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★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

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★ 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: ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1994

Published Quarterly

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER 1994 - 1995



WILLIAM K. MADDOX

1994 NATIONAL OFFICERS 1995

NATIONAL COMMANDER

William K. Maddox
[REDACTED]
Portland, TX 78374

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Stephen N. Dennison
[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

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[REDACTED]
Albuquerque, NM 87109

NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER

Joseph Chin
[REDACTED]
Lincoln, MA 01773-0006

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

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[REDACTED]
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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]
Harwich, MA 02645

Telephone [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

VIETNAM EDITOR

Roland T. Castronova
[REDACTED]
Peabody, MA 01960

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

When I was an Infantryman in the Americal Division fifty years ago, I never dreamed that someday I would have the honor of serving as the National Commander of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

I wouldn't have ever known about the ADVA, had it not been for Arthur R. Wood of the Southeast Chapter. He ran an ad under reunions in the DAV magazine in 1987. I wrote him and he sent me an application. Arthur passed away in 1989, but his memory still lives on in the Southeast Chapter

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Dennison and his committee for putting on an excellent Reunion at the Pines Resort in New York. I know it took a lot of hard work and effort to put it all together and make it a success it was. It is always good to see our Vietnam brothers at the reunions. I see more and more of you all coming each year and that is good. Our Memorial Service was held at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point Cadet Chapel, which I believe was a highlight of the reunion. Our own Col. Verner Pike was Master of Ceremonies, who introduced the Key Note Speaker, Col. John H. Grubbs who is a Professor and Head of Dept. of Geography & Environmental Engineering, who gave a very interesting speech about his time in Vietnam. During this same time he was in the Americal Division, and has now become a new member of our Association. Welcome Col. Grubbs. Verner read a very heartfelt letter that David Recob wrote before he passed away. This letter was dedicated to all members of the Association, but having a special meaning for Verner as David was his personal friend and First Sergeant in Vietnam. To me it was a very moving service that I'll not soon forget. Thank you West Point for your generous hospitality toward the Americal Division Veterans Association.

Thank you John Degroot for the fine job you did as Commander. During your rein, 540 new members have signed up. AS new record by 262 members. Thanks to all the members for a great job.

The Americal Museum has now been moved to the Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum in Worcester. Many thanks to the Americal personnel who packed and sorted he items, and to the National Guard people plus their trucks to transport it all. More about the Museum in the next newsletter.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the members of the ADVA for the tremendous support they have given me since I have been a member.

Yours in comradeship,
Bill Maddox

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Beginning in 1995, due to rising costs of printing and mailing, and the time necessary to put an interesting issue together, the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER will be published on a quarterly basis.

1995 January - February - March 1995
April - May - June
July - August - September
October - November - December

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

October 15, 1994
Headquarters Mass. State Area Command
Camp Curtis Guild, Reading, Mass.
[REDACTED]
10:00 A.M.

November 19, 1994
Headquarters Mass. State Area Command
Camp Curtis Guild, Reading, MA
[REDACTED]
10:00 A.M.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

If you are heading East on 128 (toward Gloucester) get off at Exit 40, go under 128 and take first permissable right turn. You will see the chain link fence on your right and the entrance is about two hundred yards on the right.

If you are heading West on 128, (toward Waltham) take the Main St. exit in Wakefield, Route 129. At the bottom of the ramp take the next right. You will see the chain link fence on the right and the entrance is about two hundred yards on the right.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

TAPS

Harold J. Ashe
132 Infantry
Chicago, IL
February 1994

J. A. 'Bud' Berk
245 FA Hdq Btry
Vermilion, OH
August 1, 1994

Richard F. Casper
132 Infantry K Co.
Evanston, IL
Date Unknown

Paul G. Donelan
182 Infantry
Plymouth, MA
August 24, 1994

John P. Kissane
132 Infantry C Co.
Westchester, IL
July 4, 1994

Gerald Murray
247 FA
Maynard, MA
Date Unknown

James L. Draughon
247 F.A. Bn. A Btry
Dunn, NC
February 1993

Maj. Akio Tani
Associate
JAPAN 253
July 14, 1994

Francis E. Atchue
101 Engineers
West Boylston, MA
June 8, 1994

Samuel M. Cacciatore
132 Infantry
Las Vegas, NV
Date Unknown

Robert H. Counsell
Associate
Centerville, MA
August 12, 1994

Eugene W. Giromini
182 Infantry
Venice, FL
July 25, 1993

Hugh J. Murnaghan
182 Infantry
West Yarmouth, MA
August 4, 1994

Edward J. Sheffield
182 Infantry
Wakefield, MA
March 21, 1994

Milburn Rabalais
246 F.A. Bn. HQ Btry
Hessemer, LA
August 14, 1994

George A. Wood
246 F.A. Bn. A Btry
Holly Springs, NC
May 1994

SICK CALL

198 LIB 1 INFANTRY

Tony Stuckel
[REDACTED]
Corpus Christi, TX
78462

182 INFANTRY

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

182 INFANTRY

Peter M. McDonald
[REDACTED]
Chestnut Hill, MA 02167

PNC Gerald E. Martell
[REDACTED]
Odessa, TX 79762

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

William S. Bacon
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Plano, TX

Timothy B. Baldwin
Associate
Geneva, IL

Leroy J. Bourne
57 Eng A Co
Tewksbury, MA

Salatore Marchisello
182 Infantry H Co.
Sicklerville, NJ

Francis E. Martin
198 LIB B/1/52 Inf
Beaver Island, MI

John Millichamp
46 Infantry 5/46
Warren, MI

Thomas (J.J.) Reedy Jr.
1 Cav C/1/1 Cav
Portage, MI

Kenneth E. Trombley
221 F.A. Bn
Waltham, MA

Jeanne M. Trombley
Associate
Waltham, MA

Domingo Jr. Vasquez
75 Infantry G Co.
Olympia, WA

NEW MEMBERS

Anthony J. Adams
132 Infantry A Co.
Chicago, IL
#R. Castronova

Charles Aksamit
132 Infantry 3/Med
Glen Ellyn, IL
#R. Castronova

Walter J.
182 Infantry L Co.
Salem, MA
R. Castronova

Clinton C. Angerman
196 LIB 1/46 Inf
Pomona, NJ
#Fred Cowburn

Michael A. Antosh
198 LIB Hdq Co.
Aurora, CO
#Bernie Chase

Jesus E. Avila
164 Infantry Hq/2
Long Beach, CA
#Joe D. Feeler

William S. Bacon
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Plano, TX
#Memb. Committee

William J. Bell
182 Infantry D Co.
Swansea, MA
#Lional Garant

Michael W. Blum
198 LIB E/1/6 Inf
Westerly, RI
Dave Decker

James D. Bullard II
123 Avn Bn A Co.
Wilmington, NC
#Les Hines

Fred J. Cardaropoli
196 LIB 4/31 Inf
Wareham, MA
#R. Castronova

Phillip L. Carpenter
196 LIB 2/1 Inf
Louisville, KY
#Fred Cowburn

Elmer James Cecil
164 Infantry E Co.
Bemidji, MN
#Memb. Committee

Joseph Cerchia
182 Infantry I Co.
Brooklyn, NY
#Warren Saunders

Dennis Chapin
123 Avn Bn B Co.
Grants Pass, OR
#Les Hines

Jack A. Clarida
57 Eng Hq & Ser
Goreville, IL
Bernie Chase

Mike Colligan
198 LIB 5/46 Inf
Wild Rose, WI
R. Castronova

P.J. Davenport
1 Cav E Troop
Terre Haute, IN
R. Castronova

Michael C. DePauw
123 Avn Bn A Co.
Erie, IL
#Les Hines

Todd K. Doda
196 LIB
Hurley, WI
#R. Castronova

Andrew P. Doro
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf
Stanfordville, NY
#Memb. Committee

Richard E. Dubois
8 Cav F Troop
Port Charlotte, FL
#Memb. Committee

John E. Emmerich
198 LIB E/5/46 Inf
Allentown, PA
#R. Castronova

William (Bill) M.
123 Avn Bn A Co.
Spring, TX
Les Hines

Eugene F. Franz
196 LIB 3/21 Inf
Albuquerque, NM
#Bernie Chase

Regis R. Friday
11 LIB 4/21 Inf
Bradfordwoods PA
#Memb. Committee

Robert W. Fureigh
14 CBT Avn Bn
Sherwood, AR
#Warren I. Risner

Oscar A. Gerner Jr.
23 Div Hdq
Jefferson, TX
#Bill Maddox

William P. Gilbert
16 Arty 3/16
Philadelphia, PA
#Memb. Committee

David A. Griggs
11 LIB
Harcourt, IA
#Memb. Committee

John T. Christine
123 Avn Bn B Co.
Raleigh, FL
#Les Hines

Joseph G. Clemons
198 LIB Hdq.
Hendersonville, NC
Memb. Com.

William Jr. Darrin
198 LIB C/5/46 Inf
Fairfield, CT
#R. Castronova

Albert T. Davis Jr.
11 LIB E/1/20 Inf
Chicago, IL
#Memb. Committee

Wilfred L. Delozier
132 Infantry H Co.
Martinsburg, PA
Memb. Committee

Fred J. Donnelly Jr.
26 Sig Co.
Concord, MA
Michele Lombardo

Andrew H. Drott
198 LIB Hq&D/1/52
West St. Paul, MN
#R. Castronova

Paul Dudine
11 LIB C/Med/6 Spt
Phoenix AZ
Memb. Committee

John S. Ferralolo
198 LIB HHC 1/52 In
Winston Salem, NC
Bernie Chase

Daniel F. Flynn
198 LIB 11 LIB
Linwood, NJ
#Bernie Chase

Ulysses S. Freeman
11 LIB 4/21 Inf
Portsmouth, VA
Memb. Committee

Irving Frye
182 Infantry E Co.
San Diego, CA
Jim Buckle

William E. Gerber
196 LIB C/3/21 inf
Orange, CA
#Prodigy

Andrew E. Gielski
132 Infantry A Co.
Chicago, IL
#R. Castronova

Thomas C. Greime
52 MI
Bellevue, WA
#Memb. Committee

James J. Gruber
198 LIB A/D/1/14 Art
Easton, PA
#Memb. Committee

Peter R. Hagan
16 Arty HHB/3/16
Floral Park, NY
Memb. Committee

Robert B. Harvie
1 Cav. 1st Squadron
Milford, MI
#Memb. Committee

Henry F. Howard
182 Infantry 14 Avn
Arlington, TX
Leslie Hines

Richard L. Janousek
178 ASH C Co
McPherson, KS
#Les Hines

Robert L. Keck
196 LIB C/3/21 Inf
Hersey, PA
#Memb. Committee

Lyndal G. Kohl
198 LIB A/1/6 Inf
Tilden, NE
#Steven Reisdorff

Victor L. Kratzke
523 Sig Bn A Co.
Shawano, WI
#R. Castronova

Joseph A. Laudincina
198 LIB 1/52 Inf
Loves Park, IL
#R. Castronova

Alan R. Levy
123 Avn Bn B Co.
Dalesville, AL
#Les Hines

Cy Lucchesi Jr.
198 LIB 9 Support
Rockton, IL
#R. Castronova

Francis E. Martin
198 LIB B/1/52 Inf
Beaver Island, MI
#Memb. Committee

William T. Mathieson
11 LIB B/1/20 Inf
Long Beach, NY
Memb. Committee

John E. Michalik
198 LIB C/4/3 Inf
Colonial Heights, VA
#Memb. Committee

George J. Missett
198 LIB B/1/6 Inf
Exeter, PA
#Memb. Committee

Clinton D. Morrow
56 Arty HHB/6/56
Stonewall, NC
#Bernie Chase

Paul B. Parham
23 Div Hdq
Bartlett, TN
R. Castronova

Joseph M. Harrington
55 Arty G Btry
Staten Island, NY
#R. Castronova

Timothy H. Henderson
123 Avn Bn A Co.
Gibsonville, NC
#Les Hines

Michael J. Imbracsio
182 Infantry M Co.
Saugus, MA
#Joseph B. Chin

Gary G. Johnson
123 Avn Bn 196 LIB
Carlisle, PA
#Memb. Committee

Robert J. Keck
198 LIB A/1/46 196
Radcliff, KY
#Memb. Committee

Gary L. Koppen
11 LIB B/3/1 Inf
Gladstone, OR
#R. Castronova

Albert C. Kubek
132 Infantry E Co.
Port Huron, MI
R. Castronova

John W. Lauer
21 Infantry E/4/21
Fremont, OH
#R. Castronova

David G. Lowery
123 Avn Bn
Deland, FL
#Les Hines

Larry W. Maitland
71 Avn
Muskegon, MI
#R. Castronova

Tom J. Mastrangelo
198 LIB D/1/52 Inf
Upper Darby, PA
#Memb. Committee

Brian McDonnell
123 Avn B Co.
Staten Island, NY
#R. Castronova

John Millichamp
46 Infantry 5/46
Warren, MI
#Memb. Committee

Patricia Quinn Moffa
Associate
Wayne, PA
#Jay Roth

James M. Nice
11 LIB 3/1 Inf
New Martinsville, WV
#Memb. Committee

Gregory A. Parris
11 LIB 4/21 Inf
Brooklyn, NY
#Memb. Committee

Thomas C. Pearson
11 LIB D/4/3 Inf
Wausau, WI
R. Castronova

Jonathon N. Plonka
11 LIB HHC 4/3 Inf
Macedon, NY
#R. Castronova

Thomas (J.J.) Reedy
1 Cav C/1/1 Cav
Portage, MI
Ed Marsh

Mortimer Rush
23 Rep Det
Durango, CO
#R. Castronova

Gerald Schleining
11 LIB
Gresham, OR
Memb. Committee

David E. Smith
Poughkeepsie, NY
R. Castronova

James R. Steinhoff
11 LIB 4/21 Inf
Corte Madera, CA
#R. Castronova

Paul B. Stinson
132 Infantry Reg Hq
N. Fort Myers, FL
#Memb. Committee

Gary L. Stull
196 LIB D/3/21 Inf
Parkersburg, WV
Ronald L. Williams

Michael J. Swiderski
198 LIB B/1/52 Inf
Norcross, GA
#Memb. Committee

David Teeple
21 Inf E/3/21
Meadowbrook, PA
#Memb. Committee

Paul A. Terry
196 LIB 4/3 Inf
Baldwin, NY
#R. Castronova

Domingo Jr. Vasquez
75 Infantry G Co.
Olympia, WA
#Memb. Committee

William "Jr." Weber
198 LIB A&E/46 Inf
Crosby, Tx.
#Fred Cowburn

Thomas J. Welsh
198 LIB B/5/46 Inf
Pender, NE
Richard K. Smith

Cyril Woerdehoff
132 Infantry Can Co
Dubuque, IA
#Al Wagner

Jimmy W. Pickett
196 LIB 198 LIB
Heber Springs, AR
#E. Castronova

Joseph Poletsky
246 FA B & Ser Btry
Port Chester, NY
#R. Castronova

Michael T. Ruane
196 LIB C/4/31 Inf
West Long Branch, NJ
R. Castronova

Martin C. Sandell
82 Arty C/3/82
Covina, CA
#Memb. Committee

Julio H. Silva
11 LIB
El Paso, TX
#R. Castronova

William D. Staebell
11 LIB E/4/3 Inf
Bloomington, MN
#R. Castronova

Allan W. Stiles
198 LIB 9 Sup Bn
Easton, PA
#R. Castronova

Stephen L. Strahan
11 LIB 1/20 Inf
National City, CA
Memb. Committee

Thomas A. Supplee
328 RR
Dublin, PA
#R. Castronova

Emil Taraba
132 Infantry K Co.
New Port Richey, FL
#R. Castronova

Delbert W. Templeton
23 Med Bn
Manhattan, KS
#Memb. Committee

Jeanne M. Trombley
Associate
Waltham, MA
R. Castronova

Cottrel T. Ward
46 Infantry D/1/46
University City, MO
#Fred Cowburn

Michael W. Wells
198 LIB 1/6 Inf
St Petersburg, FL
#R. Castronova

Herman D. Wildermuth
164 Infantry
Yucca Valley, CA
Memb. Committee

Charles C. Wood Jr.
123 Avn Bn A Co.
Greensboro, NC
#Les Hines

SERVICE CO. 182nd INFANTRY

Hugh J. Murnaghan 77, a former member of Service Company 182nd Infantry and a retired supervisor of the Boston Gas Company, died Thursday, August 4, 1994.

