



FOUNDED 1945

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2000

Editor-in-Chief: James C. Buckle

Vietnam Editor: Gary L. Noller

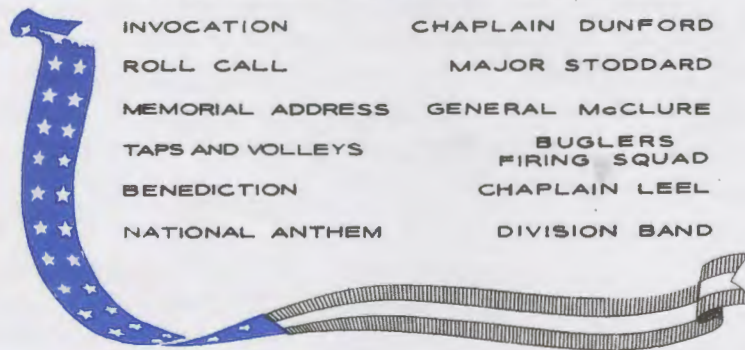
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THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION P. O. BOX 1381 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104



AMERICAL  DIVISION

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE	DIVISION BAND
INVOCATION	CHAPLAIN DUNFORD
ROLL CALL	MAJOR STODDARD
MEMORIAL ADDRESS	GENERAL McCLURE
TAPS AND VOLLEYS	BUGLERS FIRING SQUAD
BENEDICTION	CHAPLAIN LEEL
NATIONAL ANTHEM	DIVISION BAND



BOUGAINVILLE MILITARY CEMETERY

Memorial

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY IN THIS AMERICAN CEMETERY, THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM OUR HOMELAND IN RESPECT AND MEMORY OF OUR FELLOW SOLDIERS WHO HAVE DIED ON THIS ISLAND, WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO CREED OR HERITAGE WE OFFER OUR UNITED PRAYERS IN THEIR BEHALF TO OUR MAKER. AND AS WE PRAY THAT THEIR SACRIFICES MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN WE GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOSS AS WE WOULD FOR OUR OWN SONS AND BROTHERS.

AS WE LOOK OVER THIS QUIET AND CHRISTIAN SCENE, SO PEACEFUL NOW IN THE MORNING LIGHT, THESE BRAVE AND DAUNTLESS DEAD SEEM TO ANSWER US AND SAY, "GRIEVE NOT! WE HAVE LIVED TO THE FULL OUR YOUTHFUL LIVES AND ARE SATISFIED THAT OUR SACRIFICES AND EFFORTS WILL MAKE FOR A BETTER WORLD AMONG MEN. WE FOUGHT TO PRESERVE FOREVER THOSE IDEALS, INSTITUTIONS AND FREEDOMS, WHICH IN THE PRIVACY OF OUR HEARTS WE CALL AMERICA. THERE CAN BE NO REAL TRAGEDY IN DYING SUCH---UNLESS THEY ARE LOST. GRIEVE NOT BROTHERS, FRIENDS AND COMRADES: KEEP UP THE FIGHT.

WE WILL KEEP UP THE FIGHT AND WE ASK ALMIGHTY GOD FOR A SHARE OF THEIR STRENGTH, LOYALTY, BRAVERY AND WILLINGNESS FOR SELF SACRIFICE. IF WE CAN THUS INFUSE OURSELVES WITH THE ESSENCE OF THEIR SPIRIT, THEY WILL TRULY NEVER DIE BUT WILL LIVE FOREVER WITH US, STRENGTHENING AND GUIDING US IN THE FIGHT AHEAD. THEN WE WILL BE LOYAL TO THESE GALLANT MEN AND WE PLEDGE TO THEM THAT THEY HAVE NOT DIED IN VAIN FOR AMERICA. BATTLES ARE WON BY THOSE WHO FALL.

R.B. McClure
R. B. McCLURE
MAJOR GENERAL, U.S. ARMY
COMMANDING

Address 

To the membership,

In June, 1999, at the St. Louis national reunion business meeting a motion was made by PNC John "Dutch" DeGroot that a plaque be laid at Arlington National Cemetery. The plaque is to be dedicated to the men and women of all the wars that the Americal Division served under the Southern Cross.

When I returned from St. Louis it didn't seem to be a real big problem, but, not as easily done as said. It has taken all summer and fall. In November, Jon Hanson, Executive Council member, and I had a meeting with the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery. After a short meeting we learned that the Association would not be able to place a plaque if we were not a "federally chartered" fraternal (veteran) organization and/or approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (President's cabinet).



With tree and plaque program scheduled to end on December 31, 1999, and no agreement to extend this deadline, we turned 180 degrees to my congressman's office to see what could be done. Ms. Kimber Cramer at Congressman Fred Upton's office was most helpful in assisting me with the paperwork and getting the ball rolling. With the team in place and momentum started, we were off.

COL John L. Insani (Ret.), and ADVA member, solicited bids on the tree and the plaque. John "Dutch" DeGroot helped with the design drawings. Other helpers were Jon Hansen and Gary Noller.

We may have the tree planted and the plaque installed by Memorial Day when we travel to Washington, D. C. and "The Wall" for Rolling Thunder. The cost of the memorial plaque and tree should be about \$2,400. Sometime this year the ADVA will be "federally chartered". This should cut down on future "red tape". There is no formal dedication planned for this Memorial Day. The 2002 reunion in Washington, D.C. will allow everyone to participate and see the plaque.

I must comment that this has been one of my most challenging endeavors- dealing with the government. I ask each of you to take the time to send a thank you not to these two people and show your appreciation for their contributions to making the Americal Division tree and plaque a reality.

Ms. Kimber Cramer
District Projects Director
Congressman Fred Upton's Office
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

COL John L. Insani
[Redacted]
Alexandria, VA 22304

Please visit our booth on the Mall in Washington over Memorial Day weekend. We can use some help there too.

Ed "Top Gun" Marsh
National Commander

Dear Members,

Where has the time gone? It seems like a very short time ago that I became the National Commander. Sometimes when you take on a job like "National Commander", people come up and say, "Just call me when you need help." I can say thank you to all those who have answered our call or written to me offering help.

The "watch" has been the best experience that I could have ever enjoyed since I left Vietnam thirty years ago. No person can do this job alone. No National Commander could do it without the help of so many fine people. The membership and those who work on the website, the donors and friends of the ADVA work hard to keep the Association going year after year, all helping to make it the best.

I was a kid who was growing up in Chicago, then relocated to a small Michigan town, then sent to war in Vietnam. Upon my return I have been employed here for so many years. I have met veterans of the wars and I have become a very close friend with many, sharing friendships that have lasted for years. I say Thank You!" to our veterans, both men and women, for all the freedoms that we, as Americans, enjoy- often without acknowledgement. My greatest satisfaction comes from receiving words of encouragement from you, our Association members. This has been the most challenging part of my life. As my "watch" ends, I tell you that the credit is yours. Let's be sure that we leave the history of "The Americal" as the Best of the Best.

I wish the Commander-elect and the new officers of our Association all the best in their upcoming two years of service. I will see all of you in June in San Antonio.

Thank you!

Ed "Top Gun" Marsh
National Commander (Ret.)
Duty-Honor-Country-Americal!

Upcoming reunions

18th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion
September 14-17, 2000
Kokomo, Indiana
Old Airport, Hwy 800 East

Camping spaces \$5.00 per day. Contact Ron Davis at 765-847-2385 to make a reservation with the Americal Division group. ADVA and 1/1 Cav. Assn. will have a group photo at 3:00 PM on Saturday near the main flag. Over 40,000 veterans attended this reunion in 1999. It is one of the oldest and largest Vietnam veteran reunions in the United States. Sponsored by Howard County Vietnam Veterans.

Americal Division Veterans Association
June 21-24, 2001
Cleveland, Ohio
Cleveland Marriott Airport Hotel

National Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
Canton Football Hall of Fame
Cleveland Zoo and Tropical Rainforest
And many other "targets of opportunity"
Operational Commanders:
David W. Taylor, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB
330-723-2517, [Redacted]
Larry Watson, 1/52nd Inf. and 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB
[Redacted], [Redacted]

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

JUNE 2000
National Convention
San Antonio, Texas
10:00 A.M.

TAPS	TAPS	TAPS	TAPS
26 MILITARY POLICE		132 INFANTRY I CO.	
Ralph R. Antonelli Somerville, MA July 1999		Luther Ashley Amfurgey, KY February 24, 2000	
22 ORDNANCE		USS HELENA	
Arthur L. Bartlett Jr. Newburyport. MA Date Unknown		Ted Blahnik Coloma, MI December 4, 1999	
164 INFANTRY C CO.		196 LIB C/4/31 INF	
Paul M. Bossoletti Grand Forks, ND September 18, 1999		Tommy Burns Maspeth, NY April 7, 2000	
164 INFANTRY E CO.		132 INFANTRY	
Elmer James Cecil Bemidji, MN August 21, 1999		Benjamin F. Cooley Ithaca, MI January 19, 2000	
182 INFANTRY		132 INFANTRY E CO	
Bernard Dexter Beaumont, TX Date Unknown		Nicholas J. Dirago Des Plaines, IL December 24, 1999	
182 INFANTRY F CO.		247 FIELD ARTILLERY	
Delmo Ferranti Weston-Wilmington MA February 25, 2000		James T. Halom Boca Raton, FL March 8, 2000	
182 INFANTRY		182 INFANTRY D CO.	
Ernest R. Herbert Ormand Beach, FL December 1999		Herbert L. Holt Selma, CA January 31, 2000	
101 MEDICAL REG.		121 MED BN.	
Arnold R. Leaders Wadena, MN January 2, 2000		Malcolm Leichter Cheshire, CT October 22, 1999	
247 FIELD ARTILLERY		182 INFANTRY C CO.	
Emil C. Lenz Millis, MA February 16, 2000		Alfred K. Maggiani Quincy, MA April 4, 2000	
101 MEDICAL BN.		132 INF M CO. 21 RE	
Herbert J. O'Brien Salem, NH March 19, 2000		Charles F. Paulson Glendale Heights, IL October 1997	
164 INFANTRY		26 ENGINEERS HHC	
Robert K. Radune McArthur, OH February 18, 2000		Mickey Reed Westmont, NJ March 24, 2000	

132 INFANTRY E CO.
Bernard Rugendorf
Skokie, IL
January 1998

182 INFANTRY 1/HQ
Albert St. Hilaire
Stuart, FL
February 27, 2000.

26 SIGNAL CO.
Robert D. Texter
Allentown, PA
July 2, 1999

Herbert L. Holt

My dear husband and best friend, Herbert L. Holt, passed away peacefully on January 32, 2000. He is greatly missed by me, his family and friends.

