PACIFIC A TREASURE CHEST

In an overgrown field not far from where American Marines stormed ashore on Guadalcanal, Bruce Klahr strolls though the wrecks of old amphibious tractors like a kid in a candy store.

This is what he came half way around the world to see on his vacation, the wrecks and remnants of the Second World War.

And it doesn't get much better than this -- piles of live ammunition, sunken warships and a welter of airplane crash sites.

A retired exporter from boulder, Colorado, Klahr fancies himself the world's most traveled war tourist, having visited battlefields in 102 countries, from Normandy to Corregidor, from a bridge to far in Holland to a bridge on the River Kwai in Thailand.

Klahr is a hopeless World War II junkie, drawn, like hundreds of others, to the Pacific by what could well be the world's most intriguing collection of war relics, strewn in the jungles and sunk in the seas of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

One collector called this area "a big boys toy shop". It has been estimated that 2,000 airplanes remain in the Solomons, crashed or abandoned. Any one of them, restored and in flying condition would bring \$1,000,000 from wealthy airplane enthusiasts in the United States. This includes an American Hellcat fighter in just 30 feet of water, perfectly preserved with most of its cockpit gauges intact.

Iron Bottom Sound off Guadalcanal may be the world's greatest repository of sunken ships, the final resting place of 76 American and Japanese naval vessels, including two U.S. aircraft carriers. The Hornet and the Wasp.

These waters are so resplendent with wreckage that oceanographer Bob Ballard--the ultimate junkie, having located the Titanic and the Bismarck--is expected to begin exploring Iron Bottom Sound.

These water still hold the wreck of PT-109, skippered John F. Kennedy and sliced in half by a Japanese destroyer in August 1943. National Geo-

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

## TREASURE CHEST of the PACIFIC (Conclusion)

graphic has hired Danny Kennedy - no relation to the president - to research where the boat went down, in preparation for the arrival of Ballard, the famous wreck explorer.

Kennedy interviewed 30 natives who witnessed the fiery collision, and he now probably has a better idea about the gravesite of PT-109 than anyone else in the world.

(Taken from a story written by Vernon Loeb in the Philadelphia Inquirer and sent in by Jack Warkow).

\*\*\*\*\*

## COMPANY A 132 INFANTRY

Enclosed is a picture taken in Tokyo, Japan in October of 1945. The buddies that I am photographed with joined the Americal on Fiji and we participated in the Bougainville and Philippine campaign and also the occupation of Japan.



FRONT L-R: McDARR, JOE CERENZIA, NICK CATINZARO,  
BACK L-R: TONY MALONE, FRANK NARDONI, FRANK BEST,  
DANNY CONSTANTINO

Also enclosed is a final copy of the "Windy City Journal". This newsletter was put out by the 132 Infantry during World War II.

The lead story follows:

## THE COLONEL SAYS....

This is my parting message to you officers and men of the regiment. It is impossible for me to express to you and all former members of my command my feelings, my appreciation, and my thanks for the splendid job you have done. I cannot help but feel that your cooperation was not purely from a sense of duty, but in a small way, because it was what the "Old Man" wanted. It has always been my policy to meet you more than halfway because that I know that my job has been easy compared to yours. I have been spared the extreme discomforts and danger to which many of you have been exposed. Yet you have never failed to meet them with the traditional guts of an

CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

American soldier. It has never occurred to me to doubt your ability or courage to carry out any combat mission that has been assigned you and you have justified my confidence in you on every instance.

I have seen many changes in the regiment since taking command back in Bougainville in February of 1944. Few of you here now were with us then but those of you who replaced those who fell in combat or left the regiment for other reasons, have carried on the splendid record always held by the 132nd.

When the chips are down at the end of every War Bond, insurance or any other "drive" it has been my proud experience to be able to report to the Division Commander that our regiment was not only over the top but ahead of the other regiments of the Americal. That is the spirit of cooperation and teamwork that brands this a great outfit. It is no less a great outfit judged on its combat experiences and exploits. You and I have every reason to point to the record with satisfaction and pride.

Now the outfit is breaking up. There will soon be nothing left but the record and memories. It is my earnest hope that those memories, both pleasant and unpleasant, be not forgotten. The pleasant memories because of friendships we have made and the bad memories because none of us ever want to go through such a thing again. Nor do we want any of our children to experience what we have had thrust upon us. It is up to you to do your part in seeing that it will never happen again.