He was the husband of Lorraine (Bogle) Murnaghan and is also survived by his son Ronald, two daughters, Laurie M. Arata and Norma M. Horan, a brother William F. Lyons, a sister Bernadette V. Murnaghan, eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Hugh was very active in the Americal Division Veterans Association. He attended almost all of the National Reunions and helped to run the last two held on Cape Cod. He served four years on the National Executive Council, was Commander of the Cape Cod Chapter for two years, and for the last several years was the Treasurer of that Chapter.

Hugh was buried at the Massachusetts National Cemetery, on Monday, August 8, 1994, with full Military Honors. For year Hugh and Lorraine attended every Memorial Day and Veteran's Day at the National Cemetery, to honor our deceased comrades. On August 8, 1994 many members of the Americal came to pay their last respects to our friend and comrade in arms.

Like Lorraine and other members of the Murnaghan family, we, the members of the Americal will miss our former comrade in arms to.

TAPS

Fred Sr. E. Chase
101 QM
Woburn, MA
August 28, 1994

Solomon C. Nelson
164 Infantry
Ephrata, WA
April 24, 1994

Carl A. Kibble
246 F.A. Bn C Btry
March 5, 1994

Wilbert Quast
132 Infantry Co H
Lake Bluff, IL
May 31, 1994

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Jimmy E. Vail
HHC G-2
Lufkin, TX

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

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

Adj. Bernard C. Chase
[REDACTED]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

IMMEDIATELY

CHECK TO THE RIGHT OF YOU NAME
ON THE ADDRESS LABEL
FOR YOU DUES DUE DATE

AMERICAL DIVISION FOUNDATION
IS NEW NAME FOR ADVA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Trustees of the Scholarship Foundation Board held their meeting at the 53rd Annual Reunion of the ADVA. It was agreed that the formal name of the foundation be shortened from "Americal Division Veterans Association Scholarship Foundation" to "Americal Division Foundation".

A vote was then taken to select the 1994 Scholarship recipient, who surprisingly, turned out to be the same person selected last year. She is Lara Sweedo of Schnecksville, PA, the granddaughter of Peter Messina, one of our Past Commanders, and she is at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

A suggestion was made that a \$25. donation be made by the ADVA to the Americal Division Foundation in lieu of flowers on the death of an ADVA member. Unfortunately the ADVA Treasury does not have that kind of funds in it to even consider this suggestion. Eighty members died last year and it would have cost the Treasury \$4,000. in contributions! Perhaps each individual ADVA member, when considering some remembrance for a departed person, donate the amount to be spent on the remembrance to the Americal Division Foundation instead, especially when all donations are tax-deductible.

In 1991 the ADVA was recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(19), War Veterans Organizations, as being exempt from Federal Income Tax. And as a tax exempt organization, all contributions to the Americal Division Foundation are deductible from your Federal tax return. You can send your contribution checks to the ADVA, P.O. Box 1381, Boston, MA 02104.

Also agreed at the Scholarship Foundation Board meeting was the setting up of a separate bank account for the Foundation's money instead of having it commingled with the ADVA General Funds. With just over \$10,000. in Foundation money, Joe Chin, your National Finance Officer, has invested \$9,750. in a 1-yr Certificate of Deposit, and has put the remaining \$265. into a Passbook Savings Account. As the money comes in during the year it will be deposited in the saving account. After the next Annual Reunion and the scholarship grant has been paid out, whatever's left in the savings account after the \$250. minimum savings, will be used to purchase another C.D.

Finally, it was agreed at the meeting that the names of all contributors to the Americal Division Foundation will be published in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. And Ronald Ward will be the Chairman of the Americal Division Foundation for another year.

Joseph B. Chin

AMERICAL MUSEUM UPDATE

As of June 30, 1994 the Americal Museum is no longer located at Fort Devens. With the assistance of the Massachusetts National Guard, all the artifacts have been moved to Worcester.

We are now part of the Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum, "The Salisbury Street Armory", 44 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01605.

Assisting with the move on June 26, 27, 28 with the National Guard were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Tom McQuade, James Flynn, Joseph Malone and Al Doig.

We now have the challenge of reconstructing our Museum at Worcester. A date has not yet been set for the dedication.

PNC Alfred Doig.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

AMERICAL DIVISION FOUNDATION

Joseph H. Doherty
Walter J. Andruszkiewicz
Derek W. W. Price
Irbe E. Hanson
John E. Teeple
Gary L. Noller
Donna Ellis
Meriam M. Cappers
John E. Michalik
Larry W. Maitland

In Memory of David L. Recob
Gary L. Noller
John H. Degroot
Joseph B. Chin
Jack Warkow

In Memory of Wilbert Quast
Robert C. Muehrcke M.D.

In Memory of Betty McCormick
William E. McCormick

In Memory of Richard F. Kasper
Robert C. Muehrcke

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
As Awarded To

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

For your contribution to the 164th Infantry Memorial Fund. Your generosity symbolizes the spirit of Patriotism and love of country which will perpetuate the memory of the 164th Infantry Regiment in the history of the United States Army.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

PLACE: Concannon's Village Norwood, MA
DATE: December 4, 1994
RETURNS BY: November 28, 1994

AMERICAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
JUNE 22 -25, 1995
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

Now that the '94 National Convention is history, it's time to make your plans for the '95 Reunion.

The '94 Convention was outstanding in every way. In particular I thought the ADVA Memorial in the West Point Cadet Chapel was inspirational and very impressive. WELL DONE, STEVE DENNISON. The Chairman of the '94 Convention.

The '95 ADVA Convention Committee is now making the final commitments for the '95 Convention which will include a very active hospitality room with nightly entertainment; tours will include a luncheon cruise on Lake Michigan; tour of Chicago; gambling boats; Memorial Service at the world famous Cantigny War Museum; golf tournament; a Saturday night military musical revue; etc.

Set aside the '95 Convention dates 6/22 to 6/25/95. More information in future issues of the Americal Newsletter.

Joseph G. Micek
'95 National Convention Chairman.

HUGH J. MURNAGHAN

To the members and wives of the Americal. Please accept my deepest appreciation for your thoughtfulness and many remembrances on the death of my dear husband Hugh Murnaghan.

A special thank you to Ken Turner and Al Doig for their help with the flags, and honor guard. And of course to Bernie Chase for putting things together. I am sure Hughie would of been proud, as I am of the tribute paid him by his "extended family", the Americal. You are all a true and loyal group.

Thank you,
Mrs. Hugh (Lorraine) Murnaghan

COMMANDER'S APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT
Bernard C. Chase

NATIONAL HISTORIAN
W. Mark Durley

NATIONAL SARGEANT-AT-ARMS
Warren G.H. Reed

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN
Rev. William T. Elliott

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE
Peter J. Messina

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER EDITOR
James C. Buckle

VIETNAM NEWS EDITOR
Roland T. Castronova

AMERICAL MUSEUM DIRECTOR
Kenneth R. Turner

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Stephen N. Dennison
Roland T. Castronova
John N. DeGroot
Austin J. Roth
Leslie Hines

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

James C. Buckle
Roland T. Castronova
Joseph B. Chin
James J. Flynn
Joseph A. Anderson
Alfred R. Doig

MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION

I am writing to thank the AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION for awarding me it's \$500 Scholarship Foundation Grant. This money will make it possible for me to continue my education at the University of Notre Dame, and for this opportunity I am most grateful. Many thanks to the members of the AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION.

Thank you again,
Lara Sweedo

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

JESSE R. DROWLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dear Americal Members:

I am writing to inform you of my progress at the University of North Dakota. After my second semester I received a 3.57 GPA. I enjoyed my first year of college immensely. It was filled with new experiences. I worked part-time at the Wal-Mart in Grand Forks and plan on doing the same next Fall.

I would like to thank the Americal Division again for making my time in college easier for me. I truly appreciate my scholarship and am putting it to good use. I am planning on majoring in social work an you are making my goals possible.

Melisa Engeland
Recipient
Jesse R. Drowley Memorial
Scholarship Fund.

CHAPTER NEWS

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

COMMANDER
Elmer E. Matola
Hernando, FL 34442

SEC/TREAS
George P. Dakin
Deltona, FL 32728

By the time this Chapter news gets into print, we will have had our fall Reunion in Naples. I know many of your comrades would have liked to have you there. You will have a chance to meet with them again in the spring. Watch for the notices and don't miss another great "GET-TOGETHER".

We have two great people in this Chapter who have had a wedding anniversary. Congratulations to you, Ivan and Ann Horst. We wish you both many more wonderful years together.

Our Past Regional Commander, Ed Heartquist, has been having a long bout with a serious illness. We wish you a speedy recovery Ed. How about a card guys? I know how nice it is to receive a card now and then, because along with many others, I have had my share of down time. Ed's address:
Edwin "Bud" Heartquist
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

The sounding board for our Chapter is the A.D.V.A. Newsletter. If you have any news that you would like to share with us, lets hear from you.

I think every one knows and appreciated the grat job that Jim buckle and the staff of the Americal Newsletter are doing in getting out such a fantastic publication. I should like to go on record in saying in behalf of the South East Chapter---THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE. We give you all a rousing cheer and applause.

Until we meet again---Thanks

Yours in comradeship,
Commander Elmer Matola

HOW ABOUT SENDING A CARD TO AN AILING COMRADE

CHAPTERS

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SOUTH-EAST CHAPTER
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

Regional Commander
Elmer E. Matola
Hernando Beach, FL 34442
Tel. [REDACTED]

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Regional Commander
Ernest B. Carlson
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GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER
IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

Regional Commander
Rush G. Propper
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

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

Regional Commander
Lewis C. Turner
Oroville, CA 95966-5643
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WILLIAM F. MCGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Canal

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

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

Eastern Regional Commander
Stephen N. Dennison
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NORTH WEST CHAPTER
ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,
MONTANA, WYOMING

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Lloyd J. Morrell
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CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER
Stephen Dennison
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Phone [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS
William A. Gold
Baltimore, MD 21209
Phone [REDACTED]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms
Everitt Williams - Chaplain

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

I would like to start out by wishing everybody a very joyous holiday season. Hopefully \$995 will bring health and prosperity to everyone.

Also, by now you will realize we are not holding a special Chapter Reunion this year in September. That is because the Eastern Regional Chapter sponsored the National Reunion in June. We are planning our Chapter Reunion in 1995 in the state of Kentucky. Further information will follow in the Newsletter and the Chapter mail.

Our Chapter is growing by leaps and bounds. Not only our Chapter but National as well. Our National Commander this year, William Maddox, made me Chairman of the Membership Committee. I am asking each and every member of the Eastern Chapter and the National to please see if they can sign up one new member. This will give us over 3000 members if this can be accomplished.

A letter was sent out in June to Chapter members who have not paid their dues. If you have received this letter and have not submitted your dues, please do so now. The \$3.00 that we charge for dues really helps our Chapter treasury.

Sincerely,
Steve Dennison

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

Regional Commander
Joe D. Feeler
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Sec/Treas
Gino Massagli
Eureka, CA 95501

Vice Commander: John Bowley
Sergeant-at-Arms Ernest Rodriguez
Chaplain Herbert A. Holt

At our Reunion in Laughlin, Nevada the following men were nominated and elected:

Joe D. Feeler Regional Commander
John Bowley Regional Vice Commander
Sec/Treas Gino Massagli
Sergeant-at-Arms Ernest Rodriguez

In the past few months we have signed up thirty four (34) new members.

We have a few members that have not paid their Chapter dues. These men will be dropped after the Reunion.

Gino Massagli
Secretary

21 RECON TROOP

Darrell Wardien's story in the last issue of the Newsletter, about his landing with the 57th Engineers up island on Cebu, reminded me of a similar landing we made there about the same time, although a bit ahead of his.

Our unit, the 21st Recon Troop of the Americal, went up in small boats and landed after the Japs broke out of the BABAG RIDGE area. Scouting ahead the day after our tanks had made a reconnaissance, we came to a bridge. I was Scout Sgt. and following the two scouts across the dry wash which the bridge spanned, when the platoon on the opposite side of the road saw some Japs setting dynamite charges against the return of our tanks. A lieutenant, not known for his brains, had the men pull the trip wires to blow the charges. We sat in the ditch, cowering, to cover our rifles against the falling debris. Shortly we took sniper fire and mortar fire from a hill to our left. Following a tank we went over the hill driving the Japs ahead of us.

We moved along inland striking the enemy in small groups, until nightfall, when we bivouaced in a valley, after setting up ambushes. My platoon had gone on ahead a mile or so to where the road went down into a dry wash. At dusk a Jap patrol came up the road into our lone tank. The gunner stitched the scout up and down as he stood and screamed. The rest fled.

All night long we heard thousands of Japs moving past us in the river bed, yards from our positions, while we lay tensely in the shallow foxholes, amidst the thick brush at the river's edge. A voice called out the same phrase constantly, through the night. The next morning we heard from a Filipino, who had worked with the Japanese before our landing, that he was shouting to the passers-by, "Do not go up here. It is a dangerous place". That was all that kept us from being overrun. There were about fifteen of us and a Jap prisoner, who we took the next morning, said there were 10,000 Japanese on the move that night, with this the main route to the north.

Returning to the troop we found they had also had a busy night, with many Japanese dead laying about the perimeter. A Piper Cub flew overhead and dropped a message streamer. It said there were about 500 Japs coming over the hill to our right and that he was calling for artillery fire. With the two hills rising steeply on either side, and

covered as they were with brush, we had little chance to set up a defense. I posted my men as best I could, up into the brush at the foot of the hill, but knew they would be overrun before they got in more than one shot.

Suddenly I heard the sound of an incoming artillery barrage. It sounded right on top of us and we cowered as it landed. It cleared the ridge to our front and hit the Japanese squarely. It was beautiful shooting and as an old artilleryman, I could appreciate it. More rounds followed, and almost like a grade B movie, the heads of the infantry scouts appeared down the road. Quickly they were appraised of what was happening and fixing bayonets, went straight to work, passing through us and up the hill. Later they told us the Japs had been caught in the open and chopped up. The artillery fire set the woods to blazing and trapped them, cutting off any retreat. The infantry finished them off there.

Until Darrell's story appeared I never knew what units were involved in that affair. Too often we were out scouting ahead and found the infantry had no knowledge of our being there. It was only luck that kept us from having a fire fight with our own men.

A belated thanks to the 245th FA Bn. -- always a crack outfit, and to the 132 Infantry, another fine fighting unit. Also, thanks to Darrell's 57th Engineers who worked harder than anyone out there and under the worst of conditions.

Bill McLaughlin

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE
WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION

I am a Professor of History at Lincoln University in San Francisco. In the past three years I have written two successful books about Vietnam. In both Vietnam veterans provided information and insights that were invaluable. I could not have done either book without them.

At present I am beginning a new project concerning World War II for Viking/Penguin Press. I plan to examine the war in the South and Southwest Pacific starting with the invasion of Guadalcanal in August of 1942 and concluding with the American operation on Bougainville a year and some months later. I believe that an analysis of the time and place offers the perfect stage to examine the fundamental nature of World War II in the Pacific. It was the only period of the war that the two sides were relatively equal in strength. It also included extensive operations on land, sea and in the air.

Consequently, I would very much like to contact any veterans of the Americal who have served in any capacity during this crucial time. It does not matter if the years have obscured the memory of details. I am interested in more subjective matters. I intend to write about terrain and weather, living conditions, weapons, medical care, thoughts concerning the enemy, relations with civilians, relationship between officers and enlisted men, how men coped with the stress and the state of morale. Above all I want to know what things looked like, what they sounded like, what they smelled like.