He joined the Americal Division approximately February 1945. He was in D Company, 182nd Infantry.

He was a faithful member of the Far West Chapter and was their Chaplain for several years. He loved his Lord, family, friends and his Country. We loved to attend all the 'family' Reunions with the Americal members.

Sincerely,
Neva C. Holt

Theodore "Ted" Blahnik

Ted Blahnik died peacefully in his sleep on December 4, 1999.

Ted was a Navy veteran and was aboard the U.S.S. Helena on December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese attacked. He later served on the U.S.S. Wisconsin in the South Pacific during World War II.

He joined the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans organization many years ago and was the Editor of the organizations newsletter, "Guadalcanal Echoes".

Ed Note: I had never met Ted but we corresponded many times and exchanged letters of interest that would be printed in the 'Echoes' and in the Americal Newsletter.

THANK YOU

Dear Mr. Marsh:

I thank you for your kind letter of sympathy for the loss of my husband Joseph Balcazar. The love he had for the Americal is something he took with him to his grave. He was buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with the blue flag of the 132nd Infantry. I think the love he had for the Americal came only second to the one he had for his wife and children. Not a day passed that he would recount some memory of his outfit and the men with whom he served his country. The pride in his Division and his "boys" as he called his men, have become an intimate part of our family history. I am sure the name of Joseph Balcazar will pass into annals of history with that of the Americal Division

Eva S. Balcazar

LAST ROLL CALL
164th INFANTRY REGIMENT

Louis G. Figone - F Company - April 15, 1999
Howard Boltz - Medic - April 15, 1997
Leo J. McGuire - F Company - January 4, 1999
Kenneth A. Swartz - Grand Forks, ND - Date Unknown
Thurston Nelson - L Company - May 3, 1999
James Cecil - E Company - August 21, 1999
Gerald J. Ward - M Company - May 24, 1999
Lucas Allex - Watford City, ND - April 8, 1999
William L. Love - Rugby, ND July 31, 1999
Clarence Tomkins - Grand Rapids - July 19, 1999
Ernest Hauser - Fairdale, KY - Date Unknown
Harry Wiens - Scottsdale, AZ - March 6, 1999
Paul Bossoletti - Grand Forks - September 18, 1999
Howard R. Hunze - Korean War - October 14, 1999
Arthur J. Nix - Moorhead, MN - September 1999
Kermit Axvig - Concord, CA - January 26, 2000
Robert Baker - Devils Lake, ND - February 3, 2000
Rowland Bemis - Fargo, ND - January 4, 2000
Harley Dalbey - Fordville, ND - January 20, 2000
Mike Demianew - Salinas, CA - October 9, 1999
Everitt Forde - Minneapolis, MN - November 1999
William Freeman - Simpsonville, SC - Aug 29, 1999
James G. Gilbertson - Minn, MN - Aug 22, 1999
Elmo N. Hofferma - Missoula, MT - Nov 14, 1999
Vance Presler - Korean War - December 1999
Ernest Rodgers - Springfield, MO - Nov 17, 1999
Donald K. Van Slyke - St. Paul, MN - Jan 20, 2000
Jack C. Krull - Lubbock, TX - March 26, 2000

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Stephen R. Bogan 198 LIB B/1/6 Inf Batavia, OH #Art Cole	Mr. Daniel L. Bolick 178 ASHC Lenoir, NC #Clinton D. Poston
Mr. Sidney M. Bonk 198 LIB A/! Navarre, OH #Larry Watson	Mr. Melvin R. Burns 198 LIB B/5/46 Inf Riverside, CA #John P. Hofer
Mr. Mark D. Callahan 11 LIB C/3/1 Inf Belmar, NJ #Don Ballou	Mr. John A. Caudron 11 LIB C/3/1 Inf Walnut, CA #Don Ballou
Mr. Michael G. Chandler 11 LIB A/1/20 Inf Sterling Heights, MI #Louie Rios	Mr. Tony Colvard 21 Infantry E/3/21 Hudson, NC #Don Ballou
Mr. James R. Cottam 82 Arty D Btry Mountain Center, CA #Gary L. Noller	Mr. Daniel R. Einsla 46 Infantry C/1/46 Allentown, PA #Bob Short
Mr. Larry D. Finch 11 LIB D/3/1 Inf Gonzales, TX #Don Prochaska	Mr. Robert Finger 198 LIB A/1/6 Inf New London, WI #Art Cole
Mr. Henry A. Gall Jr. 11 Arty A/6/11 Columbus, OH #Davis Bradley	Mr. Gerald R. Grey 123 Avn Bn 178 ASHC Bishop, CA #Gary L. Noller
Mr. Robert W. Gustitus 82 Arty D/1/82 Schuylkill. PA #Gary L. Noller	Mr. Thomas S. Hanson 754 Tank Bn Sioux Falls, SD #Thomas Howard

Mr. Turner M. Harrison 123 Avn Bn A Co. Cairo, GA #Les Hines	Mr. Russell D. Hosie 123 Avn Bn A Co. South Jordan, UT #Don Ballou
Mr. Wayne Hupfauer 11 LIB B/1/20 Inf Kernersville, NC #Don Ballou	Mr. Ronnie Janes 11 LIB D/3 Inf Columbia, KY #Don Prochaska
Mr. David L. Jones 196 LIB C/5/46 Inf Fort Wayne, IN #Gary L. Noller	Mr. Philip Kindig 198 LIB Trp/H/ 17 Cav Rochester, IN #Brian Mulcrone
Mr. Carl J. Koppels 46 Infantry D/5/46 Inf Metairie, LA #David Taylor	Ltc. James D. Lamb (Ret.) 198 LIB B/5/46 Inf Columbus, GA #David Taylor
Mr. Jeffrey Lavoie 1 Cav E Troop Antrim, NH #Art Cole	Mr. Lawrence L. Lovelace 198 LIB A/1/52 Inf Traer, IA #R. Castronova
Mr. Roger Luckjohn 11 LIB F tr/1/1 Cav Ranchester, WY #Don Ballou	Mr. Edward J. Mahoney 16 Arty Btry A/3/16 Mt. Laurel, NJ #Don Ballou
Mr. Brendon Mahoney 11 LIB D/4/3 Inf Woodside, NY #Gary L. Noller	Mr. James D. Martin 196 LIB E/2/1 Inf Grove City OH #Richard O. Sommers
Mr. Thomas G. Mendonca 11 LIB E/1/20 Inf Honolulu, HI #Don Ballou	Mr. David Mower 23 Adm Co Springfield, VA #Gary L. Noller
Mr. Michael F. Parry 196 LIB 23 MP Honolulu, HI #Gary L. Noller	Mr. Steven R. Pavich 23 Med Hdq Co Oakdale, MN #Gary L. Noller
Mr. Clifford (Pete C. P) 247 F.A. Bn Phoenix, AZ #Gary L. Noller	Mr. John Pierson 198 LIB 5 Supply San Antonio, TX #Roy Phillips
Mr. Merritt Pierson 221 F.A. Hdq+Ser Btry Oskaloosa, IA #William McLaughlin	Col. Jack C. Randles (Re 23 Div Hdq. Fallston, MD #Gary L. Noller
Mr. Bill Robinson 196 LIB D/4/3 Inf Saugerties, NY #Don Ballou	Mr. Gilbert Rodriguez 11 LIB B/1/3 Inf Orlando, FL #Don Ballou
Mr. Carl R. Roesler 18 Arty 3/18/Ser Brighton, TN #Gary L. Noller	Mr. David Russell 198 LIB A/1/6 Inf Winona, MN #Don Ballou
Mr. German Sanabria 196 LIB Poughkeepsie, NY #Don Ballou	Mr. Thomas L. Sanborn 196 LIB C/723 Main Amherst, MA #Frederick J Benoit Jr.
Mr. Thomas Scott Short 198 LIB C/Hq/1/46 Inf Leonard, MI #Self	Mr. James Ted Smith 198 LIB D/E/1/6 Inf Ellettsville, IN #Don Ballou
Mr. Norm Smith 55 Arty G Btry San Francisco, CA #John W. Anderson	Mr. Harvey S. Spillane 198 LIB D/1/52 Inf Wellsville, NY #Ron Ward

Mr. Roy C. Stine
132 Infantry E Co.
York, PA
#Donald C. Brown Sr.

