



AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

FOUNDED 1945

Editor in Chief: James C. Buckle
Vietnam Editor: John R. McKnown Jr.
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THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION- P.O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

*Season's Greetings
and
A Happy New Year*

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10/97

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

You may have noticed in the past few issues of the Americal Newsletter that a new look has appeared on some of the pages. These pages were prepared for printing on a computer word processor.

One of my goals has been to transition the newsletter to this method of word handling. It allows for great flexibility in the editing process as well as preserves newsletter articles in an electronic format.

This page, for example, has been prepared on Word 6.0. It features margins of 0.6" and a text in Arial font of ten points height. The page will contain about 500 words and take an hour or so to prepare.

ADVA members have been great in sending in items for publication in the newsletter. Many of these are hand written or typed. To create the electronic word file these articles need to be transcribed into a computer word processor.

Jim Buckle has done an outstanding job as Editor-in-Chief of the Americal Newsletter. It is a job with much responsibility and requires many hours each week. I commend him for his dedication to this job.

Jim would like to spend more time on other projects and has asked for assistance in preparing the newsletter. In particular, volunteers are needed to enter news items into computer text.

I am asking interested volunteers to contact Jim or myself as soon as possible. If you have a few hours that you could provide please let us know.

It is not important which brand of software you are using. Most all programs will allow an item to be saved as a simple text file. It is also not particularly important that you have editing skills. It is important that responsibility be taken to enter data in time to meet the printing schedule.

The completed work can be mailed on a diskette to a person in charge of assembling newsletter pages. Or, a better alternative would be to send the file as an e-mail attachment. Either way will work.

If you would like to submit items for publication and are capable of doing so by e-mail, please do so. The e-mail message is a text file that can be transferred to the newsletter by using electronic cut-and-paste.

Individuals willing to become more involved are very welcome. We are interested in anyone who is willing to prepare finished pages for the newsletter.

For example, we would like to find some one who can work with the Chapter Commanders to prepare the Chapter News sections of the Americal Newsletter. The National Adjutant's notes is another section that is available for a contributing editor.

The newsletter is one of the chief benefits of membership in the association. Your contributions will be a valuable service to our members. Please help continue the success of the ADVA. Don't be shy in offering your much needed services. Thank You!

Greetings for the New Year

On behalf of the Officers and the Executive Council of the ADVA, I wish to express sincere wishes that the holidays bring joy to you and yours. May the new year be filled with health, happiness, and prosperity.

Have a great year in 1998!

Computers Needed

Do you have a good used computer that you would be willing to donate to an officer of the ADVA for use in association business? If so, please let me know.

The continued growth of communication by electronic mail is requiring that more and more people have access to a computer. Several ADVA officers regularly correspond in this manner. This saves time and money and results in a more efficient organization.

We are looking for two or three computers that are capable of a few basic tasks such as word processing and internet access. The requirements are for a 486 processor, 4 meg or more RAM, and, if possible, a 28.8 modem. It would be a plus if the computer can be offered with Windows 3.x or Windows 95 already installed.

Contributions of this type may be deductible as charitable contributions. Ask your tax advisor for assistance in this determination.

Please let me know if you have anything that you may be able to provide. Write to me at 10107 Central [REDACTED], 64114 or send an e-mail to [REDACTED] or phone [REDACTED]. Thank You!

Member Survey Planned

I would like to include a member survey with the 1998 election ballot. This survey would allow members to tell the officers and Executive Council of the ADVA how they think the association can improve. If you have a question that you think should be asked in the survey, please contact me as indicated above.

Historical Documents Requested

Les Hines, Vietnam Historian, has acquired hundreds of documents relating to the Americal Division in Vietnam. He would like to assemble as much information as he can about the division during this era.

If you have done personal research that you would like to share with Les, please contact him with your offer. His address is [REDACTED], Des Moines, IA, 50312. He can be reached by e-mail at [REDACTED].

Les is particularly interested in records are below division level such as battalion journals or company morning reports. He is also looking for any home videos that may have been prepared from film or photos. Let him know what you have so he can assemble a complete Vietnam history of the Americal.

TAPS TAPS TAPS

198 LIB	101 QUARTERMASTER
John H. Brawley III West Roxbury, MA Date Unknown	Randolph J. Gerard Sr. Edgewater, FL October 10, 1997
182 INFANTRY M CO.	754 TANK CO.
Victor A. Giannantonio Malden, MA September 2, 1997	Elmo M. Hargrave Kansas City, MO May 12, 1997
245 F.A. B Btry	182 INFANTRY
Harry L. Keller Jr. Strasburg, VA October 10, 1997	Mitchell J. Lenkiewicz Clinton, MA July 13, 1997
182 INFANTRY L CO.	182 INFANTRY H+G CO
Peter M. McDonald Brookline, MA September 25, 1997	Francis E. McPhillips South Wellfleet, MA April 1, 1997
164 INFANTRY K CO.	26 SIGNAL CO.
Joseph S. Motil Harper Woods, MI September 8, 1996	Vincent A. Palazzo Medford, MA June 1996
57 ENGINEERS A CO.	132 INFANTRY 3/HQ
James A. Peoples Arlington, MA August 8, 1997	Henry J. Ramirez Pasadena, CA August 11, 1997
182 INFANTRY HQ/A/1	182 INFANTRY
Royal B. Rose Lakeport, CA July 28, 1997	Robert F. Scofield Melrose, MA September 12, 1997
164 INFANTRY I CO.	1 CAVALRY C TROOP
George Timock Cadillac, MI February 21, 1997	Michael Tino Southfield, MI September 13, 1997
182 INFANTRY M CO.	247 FIELD ARTILLERY
Didrick L. Tonseth Falmouth, ME October 29, 1997	Matthew Wannyeck Saint Claire, MI Date Unknown
221 FIELD ARTILLERY	132 INFANTRY M CO.
Joseph M. Waters North Fort Myers, FL June 14, 1997	Frank J. Wojtczak Naugatuck, CT March 19, 1997
221 FIELD ARTILLERY	121 MEDICAL BN.
John T. Woodworth Hingham, MA June 11, 1996	Elmar E. Matola Hernando, FL November 11, 1997

164th INFANTRY

Lavern R. Lang - E Company - May 29, 1996
 Warren L. Mummert - September 1, 1996
 Herbert O. Meidinger - October 15, 1996
 Lyle A. Wainworth - Hdq. Co. - February 25, 1996
 Howard Johnson - February 6, 1995
 Arvid Christenson - E Company - October 12, 1996
 Theodore W. Kutz - Hdq. 3rd Bn. - December 8, 1996
 Col James Hoop - December 29, 1996
 Jack Ross - M Company - January 23, 1997
 Leon Jorgenson - December 1996
 Ralph Parpart - Date Unknown
 Bernard Benesh - E Company - Date Unknown
 (Taken from the 164 Newsletter)

CONVALESCENT MEMBERS

125 Quartermaster	121 Medical Bn
Harry L. Corliss	Anthony J. DeYeso
Medford, MA 02155-2156	Quincy, MA 02169

Hey guys -- How about a card?

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

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Dale L. Strine Jr. 21 Infantry B/3/21 York, PA	

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Raymond J. Dowd 182 Infantry M Co Largo, FL	Daniel LaPierre 31 Infantry A/4 Van Buren, ME
Gary W. Nelson 198 LIB Columbia, TN	John O. Newman 221 FA Springfield, MA
Francis Skilnik 132 Infantry M Co Chicago, IL	Donald Van Estenbridge 23 M.P. 2nd Plt Waymart, PA
Charles H. Walker 164 Infantry E Co Pembina, ND	

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

CHECK THAT ADDRESS LABEL -- NOW!

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETING

January 3, 1998
 Americal Museum
 Worcester, MA
 10:00 A.M.

February 7, 1998
 Americal Museum
 Worcester, MA
 10:00 A.M.

March 7, 1998
 Americal Museum
 Worcester, MA
 10:00 A.M.

IF IT SNOWS THE MEETINGS WILL BE CANCELLED!

IN MEMORIAM

The Officers and members of the Americal Division Veterans Association offer their deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beschle in the loss of their granddaughter, Danielle.

Danielle had just started her second year in college. In both her first and second year she had been a recipient of an award from the Americal Scholarship Fund.

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

The following men DID NOT receive their July-August - September 1997 Americal Newsletter. Their copy was returned by the Post Office because they had moved or the address was incorrect. The Americal was charged \$.50 a piece for their return for a total of \$30.50 plus the cost of the Newsletter which run about \$1.00 each

If you are interested in receiving this past issue please send \$1.00 to the Editor. Single copies have to be mailed out first class and the charge is \$1.01.

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 Harvey G. Bell Castro Valley, CA
 Celio D. Bongiana West Chester, OH
 Gerald T. Borysiak Rockford, MI
 Mrs. Mario Cenin Reedsburg, WI
 Robert W. Chestnut Tupelo, MS
 John Clark Greeley, CO
 Clyde E. Cogswell, Jr. Glen Burnie, MD
 Robert B. Colvin Duluth, MN
 Francis S. Conaty, Jr. Sanford, NC
 Michael T. Cunningham Little Mountain, SC
 Laurence J. Dahlke Rosendale, WI
 Reed E. Davis, Jr. Leavenworth, KS
 SFC John W. Edwards Baltimore, MD
 Ronald R. Ellis Henderson, TX
 Director Ft. Lewis Military Museum Fort Lewis, WA
 Michael Gardner Bronxville, NY
 Thomas Gilmore Middleboro, MA
 Patrick J. Gleason Lowell, MA
 Alfred J. Gliddon Spring Lake Park, MN
 Thomas C. Greime Bellevue, WA
 Edward A. Hager Wisconsin Rapids, WI
 Ltc. 'Hank' M. Henry Corpus Christi, TX
 Mrs. Richard H. Hern Chicago, IL
 Col. Harold G. Holcombe Bonita Springs, FL
 Robert B. Johnson Richland Center, WI
 Allen T. Jones Great Lakes, IL
 Herald R. Kerns Aberdeen, SD
 Walter J. Kopernik Pinellas Park, FL

Alex Kostopulos Pelham, AL
 Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen Alexandria, VA
 Patrick A. Lindsay Minot, ND
 John J. Molloy Wilmington, MA
 William L. Moore Kihei, HI
 Mrs. James R. Moriarty Diego, CA
 Richard P. Mosher Gurnee, IL
 SGM Gregory A. Noeller Wichita, KS
 August Obuchowski Chesapeake, VA
 Joseph D. Paladin Cambridge Ma
 James E. Peoples Needham, MA
 Luther R. Perry Cincinnati, OH
 James L. Polewchak Peru, OH
 Danny J. Richards South Houston, TX
 James D. Riesbeck Martins Ferry, OH
 Mrs. Mary Robar Coconut Creek, FL
 Thomas Roche Morrisville, PA
 Kevin M. Sartorius Rockville, MD
 George S. Scott St. Augustine, FL
 John Smith Nutter Fort, WV
 Victor A. Spracklin Stoneham, MA
 Phillip A. Tatom Bedford, IN
 Mitchell A. Ulman Valparaiso, IN
 Domingo Vasquez, Jr. Olympia, WA
 Albert J. Velasquez Bloomington, IN
 Daniel Vierqutz South Fork, CO
 Vietnam Tours Kent, WA
 Howard A. Webb, Sr. Apopka, FL
 S/Sgt. Edward P. Wenz Taunton, MA
 Charles H. Winters Andover, Ma
 Clint Zimlich Brunswick, OH

The following returns were marked 'Temporarily Away'. The Americal was charged \$.50 a piece for this information for a total of \$12.00. It is not known whether or not the Newsletter is held for the members return. If you wish a copy of the last issue send \$1.00 to the editor for first class postage.

Ernest F. Aufero Vero Beach, FL
 Bruce L. Bishop Tomahawk, WI
 Joseph A. Bruno Highland Beach, FL
 Grover E. Clark Clearwater, FL
 John P. Clarner Vero Beach, FL
 Lewis G. Cooper Fort Myers, FL
 James L. Ellafritts Atlanta, GA
 John E. Elliott Acton, MA
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 Carlo A. Pola Sandwich, MA
 Richard T. Stowe North Versailles, PA
 Ltc James N. Watson (Ret) Jacksonville, FL
 Thurman O. Weathers Orlando, CA
 Harry F. Wysocki Lakeland, FL

If you will let me know the dates you plan on being away, and your address, I will try to get your Newsletter to you. Thanks,

Jim

SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

James C. Buckle

East Harwich, MA 02645-1470

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Mr. Richard L. Baitzel
?
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#R. Castronova

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#Castronova & Ed Hayes

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#Gary L. Noller

Mr. James L. Bridges
Special Troops Hdq
West Plains, MO
#Self

Mr. William M. Casey
11 LIB D/1/20 Inf
Newark Valley, NY
#Ballou-Roth

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11 LIB B/4/21 Inf
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#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Richard Dukat
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#Don Ballou

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North Brattleboro, VT
#Self

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328 RR Co.
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#William Guldon

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#Ed Marsh

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#Joe Jackson

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#Self

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#Self

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#R. Castronova

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#Robert Criswell

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#Bernie Chase

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#Bernie Chase

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Mr. Darrel McNeil
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--	--

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

DC DE MD KY NJ NY OH PA VA WV

The Eastern Regional Chapter of the ADVA held its Annual Reunion on September 18-20, 1997 at the Holiday Inn, Exton, PA. (Near Philadelphia)

The activities began Thursday night with a spectacular Dinner-Show at Lily Lantry's featuring "Follies Parisienne". Friday's guided tour took the group to Brandywine Battlefield and Museum, The Brandywine River Museum, (N.C. Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth, and son Jamie), and finally to the world famous Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA.

Saturday's night banquet was held at the Holiday Inn. A brief business meeting as held. All in attendance were thanked for coming together and making our Reunion a most pleasant experience.

Several prospective sites for the 1998 Reunion were suggested including Cape May, NJ, Williamsburg, VA, and Charleston, WV.

There was much discussion throughout the Reunion on how to encourage more participation by Vietnam veterans.

Come on you guys. We WW II vets are running out of gas. We need new blood to keep our Chapter viable. Vietnam veterans now out-number the WW II vets. Get interested--become involved--you will find it to be a rich and rewarding experience.

Robert L. Granoff
Chapter Commander

WILLIAM F. MCGOLDRICK - NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI

COMMANDER Roland T. Castronova [REDACTED] Peabody, MA 01960	SEC/TREAS Carlos A. Pola [REDACTED] Sandwich, MA 02563
--	---

On Saturday September 6, 1997, more than sixty members of the New England Chapter met at the Americal Museum in Worcester, MA. Coffee and doughnuts were served at 10:00 A.M. At 11:00 A.M. a short business meeting was held by the members present. After the meeting the members had a great time recalling old memories of years gone by. Around 12:30 P.M. members were served a nice lunch. following lunch Al Doig showed slides of New Caledonia and Fiji that were taken in 1992. All present said they had a great time and around 3:30 P.M. started for home.

Plans are being made to repeat this affair on Saturday May 16, 1997. We will have more information in the Jan-Feb-Mar 1998 issue of the Americal Newsletter. All members are invited to attend.

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

COMMANDER Robert (Bob) Kapp [REDACTED] Tampa, FL 33615	SEC/TREAS George P. Dakin [REDACTED] Deltona, FL 32728
---	---

The 1998 National Convention of the Americal Division Veterans Association will be sponsored by the Arthur R. Wood Chapter and will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Delta Olando Resort on June 25-26-27-28, 1998.

See further information elsewhere in this Newsletter. Full information will be in the next issue of the Americal Newsletter.

PNC Tom McQuade is the Chairman of the 1998 Convention. You may call him at [REDACTED] for further information.

SOUTH MID WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Commander Ernest B. Carlson [REDACTED] Fredericksburg, TX 78624 Tel- [REDACTED]	Secretary/Treasurer Malcolm P. East [REDACTED] Lumberton, TX 77556 Tel- [REDACTED]
---	--

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bruce Mobley
Chaplain: Rev Perry M. Woerner

Dear Guys and Gals-----

Thanks a million for the dozens and dozens of cards and telephone calls. One of the tumors they removed was "positive", but the doctors assured me that they got it all. I go back once a month for further tests.

First our AMERICAL EXHIBIT at the NIMITZ MUSEUM: I have been told that with the repairs, construction, and the backlog of exhibits, it will be at least a year, but they will get us in as soon as they can.

Now to the task at hand. The WALL PLAQUE. We have passed the halfway mark of the \$2500 dollars, since the first of July. I would like to point out that all but \$40.00 (Forty) of this sum has come from our Chapter members. So come on people, let's get the AMERICAL DIVISION on the NIMITZ MUSEUM MEMORIAL WALL, so that the more than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND annual visitors the Museum will see that the AMERICAL is still together.