If you would like to help out, please drop me a post card at the address below. In return I will send you a few questions which you can answer in any way you like. If you have any good photos that you can lend for a few months, that would be great. The interest in World War II is great. Viking is a very large publisher, and the book will be available throughout the country. Veterans of this extraordinary conflict were touched by history in a very special way. If you would like to share your thoughts and memories with a much larger audience, please write to:

Eric Bergerud
Albany, CA 94706

CHECK TO THE RIGHT OF YOU NAME
ON THE ADDRESS LABEL
FOR YOU DUES DUE DATE

COMPANY H 132 INFANTRY

JAPANESE FLAG DONATED

Just a little background information about this Japanese flag. I retrieved it on Cebu in the Philippines and carried it until we occupied Japan.

I joined H Company on Guadalcanal as a replacement and served with them on Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, Mindanao and Japan. When we landed on Japan I had 85 points which qualified me for early departure for home.

I was separated January 1945 and in 1946 I enlisted in the Air Force. I stayed in the Air Force for 23 1/2 years and retired July 1, 1970 with a total of 26 1/2 years. I was retired at Hanscom Air Base in Bedford, MA with the rank of M/Sgt.. Had I known about your organization I would have joined sooner. I joined in May of 1994.

The names on the flag were added in November 1945 just before I departed Japan. I would like to know if any of the men listed still live at the same address. My brother joined the Americal and he still lives at the same address, about three miles from where I now live.

Best wishes and I will be waiting to hear from you or any member that is listed on the flag.

Wilfred L. Delozier
[REDACTED]
Martinsburg, PA
M/Sgt. Ret USAF-Army

The following names are on the flag:

Stanley Sorka P.O. Box Carnegie, PA
Richard J. Smith 518 High Johnsburg, PA
Bob Whittaker 3092 Date St. Riverside, CA
Ray Rutherford New Plymouth, ID
Albert Bray 909 33rd St. Columbus, GA
Jack Bornstein 2931 Garfield Ave Kansas City, MO
Tony Fumanti 202 Chamberlain St Wilkes Barre, PA
Elwood Trive RFD 1 Oley, PA
Robie Big Sand, TX
Anthony Gezzi 25 Roosevelt Ave. Paulsboro, NJ
Julio Gonzales 261/2 12th St. Tampa, FL
Thomas Roque Glendive, MT
1/Sgt. Ray Cruz San Antonio, TX
Jack M. Byrd Worthville, NC
Marion Rogers Rt 1 Marysville, CA
Bill Schaapman Ripon, CA
Emery Peterson Escanaba, MI
Dave Golden Shawneetown, IL
Roger Schuum 816 W 9th St. Dallas, TX
Pat Croplett 429 Highland Ave. Hampton, VA
Larry Sullivan 6376 W 83rd St. Los Angeles, CA
Charles A. Wank Star City,
Ed Mossberg Santa Ana, CA
Dwain Votow Rd 3 Salem, OH
Clifford Ruddick 507 Vestal Road Vestal, NY
Clair Delozier PA
Dick Donohue South Bend, IN
Glen Dirks Chapel, NE
Peter P. Borgia 7821 Avalon Ave. Chicago, IL
Ray Rutherford Lewisburg, VA
John Babuin 522 S Brant St. San Mateo, CA
Karl Gottschalk 535 Wash St. Hoboken, NJ
Delio Valdex 1021 Margaret St. Key West, FL
Woodrow Wien 1020 Madison Ave. Reading, PA
Richard Hogue 2115 Geamercy Torrance, CA
Peter Illiscavitch Barre Plains, MA
Juneora Grau Rt 1 Box 1208 Warrenton, OR

If you know of any of these men please contact me at the above address.

Wilfred L. Delozier

Ed Note: The Association thanks Wilfred for the flag and it will hang proudly in our new museum in Worcester, MA

PNC Roland Castronova

746 ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY

The 746th AAA was originally the 251st Coast Artillery AA, California National Guard. Our home town was San Diego.

We were activated in October of 1940 and sent to Oahu, Hawaii to bolster the AA defenses there.

If you were on Bougainville on December 24, 25, 1943 you will probably remember that "eventful" night and day that year. You were probably swearing at us for all that shrapnel that was falling on you from all the shells we were firing at the Japanese bombers on Christmas Eve.

Our unit has been having annual reunions for the last 15 years. They are quite emotional events---seeing someone you served with fifty years ago. Last year we added 20 new names at our Memorial service.

We were always proud to be attached to the Americal Division and did "good work" together. We proudly wore the Southern Cross patch on the right sleeve of our dress uniforms.

Best regards and good wishes to all members of the Americal Division Veterans Association from the 746th AAA.

Leonard Owczarzak
[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, MI 49230
Tel. [REDACTED]

Ed Note: Leonard, thanks for the articles you sent in to the Newsletter. I will forward them to our Museum Director, Ken Turner, to be displayed in the new museum at Worcester. You will also find one of your stories printed elsewhere in the Newsletter. Thanks again for writing.

Jim

OUR INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY

Austin J. Roth has also joined our staff as one of our computer experts. He will be presenting material that has appeared on the Bulletin Board of the Prodigy Network. When you see PRODIGY printed at the conclusion of an article you will no that it has been prepared by 'Jay' as he called. His articles are all loaded on a disk ready for printing. The time saved is tremendous! Joe Feeler, Gary Noller, and Malcolm East have all been active in copying rosters and articles. These also come through on a disk to the office.

Because of our increase in membership the work load has increased greatly and help is needed and appreciated. As you know, the only pay for this work is personal satisfaction.

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

OUR REPAST

We joined up when the Army beckon'd.
To serve a year, or so we recokon'd.
With our time almost up, imagine our joy.
This is what happened, our tale of woe.

On December Seventh, as you all know,
The U.S. was struck a treacherous blow.
It happened so quickly, we were all stunned,
And when we recovered, the damage was done.

Our outfit was sent, and well we remember,
To do patrol duty, in the middle of December.
The days were cold, the nights were worse,
And you can't imagine how we all cursed.

We had a right, and I'll tell you why.
If you don't agree, please won't you try
Our furloughs were lost, our holidays too.
Some of our privileges, and they were damn few.

But it didn't stop there, for here is the "best",
This one really hurt, worse than the rest.
We were ordered to pack, our relief had come,
We thought furloughs were certain,
But here's what they done

We arrived back in camp on a cold winter day
Were confined to camp area, and told not to stray.
All in bewilderment we wandered around,
Until "Skipper" gave us the lowdown.

He told us, "Boy's, you're going away
On Army transports in New York bay,
So pack your equipment, and draw war-time supply,
You're going away to do or to die.

We took it all calmly, as Americans should,
To preserve our freedom, fight we would,
And all we asked, don't you think it right?
Was a little time home, just a day and a night.

When they said "no passes", very few heeded,
There was one solution, that's all we needed.
It was "over the hill", and all of us left,
To see the ones whom we loved best.

There wasn't time to everything we should,
It had to be done quickly, the best that we could.
Amid hasty goodbyes, kisses and tears,
We left our loved ones behind,
Alone with their fears.

Returning to camp a little lighter at heart,
We grabbed our equipment, and prepared to depart.
We marched to the trains, some dejected, some gay,
And gazed out the window as the train pulled away.

The camp looked sort of lonely,
On that cold winter day,
And to us it felt as if we were leaving home,
In a way.

For we thought of the past and the fun that we had
In the camp on the Cape, that we thought so bad.

From Army transports in New York bay
We caught glimpses of the States, then sailed away
To some unknown destination, not knowing when,
We'd ever be back this way again.

Since that day we've traveled far,
But I can't write it here.
Until after the war, then maybe you'll hear
What our outfit did in World War Number Two
To help preserve freedom, and democracy too.

PFC. Stanley C. Coolen
Co. L, 182 Infantry

Ed Note: This poem was sent in by Bob Doucette who served with Stan in L Company. Bob states that Stan Coolen was one of the youngest members of that unit when it was Federalized. He was 18.

JAPAN'S LEADERS SCOLD OFFICIALS FOR DENYING RAPE OF NANJING

Moving quickly to head off a political embarrassment for his wobbly new government, Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata Wednesday publicly reprimanded member of his Cabinet who declared that the Japanese army's infamous 1937 "Rape of Nanking was a "fiction."

Hata interrupted a tour of Europe to issue a statement saying it was "improper" for his justice minister, Shigeto Nagano, to deny that Japanese soldiers brutalized residents of Nanjing during Japan's drive to colonize China. Nangano, a 71-year-old army general turned politician, told the national newspaper Mainichi Shimbun in an interview published Wednesday that accounts of the Nanjing massacre were 'fiction' -- and that "it is wrong to say Japan's war against China was an aggressive war."

Hata responded within hours after the interview appeared. "Our nation's actions, including aggression and colonial rule, cause unbearable suffering and sorrow," the prime minister said. "All of us, one by one, must see history as it is and share a joint determination that is shall not happen again."

Nagano, chastised, took back his words. "The (Japanese) aggression during the war cannot be denied," he said in a statement. "It is a fact," he added, that "many Chinese soldiers and civilians were killed by Japanese when Nanjing fell."

By quenching the controversy before it had time to fester, Hata may have prevented a political jolt for his week-old Cabinet, which has a tenuous grasp on power.

The incident demonstrates vividly how the political winds have shifted in Japan since last summer, when Hata and his fellow reformers ended four decades of conservative, one-party rule. A key change wrought by coalition governments -- first under prime minister, Morihiro Hosokawa, and now under Hata -- has been a new willingness to face up Japanese actions before and during World War II and to apologize directly to the victims.

The message Hata delivered swiftly Wednesday is that it is no longer acceptable for people in high positions to deny Japan's war crimes.

(The above story appeared in 'The Palm Beach Post' on Thursday, May 5, 1994 and was sent in by Jack Folmer. Below are Jack's comments.)

This article reminded me of the patrol I went on in Bougainville as a Forward Observer from the 247th F.A.. The patrol was from the 132nd Infantry and they were looking for the outfit in the clipping.

Jack Folmer

Ed Note: The Japanese 6th Army Division opposed the Americal on Bougainville. This Japanese Division was responsible for the "Rape of Nanking".

A TURNING POINT IN THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC By Leonard Owczarzak

Fifty one years ago, during the early part of November 1943, fourteen thousand Marines made a landing on Bougainville, in the Solomon Islands. Only fifteen months after U.S. Servicemen invaded Guadalcanal. Admiral Halsey and General MacArthur's brilliant strategy of "island hopping" was saving thousands of American lives, and bringing the Pacific war closer to its conclusion.

Bougainville is the largest island in the Solomons. It is over 120 miles long by thirty miles wide. It has a mountainous center, including several active volcanoes, thick jungle and swamps make up the rest of the island. The American landing on the west central coast, with the heavy surf, swamps, and thick jungle, took the Japanese completely by surprise. The northern and southern ends of the island, where the Japanese expected the Americans might land, were well defended with concentrations of almost forty thousand, and later, as many as eighty thousand troops.

The American objective of the Bougainville landing, was to secure just enough territory to build fighter and bomber strips. This location would give the American planes a baseless than two hundred miles from Rabaul, which was Japan's largest and most important base in the Southwest Pacific. While a five mile square area of Empress Augusta Bay was being secured, Navy Seabees labored night and day to complete the two air strips. The Americal and the 37th Infantry Division (Ohio National Guard) came in to set up defensive perimeters, relieving most of the Marine units, who went on to further glory at Tarawa.

The Japanese high command decided that the American landing on Bougainville would pose a very serious threat to their control of this area. At Rabaul, Japan's Rear Admiral Miatsuki Injuin, "If Bougainville falls, Japan will topple". Their greatest concern was the American planes flying missions from the two new air strips that had been completed at Empress Augusta Bay, would heavily damage, or neutralize their big base at Rabaul. When the decision to attack was made, it took almost three months for the nine thousand Japanese troops, with their equipment and supplies to traverse the rugged mountains and thick jungles, to get into position to mount the attack on the American positions. Their objective was to capture the American air fields, and drive any surviving American troops into the sea.

The three month delay gave the Americal and the 37th Divisions, valuable time in which to strengthen and reinforce their positions. When the Japanese attack came, all available artillery on the island, including anti-aircraft guns, and Navel vessels offshore, laid down a continuous and devastating barrage, on the massed Japanese attackers. After three weeks of deadly fighting, in which both sides surpassed themselves in heroics, the Japanese retired to the south, exhausted, never to attack again. The Japanese suffered seven thousand casualties, three thousand of them deaths. The Americans suffered one thousand casualties, two hundred and sixty deaths. Artillery and air strikes called down by the Infantry, had helped to win the battle.

American pilots flying from the air strips on Bougainville, continued on their daily missions

of neutralizing Rabaul. All three, the Army, Marine, and Navy fliers were involved in the many flights.

The "island hopping" strategy had been so successful, that it was continued until the end of the war. Thousands of by-passed and isolated Japanese troops could no longer threaten or become obstacles in America's long trek to Tokyo.

Leonard Owczarzak
[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, MI 49230
Tel [REDACTED]

164 INFANTRY

THE BATTLE OF COFFIN CORNER
B. Gen. John E. Stannard USA (Retired, Deceased)

Reviewed by Ivan Musicant, ex-marine, military writer, recipient of the Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature.

"the story of ordinary men...citizen soldiers of the 164th Infantry, North Dakota National Guard... Told by a sergeant who retired as a brigadier general, it is a jeweled little epic of forgotten heroes, who together with the more famous warriors of the 1st Marine Division, turned the tide of the Japanese aggression in the South Pacific on Guadalcanal. His descriptions of battle and analysis go far to illuminate the reasons for the American victory...Coffin corner takes a well deserved place on any military book shelf."

The cost of the book is \$20.00 and may be purchased by sending a request and your check to:

Ms. Llewellyn Stannard
[REDACTED]
Gallatin, TN 37066

(This article was sent in by Jim Cecil. He states that General Stannard passed away several months ago and his wife is trying to recoup some of the expenses relating to the publishing of the book.

101 MED. REGIMENT 101 MED. BN. 121 MED. BN.
DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

My biological father, ASN 31018477, was drafted in March of 1941. He passed away March 31, 1994 at the Chelsea Soldiers Home, Chelsea MA. He was 84. I met my father for the first time at the age of 52. For some reason my mother had never told me about him.

He told me he was on New Caledonia when the Americal was formed and was in the 101st Medical Regiment. He also stated that he served on Guadalcanal from 7 Aug 42 until 21 Feb 43. He was a Cpl. at that time and was awarded the Bronze Star.

There was a Chinaman in the unit who was a friend of my father. He was burned somehow. His name was King Yee. I would like information on him also.

Please write to: Frank E. Clattenburg
[REDACTED]
Mesa, AZ 85211-4357

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

33 INFANTRY REGIMENT AMERICAL DIVISION

I met your National Commander at a patriotic ceremony in Texas and when I mentioned that I had been in the Americal Division in Panama, he was quick to sign me up as a member in the A.D.V.A. He also told me that the organization was anxious to learn of the Americal's call to duty and service in Panama. Here is my story:

First and foremost, let me say as a non-historian, I am drawing on past memory. Sometimes my memory is amazingly clear and at other times the ravages of old age (60) catch up with me.

Since I have old orders, etc., I'm sure the 33rd Infantry Regiment was one of the three Infantry Regiments of the 23rd Division and was stationed in Panama. Another Regiment, the 65th, was stationed in Puerto Rico and the third Regiment, the 198th, I believe, was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The primary function of the 33rd in Panama was to guard what was called the "vital installations", which translates to mean the entire Pan Canal complex of locks, lakes, and all inherent property that the government had invested in Panama upon the successful completion of the Panama Canal in 1914.

In certain areas remnants of the French government's failed effort to dig the Canal were found while the 3rd Battalion was "thrashing" around in the field on jungle problems. Old railroad ties made out of wood called lignum vitae, which translated meant 'wood of life' were left by the French long before I set foot in Panama. NCO's and officers found that this extremely hard wood made good 'swagger sticks' and in the old "brown shoe" Army a proper display of 'presense' was necessary for garrison duty. Think that's exaggerated 'blackshoe' Army troops? Well, talk to an old timer.