Col. Leslie J. Stottle
11 LIB 3/1 Inf
Honey Grove, PA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Steve Stoutenburgh
11 LIB E/4/3 Inf
Herndon, VA
#Don Ballou

Mr. Crawford W. Stratton
6 Arty HH Btry
San Antonio, TX
#Bill Bacon

Mr. Warren W. Sullivan
26 Engrs B Co.
Fredericksburg, VA
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Graymon R. Teal
17 Cav F Troop
Ocean Springs, MS
#Gary L. Noller

Mr. Karl E. Wasser Jr.
196 LIB F Tr/17 Cav
West Middlesex, PA
#Don Ballou

#SPONSOR

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Maj. John T. Algeo
182 Inf D/H/M/AT
Brewster, MA
Joe Yochum

Mr. William R. Allen
11 LIB C/1/20 Inf
Taylor, MI
Jay Roth

Mr. William E. Chrest Jr
196 LIB B/2/1 Inf
Ovid, MI
#Self

Mr. Mark L. Cook
11 LIB A/1/20 Inf
Wylie, TX
Larry Gelnett

Mr. Robert T. Cook
55 Arty G Btry
Richmond, VA
Gary L. Noller

Mr. Roger J. Grazioplene
196 LIB B/2/1 Inf
Batavia, NY
R. Castronova

Mr. Michael A. Parkhurst
196 LIB Hq/3/82 Art
Jackson, MS
Self

Mr. Gasper Perez
11 LIB CSC
New York, NY
Bernie Chase

Mr. Paul R. Ray
33 Infantry 3/L
Baxter, TN
William Maddox

#SPONSOR

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Roger D. Allen
23 M.P.
Lawrenceville, GA
Bernie Chase

Mr. Hugh C. Allen
198 LIB C/3/82 Arty
Mooreboro, NC
#Castronova

Mr. Dean M. Christensen
57 Eng B Co.
Sandy, UT
#Bernie Chase

Mr. Allen C. Duglosch
196 LIB A/2/1 Inf
Kerrville, TX
#Ernie Carlson

Mr. Lawrence F. Gamret
11 Arty D/6/11
Pittsburg, PA
#Bernie Chase

Mr. John R. Green
11 Arty 6/11
Dearborn, MO
#R. Castronova

Mr. John S. Henyan
11 LIB HHC 3/1 Inf
Cordova, IL
#Ronald L. Davis

Mr. Gary G. Johnsen
123 Avn Bn 196 LIB
Lebanon, PA
#Memb. Committee

Mr. Francis J. Pyzanowski
132 Infantry I Co.
Pomeroy, PA
#Membership Committee

#SPONSOR

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

SICK CALL

Thomas Copeland
Athol, MA
01331-1225

Ernie Carlson
Fredericksburg, TX
78624

Ernie Carlson is a former member of D Company, 182nd Infantry. He is one of most active Chapter Commanders and a staunch supporter of the ADVA. He is fighting a very serious illness

Tom Copeland was a member of I Company, 182nd Infantry. He is recuperating from knee surgery.

John E. Kosman
Menomonie, WI 54751

John Kosman is recuperating from a heart transplant. He served with B Company, 723rd Ordnance.

HOW ABOUT A CARD GUYS?

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL FUND

Scott Birdsall
Nelson J. Dion
Kenneth Vander Molen
Fernando Vera
Reginald C. Marchand
Floyd A. Petty
James P. Curran
Carlo A. Pola
Joseph Chin
James O. Thomas

Evelyn J. Custer
in memory of
Ralph G. Custer

Louise McGoldrick
in memory of
PNC William F. McGoldrick

Marion La Jannesse
in memory of
Ted La Jannesse

Marion La Jannesse
in memory of
Peter Isacker

MSG. Howard W. Walker (Ret)
in memory of
My Father

Adj. Bernard Chase:

Please find my enclosed check for the World War II Memorial. This Memorial is long over due and many who served are no longer with us.

My father served with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps from 1939-1946. I was always proud of his contribution to ending the tyranny that the Axis countries brought upon the world.

I thank those of the Americal who are working on this project and hope that it will be a great success.

MSG. Howard W. Walker (Ret)
1st Bn 6th Infantry 198 LIB

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

COMMANDER
Roland T. Castronova
Peabody, MA 01960

SEC/TREAS
Bernard Chase
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
Tel: [REDACTED]

On Tuesday, March 14, 2000, many members of the New England Chapter attended a meeting and luncheon at the Americal Museum in Worcester, Mass. Al Doig brought a nice St. Patrick's Day cake to the meeting. Twenty two members and wives attended. The food was great! Jim Flynn supplied us with some great Irish music.

Our next meeting will be held at the Americal Museum on Saturday, May 20, 2000.

There will be Memorial Day service at the National Cemetery, Camp Edwards, Sunday, May 28, 2000.

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

COMMANDER
John Mathews
Verona, WI 53593
Tel: [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS
Terry Babler
New Glarus, WI 53574
Tel: [REDACTED]

Greetings Great Lakes Chapter Members

A LITTLE HISTORY

In 1997 the Great Lakes Chapter was down to a handful of members. Gary Noller, the National Commander at that time, called me and said he needed someone to take charge of the Chapter. I wasn't keen on the idea but I gave it a shot.

Records of the last meeting of the GLC, September 24, 1994, showed there were only four members present. One of these members died in 1995 and another in 1996. The roster I received from Gilbert Abele on July 24, 1997 showed only twenty five members and only three were up to date on their dues. The previous officers had tried to recruit Korean and Vietnam vets without success.

The first thing that I did was obtain a roster from National of the Chapter region. A Letter was sent to everyone on the mailing list stating that their help was needed to keep the Chapter alive. A meeting was planned for August 24, 1997 in Middleown, WI. From that meeting six officers were appointed.

Today National recognizes three hundred twenty seven(327) names on our roster and I have a mailing list that totals 496. This is thanks to you, Gary Noller and the World War II veterans who had kept it alive.

The Great Lakes Chapter today has planned activities during the year. So far this year we held a successful 'Winterfest R & R Festival' in New Glarus, WI with 35 Americal members attending out of a total of 300 veterans. The next event, of course, is the Nation Reunion in San Antonio, Texas. In September there is Kokomo, Indiana's 18th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion. Last year there were close to 100 Americal vets attending.

The bottom line--we are ACTIVE. But we need your financial support--we need you to pay your annual dues on time so that we may continue on with these events. Dues are only \$5.00 a year and you will receive two Chapter Newsletter.

I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting the National Americal Reunion in 2002 in Washington, DC on November 8-12. This is Veterans Day weekend and will be the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the completion of the World War II Memorial.

We need your help--your dues are due NOW! Send your check to;

Terry Babler
New Glarus, WI 53574

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

COMMANDER
Don Shebesta
Rio Vista, CA 94571
Tel: [REDACTED]

Sec/Treas
Pat Tognoli
Isleton, CA 95641
Tel: [REDACTED]

Vice Commander - Victor Lopez
Sergeant-at-Arms - Howard Walker
Chaplain - John Bowley

The Americal Division Veterans Association, Far West Chapter, officers and Reunion Committee invite you to the Millennium 2000 Reunion to be held in Laughlin, Nevada from Sunday, October 1 to Wednesday October 3 at the Edgewater Hotel and Casino.

Rooms and banquet buffet must be reserved in advance. Send your request for a registration form to either Don or Paris at the above address. Room reservations may be made by calling the Hotel at 1-800-677-4837 and refer to Group Code 'WADVA' to obtain the \$17.00 (plus tax) room rate. Rooms must be reserved by September 1, 2000.

Reunion 2000 Committee: John Bowley, Joe Hernandez, Larry O'Boyle, Don Shebesta and Paris Tognoli. Schedule of events will be forwarded with your registration form.

We have been informed that two of our Far West Chapter members, Past Chapter Commander John Bowley and Lloyd Morrell have been invited to participate in the wreath laying at the TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER on Memorial Day, 2000. This is an honor well deserved and we are proud of them.

Far West Chapter members--Chapter dues are now due!

NOW HEAR THIS!

The Chapters are financially independent from National Headquarters. Any dues that are collected by a Chapter are up and above your National dues. It is necessary for Chapters to raise funds through dues in order to pay for postage and other office expenses.

SEE YOU IN SAN ANTONIO!!!

Dear Editor,
I served in the Americal Division and I would like to locate some of my buddies. I was in Co. C and Co. E, Recon, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, from Sept. 1970 to Sept. 1971. We operated from Firebase Dottie. My nickname was Sgt. Chevy.
The ADVA website is the first one I have found with so much information. Any help you can give will be appreciated. I look forward to finding some of my lost friends. Thank you again for your help. You have a wonderful web page. I read the whole page and I will be back.
Manuel ChavarriaL, 1 [redacted] Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Dear Editor,
My name is Kelly Carpenter and I am looking for those who served with my dad, Dwayne Carpenter. He was with HHC, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, 11/68-11/69.
Although he was only a cook he still had to help with the dead and the wounded when necessary. The result of him having seen such horror, devastation, and destruction, is PTSD. He has applied for a service connection disability. I am trying to get help for my dad. I hope that once I help him I will be able to help other Vietnam Veterans get what they deserve. I appreciate your help.
Kelly Carpenter, [redacted] Siloam Springs, AR 72761;

Dear Editor,
The response to my question about Gilmer has been greater than I ever anticipated. Some that responded have been Alan Johnson, Bob Short, Mark Lummis, Dennis Baum, Dave Williams, John Gonzales, Ron Nereson, and Rick Olson, and of course, you! Without you remembering about Olson's article, I would not have made the progress I have!
I can't thank you enough for putting me into touch with these gentlemen. The information I have gathered from them has helped me immensely in putting together the story on Bill Gilmer for my book. Thank you.
Dorothy B. Snyder, [redacted] Dover, DE 19901

Dear Sir,
My father served in the Americal Division when it was formed in WWII. The division patch he has on his uniform is different than what you have shown on the web site. Can you give me any information on how I can get an original Americal Division patch? The patch that my father wore was a circle outlined in red, another outline in white, a blue field with 4 dots forming the southern cross. I have not seen any patch like this anywhere.
My father joined the national guard when the draft started. He was with the 33rd Division from Illinois and took part in the Louisiana Maneuvers. He was called to active duty on 10-25-40. He was part of a convoy headed for the Philippines when they fell and was his unit was redirected to Australia. Then he went to New Caledonia where the Americal Division was formed. He was in the Solomon Islands there until the Americal Division was called to Guadalcanal.
He had a squad (3 men including him, short handed I guess) and was part of a heavy weapons company (Company D). He carried a 50 cal. machine gun. He was on the island until approx. Feb. 1944. He was called back stateside to train troops. He and two other men built one of the first jungle training courses in the states. He was discharged from the Army on 9-25-45 at Camp Adair Oregon, his rank at this time was Tech Sergeant.