You have been ambassadors of goodwill in Japan. Those of you who remain behind -- continue to show the Japanese people that their way of life is all wrong -- that the American way is the only way. The majority of the Japanese people are normal humans who have been kept ignorant as to their rights as such by oppression and serfdom. They are beginning to realize that they have been misinformed about the superiority of the Japanese people. They are amazed, for example, to find that we know how to ride bicycles. These are the people that we must educate into understanding that the Americans must have something that they, themselves, have been missing.

Commanding this regiment has been the most satisfactory and happy assignment of my 25 years in the Army. So now I say to you: Goodbye. Good Luck and may we meet again.

Colonel C. M. McQuarrie

(Story sent in by Frank Nardoni)

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

At the present time a number of us are putting together a plaque honoring the war correspondents that covered the Guadalcanal Campaign, the Central Solomons, and at Bougainville.

It is our belief that they informed the world of the valor and courage of the Americal Division's fighting men. Can you help? Send any information you may have on war correspondents to:

Robert C. Muehrcke, M.D.

Harwood Heights, IL 60656-0189

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD



COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS RACINE (LST-1191)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96677

On behalf of myself and the officers and men of RACINE I want to convey Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members of the AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION, but most particularly to all those who participated in the Guadalcanal and New Caledonia events.

I enjoy reading the Americal Newsletter and make copies available to the crew. For most of my crew the Operation Remembrance deployment is the highlight of their lives and is still much talked about.

We in the service now owe a great debt to those of you who fought in and won World War II. Thanks -- Happy New Year.

Sincerely,  
R. B. James  
Commanding Officer

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## 109 STATION HOSPITAL

I have been particularly interested in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER of September/October and November/December - 1992

In the Sept/Oct issue is a picture (page 14) of Joe Custer with 3 nurses. This picture was taken in front of the Officer's Ward tent of the 109th Station Hospital located "up-island" from Bourail, New Caledonia about 15 miles. The area was known as Kalaviere and was a tent or field hospital at that time. Custer later wrote a book about his experiences in which this picture was also included.

The article in the Nov/Dec issue about laying the wreath on the cemetery re the first soldier killed on New Caledonia. The 109th at that time was in the orphanage in Noumea - just two blocks away from the French Hospital. That soldier (Parker Kimball) was brought to the 109th after he had been shot and was given care in the emergency room part of the hospital. For those of us who took care of him, we felt it was such a pointless shooting.

Since I was involved in both of these instances, I thought you might be interested in a bit of the details. In the Custer Picture I am on the right.

I am sorry that I couldn't arrange to go to New Caledonia for the 50th celebration, but I have enjoyed reading about all the activities. I'd met Mr. Daly when my husband and I returned to celebrate a belated 25th wedding anniversary.

Sincerely,  
Jane Reider Terry

Thank you for writing. That soldier, Parker Kimball, came from Reading, MA and was a friend of mine. My Company was guarding the French Hospital and Parker was a Corporal of the Guard. He had placed the drunken soldier under arrest when he was shot.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

## 247 FIELD ARTILLERY

There are two questions that I have been wanting to ask:

1: Were any photos - stills or movies - taken the day we invaded Cebu island?

2: We had a destroyer attached to us while on Cebu to back up our artillery and to fire star shells at night. The destroyer's code name was 'Guardian'. What was its actual name and number?

Maybe some of our members can answer my questions.

I'm recovering rapidly from my bouts with surgery.

Jack Folmer



3rd BATTALION 132 INFANTRY  
HEADING FOR THE BEACH AT CEBU

Ed Note: Glad to hear you are up and running again. I have one picture of the invasion of Cebu. It is of the 3rd Bn. 132 Infantry heading for shore. Did your Battery support them?

Maybe our readers can help you a little more.

\*\*\*\*\*

Below is another photo from Jack Folmer's files. Does anyone know what happened to Hal Lee?

FIJI - 1943



L to R: GEORGE LLOYD - HAL LEE - JACK FOLMER  
HQ. BATTERY - 247th FIELD ARTILLERY



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

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

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

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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.

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Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. DD 214 Form.

2. Officer's or Enlisted Report of Service and Honorable Discharge.

(All copies of records will be returned)