Meanwhile the 33rd was diligently pursuing the primary goal of guarding the "vital installations" by mounting guards around the Gatun locks on a 24-hour basis. Boring duties, you bet. Because like all guard duty the tricky part was to keep the guards walking and awake. I daresay, if a serious sabotage effort was ever attempted, it wouldn't have been from the ground but from a few well placed bombs delivered by aircraft. This would have knocked the locks out on both sides of the Isthmus. Most of the entire operation of the Panama Canal functioned like a well oiled machine. It was maintained by the "Pan" Canal Company, (a government entity), who, had from 1914 on, colonized that long narrow strip of land. They hired only the best people to operate a very profitable business. I used to know the amount of revenue derived from the many ships, of all nations, who transited the Panama Canal, but all the figures escape me now. All sorts of support facilities were built for the Pan Canal employees, such as, commissaries, theaters, living quarters, club houses, yacht clubs, and every 2 or 3 years they were entitled to 60 days leave with their auto being shipped back free of charge. Since the Corps of Engineers was the ruling junta that actually dug the Canal, the "Pan Canal Governor" was an active duty Major General with a Corps of Engineer background.

All the Pan Canal employees, which included every skill imaginable, were white with the exception of local Panamanians hired for mundane tasks. It was

obvious to the young Army troops, like myself, when early on in our tour a group of bachelor officers decided, on the first of the month, (The Eagle Flew) to try out the Cristobal Yacht Club for a lobster and steak dinner. Among the six or seven 2nd Lieutenants was a black officer who accompanied us for the feast extravaganza. Upon being seated the waiter suddenly developed paralysis of the "order taking" hand and after 20 minutes the manager informed us that "Negroes" (desegregation during this period) were not served in the facility. After patiently explaining that Lt. Haley was not a Panamanian but a United States citizen, the same reply was issued that the club was closed to "Negroes". So, without resorting to violence we left the establishment with the painful knowledge that Lt. Haley was not going to be served that day, or any other day, in the foreseeable future. I suppose this attitude was perpetuated in defense of not letting Panamanians gain a foothold in the Pan Canal Company. Even though the U.S. Army had a long presence in the Canal, most of the Pan Canal employees treated us with total disdain and complete arrogance. They knew we would come and go in the average of 1-3 years and their well oiled machine would just keep going and going. Can you imagine the impact of President Carter's generous give away program, which means the American presence will not be wanted after the year 2000, to the Pan Canal?

Meanwhile, this newly assigned 2nd Lieutenant found Co. M had all kinds of exciting ways to keep my mind occupied. In addition to being a platoon leader of the 81 MM Mortar Platoon, my additional duties consisted of little perks of adventure like being the Unit Reenlistment Officer, Unit Insurance Officer, Assistant Public Information Officer, Unit V.D. Control Officer, Assistant Passive Defense Officer, Assistant Range Officer and Assistant Safety Officer. As an Infantry CO you just didn't take most of these additional duties seriously or you would end up as a Section Eight (brown shoe Army term) that has turned into PTSD as the "buzz word" today. Just to make sure most of the officers time was occupied they added things like Company Duty Officer, Battalion Duty Officer, Officer of the Guard (VI Guard Officer), and every once in a while, Inventory Count Officer of the PX, Officer's Club and any other SLSJO that the diabolical Adjutant could dream up. You don't know what SLSJO means? How about Sh--y Little Small Jobs Officer.

So as not to paint a picture so grim that you might feel sorry for us long suffering troops, let me assure you that we also had a lighter side while in garrison. Soon the word was passed that we would start our jungle training for a period lasting two to four weeks. We moved out to a jungle base camp called Camp Pina which had permanent type facilities that were sparse but livable. Company squad tents were in place for the enlisted men. Officers had their own, slightly larger than a pup tent, sleeping accommodations with a wash basin that was provided just outside the tent. I found that a fifty cent aluminum basin, bought at the PX, served the need better than the old combat steel helmet.

My first experience in the jungle environment was on a long problem in which the 81 MM Mortar Platoon was given an area of operations to set up in defensive positions and when all necessary steps had been taken, on receipt of a fire mission, to begin firing on the objective that the line company was assaulting. After receiving

Continues next page

33 Infantry Regiment (Conclusion)

our orders to set up positions off the main road, leaving our jeeps and 3/4 ton truck, we had the insidious job of humping the 81's, complete with base ring, fire direction center equipment, ammunition, rations and other gear, for a sustained operation under a very dense jungle canopy. All these tasks had to be performed by 18-20 men which was about half of the TO&E strength listed for the job. After numerous starts and much slipping and falling, we finally arrived to set up our base camp. Then began the awful task of chopping out mast clearance and laying lines to our fire direction control. This kept us busy far into the night.

Finally, after years of experience gained in a few short hours by myself and my platoon, we were ready for nighty bye. In spite of numerous orientations on how to set up a jungle camp, sling your hammock, and never, never sleep on the ground, you always had one or two that didn't get the word. The next morning, upon receiving a fire mission, I charged across the perimeter to awaken my NCO. Much to my surprise and horror I saw a coral snake slither away from his shelter, which was half on the ground. My first impression was that he had been bitten by the coral snake and that I had lost a very valuable NCO. However, upon arousing the sergeant, I found that he had suffered no harm except for the humiliation of sleeping with a viper and my chewing him out. The rest of the firing exercise went without any of us being killed or maimed. Of course the firing mission was always plotted and the use of live ammunition was prohibited. But we did learn teamwork and something about misery among other things. Once the problem was rolling along and you started perspiring and the off again on again rain drenched you for 3-4 days at a time you were always ready to return to your base camp. Here you could clean up, have a few cool ones, and just plain rest. Each time I went out on a jungle exercise it made me appreciate Garrison duty even with my small, shared BOQ room.

Of course the BOQ room was under supervision and guidance of a maid, (not hootch maid) a genuine Panamanian maid. She normally cleaned for at least five officers and stole from as many as she could get away with. Serious accusations you say--well let me say that I caught my particular maid taking a bath in my shower, using my bar soap, drying on one of my towels that had long before disappeared, and using my spray and Mennans skin bracer as a body perfume. When I confronted her for all this pilferage, her answer was, "what the heck, you're an American and you've got everything and I'm a Panamanian and I'm poor, so what's the big deal?" After carefully assuring her that I was not rich, I didn't have a repeat of those petty crimes. Instead, she started drinking my rum. I then had to mark my bottle and keep it locked up. This maid was about 25-28 but we did have one that claimed she she had been a maid for Eisenhower when he was stationed in the Canal Zone in the 1930's. Needless to say this attracted our interest but, fact or fiction, I never found out.

Such was life with the Americal in the Canal Zone.

Major Raphael P. Parry (Ret)

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

IT NEEDS YOU!

RE: AMERICAL NEWSLETTER MARCH-APRIL 1994

The photo on the cover of the March - April 1994 issue showing Hill 260 on Bougainville in March of 1944, is among the great ones of our Americal Division in action. The battle was the last Jap attack on our perimeter. No writer could ever achieve what the desolate black and white, showing the racked trees, worn out soldiers, does. Victory comes hard and sad. The photo is worth a thousand words.

George LLOYD
FDC Div Arty HQ
Bougainville

C BATTERY 247 FIELD ARTILLERY

The May-June 1994 issue of the Americal Newsletter brought back vivid memories of the only initial landing, (I believe), that the Americal Division made in World War II. My outfit, C Battery, 247th FA was selected to try a new way to land 105 Howitzers on the beach as fast as possible.

We were on an LST laying off the beach at Cebu. After a fiery bombardment from the Navy, including rockets, we began our trip to shore. I was on the lead "Duck", it was loaded with 105 Ammo and an A frame. The driver, with me aboard, backed down the ramp into deep water. We kept going down until I thought we would have to swim back to the LST. Finally it floated and we headed for the beach. No infantry was in sight or anyone to guide us, so we drove up on the beach and turned sideways waiting for the other four "Ducks" to come ashore with our four guns. They pulled up to our 'A' frame and we picked each gun out of a "Duck" and set the guns on the sand. The gun crews rode in the "Ducks" with the guns. Finally an Infantryman with a mine detector showed up. He said that my "Duck" with the Ammo had straddled to Jap bombs. The bombs had a board between them to activate both when the buried board had pressure applied. To say the least, I said several prayers at that point.

We then started to move the log barriers to get off the beach. We also decided to go along the beach road toward some burning houses. We stopped at a blown-up bridge and spotted a Jap machine gun crew starting to set up. We went back and reported our findings; thus started our part of the war on Cebu.

John E. "Jack" Schotemeyer

NATIONAL CONVENTION 1994

I had a great time at the Convention in New York. Met many old buddies from World War II and more new buddies from Vietnam. Hopefully I was able to contribute something to the ADVA and my Chapter.

However---I'm still in shock over what I read in General Westmoreland's reply to his invitation to the Convention. American Division indeed---was he really it's commander in Vietnam? There, that's off my chest.

Ernest B. Carlson
Commander, SMW Chapter

Ed Note: Ernie really gets steamed up when he sees Americal spelled wrong and has taken many people to task for it. Ernie is also one of the hard working members of the Americal family.

1994 NATIONAL REUNION ROUNDUP

As everybody should know by now, the Americal division 1994 National Reunion was held at the Pines in South Fallsburg, New York.

We had a great turnout with 300 people attending and hopefully everyone had a good time. The Reunion was put on with a budget that was allocated. All bills have been paid and the 1994 National Reunion account has been closed.

All the attendees will always remember the West Point tour because of the moving ceremony at the Cadet Chapel. It touched each and every present. There are always some minor problems in putting this event together. A few problems were brought to my attention, but the problems were minimal. At least the problems that were reported to me and my Co-Chairman, Jack Samuels, were minor and resolved.

Those who did not attend really missed a great reunion. No one can say that they left the reunion hungry or say that there wasn't enough to do.

A thank you goes out to all the people who attended the reunion. I want to thank all the people who helped out at the reunion with a special thanks to my Co-Chairman, Jack Samuels.

I would like everyone who attended this year's reunion to also attend next year's reunion. Remember: Chicago in '95.

Sincerely,
Steve Dennison
National Senior Vice Commander

AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

The above states make up the Arthur R. Wood South East Chapter of the Americal Division Veterans Association.

If you live in the above area and have not been associated with the Arthur R. Wood Chapter, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our greeting and an invitation to join our Chapter. I know that you will find that it will open a new source of comradeship and perhaps find a long lost buddy with whom you have not been in contact with for many years. For further information call or write to me TODAY!

Elmer E. Matola
Hernando, FL 34442

OFFICIAL NOTICE

There have been many instances of men leaving their mattresses out on deck after sleeping there. This government property has been damaged by water and exposure. These mattresses must be taken in when men return to their quarters. Failure to do this will result in denial of permission to sleep on deck for all.

(Taken from the Twin-Ocean Gazetter, aboard the USAT Argentina, February 1944. Thanks to George Merrill for sending this article in.)

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MORE NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Belisle
123 Avn Bn A/123
Moses Lake, WA
#Les Hines

Michael J. Garni
1 Cav 1 Sqd
Metuchen, NJ
#Bernie Chase

Harold A. Knell
196 LIB HHC/2/1 Inf
Princeton, IL
#Membership Comb.

Sam F. Mazzola
196 LIB 4/31 Inf
Greenbush, MI
#R. Castronova

Martin R. Meier
20 Inf 1/20 23 S+T
Montclair, CA
#R. Castronova

William J. Rosenthal
17 Cav F Troop
Winnsboro, TN
#Charles Rhodes

David L. Wifall
196 LIB B/1/46 Inf
Missoula, MT
#Membership Com.

AMERICAL DIVISION FOUNDATION

George Tuttle
Thomas A. Supplee
Victor Kratzke
Sam F. Mazzola

MAJOR AKIO TANI

Major Akio Tani, a former member of the Japanese Imperial Army and an associate member of the Americal Division Veterans Association, passed away in Japan on July 14, 1994.

Major Tani served on Guadalcanal with the artillery and he symbolized "Pistol Pete" with whom we were all familiar. He was one of the few Japanese soldiers evacuated from Guadalcanal.

Since the war he has corresponded with many members of the Americal and also has provided much information to historians of how the Japanese operated on Guadalcanal.

It was his intention to meet with members of the Americal on Guadalcanal in 1992 at the dedication. However, he became ill due to cancer and he had to cancel out. He succumbed to that disease.

May he rest in peace.

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

I am looking for a man that landed in New Caledonia with Task Force 6814 and returned to New Caledonia in late 1944 on his way home. He was from Quincy, Massachusetts and he father owned a Drug Store in East Quincy. His name is Clement Query.

I would appreciate any information you have, please write or call:

Frank H. Davis
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971-0804
Tel. [redacted]

AMERICAL "CHRISTMAS PARTY"

Sunday, December 4, 1994

Concannon's Village

\$22.00 per person

Last day for reservations, November 28, 1994

Menu

Roast Chicken Dinner
Fresh Fruit Sections--Green Salad
Mashed Potatoes--Green Beans
French Bread - Butter - Ice Cream
Coffee - Tea

Cash Bar, 1pm to 2pm ---- Dinner 2pm

Music by Tony Stefanelli

No tickets will be sent.
Committee will check you in at entrance.

Please send or bring a small cash gift so that we may present a donation to one of our Veteran's Hospitals and so that we may make our hospitalized veterans holiday season a little better.

Make checks payable to Americal and
Mail to
Bernard Chase
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Name _____	
Address _____	Number of Tickets _____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____ Amount _____

IN MEMORIUM DAVID L. RECOB

DAVID L. RECOB

Dave Recob left the Kansas farm of his youth and enlisted in the Army in July 1948 and completed his first enlistment with the 3rd Armored Division in Fort Knox, Kentucky. In September 1950, Recob, assigned as Rifleman, 31st Infantry, 7th Division, landed in Inchon, Korea, and participated in driving the North Koreans across the 38th Parallel. His Regiment continued the battle to the North and, on November 2, 1950, were attacked by 2 Chinese Divisions at the Chosin Reservoir, near the Yalu River border with China. After a forced withdrawal to the coast, the Regiment evacuated by ship from Hungnam to Pusan. In mid-December the Regiment again joined the battle and succeeded in pushing the Chinese back across the 38th Parallel and into the "Iron Triangle" at "Old Baldy." It was at Old Baldy that Recob was cited for gallantry in action and suffered chest wounds resulting in his medical evacuation to the United States.



Recob, after recovering from his wounds, was assigned to the Field Artillery as an Intelligence Analyst at Fort Lewis, WA until 1954 when he deployed to Europe and his initial assignment as an MP in St Nazaire, France. Following a three year tour in France, Recob returned to the United States and assignment to the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, KS. In this assignment, Sgt. Recob held every line NCO job in the MP Company: Criminal Investigator, Patrol Supervisor, Operations Sergeant and First Sergeant. In 1966, recob returned to Europe for a three year assignment to the 385th MP Battalion, Stuttgart, Germany. In the battalion, SFC Recob again excelled as Platoon Sergeant and later, First Sergeant of Company B.

After a year at Fort Riley, KS as First Sergeant of the 12th MP Company, Sergeant Recob deployed to Vietnam for assignment to the 23rd MP Company, Americal Division, Chu Lai, RVN from December 1970 to December 1971. During his assignment with the 23rd MP company, Dave was Compoany First Sergeant and later Provost Marshall Operations Sergeant. He returned to Fort Riley, KS and retired from military service in January 1972.

During his 20 year military career, Sergeant Recob earned numerous awards and decorations including two Bronze Stars, Purple heart, two Army Commendation Medals and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Among his numerous civic activities and associations, he was an active member of the Masonic Bodies (Blue Lodge, York and Scottish Rite, and National Sojourners) Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. He was also Vietnam Editor of the Americal Newsletter, a Member of the Executive Council and had just been elected Junior Vice Commander of the ADVA at the time of his death. His ashes are interred at the fort Leavenworth, KS National Military Cemetery. His widow, Francoise, lives in their home in Topeka, KS and intends to remain active as an ADVA Associate.