On Novemgber 11, 1997, the Americal Legion is hosting a ceremony at the Nimitz Museum. We expect to have Chapter members in attendance. There will be a social at the Legion Hall afterwards, or maybe at my house, for our group.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR NATIONAL AND CHAPTER DUES CARD
DUES ARE COMING UP

Hug Somebody,
Ernie

HAVE YOU WRITTEN OR CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?
TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE

AMERICAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
Orlando, Florida

JUNE 25 - 26 - 27 - 28, 1998

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Maingate at Univeresal Studios Florida

The Delta Orlando Resort is located at the maingate of Universal Studios Florida, just fifteen minutes from Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom, Epcot Center and the Disney/MGM Studio Theme Park. Five Minutes (5) to the International Drive, Wet'n Wild, Sea World and Factory Outlet Malls. Fifteen minutes (15) from Orlando International Airport.

The Delta Orlando Resort has 800 guest rooms and suites with a balcony or terrace, non-smoking rooms, individual heating/cooling temperature controls, cable TV, in-room movies, in-room safe, electronic lock system, small pets welcome. Three outdoor heated swimming pools and three outdoor hot tubs. There is no charge for children 18 years and under in the same room. Facilities available for the handicapped.

Bring your children or grandchildren. There are two kiddie pools, a children's playground, video game room for the kids, Wally's Kids Club with supervised activities, and a nine hole mini golf course.

Of course the Hotel has many gift shops, dining and entertainment areas, including Water's Edge Pool Bar and Grill. It has golf courses nearby and many group activities.

Rooms are a reasonable \$69.00 per night plus tax.

It is not too early to call now. The Hotel telephone number is 1-800-634-4763. Mention the Americal Convention and the dates-June 25-28, '98.

The Hotel will also be offering a choice of two meals for \$18.95.

So far, the Convention Chairman, Tom McQuade has lined up a few trips including Rosie O'Grady's Church Station and a visit to Cape Canaveral. (Full information and prices in the next Americal Newsletter).

U.S. Air will offer competitive fares during June 1998 for the Americal Convention. Before making your reservations call U. S. Air. Just mention Gold File 711-80362. Their telephone number [redacted]

Please send your Registration Fee of \$10.00 PER PERSON to:

Chairman Thomas McQuade
[redacted]
Nalcrest, FL 33856

If you have any questions ---- Call [redacted]

So, gather up the kids, grandkids, and small pets,

AND COME ON DOWN?

If you have a REUNION coming up in 1998 please have your notice into the Editor by the following dates:

January -February - March = February 1, 1998
April - May - June = April 1, 1998
July - August - September = August 1, 1998
October - November - December = November 1, 1998

WINTERFEST R & R ALL VETERANS RALLY
12th Annual

January 16 - 17 - 18, 1998
New Glarus, Wisconsin

Schedule of Events

Friday, January 16th
6:30-8:30 P.M. Hospitality Party at Swiss Lanes

Saturday, January 17th
10:00am-3:00pm Military displays, Vendors, etc.
1:00-2:00pm Silent Auction - Landhaus Motel
2:00-5:00pm Poker Run
4:00pm Annual Group Picture - Puempels Old Tavern
6:00-12:00pm 12th Anniversary Dance at the New Glarus Hotel

Dress accordingly, for COLD weather. This is a great time. For a flyer on Motels etc. Write or call.

WINTERFEST 98

[redacted]
New Glarus, WI 53574-0014

Telephone: [redacted]
Ron Lewis from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. - weekdays

FIRE BASE MARY ANN
1st Battalion - 46th Infantry

Camp Carlson, Fort Knox, Kentucky

March 27 - 28, 1998

CONTACT: William "Skidrow Joe" Walker
[redacted]
Vine Grove, KY 40175
Phone: [redacted]

REUNIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April 24 - 26, 1998
11TH Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion
Melbourne, Florida
Contact: Ralph [redacted]

May 1- 3, 1998
Rededication Remembrance
10th Anniversary of Illionois Memorial
Contact: Telephone [redacted]

May 7, 1998
Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Convention and Dance
Richland Center, Wisconsin
Contact: Bill - Telephone [redacted]

(Thanks to Terry Babler for the above information)

There are many small unit Reunions that happen every year and the Editor would be glad to report on them in the Americal Newsletter. For coming Reunions please observe the date deadlines printed elsewhere on this page. A follow up on the Reunion giving names, details and also a picture would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Message

By Rev. Perry Woerner, Chaplain

What Child is This?

Luke 2:8-14

Each Christmas is witness again of God's perfect timekeeping. God is never rushed, but He is never late. Galatians 4:4 declares that "when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son."

It was a mighty clock stroke on the chronometer of time when the angelic host announced to the shepherds on the hillside: "For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord." For centuries the world had been waiting for this event.

When the shepherds came to see, what did they find? A babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. But was it just a child?

- He was King. Isaiah 9:6-7 - "...and the government shall be upon His shoulders; and of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end."
- He was our Priest Hebrews 7:21-22 representing us to God, and reconciling men unto God.
- He was the Wonderful Counselor. His words are words of life. He taught men of the dangers in the path of life.
- He was the Prince of Peace. He is the author of the peace that passes human comprehension.
- He was the CHRIST. Christ was not Jesus' last name. That title was indicative of the role he was to play in God's plan as "The Anointed One."

Yes, Jesus was revealed as a Child, that we might receive Him as children. (Matthew 18:3)

May the Joy of the season be with you and yours always!

ADVA: Dedicated as a Living Memorial to Americal Veterans

The Americal Division Veterans Association is dedicated as a Living Memorial to the veterans of the Americal Division. As such, the association would like to know as soon as possible of the passing of a division veteran.

Many of us do not like to think of this situation that will surely come to each of us. However, if you learn of the passing of someone connected to the Americal, please inform the association.

It would be very thoughtful if you would instruct your loved ones to send notification to the ADVA upon your passing to your eternal reward. In this way the members can be notified and an appropriate remembrance can be rendered. Your family will appreciate the support that ADVA members can give.

Plaque Fund Reports Progress



USS Indianapolis plaque located at the Nimitz Museum, Fredericksburg, TX. An Americal Div. plaque is planned.

Mr. Malcolm East, Treasurer of the South Midwest Region, reports that several donations have been received for the commemorative plaque to be displayed at the Nimitz Museum. (See page 13 of the Jul-Aug-Sep 1997 Americal Newsletter.)

A donation of \$2,500 is required by the museum to cover acquisition, installation, and maintenance costs of the 20 inch by 20 inch bronze plaque. Approximately half of the needed funds are in the bank as of Nov. 1.

If you wish to make a donation to this fund, please send you check or money order to Mr. Malcolm East, SMW Chapter Treasurer, [redacted], Lumberton, TX, 77656-9429.

The Big Picture

Many of you may remember seeing the television show titled "The Big Picture". It was a U.S. Army documentary that aired in the late 50's and 60's.

The program depicted scenes of the personnel and equipment of the modern army. It was used as a public relations and recruitment tool and provided a means for the Army to tell its story.

One episode of "The Big Picture" featured the Americal Division in Vietnam. The opening of the film gave an account of the Americal Division in WWII.

Copies of this episode on VHS cassette are now available to ADVA members. Cost of each cassette is \$12.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling. Proceeds from this sale will be used to help fund on-going historical research about the Americal Division.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy, write to Mr. Les Hines, Vietnam Historian, [redacted] Des Moines, IA. If you wish, Les can be contacted by e-mail at [redacted].

Looking For: Chet Morowski, Pat Moran, Anyone who served in D, 3/1, 11 brigade. July 1970 Sept 1971. Fred from Ohio. Doc Brown (medic) Louisville. [REDACTED]: Robert 'Red' Thomasson, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Anyone HQ/HQ Company 4th Bn 3rd Inf. Commo plt Aug 67--Jan 69 Contact: John P. Evance, [REDACTED].

Looking For: Lorenzo Herrera Co. "C" 4/3 1969-70. Duc Pho & San Juan Hill Contact: Jim Alexander 'Tex' [REDACTED], Forsan, TX 79733

Looking For: Kenneth Bassett Co. C 4/3 69 *70 Contact: Jim Alexander 'Tex', [REDACTED], Forsan, TX 79733

Looking For: John G. Papp, E-6, from Cleveland. 11th Bde, 4/3, 70/71. Contact: Glenn R. Burrell, demory@brigadoon.com, [REDACTED] Portland, OR 97208 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Robert Hagan, 11th Infantry, Bravo 4/3 Infantry Aug. 68 to about Nov. Contact: Roger K. Jenkins, [REDACTED], Leesburg, Va. 20176

Looking For: Members of Co E, 4/3 11th LIB (Recon) 1967-1970 Duc Pho Vietnam Contact: Russ Blais, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Richard Olson, transferred to the 1/52nd. from 1/6, 198 "E" Co. LZ Bayonett, 68-69. Contact: Joe A. De La Rosa, [REDACTED], Canyon Country, Ca. 91351, [REDACTED]

Looking For: anyone B Co.1/6 198 L.I.B. 5-68 to 5-69. Chu Lai Contact: George Missett, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Donald A. (Alton) Cohagan Co. C 1/6 198 LIB In Vietnam August 1970. Contact: Chris Gatti, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Lawrence McElroy A Co. 1/6th Bn. 198LIB. LZ Dottie, LZ Bayonet Contact: Lannie D. Gilbert, [REDACTED], Jonesville, Va. 24263, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Jim Rafferty or Rafferty Medic with A Company, 1/6th in '69, Contact: Jerry 'Doc' O'Connor, [REDACTED], St. Pete. Fl. 33711

Looking For: Anyone Company D, 1/20th Oct. 1968-March 1969, looking for Featherstone. Contact: Donald Hotch, Sr., [REDACTED] or Rick Turner, [REDACTED]

Looking For: All Members A Co. 1/20 11th LIB July 68 - jun 69 Contact: Bob Kraft [REDACTED], Albany, NY 12205

Looking For: Anyone C Co 1-20 11th LIB from July to October 1968 Contact: David Reed, [REDACTED], Middletown, OH 45044 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Any Co. C 3/21 "Charlie tigers" at Tay Ninh, from Aug. "66" to Feb. "67" Contact: Joe Greear, [REDACTED]

Looking For: SP4 "DOC" WARD May 1968, C 4/21 Inf. This is to confirm an incident reference PFC Walter Johns and Sp4 John Starnes. Contact: John B. Starnes, [REDACTED], Fayetteville, NC 28311

Looking For: Mike Clifford or anyone Co.B, 4/21st, 11th LIB., January 1970 to October 1970. LZ Debbie. Contact :Ronald R. Brakhage, [REDACTED], Coffeyville, Ks. 67337

Looking For: 1st Platoon, 196th LIB, Co. A, 4/31st from 6/68 to 5/69. Al DeWrenches, Deitz Cook, Mike Fogarellie, Pat Bridges, Suds Kinunin, Tom Bear. Que Son Valley, LZ West, LZ Richards, LZ Baldy Contact: Bill Cobler [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone from B-Co. 4/31th 196th LIB Dec. 68 thru Sep. 69, 2nd platoon. Contact: John Alexander, [REDACTED], Jacksonville, NC., 28546-1657

Looking For: David Poston 196th LIB, 1/46, Co. B, 1970 Contact: Dennis Keeve [REDACTED]

Looking For: Lt Gregg, Sgt Walquest, and others Served 1968 hill 69 chu lai B Co., 1/46 198th Contact: Bryce Barker, [REDACTED] Semora N.C. 27343, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who served with C Co, 1/46th. 71-72 Contact: Dave Waroff, [REDACTED]

Looking For: members recon 1/46 October 1968 through May 1969, LZ Professional. Mark, Bill, any who remembers Freddy (KIA) May 14, 1969. Contact: Bob Tullos [REDACTED]

Looking For: anyone 5 th/46 th. Co. B 196 th. Inf. Americal Div. 1968-1969 LZ GATOR Contact: Ralph Perdigone, 4510 ALMA, San Antonio, Texas 78222. [REDACTED]

Looking For: James, Zimeto code name Z, HHQ, B CO. 5/46 LZ GATOR 1968/1969 Contact: Ralph Brown, [REDACTED], 114 Spruce Str., Rossville, Ga. 30741

Looking For: Ed Mykowski (unsure of spelling), James West, Roger Shabaney, Gary Evans, Jim Bungardner, :1968-1969, 5/46th, 198th, Company B; Contact: Garry Fowler, [REDACTED], 5825 Searsburg Road, Trumansburg, NY 14886, 607-387-6056

Looking For: Jim Fraser, (1LT) and Chaplain Cosner, C/5/46 Infantry, 198 LIB, 1968-69 Contact: Bill O'Neill, 'C/5/46 FO, [REDACTED], Irvine, CA 92606

Looking For: William (Bill) McCarthy Jr. Co. B 5/46th 198th LIB, 1970 to 1971. Last known to live at New Hempsted, NY. Contact: Brad Jackson, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone D Co, 5/46/198LIB (70-71) Chu Lai area (Firebirds) Contact: James Malone [REDACTED], Goodspring, TN 38460. [REDACTED]

Looking For: Roger Johnson Served with Co B 5/46 198, 1970 Contact: Russell Brown [REDACTED]

Looking For: "Conneticut" or any one else E/5/46/198, July 70-Feb. 71, Chu Lia, Ky Tra valley. hill 76 Contact: Tim 'Woody' Woodville, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Wayne Thompson, A co. 1/52nd 70-71. LZ Stinson. Also for P.A. Mashintonio, "Snuffy" Horn, "Doc" Cadena, Dave Wampler, Sgt. Lindsay, and "Top" Flossi. Contact: Larry Taff, [REDACTED], Cabool, MO 65689

Looking For: Anyone who remembers John Smith HHC, 1/52, Commo Platoon, Bayonet, Professional, '68-'69. Contact: John Smith, [REDACTED], WV 26301

Looking For: George Williams 1/52 198 1969- Contact: William, 8 Country Gardens, Mattoon, Illinois

If you need assistance in contacting those who posted locator messages, contact Gary L. Noller, National Commander, [REDACTED], Kansas City, MO 64114. [REDACTED]. The web locator can be found on the internet at www.americal.org/locator/.

Looking For: Anyone who knew Arthur A. Marose, 132nd Infantry, Co. F, served on Guadalcanal, discharged to Camp Fanning, Texas. Patricia 'Marose' Benson [REDACTED], Casselberry, Florida 32707

Looking For: Anyone who knew my father Francis V. Shetler. He served with Americal during World War II. James D. Shetler [REDACTED], Hamden, CT

Looking For: Anyone who knew Robert, 132 Infantry on Leyte during 1943. Mr. Stack died in Walter Schenack's arms and he has a message to give to the family. C. Schenack, [REDACTED]

Looking For: John Savido. I think we was sent to the 11TH Infantry George A. Xirau, [REDACTED] Royale International Inc., [REDACTED], Miami, FL 33147, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Dean Brink, Roger Stump, Chu-Lai, 1971-1972. Gary "Smokey" Naden, D Co. 23rd Medical Bn, [REDACTED], 8 Spruce Terrace, Jackson, N.J. 08527

Looking For: Robert Moen, Americal Division 70-71 looking for Frank James. Donald Halcomb, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Finance Guys that served in Americal Finance Office (big barn) in late 67 and 68 (tet). Rick Carleton, carleton@net1.net [REDACTED], Cleveland, Texas 77327

Looking For: Tom Howell, Chu-Lai, 67-68, from Ohio, reenlisted around 69-70, stationed at Fort Devens. Tom Burke, [REDACTED], Norwich, Ct. 06360. [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone who knew WO Nicholas L. Venditti, WO Wilbur J. Vachon III or SP5 Timothy T. Williams. They died after an accidentally detonated grenade in a classroom at LZ Bayonet, July 10, 1969. Contact: C. David Venditta, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Villagrasia, A, 1/82 Arty. LZ Gator, LZ Fat City. 1/69 to 1/70, from Boston Ma. Daniel J. Sullivan, [REDACTED], Woodbridge, VA. 22192

Looking For: A Co., 3/82 Field Artillery. Kham Duc, 10-12 May, 1968. Contact [REDACTED], Barnhart, Missouri. 63012

Looking For: Anyone C BTRY, 1/82 Apr 1968- Nov 1970 LZ LIZ, Robert E. Turner Jr [REDACTED], Waverly TN 37185

Looking For: 1Bn 82 Arty, Anybody in the Battalion who made the trip from Seattle to Chu Lai in '69. especially HHB, Bn FDC, and SSGT Jim Hobbs from FT. Worth. Harris Bonnell, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, Hq Btry, Div Artillery, 12/70 to 6/71-- Before the Typhoon hit, Nick Picck, [REDACTED], Norman, OK