Thanks for helping with this, it is very important for me to find these things for my dad, because his uniform and such were stolen several years back. Please contact me with any information.

Last but not least, thanks to all of the men who have served under the Southern Cross as part of the Americal Division. I am one who is truly thankful for your sacrifices!
John Burmer, [redacted] LaGrange, Georgia 30241

Dear Sir,
My father, Benjamin F. Cooley, has been a member of your organization for years. He passed away on January 19, 2000. He served in the Americal Division when it was first formed in the South Pacific during WWII. He was with the 132nd Inf. Regt. and was wounded in action on Guadalcanal. He received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. His family will miss him very much.
Ed Cooley, [redacted]

Dear Sir,
I am MGEN Vicente C. Belo. My wife of 30 years, Tita, has never seen Mr. Pedro Rodriguez, her father, all her life. He was in the Americal Division in the Philippines during WWII. Mr. Rodriguez has a twin sister named Juanita Rodriguez Canellas. Their last known residence was in Texas.
Once we stayed in Montgomery, Alabama for my one year schooling in the Maxwell Air Force Base Air War College. Tita had a chance to talk to Mr. Rodriguez but it was only a short phone conversation which never led to any meeting of what so ever.
My wife is 52 years old and would appreciate very much if there would ever be any chance for her to meet or even know who her father is. This effort is only for my wife that she could me her father which had been a stranger to her for all her life. Thank you for any help.
Gen. Belo, E-11 Jusmag, Ft. Bonifacio, Makati City, Philippines 1201

Dear Editor,
I found this obituary in the Kansas City Star and thought you might want to include it in the next issue of the Americal Newsletter. COL Davis had quite an impressive record and illustrious career and is a supreme honor to our glorious unit.
(The following obituary is edited for space.)
Col. (Ret.) Reed Ellsworth Davis, Jr., United States Army, 73, Leavenworth, KS, died March 20, 2000, at his home. He joined the Army in WWII and served in both the Infantry and the Signal Corps. He attended West Point and graduated in the class of 1950. He served in Vietnam as a commanding officer in 1968-69, with the Americal (23rd) Division, where he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with V device, the Purple Heart, seven air medals, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He attended both the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. In 1973, COL Davis was assigned to Fort Leavenworth in the Combined Arms Combat Development Activity, the first analytic activity in TRADOC. COL Davis was a pioneer in the field of Operations Research for th Army until his retirement in 1978 and continued to develop models, simulations, and analysis in support of army decision making after his retirement as a civilian employee and a consultant at Ft. Leavenworth. Col. Davis was responsible for the hiring and career development of many of the senior military and civilian analysts at Ft. Leavenworth an throughout the Army. Burial will be in Mt Calvary Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be given to the Sara Ann Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund.
Bill Picardy, [redacted], Kansas City, MO 64123

Letters to the Vietnam Editor should be sent to Gary L. Noller, [redacted], Kansas City, MO 64114. E-mail can be sent to [redacted]. Please indicate that you authorize your letter to be used in the newsletter. Submissions are subject to editing and will not be returned. Photos should be copies and cannot be returned.

Looking For: John W Stark, 132nd Inf., 1944 to 1946. Contact: William {Bill} Snell, [redacted] Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43617, [redacted]
Looking For: Anyone who knew James A. Suggs, Americal Division, 58th Inf., Co. D. Killed Cebu Island, March 28, 1945. Royce Lee Suggs, [redacted] or [redacted], Welch, TX, 79377
Looking For: James F. Walsh, Phillip M. Brown, and William L. Bivins, Co. E, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB, 1969-1970. Contact: Richard Bellrose, [redacted] or Jim Brown, [redacted]
Looking For: Vitali, Raymond, Mundo, Longo; C Btry., 3/16th Arty, 69/70. Contact: Jack Cummings, [redacted]
Looking For: Personnel Roster, 198th Light Infantry Brigade personnel who shipped to Vietnam 9/22/67 on Upshur and Steve J. Evans, Sep. 67 on Upshur. Looking for me 1/17/98 in ADVA Locator. Contact: Daniel B Webster, [redacted] Warsaw, KY, 41095
Looking For: Gary Fenderbosch, F/8th Cav (Blue Ghost), 06/70-06/71. Contact: Mark C. Christian, [redacted] Conchas Dam, New Mexico, 88416, [redacted]
Looking For: Anyone, B Btry., 1/82nd Arty. We are holding our second reunion in St. Louis Mo, summer 2001. Hugh Jordan, [redacted], Great Falls, VA, 22066, [redacted]
Looking For: Friends of Adolf Haffenreffer. My late father Adolf served in the 182nd Inf. as a 1LT & CPT, 42-44. Anyone who remembers him please contact me. Contact: Adolf F. Haffenreffer III, [redacted], Little Compton, R.I., 02837
Looking For: Former soldiers of the 164th. My father, SSG Isaias V. Vasquez, also known as Shadow, and Chuck, was assigned to Co I, 164th roughly from the period Dec 1942 to Dec 1943 in Guadacanal. He was an infantryman. He was also known to provide hair cuts to his fellow soldiers.. Anyone who can provide some insight to the experiences/missions of Co I, 164th Inf please contact me. Contact: 1SG Dora Vasquez-Hellner, [redacted], Red Springs, NC, 28377
Looking For: Anyone transferred from 4th Div. to B Co., 1/6th Inf., 1/71-5/71. Contact: Will Ascencio, [redacted]
Looking For: Anyone, Co. A, 5/46th Inf., Jan 70-Nov 70. Contact: Bill Reid,

[redacted] Orlando, Florida, 32806, [redacted]
Looking For: Anyone, C Battery, 3/16th Arty., from Fort Bragg, 1966, Dec. 1967. Contact: Ross Hunt, [redacted]
Springfield, MA, 01104, [redacted]
Looking For: Ron Pederson, fall of 1968, B Co. 1/6. I got hit on 27 Dec 1968. Contact: Dan Gross, [redacted]
Schererville, IN, 46375
Looking For: Harold Ayers, HHB/1/82nd Arty. FDC, 1968 - 1969. Contact: G. McGrath, [redacted], Pahrump, NV, 89048
Looking For: Darius Warner or anyone, C Btry., 1/14th Arty., Sept.1968 to March 1969. I was wounded on Feb. 27th 1969 on LZ Professional. Contact: Robert Agans, [redacted], Manville, NJ, 08835
Looking For: Anyone who knew Horace Bentley. I am trying to locate anyone serving with the 182nd Inf. Regt. in March, 1945 on the invasion of the island of Cebu. My father was killed in that invasion and I would really like to hear from anyone who knew him. Contact: Carl Bentley, [redacted], Bakersfield, CA, 93380-0482, [redacted]
Looking For: Sgt. Thorp, Lt. Rice, or anyone, 6/11th Arty., D Btry., 1968 to 1969. Contact: Larry Gamret, [redacted] Pittsburgh, PA, 15210
Looking For: Anyone, Co. I, 182nd Inf. Regt., 1941-1943. Contact: Francis E.Chesley, [redacted] Mesquite,TX, 75150
Looking For: Martin Massey, A Co., 4/3rd Inf., 11th LIB, 70-71. Contact: Scott {Doc} Smith, [redacted] Fairhaven, MA, 02719Looking For: Dale Goodhue, E Co., 3/21st Inf., DEROSed 1970, or anyone. Contact: Ed Schiller, [redacted], Mt. Vernon, OH, 43050
Looking For: Comrades, Americal Division, 23rd Admin. Co., AGPR 6, Sept. 68-Sept. 69, especially Randy Hill, Ada, OK. Contact: Joe F. Shamel, [redacted], Mocksville, NC 27028Looking For: Sgt Chuck Gallegher or anyone, Co. B, 5/46th Inf., 12/68-12/69. Contact: Mickey Cook, [redacted], Greensboro, NC 27410
Looking For: David Lashene (sp?), medic, Trp. D, 1/1st. Cav., June 1969 to June 1970. we were located at Chu Lai. Contact: Greg Yaramishyn, [redacted] Mableton, GA, 30126, [redacted]

Looking For: Anyone, H Trp., 17th Cav, 3/1/70 to 7/19/70. I was wounded when we ran over a 1000lb. mine. Contact: Mike (Chopper) Close, [redacted], Fond du Lac, WI, 54937
Looking For: Skip Procop or Toni Perez, B Trp., 1/1st Cav., 71-72. Contact: Steve Eld, [redacted] Central Pt., OR, 97502
Looking For: Anyone, Co. B, 23rd Med. Bn., 5/70-3/71 or anyone wounded on Mar. 5, 1971 in the DMZ unit, 196th LIB, E Co. (recon/snpier). Contact: Mike Colassaco, 3272 Serenity Parkway, Connersville, IN, 47331, [redacted]
Looking For: James Slick, Mess Sgt., E7, BTOC mess hall, HHC, 2/1 Inf., 196th LIB, Hawk Hill, 1970-71, Kham Duc, July-Aug 70. Contact: Carl Amundson, [redacted], Forks, WA, 98331, [redacted]
Looking For: Gail W. Duncan, 1/52nd Inf., 198th LIB, 1969. Contact: Daniel E. Jones Jr., [redacted] Midland, MD, 21542
Looking For: Sammy Gonzales, Carl Hanson, or any others, Aug. 69 to Aug70. Gunfighters, Co. A, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB. Contact: Bryan Baderstadt, [redacted] Brooklyn, IA, 52211, [redacted]
Looking For: Members of Recon, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, 11/69-11/70. Contact: Doc Castillo, [redacted] Ridgcrest CA, 93555,
Looking For: Anyone, 3rd Platoon, of D Co., 1/20th Inf., 11th LIB, Mar. 1970 to Feb. 1971. Contact: Stephen Strahan, [redacted], National City, CA, 91950Looking For: Mike Moxley, Roger Strebig, Rex Beach. 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, Co. B, 68-70. Contact: Ralph Perdigone, [redacted], San Antonio, TX, 78223
Looking For: Anyone, B Btry., 1/82nd Artillery, 3/69-3/70. Contact: Hugh Jordan, [redacted], Great Falls, VA, 22066
Looking For: CPT Gordon, Company Commander, C Co., 1/52nd 198th LIB 1969-1970. Contact: Terry Wyrick, [redacted] Cabool, MO, 65689, [redacted]
Looking For: Smitty, Pruitt, Rainy, etc., 198th LIB, 1/52nd Inf., C Co.,69-70. Contact: Jim Culhane, [redacted], Woburn, MA, 01801

See more locator requests on the locator at <www.americal.org/locator/>

Website news

.htm, .html, or .shtml What's the difference?