FINAL WORDS OF DAVID L. RECOB

"When these word are read, I shall be gone from among you dear friends, brothers, and family. No more shall I smell the sweet smells of life, they are now gone from me. I am with God my Father in Heaven. No longer will my ears hear the sounds about me, or my eyes behold the beauties of God's green earth, nor can I embrace and kiss the lips of the woman I have loved all of my life, or hold a child made by us both. But, do not fear or be sorry for me. I have lived my allotted time, and tried to do what I came here this lifetime to do. Now, I am with God and the Ancients, and depending where I am at, I have plenty of friends. I shall quickly review the events of this lifetime, and if I have offended anyone, I shall recognize, and offer my apologies for being so reckless with a friendship or a duty. I hope you forgive me. I've forgiven those who offended me, long ago. We pass from one lifetime into another in numbered days to work off faults from our past lives and this lifetime. It was I who had the great thrill of our associations, and I hope I hope my memory will be a kindly one. Each of you, all touched me deeply. I was always the student, eager to learn. When you want or need me, just close your eyes and picture me. I will be there for you. When you no longer need me, put me out of your memory with a kind good-bye, and let me go! You must do this, so each of you can grow spiritually. I will always be as close to you as the nearest thought, star, tree, blade of grass, flower, cloud, raindrop, or smell. Peace be with you, dear ones, and may God protect you."

Dave wrote these words shortly before his death, placed this letter in a sealed envelope and asked that it not be opened until after his death. It was opened and read at the Memorial service held in the Cadet Chapel, West Point, New York for Americal members and their families.

Dave Recob and I have worked together for several years, writing and assembling the materiel for the Americal Newsletter. His goal was always to make the Newsletter a better publication and more interesting to it's readers. He listened to suggestions and criticism and always strived to do better. He was proud of his position as Vietnam News Editor and was always looking for way to improve.

I know he succeeded by the many letter I have received from our readers. He will be missed.

L COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

This past May, Bob Doucette held the annual get-together for L Company, 182nd Infantry. The reunion was at Bob's home in Lynn and it was attended by about fifteen members. The food was great, I'm sure Bob's wife had something to do with that. This kind of a get-together is really enjoyed by everyone.



Back Row: Vincent Frengali, Joe Chin, Israel Rosenwicz, Jim Standish, Al Greer, John Patterson, Bob Contant, Pete McDonald. Middle Row: Ted Milgroom and Ken Turner. Front Row: Bob Doucette, Jim McCarthy Tom Ward and Earl Magmason.



Bob Doucette Jim McCarthy
Chairman and Co-Chairman

ADMIRAL NIMITZ MUSEUM

The Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas is a Museum dedicated to all branches of the service and the war in the Pacific.

If you have any memorabilia that you would like to donate to this Museum, now is the time. A major addition will be opening within the next two years and the displays are in the planning stage.

If you are interested write to:

Ernest B. Carlson
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Tel. [redacted]

182 INFANTRY

Over the years I have been assembling a collection of WW II mementos. The collection is complete but for one item---a 182 Regimental insignia. I am most willing to purchase the insignia if anyone has one to offer.

The photo of Bougainville on the cover of the March-April issue brought back fond memories of the beautiful Pacific islands where all the women looked like Dorothy Lamour, (Sure). When the troops landed on their first island, the native 'wimmin' charged one cigarette for a full front photo of their breasts. (Most of them looked like old hunks of leather, hanging down to their belly buttons). It wasn't long before the price went up to a full pack. Or when the XIV Corps decided that mommy's little boys shouldn't be looking at this vulgar nudity and made these people, who had been dressing, or undressing, like this since before there was a United States, cover up with empty sugar sacks, flour sacks etc.

Many stories and memories of that island. Eight months on Guadalcanal was no better.

Thanks for taking the time to read this rambling on of an old man, and thanks for whatever help you can give me with the insignia.

James R. Daly

[redacted]
Long Beach, CA 90805

H COMPANY 182 INFANTRY

Company H held it's annual Reunion on May 28, 1994 at the Silver Fox Restaurant in Everett, MA and a good time was had by all.

Michele Lombardo and Robert Butcher arrived from Florida and Joe Yochum from Indiana. Joe Chin and his wife Barbara, (M Company), Earl Towne and his wife Eleanor, (G Company) and Joe Papa and his wife Josephine, (F Company) also attended.

The men from H Company also had a very good time at the Convention in New York. In attendance were;

Michele Lombardo	Florida
Mike Lombardo	Waltham, MA
Bill Murphy	Concord, MA
Fred Zaino	Everett, MA
Sam Hosmer	Scottsdale, AZ
John Groppi	Dorchester, MA

Also attending was Eleanor, Michele Lombardo's wife and Alice and Jim Murphy, brother and sister-in-law of Bill Murphy.

See you all in Chicago in 1995.

John Groppi

Ed Note: John Groppi sure keeps H Company up and running whether it is, back to the Pacific, a dinner in his home state of Massachusetts, New York, or any other opportunity for a get-together. Keep up the good work John!

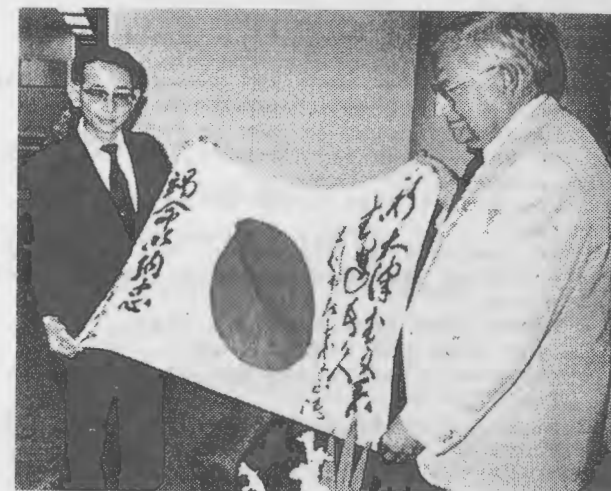
WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER
PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER
GIVE IT TO A V.A. HOSPITAL
PUT IT IN THE READING ROOM OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

WAR ERA FLAG RETURNED TO SON

A fifty year old man in Toride, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, received a memento of his father who died fighting on Iwo Jima forty eight years ago, when the brother of a U.S. soldier, who fought on that island returned the flag to him recently.

Takashi Otsu received the Japanese flag that his father, Takefumi, carried with him when he went off to war in 1943, from William Kulik, vice president of a Philadelphia based chemical company Rohm and Haas.

Otsu first learned about the flag, adorned with handwritten messages meant to inspire courage, His father's name and the name of the city which gave him the flag, from a July 30 article that appeared in the Ibaraki edition of the Asahi Shimbun.



Kulik, who visited Japan recently on a business trip said he was asked by his brother to return the flag to the family of the fallen soldier. Otsu met Kulik at the Tokyo office of Rohm and Haas where he was handed the flag and told how it was found.

Otsu, who was only one year old at the time of his father's death, says that he had no memories of his father. The body of Takefumi never returned to Japan. Otsu says that the flag is the only proof of his father's death.

"I would like to show the flag to my mother right away," said Otsu, clutching the flag in his hand.

Ed Note: The above clipping was sent to me by my good friend George Fukui. George was born in California and attended school there. In 1939 his parents returned with him to Japan and the first thing he knew he was in the Japanese Army. He surrendered to a unit of the Americal on Cebu.

George gave my wife and I a tour of Tokyo a few years back. He learned of the ADVA through the Tokyo office of an American company and I believe one of the first contacts he had was with Bill McLaughlin.

Since his retirement George has been doing translations for businesses and has also translated many military documents.

Japanese mothers and father, wives and children, in most cases, were never told what had happened to their loved ones. George has asked that any former soldier that still has any souvenirs. that

might have a name on it, that he no longer has a use for, to be returned to the family. He is willing to translate any names or messages and try to locate the family.

I sent him as picture of a flag in the Americal Museum and he located and aunt of the soldier named on the flag.

Jim Buckle

E COMPANY 164 INFANTRY NEGROS ISLANDS

Hi Jay & Paul...The 7 or so months I spent in Easy Company..beleive it was 2nd Bn. of the 164th, were real eye openers. Cannot remember many names. Most memorable one was a Sgt. named Jack Kachell. He was RA and believe he was from Arizona. Really tweaked my A** a couple of times but for the best. Often wondered what happened to him. He had plenty of Points in Oct./ Nov. in Japan to go home with the Division. Had a CO named Walker who made Major and that bumped him out of going home on points.

Yes Jay...I remember G Company on a ridge being stopped for 8 or 9 days by about half a dozen Rising Sun rejects. Seems like there were 7 or 8 air strikes on that ridge..this was on Negros long after we by passed Dumagete.

Hale was a BAR man, Utah Christopher bought it about a dozen feet from me, Another BAR man was named Gower. One of the heavy weapons men was Joe Lazono.

Too much strain on the software to dredge up names. I was a PFC when I left Japan 3 Dec. 45 and Pvt. when I walked out Ft. Ord gate in late Feb. 47. Told a 2nd Lt. where he could shove my rifle and he busted me instead. No sense of humor.

Zane 'Jake' Jacobs

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

COMPANY I 132 INFANTRY

How far can a coincidence go? I have just received my first copy, May-July 1994, of the Americal Newsletter with my name listed as a new member. I also found listed as new members, my first Squad Leader, Leo Hoefler and my first I Company Commander Robert Manning.

The letter from Gino Massagli was even more significant. It reports an incident which I have described to my friends. That being the death of Elmer Pennington. Elmer exited the amtrack and turned right while I turned left, missing the mine that killed him.

Could coincidence be stretched further? I would really like to find the artillery observer pilot who, on Cebu, saw an enemy machine gun emplacement on the trail ahead of our patrol. I had a BAR and two scouts, were on the point. We did not have radio contact with the plane so he cut his engine and sideslipped - or whatever--and yelled out the window "Japs Ahead!" I believe he saved our lives because we hit the Japs before they saw us.

Siegel "Bob" Varner

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

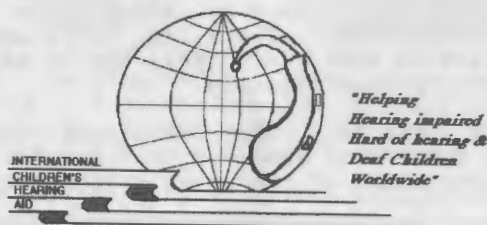
OUR NEW VIETNAM EDITOR

It is with great pleasure that we welcome to our staff at this time Roland T. Castronova. Better known to all his friends as Roly, he is no newcomer on the scene. Roly has served as National Commander, a member of the Executive Council, and the Nominating Committee. During the past year he has served on the Membership Committee and has provided leadership on this committee that has caused our membership to increase dramatically.

Roland Castronova served two hitches in Vietnam as a Combat Medic in the 11 LIB.

In the future we request members to send any material that is related to the Vietnam era to Roly. His address:

PNC Roland T. Castronova
[REDACTED]
Peabody, MA 01960



A former Americal Division Vietnam Veteran who served during 1969-1970 as a CH-47 (Chinook) crew chief with the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company "Box Cars" needs your financial support to help carry out his new mission--helping purchase hearing aids and related equipment for needy hearing impaired children in Southeast Asia.

While in Thailand, working with refugees, Paul saw first hand the plight of children living in poverty and how a child with a hearing loss has no one to turn to for help, no hope for a dignified life. When he returned to the States, he founded International Children's Aid (ICHA) a nonprofit organization whose purpose is helping the lives of children with a hearing loss. ICHA is working in cooperation with the World Health Organization's Global Program for the Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Impairments (PHD). Paul continues to help an Otological Center in Thailand by obtaining aids and accessories. He now exploring new projects in Vietnam and the Philippines.

The organization's activities and reputation are becoming well known. This means great responsibility and a greater need for resources. He needs the added support of his fellow veterans so he can reach those children in desperate need of ear care. With early identification further loss of hearing can be prevented and those with a profound hearing loss or profound hearing loss will get the hearing aids they need to improve their quality of life. If you would like to help sponsor Paul and his mission please send your contributions to:

International Children's Hearing Aid
c/o Paul Schuyler, President
[REDACTED], Richland, MI 49083
phone: [REDACTED]

THE PRISONER OF WAR

Anyone around him long knew who he was, the guys that fought with him called him "Buz". He is one of the men who never returned home, still over there...suffering...dead...or alone. In that awful land held as a prisoner of war, where we fought many battles, and today many are still held as prisoner no records can tell whether they are dead or alive in that awful hell. Let me tell you just how Buz's capture came, in a place called "Happy Valley," it started to rain. And suddenly all hell exploded all around, machine-guns, mortars, and rocket sounds. We all took cover, and returned the fire, only to draw attention from the enemy there. We were boxed in a pocket, no help was in sight, Buz didn't like this, so he made his fight. He lunged from his cover, M-16 in hand throwing grenades, yelling, he was quite a man. Enemy came from the left flank, they came from the right, the last time we saw Buz in the dim evening light. He has knocked to the ground, then all shooting ceased, there was a silence, then all was at peace. The enemy left as they always do, they took Buz along with them, but he had killed a few. Before they took him away that night, we heard Buz say as they went out of sight, take care of my men, make sure they are safe. don't worry about me, I'll make it o.k. That was over twenty years ago when that war ceased, and we've done everything to bring peace. We've done everything this country can do to bring men and remains home but there's many who were not accounted for.

Where are they now, POWs?
Somewhere in Vietnam or Hanoi?
We ask for your prayers and support every day.
We know God's willing if you'll help us pray.

Ray E. Poynter, 1st. Sgt. (Ret), U.S. Army, Vietnam 1965, 66, 67, & 68, [REDACTED], Berryville, Arkansas 72676

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
MAKES A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE
AMERICAN HEART FUND, EACH YEAR,
IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA INC.
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER 227

NOVEMBER 10, 1994

Dear Vets, Friends, Etc,...

Northern Virginia Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America, again proudly present ... The DMA TO DELTA DANCE. This is big Number 6, folks, thanks to your continued support.

DMZ TO DELTA® '94

"Together Again"

The Place
Sheraton National Hotel
Columbia Pike & Washington Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia

The Date
November 10, 1994, Thursday, 8 pm - 1 am

Your Host
Veterans of America, Inc.
Northern Virginia Chapter 227, Vietnam

The Price
\$20.00 per person

Special Room Rates - Call (800) 468-9090 or (703) 521-1900
Be sure to mention DMZ to Delta® when making reservations!

For information about the dance, tickets, booths, or whatever... call [REDACTED]
To order tickets, complete and mail this order form with the appropriate fees.

Our theme for '94 is "Together Again", which defines the heart and soul of this great annual event, bringing together veterans, friends, and families for a wonderful time of fellowship, remembrance, and, most of all, FUN!

And speaking of "TOGETHER AGAIN", for those of you planning a reunion, what better time than Veteran's Day?...and what better place than the Sheraton Hotel, in Arlington, which has become Vietnam Veteran HQ. You can share our special rates of \$79 single/double, Sunday thru Thursday, and \$65 single/double Friday thru Saturday. Call the hotel at 1-800-468-9090 or 1-703-521-1900 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, eastern Time...be sure to mention the DMZ to Delta Dance:

Again we thank you in advance for being part of our DMZ Information Superhighway...please let your organization membership and all your friends know about this event.

Proceeds from this year's dance will enable us to extend our program to make life for all Vietnam Vets, especially those who are homeless...help us to bring all Brothers and Sisters TOGETHER AGAIN!!

Please send your orders early to allow us time to return your tickets to you before you leave home and enable us to plan for the right number of people. If your rider arrives after November 1,

1994, your tickets will be held and will be available at the door starting at 6:00 PM the night of the dance.

For the DMZ to Delta Dance Committee, and Chapter 227, we hope to see you all November 10th!

Included are complimentary snacks, cash bar, 60's & 70's music for dancing or listening, free parking, booths with Vietnam-related and other military memorabilia, the opportunity to win lots of great prizes,, and the opportunity to meet and greet old and new friends.

NOTE: Tickets will be sent by mail for requests received by October 31, 1994. For request received after this date, tickets will be held for pick-up at the door. Proper ID will be required to pick up tickets. Please feel free to copy this form and pass it along to other Vietnam Vets.