Looking For: ANYONE, C, 1/82 ARTY, LZ LIZ, APR 1969 TO NOV 1970, ROBERT E. TURNER JR [REDACTED], WAVERLY TN

Looking For: All who served Duster, Quad, Searchlight, Vulcan, and Hawk units. Reunion 9-12 July 1998, Knoxville, TN. Gary 'angora cat' Puro [REDACTED]

Looking For: Div Arty Air Pilots, Sep68-Sep69, Darryl James, [REDACTED], Midland, TX, 79701, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Tom Jenkins (or Anyone), L.Z. Baldy & L.Z. Hawk Hill, with A-Btry, 3/82 Arty., May 1969 to May 1970. Ed 'Mick' DeJonghe, [REDACTED], Mt. Morris, IL. 61054, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone, C Battery, 3/16th from September, 1968 March, 1969. Contact: Don Ray, [REDACTED], Call me at [REDACTED], Burbank, CA 91503-4375

Looking For: Anyone, C Btry, 1/14 Artillery, 198LIB Vietnam 1967 - 68 Contact: Don Sylvester [REDACTED], Don Sylvester, 25 W. Second Street, Everett, PA. 15537, [REDACTED]

Looking For: anyone, 176th AHC, 3/69-10/70 Contact: Gary Ahlstrand [REDACTED], Tacoma, Wa, 98408

Looking For: Timothy Mitchel From Burlington, VT, 2nd flight 176th AHC, 14th Avi. Batt - late 1969. Contact: Jake Kennedy [REDACTED], Piqua, OH 45356

Looking For: Anyone OCT. '67 to Aug. 68 in 3rd Plat., H/17th Cav. Johnny Hanna, Reggie Sykes, James Manning, Sgt Stillman, Bob Chevalier, 1st Sgt Hedges, etc. Paul Letsch [REDACTED], Avenel, NJ 07001-1350

Looking For: Anyone in the 1/1 Cav, Americal Div. around March of 1971. SGT E-5 Donald Miller, [REDACTED], Rochester, Indiana 46975

Looking For: Anyone H Troop, 17th CAV, '67-'68. I went over from Ft. Hood on USS Upshur. Contact: Dan Manning, [REDACTED], Arlington, VA 22204-4546, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone Serving H-troop 17th Cav. 70-71 Contact: Carroll Six [REDACTED]

Looking For: Dan Dole, C Co 26th Engrs, 1970 1971, Duc Pho Contact: Roland B Palmer 1sg Retired [REDACTED]

Looking For: John Boulware 23 Military Police, LZ Hawk Hill, 10/70-3/71, Contact: Donald 'cowboy' Van Estenbridge, [REDACTED], Waymart, PA 18472 [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anderson, Valentine, SGT Pappelka, LT Hunter, MPs, PMO guys, SP/4 Bruce Olson, Provost Marshal's Office- January 1970-March 1971, Contact: Bruce Olson, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Eddie Grillo, 1970-71 DaNang, Camp Professional. 23rd S&T Battalion Contact: Mike Reynolds, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Sgt VanArmsburg (sp?), I-Corp 196th Infantry Brigade, Ranger. Served in 1971 (Joe Hogue is looking for you) Contact: Ray Spengler, ray [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anybody D 2/1 196th 1/68 1/69 Contact: Geoffrey Davis, [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone Charlie Co. 2/1 196th LIB, Oct. 1969 to July 1970, LZ Hawk Hill Contact :Larry Foster [REDACTED]

Looking For: Anyone A/3/1 11th L.I.B. Feb 69 to Feb 70. Need morning reports or how to obtain for pending case. Contact: Jim Parker, [REDACTED], Auburn, Maine 04212-

Looking For: anyone 2nd Platoon D Co, 3/1, 11th Bde. LZ Dragon, from Hawaii until May 1968. Contact: Jeff Baden, [REDACTED]

Looking For: John Adams HHC 3/1 Duc Pho Contact: Ned Fishman, [REDACTED]

T-SHIRT SALE



We are happy to make these fine shirts available to ADVA members at very reasonable prices. Send your order today while stocks are plentiful.

Style	Description	Sizes	Price
ADVA Logo	Blue with gold lettering White background	L,XL,XXL	\$12.00
Combat Infantryman Badge	Blue, White, and Black on gray Gray background	M,L,XL,XXL	\$12.00
Vietnam Brigades	Red, White, Blue, Yellow Black background	M,L,XL,XXL	\$12.00
Jungle Fighter	Blue, White, Green, Brown Tan background	M,L,XL,XXL	\$15.00

All shirts are fine quality and your satisfaction is guaranteed. The Jungle Fighter shirt is 100% ribbed cotton. All other styles are 50/50 cotton/polyester. **Please add \$3.00 P&H for the first shirt, \$1.00 for each additional shirt.** Check the chart above for available sizes per style.

Order Form				
Send to Mr. Ken Turner, 71 Madison Ave., Wakefield, MA, 01880. Include check or money order made payable to ADVA. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. <i>Thank You!</i>				
Qty	Style	Size	Cost Ea	Total Cost
Grand Total				
Name			P&H	
Address			Total Enclosed	
City/State/ZIP				

FVVM In Touch Program

The Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is an not-for-profit organization that sponsors several programs related to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This group saw the need to be of assistance to those that are drawn to the memorial to the veterans of this difficult war.

One of the services that FVVM provides is a database of families and friends of Vietnam veterans listed on the memorial. They are seeking to find veterans who knew their loved ones while in military

service. Likewise, the database lists veterans who are willing to be united with the families and friends of their lost buddies.

Immediately below is a listing of Americal veterans in the FVVM database. If you knew any of these men and would like to contact their friends or families please respond to the address listed at the bottom of the page.

FVVM will be happy to send you more information on their programs and how you can be a part of their many programs to assist families and veterans. Contributions are solicited and may be deductible on your tax returns.

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE LOOKING FOR VETERANS WHO KNEW THESE MEN

NAME	RANK	KIA/MIA	UNIT	NAME	RANK	KIA/MIA	UNIT
ABRAHAM, James Joseph	SP4	10/12/68	198 th LIB, 1/6 th Inf.	MANGINO, Thomas Angelo	SP4	4/21/67	D, 4/31 st , 196 th LIB
ADKINS, James W.	CPL	6/8/69		MARTIN, Dennis Philip	PFC	7/22/70	196 th LIB
ALLEN, Wayne C.	SFC	1/10/70	71 st Avn, 14 th Avn	MOORE, Percy	SP4	4/19/69	11 th LIB
ARENS, Timothy	PFC	10/1/68	D, 1/46 th , 198 th LIB	MORGENS, Christopher	LT	11/8/70	C, 5/46 th , 198 th LIB
BARKER, Paul L.	PFC	5/3/68	3/21 st Inf., 196 th LIB	MURPHY, Larron	CPT	4/23/70	F, 8 th Cav
BALDWIN, Robert Lloyd	1LT	3/18/68	1/20 th , 11 th LIB	MUSCO, Vincent James	SGT	8/18/69	11 th LIB
BIDDULPH, Thomas A.	1LT	10/27/68	D, 198 th LIB	NELSON, Roy L.	1LT	4/32/71	A, 1/52 nd Inf.
BOISE, Richard Howard	PFC	11/29/69	11 th LIB	NEWBERRY, Larry G.	CPL	9/30/68	11 th LIB
BREEN, Gerald J.	SP4	3/5/67	3/21 st , 196 th LIB	OLENBAUGH, James Dale	PFC	1/4/68	D, 176 th AHC
BROWNING, Cleveland	CPL	5/23/69	198 th LIB	PEDERSEN, Russell A.	SGT	9/11/68	B, 3/1 st Inf., 11 th LIB
BURKETT, Curtis	SP4	2/19/71		PIERCE, Loy Wendell	SGT	8/9/71	196 th LIB
COX, George J.	SSGT	3/14/68	C, 11 th LIB	PRIEST, Donald W. Jr.	SP4	5/14/69	198 th LIB
CHRISTESON, L. Wayne	PFC	8/12/68	1/46 th Inf.	QUINN, James A	CPL	10/28/70	D, 3/21 st Inf., 196 th LIB
CREIGHTON, Paul	PFC	9/24/68	D	RAY, John Edward	SFC	5/13/69	1/14 th Arty, 198 th LIB
COLLINS, Thomas	SP4	7/11/71		RANKIN, John Robert	SP4	11/15/69	Quang Tin
CUPP, Robert W.	CPL	6/6/68	D, 2/1 st , 196 th LIB	RAY, John Edward	SFC	5/13/69	C, 1/14 th Arty, 198 th LIB
DALEY, Gerald	PFC	6/30/69	D, 2/1 st , 196 th LIB	REED, William Elbert	SGT	6/18/71	196 th LIB
DARTT, Paul	SP4	10/24/68		RICHARD, Duane	SP5	2/10/70	335 th Trans., 16 Avn
DAVIS, Frank Jr.	SP4	10/19/69	198 th LIB	ROGERS, James Steven	CPL	9/15/69	C, 11 th LIB
DESORMEAUX, Harry H.	SGT	5/17/68	11 th LIB	ROBERTSON, Marshall E.	SFC	8/26/69	C, 4/31 st Inf.
ELLIOTT, Richard	SP5	4/2/70	A	SANDOVAL, Hector M.	SP4	8/26/70	196 th LIB
ESTES, Brian R.	CPL	3/2/69	1/52 ^d Inf., 198 th LIB	SCHROEDER, Robert E.	CPL	11/2/69	C, 3/21 st Inf., 196 th LIB
FISCHER, Norman C.	SP4	4/23/71		SHAW, John James	PFC	1/29/67	C, 3/21 st Ing., 196 th LIB
GLEN, Michael R.	SP4	2/11/70	A, 5/46 th , 198 th LIB	SHELTON, Wesley	SP4	11/18/71	Americal Division
GURVITZ, Jeffrey	1LT	2/29/68	2/1 st Inf., 196 th LIB	SMITH, Dennis	CAPT	11/30/69	196 th LIB
HAILE, Donald J.	SSGT	2/9/68	196 th LIB	SPENCER, Kenneth D.	SGT	5/21/69	11 th LIB
HANSON, Johnnie	PFC	3/19/69	A, 2/1 st , 196 th LIB	SPRINKLE, Steven K.	SP4	5/31/69	11 th LIB
HARRIS, Edward L.	WO	3/1/69	174 th AHC	SOULE, William D	SSGT	8/21/67	196 th LIB
HAYNES, Robert M. Jr.	SP4	10/5/69	B, 5/46 th , 198 th LIB	STEVEN, Dennis L.	CPL	11/14/69	196 th LIB
HEITMANN, Kenneth Harry	SGT	3/25/70	3/21 st Inf., 196 th LIB	STONE, Lester	SGT	3/3/69	11 th LIB
HICKMAN, Thomas Steven	CPL	8/26/70	196 th LIB	STRICKLAND, Douglas L.	SP4	6/11/69	82 nd Arty, 196 th LIB
HIERIMEIER, Donald A.	PFC	2/16/68	198 th LIB	TALLEY, Floyd G.	SP5	12/8/69	1/46 th , 198 th LIB
HOLDEN, David	PFC	2/28/67	4/31 st Inf, 196 th LIB	TAYLOR, Randy L.	SP4	8/17/67	HQ, 2/1 st Inf., 196 th LIB
JARRELL, Sidney Wade	SP4	5/13/70		TOMEK, Glen D.	1LT	4/18/69	1/14 th Arty, 198 th LIB
JOHNSTON, Billy Neal Jr.	SSGT	8/16/70	198 th LIB	TURNER, James H.	SP4	10/9/69	12 Avn Gp
KELLEY, Joseph	SSGT	7/1/69	11 th LIB	TWO CROW, Blair	PFC	12/4/68	11 th LIB
KING, Frederick Ben	SGT	11/25/68	C, 3/1 st Inf., 11 th LIB	WATKINS, Harry Lee Jr.	SGT	1/9/68	D, 2/1 st , 196 th LIB
LADD, Albert Allen	SP4	4/17/69	11 th LIB	WHITE, Donald N.	SP4	10/11/70	A, 1/20 th Inf., 11 th LIB
LEBLANC, Francis Joseph	SP4	8/26/68	C, 3/1 st Inf., 11 th LIB	WIDNER, Danny	SGT	5/12/68	E, 2/1 st Inf., 196 th LIB
McMAHON, Charles D.	SSGT	5/12/70	B, 4/3 rd Inf, 11 th LIB	WILLIAMS, William L.	PFC	2/11/71	D, 1/46 th , 196 th LIB
MAISANO, Joseph A.	PFC	9/23/68	D, 1/52 nd , 198 th LIB	WORMDAHL, Richard G.	SP4	12/21/66	C, 2/1 st Inf., 196 th LIB

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE FAMILIES OF ANY OF THESE MEN, PLEASE CONTACT:
In Touch, FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
[redacted], Arlington, VA 22201, [redacted]

CHILDREN'S HAND HOLD KEY TO UNDERSTANDING

DUC PHO-Tiny hands are reaching half way across the world to help create a better understanding between two nations. The hands belong to 34 Vietnamese children in Duc Pho and the children of a first grade class in St. Louis Park, Minn.

Language is no barrier. In describing the people, customs, dress and other aspects of each country, hand drawings by the children condensed into scrapbooks, were exchanged between the groups.

All pictures were explained with English words and the Vietnamese children went one step further and put the Vietnamese translation under the English.

The exchange project was initiated by SP4 Howard Goldberg, who works with the civic action section of the 11th Inf. Bde. Goldberg teaches English to children between 7 and 11 years old at the Catholic orphanage here.

While thinking of ways to make the classes more interesting he came up with the idea of having each pupil make an individual scrapbook. He outlined his idea in a letter to Robert M. Dougherty, principal of St. Louis Park elementary school. Supplies were quickly donated and shipped to the soldier for his pupils.

FUND HONORING HEROIC ARVN STARTED BY 11TH

DUC PHO--Soldiers of the 11th Inf. Bde. have started a fund to support the widow of a South Vietnamese sergeant who gave his life to save an American officer. The soldier, SGT Nguyen Bien Minh, served with the 3rd Bn., 4th Inf. as an interpreter.

CPT (Chaplain) Robert H. Ackley recently returned from Saigon, where the widow and her four sons now live, to present the first 176,880 piaster installment of the fund.

SGT Minh and battalion intelligence officer CPT Michael D. Haynes, of Columbus, Ga. where with a Viet Cong suspect who was leading them to enemy spider holes. As the suspect reached down to lift the top off one hole, SGT Minh yelled "booby trap" when he saw that the lid had been rigged to explode. Without hesitation, the tiny ARVN sergeant threw himself over the hole, his body absorbing most of the blast of the explosive.

196TH GIVES PROTECTION TO LOCAL RICE GROWERS

LZ BALDY--A battalion of the 196th Inf. Bde. recently teamed up with Regional and Popular Force elements to protect the rice harvesters in the Antennae Valley, five miles southwest of Hoi An. As a result of the four day operation, the Viet Cong were denied the use of some 66 tons of rice, and the residents of the Duc Duc District were insured a food supply.

"My people and I consider this rice harvest a great success," said CPT Triem, district chief. "I personally feel that joint operations like this one are the most effective way of defeating the enemy and bringing peace to my country. I enjoyed working with the 196th during the rice harvest and hope we can work together again soon."

During the four days, two companies of the 4th Bn., 31st Inf. secured the high ground around the valley while two Regional Force companies and five platoons of Popular Force soldiers provided security in the valley and the road entering it. About 200 Vietnamese from neighboring villages harvested the rice daily.

The operation was especially important because the enemy has used the area as a principle rice supply source in recent years.

CIVIC ACTION SECTION FINDS THAT ADVERTISING PAYS

CHU LAI -- "Advertising pays" is an axiom of the business world which has been adopted by the 196th Inf. Bde.'s civic action office.

The only difference is in the currency of the payments. Whereas businesses shoot for a monetary profit MAJ Frederick W. Tonsing, brigade civic action officer, hopes his advertising campaign will pay off in better health standards for Vietnamese in the Americal Division area.

To push his idea he uses the fundamentals of advertising in a way not too many of Madison Avenue's "hidden persuaders" have discovered-a sort of "in-side-out" advertising. "We let our 'customers'- Vietnamese children-do the advertising to sell our 'product,'" he said.

The "product" is awareness of such things as sanitation, personal hygiene, disease prevention and clean homes and cooking utensils.

Contests were held in the primary schools for the best posters on any type of sanitation improvement. "We gave the children three days to complete their drawings," Tonsing said.

"Choosing the best poster was really difficult. Most of them were well done and almost all of them had unusual and interesting ideas."

After deliberation, hesitation and much excitement the panel of judges picked the winner. The theme was insects as disease carriers and the use of bug spray and mosquito netting.

"We believe this program has created a little more awareness of sanitation and hygiene," Tonsing said. "I think we might have made some sales."