VERIO New York is the host of the ADVA internet website at [REDACTED]. VERIO recently made changes to the computer servers that contain the ADVA web information. These changes will allow for new features and improvements to the ADVA web pages.

The ADVA has been on the web since 1995. It was one of the first military unit association websites in existence. ServTech initially provided the web hosting free of charge to the ADVA. VERIO acquired ServTech a couple of years ago and has continued this generosity of free service to the ADVA. The cost to commercial accounts for the same service would probably be about \$150 per month.

Users will probably not see much immediate change in the ADVA website. However, the changes will allow for easier programming of web pages by the ADVA webmasters. Some new features may be available in the near future.

One evident change already in place is the naming of the files that compose the website. All files now end with the extension .shtml instead of .htm or .html. HTML stands for HyperText Mark-up Language, the programming language used to put web pages on the internet. The new extension signals the web server to run certain features on the web page as it loads on the user's computer.

Users who have ADVA pages book marked or linked as favorites will encounter some error messages with the new file extensions. To correct this situation the user will need to go back to the ADVA home page and follow the links to the specific bookmarked or favorite page. A new bookmark or favorite should be made with the file extension .shtml. The old bookmark or favorite should be deleted.

The ADVA is grateful to VERIO for providing its services at no charge. If you are in a VERIO service area you may wish to subscribe to their services. VERIO was founded in 1996 and is listed on the NASDAQ exchange (VRIO). It is the largest web hosting company in the world based on number of domain names hosted. The company provides internet on-ramp, web hosting, and e-commerce services to small and medium sized companies in the U.S. and abroad.

Tony: Welcome back to the United States

U.S. Army SFC Anthony E. (Tony) Greene, ADVA webmaster, has received orders to return to the United States. He will be assigned to Ft. Drum, NY. Tony was at Ft. Drum in 1995 when he began his volunteer assignment as one of the ADVA webmasters.

Among his many web duties, Tony maintains the locator pages at <www.americal.org/locator/>. This service has connected hundreds of veterans with their long lost buddies. Tony also established a mail server list that allows Americal vets to post messages to one another on the internet.

Tony and his family have spent the past three years in Germany. Tony's duties were with the 5th Signal Command in Mannheim. He expects to be back in the U.S. in June and his wife and children will follow before school begins in the fall. If you wish to send them a welcome home message his e-mail address is [REDACTED].

Humphries prepares second book on 196th Light Infantry Brigade

COL James F. Humphries (USA, Ret.), author of *Through the Valley*, is in the research phase for his second book. He would like to get anecdotal information from veterans about the 196th LIB's actions in May-August, 1969.

In particular, he would like to hear from those familiar with the attack on FSB East in June, and the action in the Hiep Duc Valley and Hill 102.

He will be happy to take a tape or a letter. The best documentation is letters, personal diaries, and notes that were written at the time of the action. Such items are hard to come by and the contributor must sign a release form that gives the author permission to use them.

Humphries method is first to make AO maps and locate the units involved. Once that's done, he "learns" the battle by piecing it together from the official documents and individual accounts. COL. Humphries can be contacted by e-mail at [REDACTED] or by postal mail at [REDACTED]

83667, Reichersbeuren, GERMANY.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial featured on 1980s stamp series

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. is featured as part of the Unites States Postal Service's 1980s commemorative set. The "Celebrate the Century" series depicts scenes from each decade of the twentieth century.



The 33-cent stamp depicts a veteran placing his hand on the face of the memorial. It can only be purchased as part of the 15 stamp set and is not available as a single stamp.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, designed by Maya Lin, was dedicated on November 13, 1982. It displays the names of the more than 58,000 American soldiers killed or missing.

Sappers in the Wire still available

Copies of Keith Nolan's book *Sappers in the Wire* are still available from the Vietnam Editor. These books are signed by the author and can be purchased for \$22.00 each.

The book details the operations of the 1/46th Infantry during 1970-71. It ends with a gripping account of the March 28, 1971 attack on FSB Mary Ann. Americans lost 30 KIA and scores wounded in one of the last big battles in Vietnam.

To order send a check or money order to Gary L. Noller, [REDACTED], Kansas City, MO, 64114. Be sure to include your return address and specify that you want to order this book.

Newsletter deadlines

The deadline for the newsletter is the end of the first month of the calendar quarter. Items need to be to the editors prior to the end of January, April, July, and October for that quarter's edition. Newsletters are generally mailed in the last month of the quarter.

The Vietnam Network:

How it works.

Dear Gary,

I would like to learn more about my father. He was killed in Vietnam. I don't know much about my father's tour in Vietnam, just what information I have from his obituary and what little I have found on the internet. He was with the 198th Light Infantry Brigade, Co. C. His tour of duty began on Jan. 12, 1970. Casualty was on May 29, 1970 in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam. Kenneth Lee Gill SP4 - E4 - Army - Selective Service. Thank you for any information you can give me.

Sharon Gill

Dear Sharon,

I will be happy to help you find information about your father. I need to know which battalion he was in while assigned to the 198th LIB. If you cannot find this information anywhere else I suggest you look on his headstone. Quite often it is named there. Please let me know what you find.

Gary Noller

Dear Gary,

I went to the cemetery as you suggested for information from my father's headstone. I had some difficulty locating his grave because it was covered with snow. I finally found it and brushed the snow from his headstone. I do not know if this is what you are looking for or not but it said 52nd Infantry.

Sharon Gill

Dear Terry,

I am forwarding a note from Sharon Gill. She is looking for anyone who knew her father in Vietnam. He was in your company at the same time that you were. If you knew him you may want to contact her and see if you can answer her questions. Please send this to anyone else who may be able to help.

Gary Noller

Dear Sharon,

I received an e-mail from Gary Noller with the request of finding information about your Father. I served with your father Kenneth Gill in Charlie Co. Kenneth was a great guy and if my memory serves me correct was the proud father of twin girls born a couple weeks before his life was suddenly taken.

Gill, as most of us called him, was a sniper for Charlie Co. He was a quiet guy who was laid back and talked easily to the guys around him. He was well liked by all.

Sharon, I don't know what or how much you want to know about your father, so I'll let you get back in contact with me via e-mail or by phone if you would like. I have great respect for your search of information about your father, but only you know how much you are ready to hear. All I know and remember after 30 years about Kenneth Gill is he loved his family and couldn't wait to get home.

I hope you will keep in contact, and remember you have strong ties to Charlie Co. and will always be a part of the Charlie Co. family. Drop me a line or call if that would be better for you. We are having our second annual Charlie Co. Reunion in Indianapolis, IN on July 21, 22, and 23. Feel free to come to the reunion and meet others who served with your father. I know the person Gill was and he will be smiling down on you. Take care.

Terry Wyrick

Dear Gary,

I just wanted to say thank you for your help in the search for information about my dad. I have already received two responses from men who knew him. They are Terry Wyrick and Tom Dier. I never thought I would hear anything this soon, if ever. I got chills and started crying when I read their letters. This really means a lot to me.

They invited me to go to the 2nd annual Charlie Co. reunion in Indianapolis this year. They also told me I would always be considered part of the Charlie Co. family. They both remembered that my dad had a set of baby twin girls. After 30 years they remembered that. I started crying. If they remembered that after all that time, then my dad must have talked about my sister and I a lot. That touched me in a way I never thought it would. I guess I just needed to know that he loved me.

Sharon Gill

Dear Terry,

I never expected to hear anything this soon, if at all. Your letter really touched me. My mom and dad divorced when I was a baby and mom hardly talked about dad or the war. She had his letters but I never got to read them. I do have his medals. I have just always wandered what he was like and if he thought about me much.

And yes, he does have twin girls. I have a twin sister, Karen. We were two and a half when he was killed. We have always wondered about him but didn't know where to look for answers. A friend of the family that also served in Nam told me a couple years ago that he would help me look up information on the net. Well, I didn't take him up on his offer. I just got my computer after Christmas. As soon as I got on the net, I started searching.

When I read your letter and saw that you remembered he had twin girls, I cried. He must have talked about us a lot for you to remember that after all this time. Anything you can tell me I would appreciate. He received the Bronze Star. Would you know what he received that for? I have a few pictures of my dad. I was wandering if you would have any of him you could send me through e-mail?

My dad has two grandchildren. I have an 11 year old daughter, Tequila and Karen has a 14 year old boy, Jesse. I wish he could have known them. I really appreciate the invitation to the reunion. And if there is any way I can make it, I will. This means so much to me, what you are doing.