REUNION NOTICE

ALPHA COMPANY 1/46 INFANTRY 196TH/198TH LIB

Anyone who has served with, or was attached to "ALPHA" COMPANY in Vietnam is invited to attend our 6th Reunion. It will be held:

HOLIDAY INN-BEACHSIDE
Key West, Florida
July 21, 22, & 23, 1995

We currently have 220 Vets (1967-1971) on our roster. For additional information contact:

Fred Cowburn
[REDACTED]
Camillus, NY 13031
Telephone [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

WINTERFEST
VIETNAM VETERANS RALLY

January 13, 14, 15, 1995
New Glarus, Wisconsin

More info: Terry Babler
[REDACTED]
New Glarus, WI 53574
Tel: [REDACTED] After 4:00 P.M. D.S.T

VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11, 1994

The A.D.V.A. will have the usual hospitality room set up for activities in Washington DC on Veterans Day. Our CP will be the Hotel Washington, 15th and Penn. Since Veterans Day falls on a Friday this year we are expecting a real good turn-out.

If you need further info contact:

Ron Ward
[REDACTED]
St. Louis, MO 63123

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?
DO IT NOW!

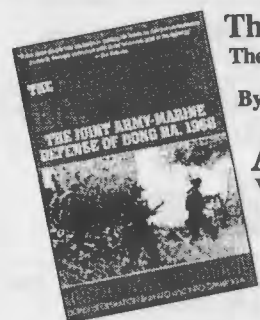
196 L.I.B.

To: Veterans of the 196th Infantry Brigade (Americal Division)

This is just a short note to inform you that a book I wrote a battle your unit fought has just been published. It is titled *The Magnificent Bastards: The Joint Army-Marine Defense of Dong Ha, 1968*. The book is being sold by the Marine Corps Association (MCA) Bookservice, and, in case you are interested, an order form is attached at the bottom of this letter.

This hardback book is 380 pages, with 9 maps and 48 black-and-white photos. Please pass the work to any one who might be interested.

BOOKSERVICE BEST FOR JULY



The Magnificent Bastards The Joint Army-Marine Defense of Dong Ha, 1968

By Keith William Nolan

A classic account of the clash between the Third Marine Division and the North Vietnamese Army during the post-TET American counteroffensive.

MCA Mbr. \$22.45 NMbr. \$24.95

Qty.	Item #	Title	Price
	485	The Magnificent Bastards	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX Acct # _____ Exp. Date _____ Please send to: Name _____ Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____			Subtotal _____ VA residents add 4.5% tax _____ Shipping \$2.00 each _____ TOTAL AMOUNT _____ <small>Credit card users call toll-free 1-800-336-0291</small>

MCA Bookservice • Box 1775 • Quantico, VA 22134

This book describes an NYA attack across the DMZ in the Summer of 1968, the heavy casualties suffered by Marine units in the area--and then the commitment of the 3-21st Infantry (196th InfBde) at the juncture of Jones Creek and the Cua Viet River to screen the right flank of the Marines. The 3-21st was then tasked to seize and hold Nhi Ha, and the subsequent battle lasted from 2-15 May 1968. For those whose tours with the 196th did not include this action, I should note that the Battle for Nhi Ha was among the most intends of the Vietnam War. The 3-21st lost 29 killed and one captured, plus 130 wounded. Approximately 580 members of the 76th and 270th NVA Regiments were killed during this brutal meatgrinder of a battle.

In addition to a blow-by-blow reconstruction of the Battle for Nhi Ha, the book has much background info about the 3-21st Infantry to include its Battle of Hiep Duc Valley (January 1968); A/3-21 and the 1-1 Cav's destruction of the 3d NVA Regiment (March 1968); the ambush of B/3-21 (11 March 1968); and the night assault on A and Recon/2-21 (11 April 1968).

I hope this book measures up to your memories.

For those guys who were actually in the Nhi Ha battle, I'd be much obliged if you could get your newspaper to do a review of the book, and/or an article bout your own service in this historic event. My publisher is small, doesn't do much advertising, and I could use all the help I could get when it comes to publicity!

Thanks.
Keith William Nolan
Webster Groves, MO 63119
645-1867

Dear Members:

I'm asking every member to look for old orders you have with names of Americal Soldiers. Any order, especially with Social Security Numbers or old addresses or serial numbers any orders for the Silver Star, T.D.Y. Promotion, R&R or any other orders you may have. The one is \$2.85 a piece. Thanks to Ron Ward and the 11th Armored CAV. If you want to find a special friend send his or their Social Security NO. to me with \$2.85 a person and I'll add them to the ones I send in.

I would also like to thank all the people who have already sent orders to me.

PNC Roland Castronova

198 LIB 1st BN. 6th Infantry

Dear Sir:

My name is Leroy L. Ferguson, Jr, son of Leroy Ferguson, deceased service member who served with the Americal during the Vietnam War.

My father lost his life on 9 May 1968 serving in the Quang Tin Province. Is there any way possible that you have any information, anyone that served with him or was with him at the time of his death service No. RA 532222935. Any assistance would be helpful.

Thanks,
Leroy F. Ferguson, Jr.
Home Phone _____

P.S. If anyone served or knew this man's father please contact him.

PNC Roland T. Castronova

LOOKING FOR

A mother is looking for anyone who served with her son PFC TIMOTHY G. ARENS KIA, 17 miles southwest of Tamky, So. Vietnam 1 Oct 68. Served with CO.D, 1st BN, 46th INF, 198th INF BR. Also seeking info that would help me locate other family members of the man who died with Timothy in the helicopter crash. Also interested in reunions for his Infantry Brigade. Send any information to Mr. RICK SCHOOL, _____, Kimberly WI, 54136-1246, or call _____.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?
CHECK THAT CARD NOW!

11LIB L.Z. BRONCO DUC PHO, V.N. MAY 1969

Rockets, Like Rain

The rockets often came in little bunches, maybe three at a time, and seldom more more than one a day. But once, late in May, we were attacked during the day and again that night, and it was the latter incident that nearly brought our morale to the breaking point. Men raced from the two hootches around 10 p.m. when the first whistle and explosion rocked the camp. It was followed by more rockets and RPG rounds, and a few mortars. It went on for several minutes, then stopped, and then continued. Some of the rounds landed fairly close, booming with an ear-shattering intensity.

But around 11 p.m. more rounds started coming in, and we scrambled back into the bunker. The rounds were hitting all around us with great frequency. It had rained a day earlier, and the mortars struck the earth with a dull "thud". They came so close that mud flew into the bunker and struck one of the men as he sat on the ground. He feigned indignance, saying that the mortar attack was bad enough, but that mud bath only added insult to injury. We all laughed. The sudden attack, after, all, hadn't left anyone injured or dead. We still felt secure, even to the point of joking about what was going on outside.

At first we thought the VC had lobbed in a few rounds just to remind us that they were out there. But after several minutes, we changed our mind. The rounds, both mortars and rockets, kept coming. The "thuds" were joined by white, flashing explosions that sent loud, echoing noises throughout the base-camp. It was as though a squadron of bombers was circling overhead, dropping its payload in a steady stream.

There were around 12 of us huddled in a 15 bunker with our M-16s, wondering if a round was headed our way that would chew out a piece of the sandbagged walls and leave us peppered with chunks of hot shrapnel. The night was pitchblack, silent. The rounds were coming in, but there was no answer from the camp. No machine gun fire. No artillery barrages. Nothing. It was as though the whole fire-base was hiding and waiting for the NVA to run out of rockets and RPGs. We were like a fighter, backed into a corner with his arms covering his face, waiting for his opponent to punch himself out. For the first time I felt as though our overwhelming firepower had been badly exaggerated.

After the second or third barrage that evening some opened a Bible and began to read it by flashlight. It helped for a few minutes, but I soon lost my concentration. I couldn't think about anything but fury of the attack.

The mortars were bad enough, but the rockets generated a special kind of fear. They whistled as they flew in, sending men scrambling in all directions to avoid the deadly shrapnel. We were told that 140mm rockets stood six feet high and carried 25 pounds of explosives. No duds fell in our area, so we never got to see one close up, and that added to the mystery. We felt like sitting ducks. Duc Pho was a stationary target that couldn't be camouflaged. And the worst part was the fact that we were nearly defenseless against the rockets. They came from bamboo barrels up to seven miles away, and they could be moved quite easily. By the time the choppers left Duc Pho the culprits were already hiding in the jungle.

The next day it was estimated that around 200 rockets and mortars had fallen on Duc Pho that night. The attack had lasted no more than an hour, but it seemed

much longer. Although the headquarters area had escaped with minor damage, mostly small shrapnel hole in the sides of the hootches, other areas hadn't been so lucky. My old company area, for example, had been hit hard. Someone said a surgeon had lost most of his right hand when a mortar crashed through.

The security of Duc Pho had all but disappeared. Now even the grunts didn't want to spend much time there.

Written by:
Dale Reich, White Water, WI

Dear Rollie,

While I won't be able to make the reunion this year I still greatly enjoyed reading the announcement. It's good to see our Americal brothers meeting in a nice place; so far from the jungle where we first met.

On another note, I managed to locate a copy of my CIB orders and my promotion orders. I also enclose ETS orders, but I'm not sure if the other men on these were Americal. I hope these orders help find more members. (1/46 seems under-represented, like we've lost track of these men somehow.)

Last item; in 1971-72, our platoon medic (1st Platoon, C-1/46, Bde) was Phil Ruggles from somewhere in Northern California. Phil was a conscientious objector, and chose not to carry a weapon. However, since he felt it was unfair for him to have a lighter load to hump (no weapons or munitions), he filled his pack with heavy bottles of IV fluid and other supplies most bush medics didn't carry, or at least not in that quantity. Since we usually patrolled for two-three weeks at a time, every ounce got heavy real quick! When Phil was confronted with medical situations not covered by his training, which happened often, he improvised - a thoughtful, caring, and respected man. I remember Phil was the first to extend a welcome to our chieu-hoi'd Kit Carson scout, and to attempt to make that lonely man feel welcome when the rest of us reacted with suspicion and caution. When the scout was KIA, Phil was the one who reminded us that every battle death was a tragedy.

On a lighter note, when we took an hourly break during patrol, Phil used to study columns of ants that moved everywhere through the jungles. He was the one that pointed out that the ants moved just like we did; point element, flankers to the side, and a trailing element behind the main movement!

Anyhow, if you can locate Phil would you pass on my name and address? After all these years, I'm just beginning to grasp the wisdom Phil brought to bear on our lives and circumstances. I am employed by a boss who only hires Viet Nam veterans, and sometimes we discuss ideas that Phil figured out 20 years ago, and wonder why it took us so long to understand the same ideas. If I could ever talk with Phil again I'd like to tell him that he made a difference then, and he's still making one now as we think back over what Viet Nam meant to us all.

Good luck with the reunion. Maybe I'll be able to make it next year.

Sincerely,

Steve Brooks
1416 11th St
Columbus, NE 68601-8016

Steven P Brooks

23RD MEDICAL BN.
MEMBER HAROLD KARDONICK
VETERAN OF THREE WARS

News Pix recently learned that Composing' veteran of three wars Harold Kardonick was awarded the Bronze Star Nov. 29, 1969, in Vietnam for saving the lives of an officer and fellow enlisted man. Mr. Kardonick was called to duty when his reserve unit, the 203d Transportation Company out of Gareden City, L.I. was called to active duty in 1968.



Harold Kardonick being awarded the Bronze Star by Col. Frank at Chu Lai 20 Nov. 1969. He was with the 23rd Medical BN.



CHU LAI BEACH

Left Major Orees Heriberto, Maine
Right SFC. Frand Gutierrez
August 1969, Hds. & Co. A 23rd Med Bn.
Harolds Friends.

46 INFANTRY 198 LIB

Dear Ron Ward:

I am not sure if you remember me, but we shared a drink at the reunion in Chicago. If I recall you were with the 1/6/198 LIB. I was with the 5/46 in 1970-71. I'm sorry that I could not get out to the reunion in New York. My thoughts were with all of you out there.

I ran into an interesting article in the May 23rd edition of the Army Times. It described our guys serving in the Buffer Area splitting Macedonia and Serbia. The grunts were from the 116 Infantry.

Could it mean the 1/16? They were part of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech) based in Filsecki, Macedonia. The CO's name is Capt. Perry Caskey. If you are interested in playing detective the Army Times address is: 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, VA 22159. The author of the article was Steve Vogel.

At the time of the last Chicago reunion, (my old home town) I was a Navy Reserve Dental Officer, assigned to the U.S.M.C.. I am currently assigned to the Seabees in Columbus, Ohio. Unfortunately most of the Dinosaur Viet Vets are retired. Out of 600 assigned only myself and a former Marine have had real time. Grunt combat experience (it shows). I just got back from 15 days in the field at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, successfully defending against Marine Aggressors. I spent time as HQ Company Commander in mortar and one rifle platoon training was long but good. Our BNT's being decommissioned 1 Oct 94 and I will probably go back to a "Blue Side" Navy dental clinic (REMF). I am employed as a Federal Dentist with the VA in Chillicothe, OH.

I recruit Americal Vets whenever possible. I pray Hillary doesn't put the VA out of business. Drop me a line after the reunion. Take care.

John (Doc) Hofer
[REDACTED]
Grove City, OH 43123

1/1 CAVALRY

The 1/1 Cav of the Americal Division that I started two year ago is planning on attending the Americal National Convention in Chicago, IL in 1995. I also plan on having a lot of Americal Veterans here in Wisconsin attending the reunion. The 1/1 Cav Association is over 2 years old and has a membership of over 100 nationwide. I have a quarterly newsletter sent out to over two hundred addresses. Any veteran that would like info on the 1/1 please write to the address below.

I would like to challenge all sister organizations of the Americal to attend the Convention in Chicago in 1995.

Even though I was not sure of attending the Convention in New York I promoted it as much as possible in my newsletter.

Dutch DeGroot, National Commander of the ADVA attended the Vietnam Veterans Rally in January of 1994, held in New Glarus, WI. We had an interesting talk and he met some of our members of the Americal Division. He is coming back to New Glarus in January of 1995.

I would like to invite any Americal Veteran to attend our Winterfest R&R Vietnam Veterans Rally that will be held in New Glarus, WI on January 13, 14, 15, 1995. You will have a great time in this community of 2000 in the cold winter of Wisconsin. I have been chairman of this event for 8 out of the 9 years it has been held. Maybe we can have our own platoon of Americal Veterans in the parade!

For more info call Ron Lewis, [REDACTED] or call me at [REDACTED] after 4:00 P.M. D.S.T..

Terry Babler
[REDACTED]
New Glarus, WI 53574

Inquiry Regarding Canadian KIA. Fidele J. Bastarache

Dear Dutch,

This week a poignant request came in on the voice mail.

I received a phone message from Bob Bolduc, a USN veteran of VietNam. He was searching for information on unit members who knew or soldiered with his late brother-in-law. Fidele J. Bastarache. Bob is a Veteran's Service Representative with the Massachusetts Legislature and has been working on a project to honor the memory of the Canadians who fought in VietNam. Apparently in Canada the VietNam vets are "unwelcome" in the Canadian Legion. Nevertheless, the role and sacrifice of the Canadians who alongside the Yanks is being raised in memorials throughout the commonwealth by private groups. Bob mentioned that he has been successful in obtaining legislative recognition for the Canadians role in the MASS legislature and the US Senate. Bobs brother-in-law, Fidele, will have his name entered on a memorial to be unveiled in Ottawa in 1995. For this Bob wanted to let the ADVA know about this event and others like it as well as members of Fidele's unit.

Fidele J. Bastarache was born in the Canadian province of New Brunswick. He was described as a handsome, blue eyed young man with a heavy French accent. Since 1962 he had been living in the United States, and he was subsequently drafted 4 October 1967. Trained as a mortarman, MOS 11C20, he was assigned to the Americal Infantry Division in early 1968.

He was a member of Co. B 1/6 Inf. 198 Light Infantry Brigade.

On 23 May 1968 Fidele was wounded in action 16 miles west of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province. He succumbed to his wounds and passed away 27 May 1968.