SOLDIERS STOP ENEMY FORCE

LZ CENTER-- Quick reactions and tiger aggressiveness were the key factors when a 198th Inf. Bde. platoon surprised and routed a North Vietnamese unit northwest of Chu Lai.

"We had started down a mountain trail," recalled 1LT Ernie I. Carrier, of Benton, La. "Suddenly, there was Charlie. My point element reacted first and laid down a heavy base of fire. The enemy soldiers who weren't killed were confused and tried to run.

"I contacted a helicopter that was in the area and it got ahead of them. When the enemy hid in the heavy underbrush, we stuck our noses in and kept more pressure on him than he could handle," said the platoon leader with Co. C of the 1st Bn., 6th Inf.

Some 17 North Vietnamese regulars were killed that day and not one American required hospitalization.

SC1 VOL 2. 6/68 SOUTHERN CROSS

By SGT. FRANK ELSTON
196th Inf. Bde.

LZ BALDY- "When I return to the field, no one is going to have to worry about me wearing my helmet." This was the recent promise of a platoon sergeant with the 196th Inf. Bde. who kept running his fingers through three holes in his helmet while he described the action in which he was wounded.

SFC Fred L. Chance, of Columbus, Ga., with Co. B of the brigade's 21st Inf. Bn., and his platoon were checking huts during a reconnaissance in force mission northwest of Tam Ky when they were attacked by an unknown-sized enemy force. The ensuing fight lasted nearly 10 hours.

"As soon as the mortars came in, I told my men to hit the ground immediately, and just as I did so, I felt something hit the back of my helmet."

"When I reached up, I felt blood and wondered how badly I had been hit. I touched my head and all I could feel was blood, but one of my squad leaders bandaged my head and told me that shrapnel had bored three holes in my helmet and I would be all right," he said.

SOLDIERS GET REAL BARGAIN

DUC PHO-Though street vendors selling souvenirs are anything but uncommon in Vietnam there is one 11th Inf. Bde. soldier who will long remember a particular woman and the "bargain" she sold him.

PFC Virgil K. Dennis, a switchboard operator with the brigade at Landing Zone Sue, recently purchased a cigaret lighter from a woman in Chu Lai.

"The little old lady looked innocent enough, and I got it for a good price." "I was on duty at the switchboard at the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. fire base when I decided to light up. As I lit the lighter, a call came through the switch board, so I set the lighter on a table and took the call. When the call was completed, I picked up the lighter carefully because it had gotten hot from being lit for so long," he commented. "It was so hot that I held it horizontally to light my cigaret. Suddenly, there was an explosion, and the upper part of my lighter blew off and took a chunk out of my cheek. The other fragments nicked my nose and cost me three stitches in my finger." A charge of powder had been placed under the wick. "I had never left the lighter lit long enough to get the charge hot enough to explode before then. It was a good thing I had the lighter pointed away from my face, or I could have been seriously wounded," Dennis said.

A military intelligence officer has taken Dennis to Chu Lai twice to look for the vendor. "If I ever see her again, I will be able to identify her in a second," he said.

PCS LEAVE LIMIT IS 30 DAYS

WASHINGTON (AFNI) - A new policy which limits leave taken between CONUS and overseas assignments, and between overseas assignments, to 30 days has been implemented by the Department of the Army. The new policy is aimed at curbing the loss of operational manpower resulting from personnel being

carried on a travel status between duty assignments. It also makes 30 days the maximum leave time for emergency, compassionate or reenlistment leaves.

Trainees Get 15

Trainees attending Vietnam oriented basic combat training and advanced individual training courses are now authorized a maximum of 15 days preparation for overseas movement leave.

All personnel stationed in Vietnam and Korea and transferred to other Pacific sub-commands will be authorized 30 days leave in their permanent change of station (PCS) orders. Under the new procedures for PCS leave, any leave taken will be charged to the soldier's old organization, and no leave will be authorized in the actual PCS orders, except for the case noted above.

Don't Sign In

Personnel granted leave by their old organization will not return to it to sign in after leave, but will proceed directly to their new unit. Commanders have been instructed to allow all personnel all leave they are authorized.

DETERMINED VILLAGERS STOP VICIOUS ENEMY

By Capt. DENNIS M. EILERS
198th Inf. Bde.

PHUOC AN-The household of Nguyen Chi sat astride the well-worn infiltration route, and every night the enemy would come through, destroying gardens, crops and the newly-planted rice.

Something had to be done, and Nguyen called upon the help of the 198th Inf. Bde. civic action officer, MAJ Frederick W. Tonsing. "We met with Nguyen and immediately drew up a battle plan," Tonsing said.

The next night the trap was set in a small open field a short distance from Nguyen's hut. At a nearby observation post Nguyen waited as the darkness of night crept slowly into the morning. His force of 40 villagers and the dogs lay at opposite ends of the field poised for the attack.

Silently they waited. Nguyen wondered if his enemies would come again tonight. Then they came. First a rustling in the brush, then loud noises and grunts. They were falling for the trap.

Nguyen counted them--more than ten in all, and two big ones. Could his lightly-armed force handle them? He gave it a try. He signaled the attack by slowly beating two sticks together. From the left stormed the dogs. From the right came the villagers, armed only with spears and clubs.

The battle was on. Screams, yells, grunts and barking shattered the night around this small hamlet. The yelling and screaming villagers gained the initiative and the battle soon quieted down.

Dead on the battlefield lay five wild Boars. Nguyen's crops were saved from another night of destruction.

Thanks for reprint material to Les Hines and Jay Roth.

Americal Division Vietnam History Now Available on Computer Diskette

Editor's Note: The following article is provided by Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian.

My father served as a Master Sergeant in a fighter training unit in World War II. He trained with a Americal Division unit before it became the Americal. Due to his aviation background, he was transferred to the Army Air Corps just before the Americal unit pulled out.

After VE day he was transferred back to the infantry. He was on a boat headed to Okinawa when the atomic bombs were dropped. He planned to make the Army a career. After flying low level over Hiroshima and Nagasaki he was so appalled by the destruction that he decided to leave the Army.

I planned to attend the Military Academy at West Point after high school. I won a Congressional appointment from Nebraska after taking competitive civil service exams. However, I failed the color vision test. I then joined the Army in July, 1967 and received training in helicopter repair at Ft Rucker. I arrived in Vietnam in February, 1968 and was assigned to the 123rd Cbt Avn Bn, 1st Avn Bde.

The 123rd provided General Aviation support to the Americal Division. I worked in maintenance with the 123rd Avn Bn on the old OH-23G observation helicopters. At 6'2" I was much too large to fit into the OH-23G LOH helicopters or else I may have flown scout missions.

I was then switched to Huey helicopter maintenance and later became a UH-1D and UH-1H Huey helicopter crewchief. I did this for 13 months receiving the Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters.

As our unit was general aviation support we flew out to almost every firebase in the Americal AO. We flew almost every type of mission such as combat assaults, medevac, flare, command and control, Special Forces insertions, reconnaissance, snatches, resupply, donut dolly runs, and resettlement. I then transferred back to the 123rd Aviation maintenance section in July 1969 where I finished out my service to the Americal and the Army in April, 1970.

I went to college on the G.I. bill and graduated from the University of Nebraska at Wayne in 1975 with a B.S. degree in Physics and Mathematics. As a former Vietnam serviceman, I felt very discriminated against in college and later in obtaining employment.

Then eighteen years ago I was hired by Kirke-Van Orsdel, Inc. as a Programmer/Analyst. Much of the work I have been done relates to Medicare claim systems for Military Service organizations like the TROA, ROA, AFSA, AUSA, FRA, American Legion, and others.

In 1992 I made some inquiries to the government to get my unit's history. I was very frustrated at the bureaucracy and how I was treated. After a lot of work I was provided with a document that gave me the location and the dates of service for my unit in Vietnam. To me this was a totally inadequate record of the service of my friends who had fought and died in Vietnam.

My anger at the bureaucracy triggered me to go after historical records. It was a long difficult struggle. It took almost three years to get the right to order the materials. Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa has been a great help in breaking through the bureaucratic maze.

In 1993 I discovered that there was a way to locate my old

comrades via computerized national phone directories. I located approximately 200 people from the 123rd Aviation Bn. Then I located approximately 3,000 people for the Vietnam Veterans of America. After the ADVA reunion in Chicago in 1995 I spent about thirteen months running prospective member names for Rollie Castronova.

I have a wonderful wife and five children and live in Des Moines, Iowa. I often have their help in proofing documents. My 15 year old daughter, Emily, has spent many hours working on preparation of the histories and running the name searches.

I must give ADVA member Jay Roth special thanks. Materials that I obtain that can be scanned are sent to Jay. He has been a great service as there is no way that we can type all the materials by hand. Spencer Baba has helped with the typing duties.

Paul B. Parham, Information Officer of the Americal Division in 1969, donated several wonderful documents that will eventually be displayed in the Americal museum. Many others that have been able to contribute Americal Division documents and materials that have been especially hard to find. Bill Schneider has contributed over a box of after-action reports on the evacuation of Kham Duc in May, 1968. John Murphy has contributed a set of 1970 journals from the 1st/1st Cav operations.

Mr. Chuck Carlock has helped fund some of the materials. Don Van Estenbridge, Leongard White, a few others have made trips to Maryland to get Americal history from the National Archives.

In the past two years I have been excited to be able to provide research material for books and articles written about the Americal Division. The book "Firebirds", written by Chuck Carlock, has been published and several other works by other authors are nearing completion.

I have several items of Americal historical interest that are prepared for computer access. The computer allows me to provide materials quickly and efficiently. For example, I have the complete set of Operational Reports & Lessons Learned (ORLL) for Task Force Oregon and Americal Division (which can be purchased from the government for approximately \$450.00 plus postage.)

Much of the government material is only provided on fiche and often many pages are extremely difficult to read. I will provide my transcriptions (including some typing errors) to Americal Division Veteran's Association Members for a \$10.00 donation. Checks should be made out to the Americal Division Veterans Association. With the order I will include transcriptions of the following:

- Americal Division stand-down book distributed in 1971. This includes a division history and individual unit histories.
- A listing of Americal LZ's with grid coordinates based on Artillery ORLL and Americal ORLL reports.
- An index of information of what I have available.
- A guide to ordering the ORLL reports from the government.

Selected transcriptions of articles published by the Americal Division Information Office include the following:

- The quarterly "Americal" magazine
- The weekly "Southern Cross" newspaper
- The daily Americal Division "Newsheets"

If the order includes unit and time of service I will try to include other unit specific materials such as brigade newsletters. Please state whether you use an IBM or Mac computer, the name of word processor program, and the make and model of your printer. Send your request to Les Hines, ADVA VN Historian, [redacted] Des Moines, IA, 50312. Send e-mail messages to [redacted].

The Americal Division was the largest U.S. Army division in the Vietnam war. A listing of the organizations and units that make up an Army command is known as an Order of Battle, Troop List, or Organizational Structure. The Order of Battle shown below is for Task Force Oregon, the predecessor of the Americal Division. It is taken from official Department of the Army Operational Report-Lessons Learned (ORLL). The ORLL was obtained by ADVA member Les Hines. Future editions of the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER will feature Troop Lists of the Americal Division as recorded at various reporting dates.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, DC 20310
AGAM-P (M) (2 Feb 68) FOR OT RD-670570
14 Feb 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned,
Headquarters, Task Division, Force OREGON (Americal
Division) Period Ending 31 July 1967 (U)
AVHGC-DST (RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

TASK FORCE OREGON ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AS OF 31 JULY 1967

TASK FORCE OREGON TROOPS

HHC, Task Force Oregon (Prov)
14th Avn Bn
71st Aslt Heptr Co
161st Aslt Heptr Co
174th Aslt Heptr Co
176th Aslt Heptr Co
178th Aslt Heptr Co
39th Engr Bn (Cbt)
509th Sig Bn, HHD (-)
Co C, 459th Sig Bn (Cmd Op)
Co A, 36th Sig Bn (Spt Op)
Plt (+), 167th Radio Relay Co.
258th AG Pers Svcs Co
148th MP Plt
3d Mil Hist Det
Task Force Military Intelligence Detachment (Prov)
Task Force Radio Research Co (Prov)

TASK FORCE OREGON ARTILLERY (PROV)

HHB, Task Force Artillery (Prov)
2d Bn, 11th Arty (155 T)
3d Bn, 16th Arty (155 T)
3d Bn, 189th Arty (8"/175 SP)
Plt, Btry C, 29th Arty (Searchlight)

TASK FORCE OREGON SUPPORT COMMAND (PROV)

HHC (-), 15th Spt Bde (GS)
HHC (-), 94th Sup & Svc Co
163d Trans Co (Lt Trk)
3d Plt, 10th Trans Co (Med Trk)
Co C, 25th Med Bn
Hq and Main Spt Co, 188th Maint Bn
335th Trans Co (DS) Acft Maint)

3D BRIGADE, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

HHC, 3d Bde, 25th Inf Div
1st Bn, 35th Inf
2d Bn, 35th Inf
Trp C, 3d Sqdn, 4th Cav
Co C, 2d Bn, 34th Arm
2d Bn, 9th Arty (105 T)
Co D, 65th Engr Bn (Cbt)
3d Spt Bn (Prov)
Co B, 25th Med Bn
Co C, 725th Maint Bn
Det, 25th S & T Bn
40th Inf Plt, Scout Dog
Det, 25th Admin Co
Tm C, 41st CA Co
Det, 374th Radio Research Co
Tm, 25th MI Det
Co B (-), 125th Sig Bn
Plt, 25th MP Co

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

HHC, 196th Lt Inf Bde
2d Bn, 1st Inf
3d Bn, 21st Inf
4th Bn, 31st Inf
1st Bn, 14th Inf, 3d Bde, 25th Inf Div
2nd Sqdn, 11th Armd Cav Regt
Trp F, 17th Cav
3d Bn, 82d Arty (105 T)
8th Cbt Svc Spt Bn
8th CA Plt, 2d CA Co
10th PI Det
27th Cml Det (CBR)
569th MI Det
408th Radio Research Det
175th Engr Co (Cbt)
156th Sig Plt (Fwd Area)
48th Inf Plt, Scout Dog
544th MP Plt
28th Mil Hist Det
4th Plt (-), Co B, 3d AMTRAC Bn (USMC)

1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

HHC, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div
1st Bn, 327th Inf (Abn)
2d Bn, 327th Inf (Abn)
2d Bn, 502d Inf (Abn)
Trp A, 17th Cav
2d Bn, 320th Arty (105 T)
Co A, 326th Engr Bn (Cbt) (Abn)
Co A (Fwd Spt), 801st Cbt Spt Bn
501st Cbt Spt Co



Top Left: Ron Ellis and Ed Marsh distribute information to a 196th LIB veteran. **Top Right:** Gary Warn, Ed Marsh, and Ron Ellis wait for the first visitors of the day. **Middle Left:** Ed Marsh and Gary Noller display the ADVA wreath prior to the ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. **Middle Right:** ADVA wreath at The Wall. **Bottom Left:** A view of the memorial after the laying of wreaths by veterans groups. **Bottom Right:** The ADVA information table staff in final photo before heading for home.

Christmas, Hanukkah and the New Year

The Rev. William T. Elliott, Chaplain

These three aspects of the coming holidays all have a Spirit of Hope, Light and New Beginnings. Candles burn with all their symbolism of moving forward into areas of new birth, into what had been darkness or fear but now is alive and part of our living present. We need such hope, as it is part of growing and of progress and of facing the future, the new day that opens to us each morning.

I saw a bumper sticker that pulls all of this together for me. It read: "God allows U turns" Is not this the message of the holidays we now enter? Really it is the message of hope for every day. It is the essence of the prayer we offer in the time of WAR that allows us to return to PEACE. It is the prayer we offer for our children and friends and enemies. It must start with each of us as we offer ourselves to a God that Allows U Turns every step we take. This is the essence of Hope, Forgiveness and the Holiday Season.

May God Bless us all and may we know Peace in our land and in our hearts.

Great Lakes Chapter Chooses Mathews as New Commander

John Mathews, Verona, WI, has been elected to serve as the Commander of the ADVA Great Lakes region. He replaces Terry Babler who moves to the Secretary/Treasurer position.

The ADVA wishes to express appreciation to Terry Babler for taking the appointment the post of Chapter Commander to fill an unexpected opening. He did a great job in moving forward with plans to have an active chapter. Best of luck to John in his new post.

Americal Museum Receives Task Force Oregon Patch

The Americal Division Veterans Association was presented an original in-country patch of Task Force Oregon. Appreciation for the donation is extended to Mr. Frank Mantoa of San Jose, Ca. He presented the patch to ADVA representatives on Veterans Day.

The 4" by 6" patch is similar to the Americal Division patch. The difference is that TF OREGON appears above the stars of the Southern Cross.