I want to say, I feel for all of you that went to Nam. I wish you never had to go through that. I hope by doing this for me, it isn't bringing up bad memories for you that you would rather not remember. If you could send me some information about the reunion, I would like that.

Sharon Gill

Dear Sharon,

I would like to put the story of your search for information about your father in the *Americal Newsletter*. Maybe someone can be of additional assistance. Do you have any comments to add to what has already transpired?

Gary Noller

Dear Gary,

I do not know what to add except that the reason that I started looking for information about my father was because there was this emptiness in me. I know I'll never get all the answers, like why he was taken before I had a chance to know him. But I did wonder how he was killed. I heard a couple of different stories. By talking with Terry and Tom I have found some of the answers that I wanted.

I hope that someone who spent more time with my dad in Vietnam will hear of this and possibly be able to answer more of my questions. Sometimes I am not even sure what I need to know, just that I need to know something, anything, because I will never have the chance to get to know my dad or to know what he went through or felt the last days of his life. I never imagined that you could form a bond with someone you have never met the way Terry, Tom, and I have. They did know my dad and they were with him and they were going through the same thing he was.

I want to thank you, Terry, and Tom for helping me and for caring. I hope this will inspire others who have unanswered questions to search for answers. You might not find everything you are looking for, but in my case, a little bit goes a long way when you hardly know anything. Thank you.

Sharon Gill

Americal veteran's award ceremony held 31 years after act of heroism

Photo: Michael Dunphy, right, receives Bronze Star Medal citation from COL Tom Bedient.

February 4, 1969: PFC Michael "Doc" Dunphy braved enemy fire to rescue of wounded infantrymen. The weather was hot and muggy. The location was a muddy rice paddy in Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam.

February 4, 2000: Michael Dunphy of Middletown, New York stood at attention as his former Platoon Leader Thomas N. Bedient awarded him a Bronze Star with "V" Device for his heroism 31 years ago.

The weather was crisp and cold. There was a fresh layer of new snow on the ground. The location was the Thayer Award Room, United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Dunphy was also presented the Combat Medical Badge by one of the last soldiers to receive the CMB, LTC Joachim Tanuda, who serves as an Orthopedic Surgeon at the West Point Army Hospital. Dr. Tanuda was awarded the CMB in 1993 for his duty under fire with Task Force Ranger in Somalia.

Participating in the ceremony were three former Americal Division platoon leaders:

Lee Asadoorian was 3d Platoon Leader, Company C, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 11th LIB, when "Doc" Dunphy was first assigned to the unit in December 1968. After his Vietnam service Asadoorian joined the United States Marine Corps. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1996 as a Lieutenant Colonel, and now lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Thomas Bedient was Dunphy's platoon leader 4 February 1969 and resubmitted the lost award recommendation to the Army Awards Board in 1999. Bedient also left the Army after Vietnam, but was later recommissioned. He is an Army Colonel serving at U.S. Army Southern Command, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. Thomas.Bedient@us.army.mil

Marc Laxer was Dunphy's Medical Platoon Leader at HQ, 4/3 in Duc Pho, Vietnam. Laxer also left the Army and is a recently retired U.S. Navy officer. He lives in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. MLaxer@worldnet.att.net "Doc's" family, friends, members of the West Point staff, and several members of the press attended the ceremony. Special honored guests were three former infantrymen who served with him in 3d Platoon C/4/3:

Johnny Anglin, Bradford, Tennessee
Billy Arnold, Plainfield, Illinois
Warren Wirtenson, Hauppauge, New York

Thomas N. Bedient



The Bronze Star Medal Citation

TO: MICHAEL A. DUNPHY, JR.
(Then Private First Class, United States Army)

FOR: HEROISM IN GROUND COMBAT

Private First Class Michael A. Dunphy, Jr. distinguished himself by intrepid actions on 4 February 1969 while serving as a Combat Medic. On that date the platoon was conducting a reconnaissance mission near Liem Quang when it came under intense hostile automatic weapons and mortar fire from a concealed North Vietnamese Army Force. Private First Class Dunphy continued to expose himself to hostile fire as he ran from one wounded soldier to another offering encouragement. Private First Class Dunphy's personal actions, professional competence and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division and the United States Army.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 28TH DAY OF JUNE 1999

LOUIS A. CALDERA
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Clarification: The JAN-FEB-MAR 2000 Americal Newsletter, pages 31-32, contained an abstract of the book **CHARGERS** by F. Clifton Berry, Jr. The abstract was authored by Dave "Spin Doc" Williams and was taken from the newsletter archives. **CHARGERS** was published in the mid-1980s as a Penguin paperback series on the Vietnam war.

Veterans of Co. B, 1/46 Infantry meet at Ft. Knox reunion

A couple of years ago I wrote in these pages about the guys I served with in Vietnam. I told of how I once thought it would be nice if we all lived on the same block and could see each other frequently. We would enjoy a close relationship like the one we had during the war. Our kids would grow up together and we would enjoy our lives as friends and neighbors.

These thoughts, no matter how nice they may be, do not represent reality. However, I also thought that someday a group of us would meet and enjoy each other's company again. We would talk a little of the days we spent together in Vietnam. We would talk a lot about what became of our lives since we last saw each other. I looked forward to the time this would happen.



From left to right: Ron Shook (OH), Donald Navor (NY), Steve Leventhal (NJ), Sonny Crowder (TN), Nolan Bingham (IN), Dennis Powell (OH), Peter Gallagher (CA), and Gary Noller (MO).

It finally happened. A group of us did get together. It was 29 years ago that most of us last saw each other in Co. B, 1/46th Inf. Eight of us met at Ft. Knox on March 26-28, 2000, in conjunction with the 1/46th Inf. reunion, the 46th Inf. Regt. Torchlight Ceremony, and the FSB Mary Ann memorial service. The reunion was all that I had hoped for and more.

Apparently the reunion was also a hit with the others. Nolan Bingham wrote "It was great to see you this past weekend. It was great to laugh, reminisce, and be with great people. We need to keep in touch and make sure it is not 29 years before we get together again. I was thinking if I had picked the people I wanted to be at the first real reunion of the guys I knew in Vietnam, I could not have chosen better. Keep in touch."

Torchlight Ceremony

The 46th Infantry Regiment "Professionals" remembered their fallen at the annual Torchlight Ceremony held March 27, 2000. The outdoor ceremony took place at the 46th Armored Infantry Grove at Ft. Knox, KY. The ceremony was first held in 1987 to commemorate the reactivation of four battalions of the regiment.

The event began just after dark. The first soldier lit a torch representing a campaign fought by the regiment while another soldier read the name of the campaign. Then the second torch was lit in honor of the next campaign. This continued until all campaigns were recognized. Eighteen torches brightened the

We do plan to meet again. We all promised to see each other at the reunion again next year- if not sooner. We each also promised to get another buddy to attend. Peter Gallagher sent an e-mail to a missing buddy with the message "I certainly understand how difficult it is to plan time away (they don't close the NYSE because I am on vacation). But I truly believe you are denying yourself an experience of enormous value if you don't make the sacrifice to get there." So, JEC, will you be there?
-GLN-

FSB Mary Ann remembered

By David "Doc" Williams

For most Americans, the name Mary Ann carries no special meaning. It is just a female name. However, to "Professionals" serving in the 1/46th Infantry in March, 1971, it has a very special meaning. Like the name Guadalcanal or Vietnam, it elicits an entirely new range of emotions. Such a beautiful name as Mary Ann being associated with killing and carnage.

Veterans of the 1/46 mixed with current members of the battalion at Camp Carlson, KY on March 26-28, 2000. Since 1993 they have come to remember FSB Mary Ann and to celebrate the legacy of having been a Professional. The FSB Mary Ann memorial service was held on the morning of March 28. It commemorates the tragic loss of life in the sapper attack on the firebase in 1971.



1/46th veterans Bob Tullios, Bob Short, Dave Williams, and Tim Vail gather at the 46th Inf. Regt. memorial at Ft. Knox, KY.

I have a high level of respect for those that are currently representing the battalion in the training brigade. It is difficult to say what I enjoyed the most. But I was surprised by the receptiveness of the current 1/46 members to us "old" vets. The Command Sergeant Major told us how Vietnam vets mentored him. After it was all over I walked away with a new perspective of how the modern day officers and troops look upon us veterans.

assembly area. An honor detail then placed a wreath at the foot of the monument dedicated to the soldiers who sacrificed all they had.

The 46th Infantry is responsible for basic training duties in the 1st Training Brigade. Several 1/46th Vietnam veterans in attendance began their military service in the 1st Training Brigade. Thirty years later the circle was closed.

LTC Mark H. Armstrong, current commander of the 1/46 Inf., hosted the memorial service. COL Richard Carvell (Ret.), Honorary Regimental Commander, was reviewing officer. This event is expected to continue as long as the regiment remains at Ft. Knox.

"Our son isn't special"

On August 30, 1968, Harold and Ruth Moore attended their son's graduation at Ft. Polk, LA. Walter Lee Moore had just completed training and was on orders to Vietnam. After the graduation ceremony the father and son visited with the post commander. They presented him with a request that each had signed. It read:

To the Commander of Ft. Polk training: On behalf of Walter Lee Moore A.S.N. 54-444740 we would like to ask that he not be sent overseas into hostile fire.

Harold Moore had no problem with his son being in the military, nor did he have a problem with the assignment to Vietnam. However, Walter was his and Ruth's only child and he did not want Walter exposed to risks of combat. "Our son isn't special," said Mr. Moore, "but he is the only child we have."