Bob Bolduc and his wife, Fidele's sister, desire to contact unit members of Company B who knew Fidele. From GI correspondence they have some pictures taken during Fidele's tour. Their desire to reach out is not limited to the company since they felt that Fidele J. Bastarache stood out since he was Canadian, handsome, blue eyed and spoke a fluent French which might be helpful since many Vietnamese spoke French. When the memorial to the Canadian VietNam veterans is unveiled in Ottawa in July of 1995, they hope some of these VN service men will be able to attend --- they certainly will be welcome!

Bob mentioned that while he was in Ottawa recently the Americal shield caught the attention of two former Americal vets. He will attempt to secure their names for us to invite them to join the ADVA.

I promised Mr. & Mrs. Bolduc the following.

1. The ADVA would include mention of their need to contact members of Fidele J. Bastarache's unit, Co. B, 1/6 Inf 198 LIB.
2. The ADVA would send them a copy of the ADVA newsletter. (Note: Mr Bolduc is a VN vet USN type, and Mrs. Bolduc is part of a fallen comrade's immediate family membership if they so choose.)
3. The ADVA would publicise the July 17, 1995 memorial commemoration in Ottawa for the Canadian Vietnam veterans.

The following is the Bolduc's address:

Mr. & Mrs Robert J Balduc
PO Box 284
Gardner, MA 01440-0284 508 / 632-1942

To Be a Ranger

Steve Crabtree

The following is a speech given by Ranger Steve Crabtree last year at the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Rangers at Fort Benning, Georgia. Steve served during the Vietnam War with G Company, 75th Rangers, Americal Division. An article about Crabtree's Ranger unit, "Into the Dragon Valley," appears elsewhere in this issue. We are running Crabtree's story in this issue in honor of all Rangers, but especially those who gave their best in a hell-hole called Somalia.

My dad died when i was only seven years old, my mom ten years later. My older brother in his ultimate wisdom and greed didn't really throw me out of the house but made my life so miserable that I had no choice but to hit the streets. That left me, at 17 years old, a senior in high school and no transportation or roof over my head.

What could I do? Where could I go? Would you believe I thought of joining the Army? Thank goodness the recruiter told me to finish high school and see him in six months. I went over to a friend's house to spend the weekend. This is where my story of Preston B. Hogue, my friend's father begins.

I had seen the movie "Darby's Rangers" years before, but didn't know that Pres had been one, as seldom talked about the war. I learned later that he had been captured at Anzio where three Ranger battalions had been caught between two Panzer divisions and almost completely annihilated. Approximately 1500 Rangers were trapped that day - about 300 were taken prisoner, the rest killed. Pres was of the lucky ones. They couldn't hold him long, as he and another Ranger, Joe Larkin of Coronado, California, escaped and made their way back to friendly lines. After the war, Pres became an executive with Westgate Company of California and was later called back to duty in Korea.

Pres would have nothing to do with my quitting school. "Where am I going to live? How will I get around?" I asked. "You'll live here with me and use my car," was his answer. Not wanting to look a gift-horse in the mouth I agreed.

Little did either one of us know, the weekend I was spending at his house was to last, on and off, for the next years.

I finished high school. Pres and his wife Jeannie were there to see me graduate. In the next six months, they watched me get a job, get married, start college, and move out. In the two years that followed, they watched me quit my job, get a divorce, quit college, move back in with them, and get drafted. Pres drove me to the bus station and left me with these words, "Don't volunteer for anything."

A year and a half later, when I was living at beautiful downtown LZ Hawk Hill, about half way between Da Nang and Chu Lai, I received a Red Cross telegram informing of a death in my family. Can you believe the Army actually asked me if I wanted an emergency leave back to the world? Without any hesitation whatsoever, I caught a chopper to Chu Lai, a plane to Cam Ranh Bay, the "freedom bird" to Seattle and the good old "Friendly Skies" back to San Diego.

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

TO BE A RANGER (Conclusion)

I arrived at Pres home about 2200 hours on a Saturday night. Jeannie answered the door with, "Oh my God, he's AWOL!"

Pres answered, "No he's not. Come here and let me see your Ranger tab." I can't describe the look of pride on his face or the gleam in his eyes as he looked at me. "I've got two tickets on the 50 for the Charger/Raider game tomorrow, do you want to go? The only thing I ask is that you go in uniform."

So there I was less than 48 hours of combat, sitting on the 50 yard line with Pres and his friends. Even President Nixon was sitting about 10 rows behind us. Do you know what they do when the Chargers score? They fire off a cannon. I dove for cover, knocked about a dozen people down, while Pres laughed and laughed.

I went back to Vietnam, finished my tour, was discharged from the Army, and moved back in with Pres. I stayed for a year and a half and finally went my own way. We saw each other once in a while, but not often enough. The times we were together were special. We had a mutual respect for each other, knowing we both were Rangers.

Jeannie died about seven years ago, and I buried Pres two years ago last May in Tucson. Don't grieve for him, as he was doing something he always wanted to do - riding his bike from Arizona to Florida at the age of seventy. Grieve for me, as I lost a good friend, a friend who took me off the streets and changed my life 25 years ago, a friend who gave me something that money can't buy - to know what it means to be a RANGER.

FROM UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSLETTER

VIETNAM 1969

JANUARY

Action picked up in January as division forces for 821 VC and 126 NVA killed, 23 VC and 28 NVA bodies captured, 166 individual and 37 crew-served weapons captured and 37 crew-served weapons captured, and approximately 73 tons of rice captured or destroyed.

From Jan 10-12 Americal units killed 89 VC and four NVA, found six NVA bodies, captured four individual weapons, and found more than eight tons of rice.

Operation Russell Beach began on Jan. 13 on the Batangan Peninsula 10 miles of Quang Ngai City.

Acting on a tip from an NVA prisoner, on Jan 15 Cos C and D, 2/1 Inf. combed an area 23 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky to uncover a cache of 14 individuals and nine crew-served weapons.

FEBRUARY

Prior to the post TET offensive at the end of the month, action rarely fluctuated from day-to-day with large contacts reported.

The 198 Bde's 1/52 uncovered 52 individual weapons on Feb. 9 in a VC classroom area 12 1/2 miles southwest of Tam Ky. Task Force Cooksey Marine elements to leave Batangan Peninsula concluding combat phase of Operation Russell Beach. On Feb. 11, 3/18 and 6/11 Arty. units killed 18 enemy when an 11th Bde. OP spotted 60 armed VC in the open, 11 miles west-northwest of Quang Ngai City.

Early in the month two soldiers from the 11th Bde. and one from the 198th Bde. received the nation's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross, from the commander of the U.S. Army Vietnam. GEN Creighton W. Abrams.

After a lull during TET, more than 40 Allied positions in southern I Corps on Feb 23 were attacked by enemy elements using rockets, mortars, recoilless rifles, small arms and occasional ground probes.

Led by the 1st Sqdn. 1st Cav. and "Shark" gunships of the 174th Aslt. Hel. Co., Americal forces rebounded sharply to kill 159 VC and 10 NVA and 10 NVA and captured 32 weapons.

The "Dragoon," aided by gunships of F Trp., killed seven NVA and 77 VC in fierce fighting in the Pineapple Forest west of Tam Ky. "Shark" gunships killed 20 VC moving on the Duc Pho airship and netted 27 more at a rocket launch site six miles north-east of Duc Pho.

After a one-day of mild action, the third platoon of B Trp. and all of C Trp. 1st sqdn., 1st Cav. caught an estimated NVA battalion entrenched on a hill five miles south of Tam Ky and killed 167 in a six-hour battle. On the same day, gunships of the 123rd Avn. Bn. netted 12 VC in support of an ARVN element 1 1/2 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City.

On Feb. 28, Operations Vernon Lake II Fayette Canyon and Hardin Falls ended. The three campaigns combined for a total of 860 enemy kills, as compared to 26 American casualties.

Operation Vernon Lake II began Nov. 2 last year and involved the 3/1 and 4/21 11th Bde. Aimed at pushing the 3rd NVA Div. out of a long-held bastion southwest of Quang Ngai City, the operation accounted for 455 enemy kills during its 119 days.

Launched Dec. 2 last year, the goal of Operation Hardin Falls was to clear out and pacify six hamlets in the Thang Binh District that had been under VC control for more than four years.

Hardin Falls involved the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.; A Co., 1/46, 196th Bde.; and D Co., 26th Engr. Bn. Besides accounting for 78 enemy killed and 17 enemy suspects, the operation also attracted two Hoi Chanh.

Operation Fayette Canyon was underway Dec. 15 last year after intelligence reports indicated an estimated 1,000 NVA were securing a hospital complex and supply depot atop Hill 953, 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky. The campaign was composed of the 2/1 and 4/31, 196th Bde. and 1/46, 198th Bde., and netted 327 enemy dead and 70 weapons, 14 crew-served.

The "Legionnaires" of the 2/1 saw the heaviest action, netting 101 enemy kills against only one friendly casualty.

11 LIB C/3/1 INFANTRY

ARTILLERY

Whenever calling in artillery or air support, I would give my position, (six digit co-ordinates on the map) and then using the compass give direction and distance to target. To give the pilots a better picture of exactly where we were we would throw out a colored smoke grenade that the lead bird would identify, and then give him direction and distance to target. Also identify the target

CONTINUES NEXT PAGE

ARTILLERY (Conclusion)

as well as possible, (# of men in the open) or try and locate a land mark to use as a reference point. (so many meters at 45 degrees from large dead stump, enemy in tree line) It helped if you could also give type of weapons and even better yet location of all large cal. weapons because these the pilots would either try and avoid or else they would take them out first.

For artillery I would give the map coordinates of enemy positions and map coordinates for friendly positions along with direction and distance from target. I made it a habit as I am sure we all did, to know EXACTLY where I was on the map at all times. This was the life blood of the platoon. All resupply and support were dictated on leaders knowing at all times exactly where you were.

If by chance you were lost, and in those triple jungles that was easy to do, and if you could not find a land mark to orient yourself, you would call Red Leg (arty) and have them shoot a marking round on a given coordinate, and then you could reference your position to the splash of the round. But as a rule, 99% of the time you made it a point to know where you were, and you would plot your movement on the map as you were moving on the ground. It got to be second nature after a very short period of time to be exact and accurate. I can remember more than once calling in arty so close to our position that dirt, twigs, branches, and some shrapnel would blow on us. But hey if the enemy was in close that is what it required to take him out, and that is what most of us did. Looks like I started rambling again, but thanks for asking.

Samuel Grashio
8-70 8-71

THE BOSTON HERALD, SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1994 C39

Dead G.I.'s dad balks at Clinton handshake

WASHINGTON - The father of a soldier killed in Somalia refused to shake hands with President Clinton last month during a White House Medal of Honor ceremony.

Herbert Shughart, of Newville, Pa. confirmed he refused to shake Clinton's hand following the May 23 ceremony, but refused or deny a published report he also told Clinton he was unfit to be President.

"I am not going to say what about what went on. It was supposed to be a private meeting," said Shughart whose son, Sgt. 1st Class Randall Shughart, was killed in a bloody Oct. 3-4 battle in Mogadishu.

Randall Shughart and Master Sgt. Gary Gordon both members of the elite Delta Force commando unit, were awarded posthumous Medals of Honor for actions during the battle. They were credited with saving the life of pilot Michael Durant against overwhelming odds, but died in the effort.

The Times of London quoting unnamed sources, said the Senior Shughart refused to shake hands with Clinton in a private reception for family members, and admonished him. "You are not fit to be president of the United States."

Shughart told Clinton, "The blames for my son's death rests with the White House and with you. You are not fit to command," according to the Times.

The report said Clinton "Reeled, and the unprecedented onslaught continued for some minutes."

A senior administration official who witnessed the exchange confirmed Friday that Shughart refused to shake Clinton's hand, but said he was unsure if Shughart told Clinton he was unfit.

"The President was trying and trying again for 10 or 15 minutes to explain how he, as president, made the decisions he made. (Mr. Shughart) listened but was not convinced," the official said, adding Clinton was not taken aback.

"It was a very emotional moment. A lot of the people in the room were in tears. The (Medal of Honor) citation had just been read which described in detail the bravery of these two men and what they went through. It was almost as if the families were reliving the moment," the official said.

He said a separate meeting with the Gordon family was "cordial."

Charles Maskos, a military sociologist at Northwestern University, said it is virtually unheard of for the family of war heroes to openly confront a president, and that it indicates Clinton's continuing poor relations with the military.

"The president still has some baggage from his Vietnam experience and I think that makes the parents feel that much strongly," Maskos said. Plus, "the (Somalia) policy was reversed so that probably made (family members) feel that they died in vain."

Shughart said Thursday he did not remember exactly what he said to Clinton, adding, the Times report "might be correct, it might not."

It greatly saddens me to hear of Dave's passing. I corresponded with him at length concerning the article on my Artillery Battery in SVN.

When he started taking heat from M "REMFS on the line" remark, I wrote asking him to publish my apology to those offended. He would not have any part of it. "It was my fault and I will deal with it." He said.

We have heard many times that no one person is indispensable, that anyone can be replaced. Is that really so?

Sincerely,
R.W. Hornlein

It really stunned me to read of the passing of Dave Recob, in the TAPS section of the Americal Newsletter.

Although I not know the man personally, I had corresponded with him on several occasions. He was always responsive and cordial.

Why do all the good people have to die?

Sincerely,
William A. McMurtray

CANADIAN VIETNAM VETERANS

[REDACTED], BEAUHARNOIS, QC J6N 3C1

QUEBEC



Dear Fellow Veteran/Honored Guest,

Montreal, 28 June 1994

The Canadian Vietnam Veterans-Quebec (CVV-Q) shall be holding their 5th Annual Memorial service in honor of those Canadians killed or missing in action, while serving with U.S. military forces in Southeast Asia. The ceremony this year takes on special significance as we shall gather to rededicate the memorial monument at its new site.



The service will commence at 14.00h (2.00 PM) on Saturday, October 15th, 1994 at the Memorial site located in the town of Melocheville, Quebec.

As a Vietnam Veteran and/or honored guest, you are cordially invited to participate in this year's ceremony. The service should last about one hour and a half. A reception with food and refreshments will follow.

If you plan to be in attendance on this date, please confirm the number of people who will be attending, preferably by September 15th 1994.

Should you have any questions concerning this event please do not hesitate to contact any of the executive members of the Memorial Committee:

Dominic Rotondo Jacques Gendron Gilles Sauve
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Ron,

"Big Al" Fuchs gave me your address, and said to say "Hi". I had asked Al for a contact with the Americal who might be of assistance in my search for information on what I call the "uncounted casualties:

in Southeast Asia. By way of introduction, I was a grunt with the 199th Infantry Brigade 1969/70. I ran into Al in the course of getting into the MIA issue about two years ago.

Specifically, I am trying to get some idea of how many wounded were evacuated from Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia for treatment elsewhere and subsequently died of their wounds. I keep finding cases of people who died of wounds inflicted in the war who are not counted as a fatality because of where they died. These people deserve to have their names on the Wall.

I know there have been at least 252 additions to the wall since its dedication, 1982. Many, if not all of these are examples of this belated recognition. I know of two cases: one man's sister after two years of begging and threatening to get her brother added (he died in Colorado in 1972 of a head wound inflicted in (1970); the other took Senator Dole six months of harrassing the Pentagon (he died at Ft. Myer in 1987 of wounds inflicted in 1967). How many others gave up, or never made the attempt.

I have made numerous Freedom of information requests of the Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy, and they all tell me there is no question that they would pick up such deaths as war casualties. Yet my little brigade has only 635 names on the Wall out of over 700 who died in-country or after medical evacuation. I think we have a problem.

Do you have any such records for the Americal or do you know where I could get them? Appreciate anything you can do on this.

Regards, Roger Soist

[REDACTED]
Lilburn, GA 30247-4580
June 7, 1994

P.S. In case you're into literary efforts by vets, I've enclosed a copy of a flyer and a newspaper article done on the "local author" theme.

Upon learning of Dave Recob's sad passing I thought that you might want to hear of my last conversation with him. It was after the 1993 Reunion. I had expressed my fear of never walking again due to paralysis from a back operation. He words and determination gave me hope to "keep punching." He said, "A good infantryman can always take another step and fire another shot."