Task Force Oregon was the originating organization from which the Americal Division was formed. At one time TFO was composed of elements of five brigades and was the largest field unit in Vietnam.

If you have items that you wish to donate to the Americal Museum please contact **Mr. Ken Turner, Museum Curator, [REDACTED], Wakefield, MA 01880.**

Veterans Day Activities

The Americal Division Veterans Association and Americal Division veterans were well represented at Veterans Day activities in our nation's capitol. The weather was very cooperative and the annual observances were heavily attended.

Veterans, families, and friends paid respect and honor to those who served in our nation's military. Remembrances of those who have gone to their eternal reward were dutifully made.

The ADVA positioned an information table on the Mall just to the east of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Over 100 information sheets were distributed to Americal veterans wishing to know more about the association. Many current members stopped by to say hello and make new friends.

Staffing the information table over the four day weekend were PNC Ron Ward, Linda Ward, PNC Dutch DeGroot, Jan DeGroot, Jr. Vice-Commander Ron Ellis, Donna Ellis, Sr. Vice-Commander Ed Marsh, National Commander Gary Noller, Membership Committeeman Brian Mulcrone, and Gary Warn.

Help Needed for Memorial Day

An application has been submitted to have an information table on the Mall during the 1998 Memorial Day weekend. Assistance is requested to staff the table and to greet veterans.

If you plan to be in Washington, D.C. at this time and would like to be of assistance, please contact Ed Marsh, Sr. Vice-Commander. He is located at [REDACTED], Jones, MI, 49061 or call [REDACTED].

If you live near Washington and would be able to store a few small items for the association your help would be greatly appreciated. Space is needed for a small tent, a table, and some folding chairs.



ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Your New Vietnam Editor

John R. McNown Jr. has been appointed by the National Commander to be your new Vietnam Editor.

John served with A Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry.

PLEASE send all articles that you would like to have put into the Newsletter to John at:

Mr. John R. McNown Jr.

Overland Park, KS 66212

Tel: [REDACTED]

THE MOVING WALL

The "Moving Wall" came to Stoneham, Massachusetts during the week of September 22- 29, 1997, and was on display twenty four hours a day.

The display was set up on the grounds of the Stoneham High School and drew thousands of viewers.

Co-Chairman of the committee was Richard Del Rossi, an Americal veteran who served with the 11 LIB, 4/21st Infantry in Vietnam. Richard is also on the board of the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans that is located in Boston, MA.

Also serving on the committee was James Standish, a World War II veteran that served with L Company, 182nd Infantry, Americal Division. Jim did an excellent job of getting the "word out" by informing all the local newspapers and other media.

The total cost of bringing the 'Wall' to Stoneham was \$25,000. This money was raised through the hard work of the committee in seeking contributions from the general public.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE'S POW/MIA FLAG

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida TIMES-UNION, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Anhin & Company which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, The People's Republic of China, as part of their policy to provide flags to all UN member nations. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, and he, along with Anhin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our missing men. Following League approval, the flags were manufactured for distribution.

On March 9, 1989, an official League flag, which flew over the White House on 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony. By joint Congressional resolution, the POW/MIA flag, the only flag ever displayed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, will stand as a powerful symbol of national commitment to

American POW/MIAs until the fullest possible accounting has been achieved for Americans still missing in Southeast Asia.

On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation".

The League flag's importance lies in the continued visibility of this symbol, a constant reminder of the plight of America's POW/MIAs. Other than "Old Glory", the League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag to fly over the White House, having been displayed in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day since 1982. In addition, the POW/MIA flag flies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day at the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, federal and state buildings, at each national cemetery, military installations world wide, and countless additional locations throughout the nation.

BLACK ACES

The Black Aces flew small 1 engine aircraft (a 2 seater), that were used a lot for artillery registration missions. We used Black Ace 10 frequently at Pro and would register our guns on a known point, such as the "T" in the Burlington Trail east of Pro---a land mark that you may remember. Such registrations would help us maintain the accuracy of our 105s. The Black Ace guys would have a pilot in the front seat and an Air Observer (a lucky FO) in the rear seat adjusting fire. I did some of this at Ft. Sill but wasn't lucky enough to get the assignment in RVN. Changing gears to one of your previous posts, when I FOed for B Co. 1/46 we had a max of 108 in the bush and got down as low as, I think, 67 during the rainy season when we lost some people to DEROS, WIA and worse. It wasn't much fun being that thin on patrol in the monsoon when the nearest company was 10 clicks away and air support was hampered by the weather. I'm sure you remember.....

Frank Fortuna
B/1/46 14 Arty 69-70

(Computer Bulletin Board)

105 BATTERY

Most of you might remember the 105 battery on West. I joined them 7/69. Soon after, we were sent to occupy LZ Siberia overlooking Hiep Duc. The ARVN's were still on Karen, adjacent to Hiep Duc. Hiep Duc was overrun a couple of months later, and then again in May or so of 70. I knew, at least by face, lots of 4/31 people, mostly grunts who guarded our perimeter. LZ West was not all that bad a place. Small enough to be friendly, big enough to offer some serious protection. West was hit bad in the same offensive Hiep Duc was hit. I think a Captain Wolf called in fire from us to West. An RPG hit the mess hall. Lots of action.

Barry Kelly
C/3/82 Arty 69-70

(Computer Buletin Board)

RIVERS

To say that river crossings with the tracks was easier is an understatement. We'd just find a place where the banks weren't too steep, rig the splash-board on the front so the waves wouldn't roll over the top, ease down and in, and motor across. We were combat loaded, in other words, heavy, but could still cross water up to about 6' deep with the tracks still on the river bed. Some of the tracks were shot full of holes and leaked like sieves but the bilge pump took care of it, and while I was there we didn't lose an APC. We could and did float, but real low in the water, and then it was touch and go. Most of the time the Lt would send the 1/0 track to scout the way across to find the best way as the rest of the tracks covered it and when it was out on the other side the rest of us followed. The 1/0 track was newer, more watertight, and a little lighter so it could float better. I remember one time he couldn't get up the bank on the other side so we all traveled a ways down the creek to find a good fiord. One track in the river, and the rest of us on the bank busting through jungle.

One time out on the Tra Bong road we came upon a little stream with a blown out bridge. No sweat, we just forded it next to the bridge. The sweeper track hit a mine a klik or two down the road which triggered a short exchange. Then the higher ups decided that they wanted the sweeper track back for evaluation so they sent out a flatbed and M-88 tank retriever. We got it loaded and ready to go but had to laager up where we were. Rained all night, and we got hit again, that's the night Pee Wee caught it. We got my WIA's out the next morning, and didn't back down the road. That little river was much more aggressive and someone decided that the M-88, which couldn't float but which was twice as high as an APC would try to drive across. The theory being that then the 88's winch cable could be run across to help the rest of us crossing. There was only a two man crew in it as it eased itself down down and down. Kept on going. Water poured in the hatches and how the driver and TC got out I don't know. That baby was SUNK. Couldn't even see the 50 mounted on top. Must have been 15 feet deep. That little stream that was crossed no sweat the day before had eaten that huge M-88 and the only visual clue was the swirls and eddies around the now underwater obstruction.

We were stuck there, being harassed every night, for about 5 days while the Sea Bees built a Bailey bridge. After the first day you could see the 50 on top, then the mount, then the top of the M-88, then as the river gradually fell most of the track. By that time the 8th support had sent out another M-88 to retrieve the first sunk one and pulled it out the other side. We could have fiord-ed then but had a nice bridge built. We reformed with the element that was coming back from escorting A/3/18 Arty to Tra Bong, and got the H out of there. I heard later that they dried out the sunk 88 and put it back in service but it was never the same after that.

No D-rings air mattresses and hammock's for us.

Doc Merk
Michael Moehrke
23 Med HHC 198th 68-69

(Computer Bulletin Board)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

198th LIB D/1/6 INFANTRY

Dear Lee (?):

I read your letter in the Americal Newsletter and realized that I was one of the seven men in your squad the night you were wounded. We were in the Rocket pocket and it was the night of May 15, 1969. We had moved at dusk from our day logger position to a location under some trees. Usually on ambush patrols we only moved once and stayed at that location until the next morning. However, on this night we got up around 1:00 or 2:00 AM on the morning of May 16th and proceeded down a trail en route to our next location. We usually tried to stay off trails but for some reason we took one this time.

The order of march was Floyd Smith of Chariton, Iowa walking point, Tennessee was second, you were third, Roger Carroll of Weirton, West Virginia was fourth, our RTO (possibly Jim Lampe of Indiana) was fifth, I was sixth with the machine gun (you carried the gun before you gave it to me in February, 1969), and Willie Jones of Miami, Florida was seventh and last.

We were on the trail for only a short distance when the explosion went off. I saw white metal coming from the right side of the trail up towards the front of the patrol. We all hit the ground and then I heard two screams coming from up front. I assumed these came from Tennessee since he received most of the explosions' impact. The booby trap was a grenade with a trip wire drawn across the trail. Floyd must have tripped it. I went running up to the site of the explosion. Tennessee was covered with blood from his neck to his knees but he was conscious. He complained of being hot so I fanned him with a towel. You were sitting on the right side of the trail and said you had shrapnel in your right leg. Floyd had some in his right leg also. Roger had a few pieces in him, too. The RTO, myself and Willie got through it without a scratch. We radioed that we got hit and a Medivac arrived in about 15 or 30 minutes.

I'm surprised that they found us. Medivacs were supposed to be unarmed but this chopper had a man with an M-16 sitting in the seat where the machine gunner usually sits. I assume there was another armed soldier in the opposite seat. We put the four of you (Floyd, Tennessee, yourself and Roger) on the Medivac. Shortly another squad came over to us. We all felt terrible about what happened and hoped that all of you would be alright.

Two days later we were notified that Tennessee had died of internal injuries. We were upset because we were led to believe that all four of you were going to be okay. Roger Carroll came back out into the field in about two weeks. We understood that you and Floyd were going back to the "World." Floyd wrote me some letters from a hospital in Japan and later from his home in Iowa. I kept corresponding with him for a year or so but the letters stopped and I haven't heard from him since.

The rest of the squad made it through our year-long tour of duty. Roger Carroll, Jim Lampe and Willie Jones rotated back to the States in October, 1969, while I flew out on my Freedom Bird on November 15, 1969. I served at Ft. Benning, Georgia until I separated from the Army on June 15, 1970.

Our time in Nam from May 15th until the time we left was mostly uneventful except for a search and clear operation in which we lost three men from

another squad in our company on June 12, 1969. We were crossing a clearing in the jungle when some snipers opened up and killed the point man and injured two other men. One was Parker who had joined us at Fat City in February, 1969. The point man's first name was Bobby. This was his second tour in Nam. We always hated those jungle clearings. Charlie would wait until about ten of us would be in the clearings and then open up with his AK-47's. After the Medivac came and went, we pulled back so our jets could drop 500 pound of bombs on Charlie's position. The shrapnel was flying everywhere including into our position. One jagged piece about four inches long stuck into my flak jacket. I brought it home as a souvenir.

In October, 1969 I developed pneumonia and spent four or five days at the hospital in Chu Lai. It resulted from another operation in the jungles where it rained constantly for five days and nights. We were never dry during that whole time.

Looking back, I remember the camaraderie we all shared. We seemed to get along together and enjoyed each other's company. I remember us getting excited when the CARE packages from your mother would arrive. We all loved Mexican food and you had to guard the contents from the rest of the squad with your life. But you shared the food with us anyway.

Once out of the Army, I married the woman who was writing letters to me every day. I moved from Riverton, New Jersey to Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. We have been at this address for the last 25 years and have four daughters, ages 18, 15, 13 and 10. The oldest is attending Penn State University. I have worked with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia as a bank examiner since 1970. My work has taken me down to Washington, D.C. quite often, where I have visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall on many occasions. I bought a directory of the names on the Wall and attempted to find Tennessee's real name by looking up the names and addresses of men who died around May 18, 1969. However, I have been unsuccessful to date.

I joined the Americal Division Association three years ago and became a life member recently. I want to see some of the guys I served with over there, including yourself, and possibly visit Chu Lai again. This time as a tourist and without a weapon. Now that diplomatic relations are being restored with Vietnam, maybe my dream will come true.

One of your old buddies,

Bob Richardson

Swarthmore, PA 19081

Ed Note: I could not locate "Lee" or his story in my files. PLEASE -- include your telephone number with all correspondence. Many times questions come up and I can get them answered quickly if I have your telephone number. Jim

198th PAVES WAY FOR ROAD

QUANG NGAI CITY -- The combined efforts of Army, Navy, and U.S. civilian personnel are rehabilitating the Republic of South Vietnam's most important road as it cuts through the Americal's area of operations.

Between the division base camp at Chu Lai and Quang Ngai City, a 22 mile stretch of coastal

plain and fertile rice fields, men of the 198th Inf. Bde. are charged with keeping "Charlie" from interfering with the project.

The "rehabilitation" is in the form of widening and paving Highway 1, eventually stretching from Saigon to the Republic's northern provinces.

Civilian Builders

Most of the construction is being done by American civilian construction workers of RMK-BRJ, a conglomerate of four construction firms.

As the dozen or so roadbuilders work, a four-man team from the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., mounted on a gun jeep, keeps an eye out for enemy harassing tactics.

"We patrol the area the crew is working on at any given time. It's not too bad near large cities such as Quang Ngai because there are a lot of 'friendlies' around," said the team's leader, SP4 Junior Rambo (Fresno, Calif.). "But out in the country we stay pretty close to the men and equipment and keep a sharp lookout."

Ready For Enemy

"We have enough fire power to make it tough for 'Charlie' for a short period of time anyway," says Rambo. He added that if any prolonged contact ensues, the team has instantaneous radio contact with its headquarters at LZ Gator, just minutes away.

"There were a few nights out there when there was little sniper fire, but when that M-60 answered it stopped all at once," recalls Navy Lieutenant Joe Clare (Batavia, NY), who is responsible for all civilian contracted construction projects in this part of Vietnam.

For the most part the enemy has stayed clear of the RMK-BRJ work project, thanks mainly to the presence of the 5-46 "gun jeep" and instant retaliatory capability of the 198th Bde. (198th 10).

By SFC Herb Nesmith
Southern Cross August 6, 1969

MY LAI

I recall my platoon (B-3-1) was flown by chopper to a village in My Lai in 1969 (can't remember the month) for security and protection of an interpreter that was there questioning the people about their knowledge of the Calley incident. The people were real friendly to us and we were invited inside a few hootches and offered tea. I was also offered some home brew beer, which was said to be "rice beer." Didn't taste too bad. The kids in the village were driving us crazy by asking GI's to Souvenir them Chop-Chop. It's funny the things you think about in that type of situation. Although the people were very nice to the GI's, I was worried about the tea or beer being poison, or the chance of one of the kids dropping a grenade in my pocket. I thought the people (some relatives of those killed in 68) would be very bitter, but the one's I saw weren't. I thought I would write this as an afterthought to the incident.

Charles Mankin
B/3/1 11th Lib 69-70

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

John W. McNown Jr. has been appointed by the National Commander to be your Vietnam Editor.

We need your stories for the next issue -- please have them into John by February 1, 1998.

Send to: John W. McNown Jr.
Overland Park, KS 66212
Tel. [REDACTED]

C COMPANY, 5th BATTALION, 46th INFANTRY, 198 LIB
(1970-1971)

The Americal National Convention in Worcester, Mass, last June was a perfect meeting place for the second annaul reunion of former members of C/5/46, 198th L.I.B. 1970-1971.



Andy Ladak, Dave Hammond, Al Fultz, Rich Totten

Over the last two years we have located thirty six former comrades and are still looking for more. Only four of us were able to make the trip to Worcester, but for two of us, it had been twenty six years since we had seen each other. We had a great time getting reacquainted and making plans for our next reunion. Anyone with information on former members of our unit, or would like a current mailing list, please contact me.

Dave Hammond
Beaverton, OR 97005
E-mail, [REDACTED]

TET OFFENSIVE
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1968--1998

The Tet Offensive of 1968 (named for Chinese New Year) is generally acknowledged as the turning point of the Vietnam War. It began on January 31st, 1968 with pre-dawn attacks on most provincial and district capitals. The Viet Cong penetrated the U. S. Embassy in Saigon and the flight line at Tan Son Nhut Airport.

Largely perceived in the U. S. as a defeat, the communist offensive was, in fact, a huge victory for allied forces. The Viet Cong losses were so significant that the National Liberation Force ceased to exist as a distinct political and military entity. Tet '68 was a time of great sorrow for many families in both Asia and America. Now we will return, 30 years later, not to relive

This one week anniversary tour will include major sites in and around Saigon (now called Ho Chi Minh) by the authorities, but still Saigon to local residents). Travelers will land at Tan Son Nhut, as many of us did during the war. We will stay in downtown Saigon, within walking distance of many scenic and historic sites.