Walter Lee Moore, KIA 19 September 1969, Vietnam

The post commander was not swayed. After a short leave, Walter Moore departed for Vietnam on September 19, 1968. He accepted his assignment as an infantryman in Co. C, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB, Americal Division. On September 19, 1969, one year to the date that the Moore's last saw their son, Walter Lee Moore was killed in action.

Harold and Ruth Moore were shattered. Their worst fears had come to pass. They buried their only son in a family plot at Moore Cemetery in Dry Ridge, Kentucky. They then returned to Texas and began to unravel the circumstances that led to their tragedy.

Mr. Moore is familiar with the military system. He served in the U.S. Army for four years in WWII. He fought the Japanese at Attu in the Aleutian Islands. Assigned to the 7th Division, he remembers fierce fighting and that "We took no prisoners." At the completion of that campaign, Mr. Moore was re-assigned to the 3rd Army and fought the Germans on their home soil. With the end of the war in Europe, he received orders to the South Pacific. He anticipated fighting the Japanese again, but the Atomic Bomb ended the war. Harold Moore gave his blood for his country and earned the Purple Heart.

Harold and Ruth took their case to the U.S. Army, the Veterans Administration, and to their Texas legislators. They wanted someone to admit that their son should not have been assigned to combat. They still want to be heard in front of the United States congress.

Moore cites Army Regulation 614-200 as the basis for their claim. The regulation says in part "A sole surviving son or daughter on his or her request or the request of his or her immediate family for noncombat duty, may not be assigned to duties normally involving

actual combat with the enemy or to duty where he or she might be subjected to hostile fire."

At least, says Mr. Moore, "We want an apology." They never received an apology. However, the VA made a determination that the Moore's were eligible for some compensation for the loss of their only child. For the past 30 years, Harold and Ruth have been receiving five dollars each per month. "It's an insult" says Mr. Moore. They continue taking the money because they have been told that if they do not take it the Veterans Administration will close the case.

Harold Moore has spent countless hours researching his son's service in Vietnam. He located about a dozen soldiers that were with Walter in Vietnam. One of the veterans, Bob Kapp, ADVA Southeast Chapter Commander, remembers Walter as a good soldier. "He was a slender kid from Texas," remembers Kapp. "Everyone liked him." Kapp was wounded and left Vietnam before Moore was killed.



Walter Lee Moore, RTO, Co. C, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB

Other vets have shared photos and stories. Mr. Moore states "Several of them told me about my son's death. They all say the same thing so I know it is the truth. This has been a little consolation."

Walter purchased a Honda motorcycle before he went to the army. He enjoyed riding it with his girlfriend. Today it is displayed in a special case that Mr. Moore built. "No one else has ridden it," says Mr. Moore. "I would like to find a museum that will take it."

Mr. Moore also has two knives that belonged to his son in Vietnam. He had them packed away in Cosmolene for many years. "I wish someone could tell me about these knives," he says. One appears to be a Kabar-type hunting knife with the initials WLM on the scabbard. The other is much larger and of Asian design. Moore is particularly interested in the history of the Asian knife.

Harold Moore would also like someone to continue his quest. He states, "I haven't much time left. I need to find someone to do this for me. I have never been able to afford an attorney, but I am familiar with the law. We were wronged."

Harold and Ruth Moore live in Frankston, TX and will be happy to talk with anyone willing to help. They can be contacted by phone at [REDACTED] -GLN-

Dear Gary,

I received the following e-mail from Kathy Burns. Tommy Burns, her husband, had posted a request in the ADVA Locator back in 1997. He was looking for Barry Everett. Through the ADVA website and locator I have located 30 members of Co. C, 4/31st Inf. We held our first reunion on Veterans Day weekend in Washington, DC. Tommy had to cancel at the last minute, as he was having throat problems and was going into the hospital. I later found out it was cancer.

Several months ago Tony Brown listed in the locator. He is in Korea, and I put him in touch with the rest of our group. On April 21, 2000, Tony advised me that Barry Everett had made contact with him. He directed Barry to me, as Barry had also wanted to find Tommy Burns for many years. On Sunday, April 23rd, I e-mailed Tommy's wife to expect a contact from Barry. The following is the response I received from Kathy:

Hi Chip,

This is probably the hardest thing I'll ever have to do. Tommy passed away on April 7th. I had sent an e-mail but I guess you didn't get it. (Does this mean that if you didn't get it then no one else did either?) That Friday Tommy was having a rough day. He kept asking for more morphine and by 7:00 that evening I noticed his breathing was very labored. He passed away about 10:30 PM. He was buried at Calveton National Cemetery. Tommy always wanted that. They also had an honor guard and I know that Tommy would have liked that too.

Cancer is such a horrible disease. He was down to 120 lbs. I have to remember the Tommy I always knew. I'm having such a rough time right now. It's hard going through all his stuff. Funny thing though he wouldn't want me to stay upset and he'd want me to go on with my life. He was just like that for as long as I knew him. -----since I was 16 years old. I did read to him all the letters I got and it put a smile on his face. I really hope that you all will have another reunion. Maybe I could meet you all. I'd like that.

Tommy spoke of many different things and very highly of the guys he was over there with. I know you formed a special bond over there. At his funeral I brought his medals -----he was so proud of them and I was proud of him. Please let everyone know about Tommy.

Kathy Burns

After 30 years, he was 2 weeks too late. I think this should be a lesson to all of us. Don't wait to find those guys that you spent the most intense year of your life with. The former members of Co. C, 4/31st Inf. keep searching, and plan to get together at the ADVA reunion in Washington, DC on Veterans Day, 2002.

Please add the following to the Taps section of the Newsletter: Tommy Burns, Co. C, 4/31st Inf., 196th LIB, 69-70, 7 April 2000

Randall (Chip) Hummel

Flourtown, PA

Dear Editor,

Our recon team and mortar platoon from Co. E, 4/31st Inf., were sent to the field with a line company in mid-August, 1970. We set up on a day laager in Que Son Valley. We were there a short time when someone spotted movement to our east. I was called over to that side of the hill with my M-60 as incoming mortars began to explode. The mortars were very accurate. I jumped into a fighting position with another soldier. Other soldiers were in prone positions around the bare hill. They had no protection and some were wounded.

A mortar landed at the top of my foxhole dazing the two of us. I couldn't hear temporarily and I had a bloody nose. The two of us had a face full of dirt. We looked across at each other and started to laugh. The other guy was holding his helmet on tight while I was pulling down on my bush hat. The fact that I was pulling on my hat for protection was comical.

Medevac choppers were called in to take out the wounded and our 81 mm mortar crew. One chopper was on the ground waiting for Moose, a big guy from the mortar crew, to climb on board. The chopper took off and Moose fell backwards to the ground without his backpack or weapon. The mortar rounds were still dropping down on us during the evacuation.

Our platoon officer decided to take us off the hill and set up a night defensive position. It was during our slow exodus off the hill that I felt the sharp burning across the small of my back. In our night laager I had the medic bandage it. I went back to my assigned position in our perimeter for the night. It was there that a black line company Sergeant approached me and requested my name.

I couldn't find the energy to respond to him, so I said nothing and he walked away without recording my name for a Purple Heart. I was not only exhausted but also drained from being shot at by small arms, B-40 rockets, and mortars.

That night passed without enemy contact. But, the following morning was more eventful. A 71st AHC chopper was called in to pick up my recon platoon. We all piled into the chopper. I sat on my rucksack directly in front of the engine housing.



As the chopper took off we were strafed with small arms fire. I heard the first round punch through the thin metal like a tin can. Although I was sitting on my rucksack I believe I bent forward and kissed the floor of the chopper. To this day I can still feel a hand on my left shoulder pushing me forward. I later found out that a round penetrated the area directly behind me.

As the rounds punched through the chopper it immediately began to violently shake and lose altitude. The pilots quickly recovered enough to stop our drop. All this happened within seconds. The chopper pilot, blood running down his face, turned and screamed for suppressing fire. The soldiers on both sides of me were not yet responding. They let loose with their M-16s while the chopper shook violently all the way to LZ West. I felt a strange confidence and calm that these pilots had things under control.

I believe two of the flight crew were treated at the medic station. I would like to hear from them to see if they recall what line company picked us up from that day. I want to contact the Sergeant that asked me my name for help to obtain my Purple Heart.

Edward J Beauchamp

Bayside, WI, 53217, [REDACTED]

He Didn't Look Much Like a Soldier

by Kevin T. Mason, COL, MC, MFS

"He didn't look much like a soldier, but he was a professional and a fine flight surgeon." This is what an aviation commander said at a battalion staff meeting somewhere in the Quang Tin Province in I Corps area of South Vietnam the day their battalion flight surgeon died.

For a decade, I have been chasing a ghost without a story. Here and there, I have come across vague accounts of a flight surgeon, maybe two, dying in Vietnam. Nobody could remember names, dates, places, or units. The accounts varied from "A mortar round hit his bunker..." to "He jumped on a hand grenade..." and "A Chinook blade chopped off his head."

Then it was like a solitaire game, where the game progresses slowly card by card, with no certainty of the outcome until you uncover a key card. After that, all falls into place with a cascade of automated moves. Such was the case with my search for this deceased flight surgeon without a story.

The first lead came from a silent black circle pasted on a flight surgeon course registration card. CPT Richard Alan Aaron, social security number, home address, DOB 2 Jan 43, and headed for Vietnam, date 1970. COL (RET) N. Bruce Chase, former DASG Aviation Medicine Consultant, recalled the black circle meant, "deceased." He recalled seeing two cards like that. Well, we found one of them.

A letter to the Washington, D.C., home address returned "undeliverable." A call to directory assistance searching for the father's name resulted in "name not found."