I knew Dave was always in pain and discomfort, but I didn't how bad it was until reading of his death in the Newsletter. He frequently spoke of, "beating this thing," but sometimes a much higher authority over rules our strong fighting determination.

I will always remember him and his courage.

Yours in comradeship,
Bill Picardy

I would like to express my condolences to the family of David L. Recob, whom I followed closely in the pages of the Americal Newsletter.

Sincerely,
Laurence H. See

TROOP F 8 CAVALRY 123 AVIATION BATTALION

I saw your note from "Doc" Kralich seeking information on 6 medical personnel killed in a rocket attack on a dispensary 11/30/70. One of the KIA was a friend, Cpl Benjamin Nelson, medic for F/8. I recently had some communication with Ed Klosterman regarding this same incident. Nelson had recently returned from a leave in Europe which he had received for reupping. He just happened to be visiting the dispensary at the time of the rocket attack. I remember the attack, not as friendly fire, but VC 122 rockets. Anyway, I dug out an article about the attack which made the front page of the "Times Herald" of Norristown, PA which, since it is short, I will share with you. This was from 12/1/70: "An enemy rocket wrecked an American medical station in South Vietnam Monday killing or wounding the entire staff. The medical dispensary was smashed during a 20-round rocket barrage on the Chu Lai camp, headquarters of the U.S. Americal Division 50 miles south of Da Nang. It was the first rocket or mortar attack on Chu Lai since June 19. Field reports said one of the 100 pound missiles tore through the roof of the first aid station at 4:00 p.m. The reports said there were no patients in the dispensary, but less than a dozen Americans on the staff were killed or wounded. The U.S. Command's security regulations prohibit disclosing specific casualty figures in such attacks."

Thought this maybe of interest.

John Boyer
4-70 4-71

CIVIL AFFAIRS

I'll try to respond to your question, but I'm not sure that what I have to say will be that informative. We had a platoon-sized unit stationed out of Tam Ky, but only four or five of us were located at the compound there. We had from two to three people at Heip Duc and I think some others at other district headquarters. Quite frankly, the size of the unit and the location of the other folks is a little fuzzy after all these years. The group that was in Tam Ky worked at the province headquarters and at various spots around Tam Ky. As I recall it, we were mostly facilitators, getting things for the little people. In some instances it was food, in others it was equipment such as farming implements. We were also involved in such things as obtaining medical supplies which were then provided to the VNs. As you can imagine, we did not do much toward improving the local government, but we did have quite a few first hand instances that demonstrated what is now commonly accepted, that the local governments had a right unique notion of what was right and fair.

I should note that while I was on LZ Karen in Hiep Duc, I mostly stayed on top of the hill. We went into the village at the base of the hill on occasion, but in truth there wasn't much that we could do for them.

Doug Lackey
Civil Affairs 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

FB SIBERA
C/3/82 Arty

I moved with 'C' btry. 3/82 from West to Siberia July or Aug. '69. That offensive began hours after a 3 day cease fire in honor of Ho Chi Minh's death. We were hit about 3 AM. I was just going off guard, heard a bang with a bright, long flash below #6's pit. I heard a man yell 'Help', and one of the pit guards, yelled back 'Help yourself!', thinking it was a joke. More activity, then the call 'Stand to, d**ks in the wire. We had been hit by a lead element armed with a flame thrower. They burnt, shot, and grenaded the Captain, an extremely young man (21 was the rumor), and took the infantry bunker near the rock that had 4/31 painted on it. One of the grunts fired a LAW into it. An FDC guy, whose name I forget, stepped outside to guard the entrance and shot several just outside before being wounded. The main force was on Ghost Town, across from the chopper pad. I believe the initial element attacked before the main force was ready to come across the pad. With the initial group wiped out, we opened up across the pad with two 105's, I think #4 and #5. Used mostly HE, some BeeHives later. I was at that time #2's machine gunner and opened up from #4's fighting position, with a very nice, flat field of fire between the mess hall to the left and the ?HQ? to the right. We had one or two tubes pointing up, firing illumination. The people who had been hurt were taken out by the incredibly gutsy Medevac who came into #1's pit, after we rolled the gun out a little. After a while, Spooky or Puff or some fierce friend came out and crackled rounds all over the perimeter. I know West had opened up with the 155's, but don't remember how close they got with HE. I do remember their firing lots of wonderfully bright illumination that made our's look like dinner candles. I think that illumination helped us more than anything else. It was not much a fair fight from after the first fifteen minutes. At dawn, we picked up 32 NVA bodies, put them into a net and had them dumped somewhere by a Chinook. They were spread all over Ghost Town, 2 or 3 to a hole. Almost all sappers, very little clothing. We got several AK's, a few older rifles, a field telephone with Chinese characters, RPG's, and the flame thrower also with Chinese characters. Some very young bodies, the youngest maybe 15. One very heavy guy who looked to me Chinese. They began to mortar us as we picked up their dead, and kept it up for about two weeks. That was as I remember the length of the worst of the battle. That was my first encounter with corpses, though had been shot at by recoilless, mortars, etc. It never even occurred to me you could do things to human bodies our shells did to theirs. Someone got one with a WP grenade, and his skin was absolutely porcelain white. The next morning, when the Chinook came out to get the net with their bodies, a sharp eyed grunt noticed a Chicom rigged under it. One of them had come back the next night to booby trap his buddies bodies. Like you said, the 2d NVA was tough. We lost the Captain, who was engaged to be married or had just been married; several 196th Infantry. I think 'only' four or five U.S. dead in all. I don't know how many wounded. That opened the battle. For several nights we didn't even bother to go into the hootches to sleep. We just sacked out on the sandbags between missions. We were re-supplied with fresh pallettes of ammo. each day for a while. At night the battle stretched from north and east of Hiep Duc to West and maybe beyond. Like a Cinemascope movie. Quite an epic for me. Makes civilian life look pretty good.

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

Barry Kelly 69-70

D COMPANY 46 INFANTRY 198 LIB

On Hiep Duc--Hell we didn't know what we were getting into. Typically being a grunt all you knew was that a call would come in from some HQ and you were told to get your stuff Together--choppers were in air. You would be picked up and were going to "so and so" because there probably had been some hostile action. Much of the time by the time we got there all was quiet--other times maybe some sniper fire--maybe a lot of fire. Maybe it lasted a while--maybe not. After a while you figure that either (1) your time is up and you go home or (2) you get wounded and get out of the field for awhile or (3) you luck out and get a dick job back at the HQ. You never know what will happen when Huey's drop you in--it's a day to day thing. You kind of cast your fate to the wind and hope for the best. My unit--D Co. spent only about a week in the Hiep Duc area to relieve another outfit first then we patrolled the surrounding jungle and broke machetes on the dense weeds in that area. The intensity of the firefight I was in was just incredible. I carried a thousand rounds of ammo and used it in two hours plus I shot leftover ammo from guys who got wounded after I ran out. All I can say is that those suckers were well supplied and dug in very deep. Their mission was to kill/maim as many GI's as possible without any concern of how many NVA were lost. We shot at them, fired mortars and arty, had shark gunships overhead and had Phantoms bomb them. They just kept shooting and mortaring us--wouldn't stop. It was nuts.

You asked about what I thought at the time. Well a battle like that is so intense--you don't think--you do whatever it takes to save your ass and everyone else's. We fortunately didn't have Rambo type--we believed in self preservation--no one put pressure on us to get body count. It is amazing how people can act under stress like that. Two guys ahead of me were pinned down behind a wall of sod. They could not go in any direction without getting killed immediately. I yelled up to them not to move. The stress was so incredible. All of a sudden, these two guys started laughing and told jokes to each other. They started yelling jokes back to me. I guess it was their way of dealing with the stress. They could look behind their position and see GI's getting hit and there was nothing they could do about it. A pretty strange scene--Hiep Duc--not to be forgotten. Thanks again for the tip on the Death Valley book. I am still waiting for my copy on order. Thanks for listening, and anyone else who reads this.

Rick Olson 10-68 10-69
PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD

COMPANY B 1 INFANTRY 11 LIB

CHOPPERS

While reading thinking about the past, I recalled the story: One evening my unit (B-3-1 11th) setting up our CP and securing the perimeter. We were awaiting a chopper from the 174th AV. to bring out some supplies; ammo, c-rats and the most popular red mail bag. Our CO was concerned about having too many men on the hill so he gave an order to "breakup the cluster***". My platoon (3rd) was told to go on a light recon to the base of the hill to search for any signs of VC and or NVA. About twenty minutes after we left, we heard the chopper approaching

and noticed our unit on top of the hill had popped smoke for the chopper crew to see. The chopper landed just long enough to dump out the supplies and then raised up tail high for takeoff. As the chopper was gaining speed, someone (Charles) at the base of the hill, also popped smoke. The chopper angled toward the smoke for a better look and then we heard the sounds of AK's firing on the chopper. The chopper was hit, tumbled and went down. We were ordered to immediately head toward the downed chopper to secure the area, and attempt to save the crew. I will not attempt to describe the sight we saw in detail, but it was one I'll never forget. The pilot, co-pilot, two door gunners and one passenger, were all killed in the crash. The passenger was a former grunt named Gunderson that had a job in the rear and was taking one last trip to the field before leaving RVN. There was very little left of the chopper. It burned and turned a white color and seemed to melt from the heated fire. It was hard breathing because of the burning smell. We were told to wait with the bodies until the following day until a chopper crew could come out and pick them up. I recall that we set up in the best position we could considering the circumstances, however we were concerned about being on the side of a hill. We set out numerous trip flares around the area. For some reason, the VC tried to sneak in all through the night. We threw many grenades and hosed the area with M60 and M16 fire. When we went out the following morning to retrieve the tripflares and get a bodycount. To our surprise, there were a few blood trails, but no bodies or tripflares. Just another memory.

Charles Mankin
B/3/1 11 LIB 69-70
PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD

BELL COPTER
14 AVIATION BATTALION

OH-58 Kiowa Bell Jet Ranger--or lizard di*k Death trap for those of us that flew Hunter - Killer missions. If you slowed down to look at some thing it better have been friendly or your options were bleak. I lost 3 friends when I was with 4th Div. under just those circumstances. Stopped to get fix and couldn't get away fast enough. The Army never believed us that they weren't as effective as LOH-6's. It was explained to us that the 58's were more versatile. They could carry a mini-gun, or two gunner's---however I never saw them work effectively in either of those configurations.

The UH-1's that the army had were called pigs, dogs, goats and number of other things. The Air Force on the other hand had a model with two engines and a door mounted mini- gun. Had one help us cover a hot dust-off for one of their FO's that had gone out with a Ranger outfit. It was the greatest gunship a door gunner could dream about.

I've never gotten my hearing back from those things, can't understand why Mike likes to play Helicopter sounds on his hi-fi. But, then I like to listen to oceans, birds, wind in the tree's---and every now and agin I'll stick my head out the door to see what kind a chopper that is going overhead.

Be well,
Ed Klosterman 5-70 5-71
PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD

WELCOME TO NAM

Recollections of a young Combat Engineer

I had just been assigned to my new duty station earlier that morning, arriving in the back of a five-ton dump after an extremely uncomfortable 50+ mile ride. I had no sooner reported in than the 1SGT decided to send me right out to one of the work sites. I took this ride in a three-quarter, again riding in the back.

As we came to a site where a bridge had been destroyed, we had to stop for oncoming traffic as the by-pass road was one lane only. Ahead of us was a Lambretta three-wheeled bus with several VN's aboard. As our turn to move came, the Lambretta eased forward and we followed.

Suddenly, the Lambretta vanished in a wall of reddish-brown dust. A tremendous concussion slammed me against the tailgate of the three-quarter. I was almost instantly hurled back to the floor as our driver stood on the brakes. My mind reeled with panic and confusion. What the Hell was happening. My ears rang, though I didn't remember hearing a sound. Our driver solved my mystery. "MINE", he shouted.

We leaped from the truck. The Lambretta lay in a rice paddy some distance away, looking just like a large crushed beer can. Someone started to scream. We rushed into the paddy to try to help. As we got there, an ARVN was pulling someone out of the crushed vehicle, so I grabbed the person's legs and we hauled him to the side of the road.

It was a young man, a teenager by his appearance. At first I thought he was wearing a red shirt. Then I realized that the top half of him was soaked with blood. He was lacerated from just below his right ear, under his jaw and up past his left ear. The gash was so wide that you could actually see his teeth up through the hole in the bottom of his jaw. (I can still see it today, 23 years later).

We patched him up as best we could, and soon a dustoff arrived to take him and two others. I helped carry him to the Huey, where he was laid on the floor. We ducked the flying dirt and stones as it took off. Ten minutes later I was installing corrugated culvert sections, getting a sunburn, and wondering why my hands wouldn't stop shaking, something I would be doing a lot of in the days to come. That was my first day on the job. It certainly wasn't the best, and unfortunately it wouldn't be the worst, either. Needless to say, I was never comfortable riding on a dirt road again. To this day it still makes me nervous.

Just a few recollections from a young man now in an old man's body.

Peace Big Ed.

James Eddington C/39 Eng Bn 4-69 3-70
(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

FSB Mary Ann
1 INFANTRY 196 LIB

Only one of the twenty ARVN soldiers present was wounded; ignoring their own inactivity, the Americans complained bitterly that the South Vietnamese had made little effort to assist them. But their help would have mattered little in the debacle. The action at Mary Ann was the Americal Division's largest single combat loss in over a year and one of the most damaging attacks on a firebase during the war.

When the smoke had cleared in the morning, the shattered 1/46 started to pick up the pieces. The acting battalion commander, Major Donald Potter, flew into a rage and ordered the burning of the bodies of five sappers that had been taken earlier to the trash dump. For the next several days the corpses smoldered among the garbage while the Army tried to figure out what had happened at Mary Ann. "Somebody out there [at] Mary Ann screwed up," an Americal sergeant declared.

The MACV inspector general undertook an investigation and concluded that the camp's defenses had been sorely inadequate and many soldiers derelict in their duty. Because the enemy had never probed the base and the battalion was anticipating evacuation, its men had grown complacent and had ignored basic defensive procedures. Many were unfamiliar with the base's defensive plan or the location of claymore mines, trip flares, grenades, and M-16 machine guns.

Much of the blame for the tragedy was placed on Lt. Col. Doyle, an eighteen-year veteran whose record up to then had been exemplary. The Army charged him with "sub-standard performance of duty" in failing to oversee proper defense of FSB Mary Ann. Doyle requested a court-martial hearing at which he could refute the charges, but his request was never granted. In April 1972 Lt. Col. Doyle was formally reprimanded by Secretary of the Army Robert F. Froehke.

Four other officers were disciplined, including Doyle's operations officer. The others were chastised not because of the attack but for the incineration of enemy bodies that took place the next day, a clear violation of the Geneva Convention. The inspector general reported that both Major General James L. Baldwin, the division commander, and Col. William S. Hathaway, the brigade commander, had learned of the burnings on April 1 but had taken no disciplinary action. Baldwin admitted he had ordered the burnt remains buried and had not informed his superiors of the incident. The Army relieved his of his command in July and later placed a letter of admonition in his file. Col. Hathaway was denied promotion and like Col. Doyle, formally reprimanded.

While FSB Mary Ann was yet another stain on the record of the 23d Infantry Division, it also seemed to reflect more broadly the state of American force disengaging from Viet Nam. At the conclusion of his report, the inspector general urged that the incident be put into "the proper perspective," declaring that it "could very well have happened to other units of the 23d Infantry Division or to like combat units in Viet Nam, today. The reduced level of combat activity and the increasing publicity by the news media focusing upon ending of the war tend to create complacency among the troops and their commanders.

Spencer Baba 12-68 12-69
(Civil Affairs) 2/1/196th LIB
PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD

If you have any memorabilia from the WW II or the Vietnam era, this includes patches, money, coins, pictures (please write on the back in pencil, (names, dates, locations) that you would like to donate to the new Americal Museum in Worcester, MA please contact me.

PNC Roland t. Castronova

Peabody, MA 01960



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Eligibility for Membership

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

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

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

Dedication

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

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

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