Day trips will take us around the city and out into the countryside. We will visit a position of the Mekong Delta region, south of Saigon, and crawl through the tunnel complexes north of Saigon where NLF and NVA forces massed for the attack on the city. A trip to Tay Ninh will give us the opportunity to tour the world famous Cao Dai Temple (also scene of fighting during the war) and see the slopes of Nui Ba Den, the Black Virgin Mountain where NLF and NVA forces maintained bases and could observe the movements of U.S. forces for miles around.

We will visit former U.S. bases and travel highways frequently fought over during the war. There will be ample opportunities to stop, walk around and photograph both historic and scenic locations. Based on other groups' visits to Vietnam this year, we will certainly encounter people who hold no animosity toward us and who are, in fact, eager to extend the hand of friendship.

Although still under communist control, with the fall of the Soviet Bloc, Vietnam has had to face economic realities and the commerce and capitalism of South Vietnam in the 1960s is alive and thriving in the 1990s. Most travelers come away from Vietnam today with a sense that political change will follow economic change just as day follows night. Please join us for this 30th Anniversary Tour and see for yourself!

The dates are: Jan 22, 1998--Jan 29, 1998

If you are interested in the Tour, please contact:

Galaxy Tours
[REDACTED]
Wayne, PA 19087-0234

Toll Free: [REDACTED]
Local: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

1/14 ARTY - C/16 - D/1/6 - 198TH lib
(July 69 - Sept 70)

Many thanks to all who make possible the quarterly Americal Newsletter. I eagerly anticipate its arrival and enjoy the contents. For me, it's an opportunity to reflect. Good publication, well done. Many thanks for everyone's effort.

Sincerely,
Doug Burnett

Ed Note: I needed that--on behalf of my staff thanks for your support and show of appreciation.

TO ALL AMERICAL VIETNAM VETERANS

I have just returned from our Eastern Regional Chapter Reunion in Exton, Pa. (Near Philadelphia). Those in attendance enjoyed seeing old friends and comrades, and the many interesting activities throughout the weekend. There was only one Vet from the Vietnam War in attendance at the reunion.

If you were 18 years old in 1973, you would be 42 years old in 1997. You are probably employed by a company that allows you vacation time each year. Our reunions are held from Thursday to Sunday, so you could reserve two days to come and join us WWII Vets. Since we formed our Chapter in 1983, only about one or two Vietnam Vets attend.

Today I will be 71 years old. I am considered the 'Baby' of the WWII Vets. The future of our association is in your capable hands. Please become active in our Chapter. There is a great need for persons interested in leadership roles. Since we were part of the only Army Division that was organized with a name instead of a number, we have a pride that no other Division can claim.

So we are asking you to make a commitment to become active and participate in all of our functions.

Yours in Comradeship
Robert T. Hock
Past Chapter Commander

75th RANGERS - BRICK REPORT

I am pleased to announce that Charlie Company (E 20th INF LRP), Echo Company (E/50th INF LRP) and Mike Company (71st LRP) have purchased Memorial Bricks for all of their fallen Rangers. They now join D/51 LRP, Golf Company (E/51st LRRP), November Company (173rd LRP) and Papa Company (70th LRP) as having completed the mission. Lima Company (101st LRRP) has 36 of their 55 KIA's in place at Fort Benning.

At present there are 212 bricks for Rangers killed in action either in place or paid for and ordered. This leaves 166 Rangers that have not yet been honored with a brick. I currently have credit with the Ranger Memorial foundation for one additional brick as I had purchased a brick for Patrick Henshaw twice; once as an E/20th Ranger and once as a L/75 Ranger. As the Charlie Company guys purchased his brick, he will stay as that and the additional brick will go for another Lima Company Ranger.

I cannot stress the fact that nobody knows how much longer the matching funds from the McDonnell Douglas Foundation will continue now that we are Boeing. I strongly suggest that you get your funds together and to me as soon as possible in order to ensure the matching funds. After the first of the year we just do not know what is going to happen. I am still hoping to have a brick in place for every Ranger killed in action in Vietnam for the August Ranger Rendezvous. We would most certainly get national news coverage if that happens.

The posters are not selling enough to cover expenses. I am not planning on making any more for the later units when they get all their KIA's in place. So far I have spent \$540 and only received a little over \$400.

I spoke with General Leuer the other day. Although there are 113 bricks on order, we are not planning to engrave until December. That way whatever bricks we can raise the money for can still be engraved prior to the end of this year. As we are not planning another Veteran's Day service this year, I hope this does not bother anyone. If it does, let me know and I will see what I can do.

My wife, Lori, took a great video of the Veteran's Day Memorial Service last year. If any of you want me to mail you a copy, just let me know. I look forward to seeing all of you in August when all 378 names will be read at the Memorial.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!
Steve Crabtree

Mesa, Arizona 85213

K - 9

I recall when I was going on R & R, I was standing near the gate to the planes in Danang. A German Shepherd with handler came out of the door and started walking past me. The dog then spotted a Vietnamese man that came walking around the corner. The dog leaped onto him, hitting him in the middle of the chest knocking him into a wall. Talk about one terrified individual. The handler quickly pulled the dog off and offered apologies but I don't think the guy heard a word, too busy trying to figure out how to clean his pants. We were given a small puppy at Hawkhill. Had him for about three weeks. We called him Scout Dog. But sadly, one day he started coughing and coughing. The Doc (battalion surgeon) couldn't do anything for him and he finally died. The Doc performed an autopsy and concluded he had gotten into some Nam Rat Poison. You know, the stuff that could kill an elephant. Anyway, we held a small service for our recently departed friend and buried him in one of those Vietnamese burial mounds. Grunts should remember seeing a lot of those round mounds. Our hootch girl couldn't believe we did that for a dog. So it went.

Spencer Baba
2/1 196th 68-69

(Computer Bulletin Board)

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN

My name is SPC Raymond Ramirez and I am searching for someone that might have known my stepfather in Vietnam.

He retired from the Army around 1987 after 21 years of service. He served with the Americal Division while he was in Vietnam.

The main reason that I am trying to locate him is to tell him that I am very proud of him.

His name is: John Douglas MacAsie
SS #564-76-2001

If you knew of him would you please contact:

SPC Raymond Ramirez
A/1/62 ADA #772
Schofield Barracks. HI 96857

TOUCHED WITH FIRE
(Book Review)

There are many errors and important omissions in Bergerud's "Touched With Fire" that I am compelled to write you. My credentials include: being a plank owner of the Task Force 6814, a charter member of the Americal Division, having served 31 months in the Solomon Islands, and being commissioned on Guadalcanal by General Patch. According to one story in the ADVA newsletter. I was one of the 6 (out of twenty-two) so commissioned who survived the Solomons.

In early 1945, I was sent to the then 'secret war' department school, MITC (Military Intelligence Training Center) hidden in the hills of Hagerstown, Md. In June of 1945, I was in command of one of the ten teams, composed of 2 officers and 20 Nisei. Each commander of a team had a pretty good field record and we were trained vigorously--six days a week--in Japanese thinking, weapons, clothing, uniforms, food, terrain intelligence, and living behind Japanese lines.

We were to be dropped into Japan 24 hours before the invasion. (To this day, I've neither seen nor heard anything about the MITC. Does anyone know anything about it? There were thousands stationed there and it appears on my 201 record). Having previously gone through 31 months of overseas unpleasantness (that's putting it mildly) and having used up all my good luck coupons, I did not enjoy the idea of going "OVER" again. As a matter of fact, just that very thought caused me to change my religion: I became a "devout coward: but thank God, Harry dropped the bombs!!

Now to Bergerud:

1. He does not mention the fact that in the mid-30s Japan was already moving to conquer many areas of Asia, land and islands (Korea, Java, etc.) for raw materials, minerals, oil and slave labor to fuel their war machine. This was under the guise of their "Co-Prosperity Plan for Asia". This was a vital factor in their war for the South Pacific.

2. No mention of their religion of Shintoism, which was the driving force (the momentum) and the cradle of their war and ambitions. Entire books have been written on this subject and I personally was taught this on 3 different occasions in my years of service in the United States Army. Shintoism explains the sacrificing of lives for the Emperor. It explains the jumping off cliffs, lying on live grenades, their SELF IMMOLATION etc. How else could a Jap get to heaven? Did Bergerud live such a sheltered life that he didn't hear the word - Kamikaze? Shintoism is akin to what the crazed Moros of the Philippines had when they fought the U.S. Army. Since .30 bullets couldn't stop their charging, the M1911A1 .45 cal was invented for the automatic pistol and the Rising gun followed. The Rising sub-machine gun (with the addition of the CUTTS compensator) became the Thompson (Tommy) sub-machine gun we all used in WW11. Then came the UZI. A Morro could keep coming with one or two .30 cal bullets in him or a limb - but the .45 cal took the limb off.

3. God made the coast watchers and then broke the mold! The little library in my "hick-town" has 3 books about them, but Eric gives them only a few words. At least 2 movies have been made about them. Without them, the "Cactus" air force could not have held Henderson Field and would have lost the Canal, New Britain, maybe Australia. They also helped our naval warfare. They saved thousands of

lives and shortened the war by a year or more. Admiral W.F. Halsey, C.I.C. SOPAL said: "the coast watchers saved Guadalcanal and the Pacific".

4. "PURPLE" was to the Pacific War what "ENIGMA" was to the European War. The "Code-Breaker" were invaluable and worth a division of men plus a naval task force group of planes. Among the many things they got credit for, the most famous was the sighting of General Yamamoto's plane so Cactus could shoot the bastard down. Eric, give them the credit due them when you write again.

5. He called the government brothels in Noumea the "Greenhouse", this displays his ignorance of the area. Mitchner, when he wrote "South Pacific", referred to it by its correct name: "The Pink House". Even the ADVA newsletters referenced it by that name: "Maison de la Rouge". This was a French building surrounded by concrete walls with glass embedded on top--no climbing over. All day from noon on, on one side of the street was the MP tent and on the other side was the SP tent handing out condoms (prophylactics) to the long line of men waiting their turn. Inside were some French, Tonkinese, Kanakas and some Javanese women. For those who salivate over mammary organs, there are none to compare to the Javanese who displayed them quite openly. It is reputed that these women turned over 400 tricks a day. The GI had about 3-5 minutes with a woman. Those who "attended" there, can give you more information on this subject. This went on for several years and involved thousands of men--so it is important to the history of SOPAC. Those idiots in the current legislature that want to legislate that women and men live in close quarters or for combat service should study the Pink House, (those men and women who want to do this to women, are the real haters of women). God created a difference between men and women (I'm glad) for a specific purpose. Look how well the parts of each fit together. What tanker wouldn't have enjoyed a sweet-smelling perfumed woman inside his buttoned-up tank? The Pink House will never die. In the Feb, 1997 issue of "Guadalcanal Echoes", it is mentioned in two separate places.

6. Again he skips over Sergeant Vouza, a Kanaka Solomon Islander, who was the Audie Murphy of SOPAC. His list of decorations from 5 nations was probably more than Audie's and he was knighted Sir Jacob Vouza by the Queen and a monument has been erected in his honor in the town of Honaria on the Canal.

7. No mention is made of the WPPA (West Point Protective Association) or the APA (Annapolis Protective Association). They allowed and protected incompetent "chicken shit" and cowardly officers to waste men and prolong the war. Admiral Turner's cowardice left marines short of ammunition and food and later, when he fled from another battle, he received a medal. He should have been court-martialed but the APA saved him. Ask the submariners how long they put up with the defective torpedoes in the Pacific. Check this out in the 600 page book titled: "Submarines of World War 11".

8. More should have been written about Task Force 6814, which initiated the war against the Japanese, first to go overseas in WW 11. Elements of this force took part in many of the various actions in SOPAC. We were part of TF 6814 and sailed January 19th of 1942. Believe it or not, in July 1941 we were using broomsticks to simulate rifles; our M2A1 tanks had Wright airplane engines in them with .30 caliber the largest weapon. In order to get 21 tanks for a battalion of 750 men,

we had to take all of the tanks from the 12,000 men in the 4th Armored Division. In December, we were just getting over 104 degree fevers from the infected yellow fever shots. As far as I'm concerned, nothing productive happened in the Solomons until Admiral W.F. (Bill) Halsey relieved Gormley. Halsey was the Patton of the Pacific.

Mr. Bergerued, there is an un-crossable bridge between the man who stayed home and the man who served overseas. Your book was probably written from an "ivory tower: from which the feeling of being shot at cannot be acquired.

Promotions were another important aspect of war at that point in time. From June 1942 to January 1945, 2 lieutenants became light colonels, 2 sergeants became majors, 3 sergeants became captain, and 2 became sergeant majors. Prior to 1940 it took years to go up one grade.

For a better picture of SOPAC war, read the slightly fictionalized books of W.E.B. Griffin which I consider to be the best coverage of events of this topic.

Lastly, does anyone believe that if the Japanese had the BOMB they would not have dropped it on us?

(From the desk of Capt. Alfred Guttag)

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

I am writing to see if any of the WW II members might remember my Dad. He served in the Americal in the South Pacific. I know he was on Guadalcanal and he was injured while serving on Bougainville, but little else. He came home from Bougainville with tuberculosis and died in 1953.

Dad went by the nickname of "Skunk" at home and was a very popular person as I'm sure he probably was while in the Americal.

Before his death he opened and operated a "Veterans Club" in Enfield, IL. He ran that until the police shut him down for not being licensed.

His full name was Braden Edwin Willis and his home was in Enfield, Illinois. He enlisted prior to Pearl Harbor and was originally in a National Guard unit--possibly the 211th Heavy Artillery that became part of the Americal. I know one of his closest friends was named Les Stewart, also from Illinois.

My father had three sons--all Vietnam veterans.

Please contact :
Clint Willis
Mt. Vernon, IL 47620

Clint: From the information you gave I would say that your father enlisted in the 123rd Artillery Regiment of the 33rd Division, Illinois National Guard. This Regiment was 'heavy artillery', 155 mm Howitzers. This Division was inducted into Federal service on March 18, 1941 and trained at Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

On August 16, 1941 the 123rd Artillery Regiment was transferred to Camp Robinson, Arkansas. Here the Regiment was split up and the 2nd Battalion shipped out of Brooklyn, New York on January 23, 1942 as part of Task Force 6814. This Task Force became the basic units when the Americal Division was formed on New Caledonia.

Numerous artillery units arrived on New Caledonia and were reorganized into the Divisions artillery. Out of these units came the 245th, 246th, 247th, Artillery Battalions. These three battalions were given 105mm Howitzers. The 221st Artillery Battalion was given 155mm Howitzers.

Chances are your Dad was in the 221st Artillery. The Americal Newsletter reaches many of these veterans and I sincerely hope you will be contacted by someone that knew your Dad.

Let me know how you make out.

Jim Buckle
Editor

ADMIRAL NIMITZ MUSEUM

Due to repairs, construction, and the backlog of exhibits, The Americal Exhibit in the Nimitz Museum will not be on display until late in 1988. In the meantime it is necessary to raise the \$2500 needed for the Americal Plaque. The halfway mark has been reached, but, I would like to point out that all but \$40.00 (Forty) has been raised by members of the South Mid-West Chapter.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Permission has been given by National Headquarters to solicit all members. So--I am asking for your support. Give a little or as much as you can--maybe in the memory of some gallant soldier that served in the South Pacific with the Americal.

The members of Chapter that have given are: Cameron Baird, Malcolm and Beverly East, Bill Bacon, Warren Hester, Lloyd Perry, Jim Brown, Albert Cotta, Carl Richardson, Joe Balcazar, Eva Balcazar, Doyle and Brenda Mason, Carlos and Peggy Pola, An anonymous donor of the South Mid West Chapter, and our good buddy and driver of our float, Steve Kronnick (Navy).

Thank you for any help you may be able to give.

Ernest B. Carlson
Chapter Commander

223rd ARTILLERY

I enjoy receiving and reading the Americal Newsletter.

I was in the 223rd Artillery on New Caledonia and rotated home from there in 1945. Just before leaving the outfit I was due to go to Guadalcanal for police duty.

I have lost contact with all of my old buddies and sure like to hear from them. Write to:

George Kost
Union, NJ 07083

P.S. Gave your check to the Adjutant and he says you are carried as an Associate. If you went overseas with the 223rd you are entitled to full membership. Let me know.

VETERANS DAY

November is the traditional month in which we honor the veterans of all our wars. The origin of Veterans Day reverts to November 11, 1918, when the allies signed an armistice agreement with Germany thus ending World War 1. The Armistice was signed on a railroad car at Compiegne, in northern France.

After invading France in 1940 only 22 years later, Hitler forced the French to sign their surrender documents on the same railroad car. This was to avenge the humiliation Hitler felt that Germany had been subjected to when they lost World War 1.

Every war from the Revolutionary Battles for Independence from Britain to Dessert Storms attempt to halt Saddam Hussein's dreams of conquest resulted in thousands of veterans receiving all manner of injuries and disabilities, while performing their military duties.

Each war resulted in veterans suffering the loss of limbs, hearing and sight. They were also exposed to poison gas, trench foot, jungle rot, malaria, shrapnel wounds, and psychological trauma.

While these wars were in progress, the government and civilians were enthusiastic in their support of our fighting men. But shortly after these wars ended their support and enthusiasm slowly faded away. Witness the many neglected and lonely veterans in our government hospitals.

Our Korean and Vietnam veterans had to suffer additional humiliation and neglect because these were "UNPOPULAR WARS." Such dissenters and radicals as Jane Fonda only worsened these veterans' rightful attempts to receive recognition and respect.

Show your respect for all vets by flying your flag on Veterans Day. Take time to visit some of these forgotten veterans, to assist them in their rehabilitation and their long days a little shorter and less dreary. Support programs and politicians who protect vital veterans' interests.

(Thanks to Leonard Owczarzak)

TO THE LADIES OF THE AMERICAL

I'd like to address this to the ladies. If your husband is able to go to the next Regional or National Reunion...encourage him, and get him to take you too. It will be your first but not your last. If your husband (or father) is deceased, you are an associate. You are very welcome, too. You will meet people from all over the U.S.A. and even some in your own neighborhood you didn't already know.

All you need is a suitcase you can handle, some love for adventure, some confidence in yourself, the right transportation schedules and the rest is taken care of. You will be safe, reunions are held in good hotels. You will have plenty of friendly people to talk to. You are really not alone.

The Friday bus trips include something military, most of them you couldn't plan on your own. In Buffalo, we were on a Submarine, saw a PT boat and toured a ship named for the 5 Sullivan brothers. Then Niagara Falls, including a ride on the "Maid

of the Mist." I'll never forget the trip from "The Pines" in the Catskills to West Point in our own boat. The ceremony in the Chapel at West Point was moving.

This year the National Reunion was held near the Americal Museum in the Armory in Worcester, Mass. There are a lot of pictures, mementos and history of the Americal in WW 11 in the South Pacific. The Korean War veterans and the Vietnam Veterans are well represented, too. If you are ever in Worcester, Mass...check it out.

Of course, it's really the men's reunion, where they can remember how it was for them, when they were very young. They get caught up in the present, too.

While here this time I tried reading some of "Orchids in the Mud". Naturally, as a lady, I never understood the war. I had to put it down before long and pray for all the Americal Vets especially.

I don't know how much is being taught in schools, apparently not enough. Otherwise, there'd be more respect for our flag and more flags waving in front of houses on designated days.

So many years have gone by. So much other History. Even though we're friendly with other Countries now, what the Americal has done for us, and this country should not be passed over quickly. They should not just get the "basic facts."

The people at the Reunions are happy, friendly and some couples are great dancers!!!

I didn't mean to preach. I do encourage all of you to get to the next reunion. You'll be glad you did!!

Alice Mullen, Associate
Eastern Regional Chapter

182nd INFANTRY

Thanks for the help the Americal Newsletter gave me in locating Tillman Cole. We talked for almost an hour on the telephone and he gave me more information than I expected about my uncle S/Sgt Joseph V. Cormier.

I am now seeking the help of the membership in trying to locate a Mr. Ian (Scotty) Weir. He was a platoon leader. My uncle Joseph Cormier was his ammo carrier. After my uncle's death Scotty wrote a couple of letters to Mrs. Cormier. At that time, 1944, he was 26 years old, single, and living in Weymouth, Massachusetts. If you have any information please contact me at:

Mr. Peter Vablonski
Lancaster, CA 93534
Tel: [redacted]

In closing I wish to thank the members of the ADVA who have helped me learn about my uncle. He is so much more a hero to me than ever before, as are all veterans who served in our nation's time of need. I made military a career and served a tour in Vietnam, but it pales in comparison to the heroes of the Americal. I salute you all. Thanks and God Bless.

Peter Vablonski
MSgt. USAF Ret.

LITTLE OR NO ENCHANTMENT LEFT ON THESE PACIFIC ISLES -
by Chales P. Wallace - Los Angeles Times

VERAHUE, Solomon Islands---Peter Jack held his palms to the beating sun in gesture of despair. "Our lives have been really hurt by logging," Jack said. "The bulldozers have taken away the top soil, and now we can't grow potatoes or yams in our garden."

Jack is a 40-year-old subsistence farmer whose family ekes out a living on the northern coast of Guadalcanal--and a Pacific island famous as the site of a savage battle between the U. S. and the Japanese forces in 1942, that has slipped into impoverished oblivion.

Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Island chain, is a dusty, fly blown town with one bumpy road and 52,000 people. It is infested with a deadly strain of malaria and economically stagnant. The rows of empty shelves at the Consumers Co-op supermarket remind a visitor of West Africa or perhaps Eastern Europe before perestroika.

Less than 25 percent of the Solomons' 260,000 people can read, one of the world's lowest literacy rates. Every year, only 700 paying jobs are created while more than 5,500 people join the labor force.

This was supposed to be the Pacific Century, a mercantile age when the region's nations raced ahead of the developed world economically. But the good times have largely passed over the hundreds of Pacific isles.

"Around us there swirls a maelstrom of economic growth in the Pacific Rim while the heart of the Pacific---its' islands--stands still, at best going nowhere and in many cases going backward," noted a recent commentary in Pacific Islands Monthly, a news magazine published in Fiji.

The World Bank even coined a phrase--the "Pacific Paradox"--to help explain why the islands increasingly are left behind.

It seems a far cry from the days when French painter Paul Gauguin memorialized the Pacific Islands as a place where one can "enter into the Truth, become one with nature and after the disease of civilization, life in this new world is a return to health."

Stretching from Melanesia near Australia to the islands of Polynesia and the tiny atolls of the Marshall Islands, the Pacific isles are a crazy quilt of past and present American and European colonies.

Many in the Pacific island states have blamed their predicament on a history of indifferent colonialism or the vast stretches of sea that make them inaccessible to tourists and investors.

But even sympathetic economists note that island nations like Mauritius and the Maldives remotely located in the Indian Ocean, have fared much better in managing their resources and planning their economic futures.

Australia, the South Pacific's largest aid donor, has begun to warn islands that the days of unquestioned financial assistance are nearing and end.

"I really don't think there is much use pouring

money into a country that is not looking after its own interests," said Gordon Bilney, Australia's minister for the South Pacific. "We think they could do a much better job of managing their own resources."

A demographic study of the island states by Australia's National Center for Development Studies warned in a recent "doomsday scenario" that the region faces a doubling of its population, strains on its education system and exhaustion of its natural resources by 2010.

"There is a concern that if things fall over, we may well see an implosion in the region to rather distressing environmental problems and poverty that will be hard to get out of," said Rowan Callick, a South Pacific specialist, who wrote the "doomsday" study.

The report looked at burgeoning population growth and declining economies in Papua New Guinea, the Solomons and Vanuatu. It said that with birth rates among the world's highest and incomes declining sharply, it would be impossible to improve education in these countries; even in 20 years they would be unable to afford to offer 10 years of education to every student.

One reason the islands are being relatively ignored is their small populations, totaling about 4.5 million people--fewer than Hong Kong. Many Westerners cling to the image of TV's "Gilligan's Island"--lush retreats where such problems as starvation and crime are remote.

But while the overall population may be small, the Pacific states' problems are huge. I Kiribati, for example, the atoll of South Tarawa, has 24,000 inhabitants---542 people per square mile, a density 60 percent higher than in Bangladesh, according to the Australian study.

Ron Duncan, who heads Australia's National Center for Development Studies in Canberra, said that, while the collapse of commodity prices such as cocoa and coconut products, the islands' main exports, in the late 1980s were a major factor in the Pacific islands' decline, the main problem was bad government management--they confounded potential investors by constantly changing policies.

There are few skilled government administrators, Duncan said, with most countries educating people " for migration to other countries." Even so, the islands' students are so badly prepared that more than 40 percent fail at the university level in Australia, he said.

"The Pacific islands are at a stage where population growth means that their standard of living has fallen below what it was in 1980s." Duncan said. "They are going backward."

(Taken from Detroit News)

SEND THAT STORY TO THE NEWSLETTER - NOW!

James C. Buckle
[redacted]
East Harwich, MA 02645-1470

Lets hear it from all units. We all saw the war from a different angle and your view will be interesting to men from another unit.

RESEARCH UNCOVERS I-91 AS 'VETERANS HIGHWAY'
by Caitlin Rother

NORTHAMPTON--Interstate 91's 20 year old designations as the Americal Division Veterans Memorial Highway is proving to be a surprise to many people---including veterans.

Even state Department of Public Works officials had to research what came of a special act of the state Legislature 20 years ago to commemorate veterans of the U.S. Army's 23rd Infantry Division, which fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

"I was concerned that the veterans had been forgotten, including some who have since passed away," said Springfield attorney Ralph Atkins, who discovered the special act while researching a case and found he could remember no signs being posted.

Atkins said some of his childhood friends from his old neighborhood near the "X" at Summer and Belmont avenues in Springfield fought in Vietnam.

Allen Mitchell, a homeless Greenfield man who died from complications of alcoholism and was buried May 29, his 40th birthday, was a member of the Americal Division.

During the Vietnam War, Mitchell searched for enemy soldiers in "spider holes" and was thus given the informal title "tunnel rat," according to Joseph Rudolph, president of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 50 in Greenfield.

Soldiers in the Americal Division, based originally at Fort Devens in Ayer, would wear on their shoulder a royal blue patch with four red stars, Rudolph said.

The special act, passed Feb. 17, 1970, states that I-91 "shall be known and designated" as a memorial to the Division, an honor to be displayed on "suitable markers" along the highway by the DPW as authorized by the federal standards.

Despite the Legislature's attempt to pay tribute to these veterans, federal guidelines warning of distractions to drivers thwarted the prominent display of these signs on the highway, Richard Barker, an engineer in the state DPW's maintenance department said.

As a result, the DPW posted white signs with black lettering in rest areas off the highway--in Holyoke and in Bernardston--where even someone looking for the sign has to search for it.

"I've never seen signs in a rest area," Atkins said. He complained to the DPW almost eight months ago but heard no reply.

Upon learning that the markers did, in fact, exist, Atkins was still upset. "I think it's a shame to not commemorate the veterans' sacrifices in a more prominent manner," he said. "Why commemorate someone and then hide it--give on the one hand and take back on the other?"

Atkins cited signs commemorating the Yankee Division, or the Massachusetts National Guard, posted near Cape Cod on Route 495, "They're right on the road; they're not in a rest area," he said.

Rudolph is aware of the signs, he said, only because he is a former employee of the state Highway Department. Rudolph served in the U.S. Navy from 1960 to 1970.

"I think it should be looked into, and people should be made aware of it," he said of the memorial's poor showing.

Paul Rich, a Vietnam veteran who answered the phone at the Veterans Outreach Center in Greenfield, called the 1970 special act, "another sham on us."

"I think it's another minor recognition which has been camouflaged," he said. "It goes un-noticed. Certainly, myself, I'd like to see (the signs) better displayed."

Vietnam veterans, he said, are victims of "an unpopular war" who were made to feel uncomfortable by the general public, the government and the media.

Evan Bandouveres, public relations specialist from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Northampton, has never seen one of the markers. "I think it's certainly an interesting point that

they designated those, but no one knows about it." Besides, he said, "People from Massachusetts don't ever use these rest areas."

Ed Note: Every year around Memorial Day Arthur Pope makes an 80 mile trip to place a wreath on this Americal marker. Following is a picture of the sign.



Arthur states in his letter, "I want to let my comrades in the Americal know that I do this every year because it allows me to do something for the Association. I really enjoy doing it".

Arthur served with the 182nd Infantry during World War II and has been a member of the ADVA for many years.

Many thanks Arthur, for your devotion to the Americal Division Veterans Association.

"I CAN GET IT FOR YOU WHOLESALE"

Just about every unit in the service, whether it was large or small, had their own con-man, finagler or hustler. This was the guy who could get you those items that were rationed or hard to get. It might be for friendship, but usually it was for a price.

While serving in the Solomons our gun battery was fortunate in having Pvt. Eugene D. Withrow in charge of "procurement." If our mess sergeant was running short of coffee, canned goods, or even

spam, Withrow was the guy you put in charge of the truck going down to the ration dump. He made sure that all the items on the mess sergeant's list were loaded on the truck, plus a few "extra goodies" that might be available.

When scarce lumber was only available for hospitals or officer's quarters, Withrow was somehow able to scrounge a sufficient amount of board feet to put floors in all of Battery D's tents. Of course, the sergeant running the jungle saw mill, having been from Withrow's home town, could have influenced our good fortune.

When someone developed a thirst for some "hard stuff" Withrow just happened to know some southern boys who were making some very fine quality raisin jack or white lightning. If your taste was for more refined libations, Withrow knew someone at the bomber strip that could arrange for Jack Daniels. Seagrams 7, or scotch to be flown in from Guadalcanal. He had several requests for this service even though the going price at this time for a fifth was 50 or 60 dollars. The list goes on combat boots, toilet articles, candy, gum, cigarettes or cigars. Any shortage was a challenge for Withrow.

Withrow was born and raised in a small town in West Virginia. He left home at an early age because of "family problems." December 7, 1941 found him serving with our unit at Pearl Harbor at the ripe old age of 17. Withrow had lied about his age after leaving home to join the army. He was a good soldier. He was short, wiry and tough.

During air raids every gun sergeant wanted Withrow on his crew. No one could match the speed in which he could pass the ammo. Later in the war, in the Philippines, Withrow was the man you took on patrols. He could smell an ambush, and always knew which was the right trail to take. When our old gang gets together at reunions someone is sure to ask, "I wonder what Withrow wound up selling after the war?"

Leonard Owczarzak
746th A.A.A.
Gun Bn.

Pearl Harbor, Fiji, Guadalcanal, Bougainville,
Cebu

WORLD WAR 11 THE FINAL CHAPTER

Japan used GI's for tests and the U.S. let it go.

Free Press Wire Services

San Jose, Calif.---A Pentagon file shows American intelligence agents deliberately did not pursue evidence the U. S. prisoners of war were used in Japanese biological experiments during World War 11.

In fact, the declassified file shows, U. S. military officers maneuvered to suppress the reports, the San Jose Mercury News reported Sunday.

The file contains at least four documents from independent intelligence sources alleging that American prisoners were used as human research subjects.

Although the assertions are not proof, the file clearly shows that U.S. military officers maneuvered to suppress the reports. Their

unwillingness to pursue the matter stemmed from a secret deal granting the Japanese immunity from prosecution in exchange for tissue samples and reports on human experimentation that would give the United States a germ-warfare advantage over the Soviet Union, survivors have contended.

The file was obtained from Greg Rodriguez, Jr., 46, a Washington-based researcher whose father was a prisoner of the Japanese. It was declassified two years ago, after a Japanese researcher's Freedom of Information Act request.

The documents focus on Unit 731 of the Japanese Imperial Army. Western historians believe the unit killed at least 200,000 Chinese soldiers and civilians with germ-warfare tests.

Historians have documented that the Japanese routinely used Chinese, Soviet and Korean POWs for medical experiments. The live test subjects were called 'maruta'--"logs of wood" and were injected with bubonic plague, typhoid, cholera, syphilis and other diseases. The prisoners were often dissected alive without anesthesia to see the effect of the diseases on their vital organs.

Many of the 1,500 American soldiers who were captured in the Philippines and taken to Mukden, Manchuria, have long suspected that they, too, were victims of germ-warfare experiments. Dozens of Mukden survivors contend that the Japanese and U. S. officials have covered up the experiments for 50 years.

Both governments, however, have maintained there is no evidence to support such allegations---a position they still hold.

Evidence to the contrary is found in a file from the military's counterintelligence corps of the Supreme Commander of Allied Powers, led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Its most damning documents make it clear that U.S. intelligence agents not only did cover up war crimes against Americans, but also aggressively protected the architect of those crimes, Lt.Gen. Shiro Ishii.

Department of Defense spokesman Sam Grizzle said Monday that he was unable to comment immediately because he had not read the newspaper's account.

The counterintelligence corps prepared a report on Ishii, according to a 1947 memo, but a high-level U.S. intelligence officer quashed the report after telling his agents it involved "a top-secret matter."

An April 18, 1947, report from the legal section of MacArthur's headquarters said the Unit 731 investigation was "under direct Joint Chiefs of Staff order."

"What fascinates me the most about this file is that there was no visible interest expressed in following up about the Americans," said historian Gavan Dawes of Honolulu, an authority on Allied POWs in the Pacific. "And it's clear from the file that there is a wish and a directive that nothing should be done."

The file corroborates the story of Dr. Murray Sanders, a former adviser to MacArthur on biological warfare, which in 1985 contended he recommended that MacArthur trade the data for immunity for Unit 731 leaders, the newspaper said.

(Sent in by Leonard Owczarzak)

'THEY CHANGED THE FACE OF THE EARTH'

Irving Isaacson, past commander of three Quincy veterans' organizations, told those attending the city's Memorial Day ceremonies that the people who have died while serving this country should be honored because they made the world what it is today.

Isaacson, a decorated World War II veteran who has served as commander of the Quincy Jewish War Veterans, Quincy Veterans Council and Quincy Cavanaugh Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, was keynote speaker at the World War II podium in Mt. Washington Cemetery. The ceremonies followed the annual Memorial Day Parade which ended in the cemetery following a procession from School St.

Isaacson told those in attendance that although the United States has more rights and freedoms than any other nation, the price paid to protect them often has been the loss of American lives.

"All across the nation today families and friends pay tribute to these gallant--and often unsung heroes," said Isaacson. "Heroes who were our brothers and sisters--our husbands, and wives--our sons and daughters."

Heroes who marched to the colors for their country in its time of need. We have chosen today, Memorial Day, to remember and honor them and their sacrifices.

And why do we honor them? Because the selfless acts of these brave patriots changed the face of the earth, and the profile of the nations."

Isaacson then traced the history of wars and military operations in which the United States has participated, from World War I to peacekeeping services in Bosnia. While noting that Memorial Day is, for many, a day of relaxation, he asked the crowd to remember those who have served this country and the U. S. flag itself with respect.

"As we celebrate this day with parades and picnics, flags and floats, memories and memorials, I ask that you remember our men and women who have given so greatly for their country. And I ask that you remember the visible representation of that sacrifice is the flag of our country, Old Glory."

Whether you are remembering World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Operation Desert Storm or Bosnia, I ask that everyone across this nation spiritually joins hands today in solemn remembrance--and grateful celebration--in honor of all who have given the ultimate sacrifice, their life in the preservation of freedom and democracy.

Memorial Day means much more to Americans than just a day off from work, or a parade or a picnic in the park. It represents the memory of all those brave Americans who died to allow us the privilege to live in this unique and wonderful country."

(Irving Isaacson served in E Co., 182nd Infantry)

VA INSURANCE HOAX RESURFACES ON THE INTERNET

A message on the INTERNET has caused some confusion among veterans who have VA insurance policies.

False Information About Dividends Appear Periodically.

These announcements declare that Congress has recently passed a bill which entitles veterans and service persons to a dividend based upon their prior years of service, and are part of a recurring problem of misinformation that dates back to 1965. Unfortunately, this misinformation unnecessarily raises the expectations of veterans and service personnel and detracts from our ability to serve our veterans.

The dividend "hoax", as we refer to it, had its origins in a special dividend that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), then known as the Veterans Administration, did pay to World War II veterans who had National Service Life Insurance policies. Approximately \$2.7 billion was paid in 1950 to over 16 million of these veterans under the "1948 special dividend."

Some time in 1965, the special dividend news announcement of 15 years earlier resurfaced and were mistakenly published in several newspapers. The special dividend had already been paid out to virtually all eligible government life insurance policy holders and there was no new special dividend. VA moved quickly to educate the news media, but some well-meaning individuals and organizations began to publish the announcements in smaller publications, newsletters and flyers. The actual scope of the original dividend became fictionalized and some publications declared the dividend available to all veterans (not just World War II) and even to those who never carried government life insurance while in the service. The latest rumor is that active service persons, reservists and personnel separated within the last few years are eligible.

The 1948 special dividend program required veterans to apply for the payment. Over the years the dividend story has prompted hundreds of thousands of veterans to write and "apply" for this benefit. Although the amount of letters has fluctuated, we have received as many as 15-20,000 inquiries per week about this dividend in the past. Because of the volume of these requesters for a nonexistent benefit, Congress passed a law in 1970 that prohibited payment of any special dividend declared prior to 1952 unless the application was received before 1954. There has been no recent legislation authorizing any "special" dividends.

Dividends are not payable to current service members insured under Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) or Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI). SGLI and VGLI are group policies and therefore, do not pay dividends.

For your information, VA continues to pay routine dividends on several policy series, but only to veterans who have kept their policies in force. These veterans receive their dividends automatically on the anniversary date of their individual policy. They do not have to apply.

Contact your local VA Regional Office for additional assistance by dialing our too-free number, [REDACTED]

(Thanks to Ernie Carlson)

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

THE LITTLE GUY

My wife and I were talking the other night, about suffering in the world, with wars, and bad Government like they are. My first thought went to a little guy I met, blind, in Taxicowa, Japan, after they surrendered, and we occupied them.

I first saw him, with a sign on his chest, asking for help, in Japanese. I thought how horrible it would be to be in a war, and have your city destroyed, and you can't see where you are at or who you are talking to, or where to get food or shelter.

I finally found a Japanese person who could understand English and he told me the little guy would trade a little vase he had for food and cigarettes. I gave him what rations I had, after having the interpreter explain what they were, and how to open them. I gave him all the cigarettes I had and I told him I didn't need the vase, but the interpreter said I should take it, or hurt his feelings and dignity.



How can you have either, when you are blind and hungry, in a devastated city? Why would the little guy even want to live?

I'm glad I took the vase, tho' I felt guilty, but I am over that now, and as it sits on a shelf, in the living room, and whenever I look at it, it tells me how lucky I am to be who I am, and where I live, and not to complain too much about the little things in life, but to enjoy what I have.

I came back to Taxicowa a week later, with a bunch of stuff, for the little guy, but I couldn't find him anywhere, so I gave the goodies to the other needy people I found.

Wherever he went, from Hell or to his place in Heaven, he will not be forgotten, as my wife and children all know the story of the "Little Guy" and we all count our blessings.

Just close your eyes and put yourself in his place and you'll know what I mean.

The vase has a grotto cut into it, with a Temple inside and lined with trees outside the Grotto, molded out of clay.

Darrell Wardian
A Co. 57th Engr Bn.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS VETERANS

I Would like to bring to your members attention Florida State University's Institute on World War II and the Human Experience. As the Institute's director I have undertaken a project entitled "To Preserve a Legacy."

With the aging of World War II veterans, I and others are deeply concerned about the loss of these men's and women's insight into the "Good War." In particular, as I am sure your members already know, it is all too common to have these brave veterans' memorabilia either discarded or hidden away where no one can use them.

Even in the few instances where letters, diaries, and the like are donated to a local institution, it is all too likely that they go from the veteran's attic to the institution's basement, never to see the light of day again.

Here at FSU we have set up the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience to do research and teaching based on the average soldier's experiences in World War II.

Please ask your members to consider donating their memorabilia to the Institute and in so doing to help preserve this legacy of Americas, and their greatness.

William O. Oldson
Professor and Director
Institute on WWII & the Human Experience

Ed note: Anyone wishing to donate items or receiving more information may write to:

Florida State University
Department of History
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2029
or Phone: [REDACTED]

KAMIKAZE ATTACK ON THE 21st RECON

George Fukui, a soldier in the Japanese Army stationed on Cebu, where he later surrendered to members of the Americal, tells a story of his unit, the Lillion Kai Group, putting on a what they called a 'Kamikaze attack', because it was suicidal.

A lone soldier went off carrying a chest of dynamite with the intent of blowing up a tank belonging to the Recon Troop. He returned and reported that he had destroyed two tanks and had survived.

Bill McLaughlin picks up the story from here:

It so happened that I was in command of the outpost that night and can give the other side of the story..there was only one tank and it was unharmed although it scared the Hell out of us when the charge went off.

Bill continues--two of my men leaped out of their holes on hearing he guy scrambling through the bushes near the bridge we were guarding. To keep them calm, I thought they were hearing things, I put the bayonet on my M-1 and walked down to the creek and back. As I went show them there was nothing there, I heard the scrambling and I actually thought that it was more than one soldier that I had walked by on my way to the creek and back, but it was only that single Japanese.

PEEP TROOP M.C.R.S.

Do you remember the PEEP Troops on New Caledonia? Well, I had volunteered to join them with Art Trouville. The official name of Peep Troop was Mobile Combat Reconnaissance Squadron. It is a long story about the Peep Troops. Most of the scout company I was in were French speaking troops.

Because the terrain was such, we were shipped to Guadalcanal without our vehicles, where we filled in the defense line surrounding the airfield.

We were attached to the First Marine Division and I was wounded in a Jap mortar attack, while on this defense line around the airfield. I suffered shrapnel in my right hand. The Medic took me to a field hospital where Doctors removed the shrapnel and put my right hand and arm in a sling strapped to my body in such a way I could not lower my arm. Then I was told to report to some Captain on the beach. Everything happened so fast I cannot recall his name.

Well, when I got to the beach I was happy to see an old friend, Real Turcotte and he told me we were going to guard the beach against any Japs trying to get through the line. What a bunch of sorry jerks we were, all walking wounded men and, no fox holes to dive into in case of attack! I said to Real Turcotte "We are goners in case of an attack". Fortunately this only lasted three days then we were shipped to Fiji Islands, where I was assigned to F. Co. 132nd Infantry.

I was there for one month with them, then they transferred me to the 164th Infantry Headquarters motor pool. I took over as Motor Pool Sgt.

So I was in First Marines at Guadalcanal 132nd Infantry (F Co.) in Fiji 164th Infantry (Hq.Co.) on Bougainville

I started out from the Armory in Lowell, Mass, in C. Co. 182nd Inf, all in the Americal Division.

I was sent home on points the last of Nov. '44. While home on leave I married my present wife of fifty one years. Back from leave I reported to a hotel in Ashville, N.C., Here I stayed one month and was then shipped to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Months later I was shipped to Fort Devens, Massachusetts for separation - June 1945. That was my Army career from the National Guard Armory to all the outfits in the Americal Division, plus a short one with the Marines. But we were all young kids then.

Roland Beaudoin

(Sent in by Elliot Carey)

221st FIELD ARTILLERY - SERVICE BATTERY

Just a note to say we (Mr. & Mrs) enjoy reading the Americal Newsletter. (The Old Guard)

Thanks to everyone involved for their hard work and time.

Sincerely,
Mrs. J. Hammel

Editor: Thank you for your kind words. My staff and I really appreciate them.

Jim

H COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

The picture below was taken at a mini Reunion, made possible by John Groppi, and it was held at the Horizons, located at the entrance to the Cape Cod Canal in Sagamore, MA.

A former officer in H Company, Major John Algeo was the guest of honor. Major Algeo winters in Florida and summers on the Cape. John Groppi always manages to gather a group of H Company to visit with the Major while he is on the Cape.



Front Row L-R Fred Zaino, Charlie Budreau, John Groppi, Jim Buckle E Co., Standing L-R Joe Mullen A Co., Bill Murphy, John Algeo, Ed Chisholm, Mike Lombardo.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Who is building the Memorial? President Clinton signed Public Law 103-32 on May 25, 1993, authorizing the Americal Battle Monuments Commission to establish the World War II Memorial in our Nation's Capital. Primary funding for the \$100 million Memorial must be raised from private contributions.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO

World War II Memorial Fund
Americal Battle Monuments Commission

Washington, DC 20090-6766

L COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

Another successful get-together was held at Bob Doucette's home. There were thirteen men in attendance.

We started at 11:00 A.M., had a great meal and the got down to the business at hand -- sitting around, renewing old acquaintances, telling some great stories, and winning the war all over again.

The L Company group meets twice a year at Bob's house and the next meeting will be in March 1998.



In attendance were: John Kirby, John Patterson, Ted Milgroom, Vincent Tringali, Jim Standish, Earl Magnuson, Jim McCarthy, Major Bray, Ray McKinnon, Israel Rosensweig. Also present was Joe Chin from M Company, and John Groppi from H Company.

All former members of the 182nd Infantry are invited to attend. Please contact Bob Doucette and he will notify you of the up coming meeting in March and all future meetings.

Robert Doucette
[Redacted]
Lynn, MA 01904-1033
Tel: [Redacted]

A BATTERY - 247th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Thank you for inviting Mr. Raymond C. Minard to join the Americal Division Veterans Association. My father passed away in February of 1996, and didn't get a chance to find out about your organization. I'm sure he would have joined, since he looked for veteran's groups of his unit, and he wondered what happened to some of his buddies. He is buried in Los Angeles National Cemetery.

Raymond joined the U.S. Army before Pearl Harbor and served as forward observer for the A Battery, 247 F.A. under then Capt. William Gray. He was on board ship in Noumea harbor when the Americal Division was formed. He was especially devoted to the other F.O.'s in his unit and to Capt. Gray, who returned the loyalty of his men in his Battery with a scholarship at Harvard for children of men in his Battery.

We have a scrap book of his tour in the Pacific, some taken during combat. Our family treasures it along with his other wartime memorabilia.

I wish your organization the very best of luck. Please feel free to provide my name and address to anyone who asks about Corp. Raymond Minard.

Jeffrey Minard
[Redacted]
Huntington, Beach, CA 92647

Ed. Note: An application for membership was sent to Ray. His name and address was among hundreds of names that had been sent in as prospective members.

246th FIELD ARTILLERY - 221 FIELD ARTILLERY

These men of the Artillery have been meeting annually out there in the West for many years. All the men in the picture were from C/221 F.A., (Bernie Chase's outfit), with the exception of Jack Teeple, C-265, and Ed Saarni from B/246.



L+R: Louis Marra, Frank Mader, Steve Cvitkovich, Jack Teeple, Vic Savoie, Bill Matheson, Ed Saarni,

This year the lads met in Saulte Ste. Marie, MI on September 10th and 11th. Frank Mader says, "We had a good time. A lot of stories were told...also, some good jokes. Most of us went in as replacements in the Fiji Islands, then on to Bougainville and Japan.

(Sent in by Bill McLaughlin--Pic by Jack Teeple)

SEND THAT STORY TO THE NEWSLETTER - NOW!

James C. Buckle
[Redacted]
East Harwich, MA 02645-1470

Lets hear it from all units. We all saw the war from a different angle and your view will be interesting to men from another unit.

Have your story in by January 1998 and it will appear in the next issue. PLEASE include your telephone number in the event I have any questions. Thanks, Jim



Headquarters
Americal Division Veterans Association
[Redacted]
Boston, MA 02104



Dear Americal Veteran,

The Americal Division Veterans Association is a fraternal and social organization and it is the only officially recognized organization representing all veterans who have served with the Americal Division (23d Infantry) and formation assets, at any time, assigned or attached, and regardless of branch of service.

The association was founded in Boston, MA in November, 1945 and chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in February, 1946. The National Headquarters is located in Boston with chapters throughout the United States. The Americal Museum is located in Worcester, MA.

The 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.

Annual dues, which are our main source of income, are \$12 per year. Three year dues are \$30 and a one-time payment of life dues is available. Life dues for veterans age 75 and over are \$75, for veterans under age 75 life dues are \$165. Associate memberships are permitted. Regional chapters may also assess dues.

Each new member will receive membership credentials which consist of a membership card, lapel pin, and window decal. Special products to help you identify yourself as an Americal veteran are offered. Members receive the Americal Newsletter each quarter and are encouraged to submit items for publication.

All members and their families are considered as part of our Americal family. Scholarships provided by the Americal Foundation are awarded to students selected by a special non-member panel.

You are encouraged to take an active part in the association by attending meetings, serving on committees, and running for offices. The ADVA holds annual reunions in various locations throughout the country and sponsors various other affairs and activities. Chapters may also sponsor local activities as they desire. We hope you will take part in as many national and chapter activities as possible.

For further information, see the ADVA web page at <www.americal.org>. A recorded message can be left on the Americal Hotline at [Redacted]. We urge you to join with us in our great Americal family and help us perpetuate the memories, heritage, traditions, and history of our proud division and to those gallant American who served under its colors.

The Americal family is your family and as one who has helped create our great traditions and history we can only say "We need you and welcome you." Join with us today because the Americal Division Veterans Association is your association.

UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Please feel free to copy this page and send it to prospective members!



James C. Buckle
36 Standish Woods Circle
E. Harwich, MA 02645-1470

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Address Correction Requested

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1997

Mr. Malcolm P. East P.L.
[REDACTED]
Lumberton, TX 77656-9429

Eligibility for Membership

Membership in ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted personnel 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	1942-1945
Korean War (Caribbean)	1954-1956
Vietnam War	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.

Application for Membership

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Americal Unit Rgt/Bde: _____ Bn: _____ Co: _____ Other: _____ Associate: _____
Dates of Service: _____ Serial/SSN No: _____ Occupation: _____
Spouse's Name: _____ Sponsored by: _____
Signature: _____

Please enclose initial dues of \$12.00 and be sure to telephone number with all correspondence.

Mail to: AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
82 Phyllis Drive
So. Yarmouth, MA 02664