Records from St. Louis (an incomplete 201 file) confirmed his flight surgeon badge. CPT Aaron liked tennis, travel, and bike riding. He graduated from Georgetown Medical School in 1968. He started a civilian internal medicine residency, but apparently was drafted into the reserves in 1969, and was then called to active duty September 1970. He took the AMEDD Officer Basic Course, followed by Basic Aviation Medicine Officer Course in October 1970. CPT Aaron arrived in South Vietnam on 18 Dec 70 and was assigned to a replacement company. A Bronze Star citation was generic boiler-plate, without details. A note did say the family declined to formally receive the medal. He was listed as deceased, but there was no casualty report or unit of assignment. I am not getting very far with this case.

AMEDD Historian had no information. Letters to Vietnam-era Army flight surgeons returned no new leads. Vietnam War Memorial provided his religion, Jewish.

I sent a letter to the editor of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association newsletter. Finally the key card, a letter and phone number from CPT Aaron's battalion commander, LTC (RET) Martin R. Vissers. Now we know CPT Aaron was actually assigned as a flight surgeon to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 123rd Combat Aviation Battalion, 16th Aviation Group, 23rd Infantry "Americal" Division.

From afar, LTC Vissers recalls watching the arrival of CPT Aaron, "He didn't look much like a soldier. His hair was too long. His uniform wasn't quite right. I instructed my First Sergeant to square him away before he reported in to me.

Gary B. Roush of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association provided an account of an aviation mishap in Vietnam. It was 6 Feb 71. The weather was bad that morning delaying the departure of the Boxcar 20 (Chinook 67-18493) from 178th ASHC ramp at Chu Lai East Airfield until 1245. CPT Aaron was onboard as a flight surgeon.

LTC (Ret) Donald E. Long of B Company, 123rd CAB, thinks it was CPT Aaron's first flight to get his flight time. Boxcar 20 headed for a support mission in the northern division artillery area near Hawk Hill. Working various LZs, Boxcar 20 hauled water, munitions, and supplies. At 1510 hours, the RTO at LZ Siberia received a routine call, "Boxcar 20 inbound with a sling load of water blivets and a generator."

At 1525, Boxcar 20 made the approach to LZ Siberia to the east. At an altitude of 150-200 feet, witnesses heard the tone of the Chinook's engine change and watched the rotor RPM drop. Aircraft 493 fell vertically with slight forward airspeed, nose low and to the right. It hit a berm on the perimeter trench line, breaking in half. The aft section slid down hill consumed in fire and the forward section lay on its right side free from the fire.

CPT Alexander, LT Kerl, CPT Aaron, SGT Rogers, SP4 Williams, and four PAXs died in the mishap. LTC Vissers recalled that CPT Aaron had been standing in the forward cargo area. His head, though protected by a helmet, hit the radio rack, fatally breaking his neck.

That night at the battalion staff meeting, LTC Vissers announced the death of their flight surgeon. Breaking the somber mood, LTC Vissers recalls saying, "I thought it was appropriate to acknowledge his absence by saying something to the effect, 'He didn't look much like a soldier, but he was a professional and a fine flight surgeon.'"

"He didn't look much like a soldier."

LTC Vissers pondered over that comment. He thought, "Just what is the definition of the word 'soldier'?" He recalled a Time magazine account of a "soldier" in the 5th

Mech Division. When asked about the war, the man said, "We are the unwilling, doing the unwanted, for the ungrateful."

LTC Vissers and Rabbi Chaplain Edward Kraus presided over CPT Aaron's memorial service on 10 Feb 71 in the 16th Combat Aviation Group Chapel.

From LTC Vissers' notes: "Captain Doctor Richard A. Aaron. I can't say I knew him well. He hadn't been here but two months. I can't say I knew him intimately, because I didn't see that much of him. I did have a long talk with him when he reported in. I think that we established a bond of mutual trust and respect. We spoke honestly and frankly with each other.

"He told me that he didn't approve of the war in Vietnam, but he was here to do his job, and he did it. He was socially concerned. He worked hard with the men that had drug abuse problems. He was proud of the fact that he found a man who wanted to be a social worker and was able to encourage him."

LTC Vissers then shared the Time magazine quote. He said, "Doctor Aaron personally made a lie of that Time magazine quote by his presence. I'm sure he could have avoided his RVN tour, but he didn't. He provided a valuable service to this battalion, the people in it, and consequently to his country. I am personally grateful. I believe he was a soldier in the truest sense of the word, even though he might have been the last to recognize it." Prayers and blessings followed, and the service ended.

The family never answered LTC Vissers' letter. "Not an unusual turn of events in those days. It just doesn't seem possible that it was 23 years ago," LTC Vissers added.

Today I added CPT Aaron's name plate to our society's memorial to Army flight surgeons who died in the line of duty, which is located at the entrance to the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine, Fort Rucker, AL. I sat down and wrote this memorial nomination. Most passing the memorial will not know the story behind the name, unless we tell them.

His casualty report, DD Form 1300, was finally found at St. Louis, giving the complete name of both parents. I only hope that I can find his family to respectfully inform them of our memorialization. I want them to know that even 23 years later, soldiers like LTC Vissers respected their son, his efforts, and are still deeply moved by his death.

This article is reprinted with permission of the author. COL Kevin T. Mason, MC, MFS, is stationed at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Center, Ft. Rucker, Alabama. Thanks to Gary Roush of the VHPA and Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, for forwarding the article and acting as go-betweens author.

The following is excerpted from the October, 1971 edition of Americal Magazine. Thanks to Les Hines, ADVA Vietnam Historian, for the transcription.

History of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion

October 1971 brings to a close a proud and gallant record of combat service in Vietnam for the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion. Members of the Battalion have engaged the enemy from Nha Trang to Khe Sanh and into The Kingdom of Laos over the past seven years. These engagements have taken their toll. One hundred and fifty four men died gallantly for the cause of freedom and countless more were wounded. The high spirit and "Can do" attitude remains with the unit up to and through the "stand down" phase.

To some "stand down" is the demise of a unit, to the current and former members of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, it is merely a change in mission and preparation for a new challenge. The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion has on countless occasions proven its versatility as is so appropriately emblazoned on the unit crest. The mission of the Battalion in CONUS, be it training or support, will be accomplished in the same spirit as the combat mission. To have served on two occasions with the "Arabs" has for me been a privilege, challenge and one of extreme satisfaction.

Signed. JOSEPH F. RUTKOWSKI
LTC, INF Commanding

As the 14th CAB deploys to the United States the curtain draws close to its performance in the Vietnam Campaign. The 14th now has a history of providing aviation support to the Free World Forces in Vietnam for 7 years. In all areas of Vietnam from Nha Trang in the south to the DMZ in the north, the 14th CAB has played a leading role in the Free World Forces counter insurgent activities.

"The tumult and the shouting dies, the Captains and Kings depart" -Kipling, "The Recessional"

The first company to depart the 14th CAB was the 71st AHC. The "Rattlers", guns were "Firebirds". The company joined the Battalion on the 18th of April 1967. They participated in many operations with the 14th CAB, Lam Son 719, Dewey Canyon II, and Hiep Duc just to name a few. While with the 14th CAB, the Rattlers primary mission was to support the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. The 71st AHC's last day with the Battalion was 30 September 1971. As of 30 September 1971, the 71st Assault Helicopter Company was deactivated from active duty.

The next unit to receive stand down orders was the 132nd ASHC, "Hercules". Hercules joined the 14th CAB in December of 1968. They provided the Battalion with resupply and aircraft recovery capabilities. They also deployed to the north, Hue/Phu Bai, during operation Lam Son 719. The 132nd as of this date is preparing for deactivation.

The 14th CAB received official notification of stand down on 20 September 1971. HHC at this time started on a two fold mission. They maintained their normal operational load of supporting all units of the 14th CAB and then immediately began the difficult and arduous task of out processing and redeployment of the Battalion Headquarters.

The final curtain closes on the 14th CAB's activities in Vietnam as LTC Rutkowski, the Commanding Officer and SFC Thompson return with the unit's colors to the United States. The 14th CAB's new home will be at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. At Fort Sill the unit will receive new personnel and equipment. There it will serve once again with honor, dignity and courage as it did in the Republic of Vietnam.

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202rlg(2), AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded to the following named units of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION and its assigned and attached units:

- Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 14th CAB
- 348th Aviation Detachment
- 534th Medical Detachment
- 14th Security Platoon
- 71st Assault Helicopter Company
- 151st Transportation Detachment
- 94th Signal Detachment
- 174th Assault Helicopter Company
- 409th Transportation Detachment
- 452d Signal Detachment
- 756th Medical Detachment
- 176th Assault Helicopter Company
- 411th Transportation Detachment
- 454th Signal Detachment
- 178th Assault Helicopter Company
- 400th Transportation Detachment

The citation reads as follows:

The 14th COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION and its assigned, and attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 12 May 1968 in Quang Tin province, Republic of Vietnam. Demonstrating exceptional bravery and professional competence, the officers and men of the battalion gallantly extracted besieged friendly forces from the Kham Duc Special Forces came while under intense hostile fire. Severely threatened by an estimated two North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong regiments, the camp had suffered heavy mortar, rocket and automatic weapons fire and numerous large-scale ground assaults and was clearly un-tenable. Although enemy gunnners were well-secured on strategic high ground positions in command of the airfield, aerial extraction of the defenders was necessary and the members of the 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION rapidly responded to the emergency situation. While a devastating rain of hostile mortar and machine gun fire poured into the path of oncoming helicopters, unit personnel expertly maneuvered their ships onto the runway and began evacuating the American forces. As airstrikes bounded enemy positions and gunships aggressively supported the lift helicopters, the men of the command effectively completed a vital resupply of ammunition and continued to evacuate the hard-pressed troops. Despite severe damage to numerous aircraft, the determined aviators repeatedly entered the dangerous battlefield, ultimately evacuated the entire battalion and contributed immeasurably to the safety of seven hundred American lives. The extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 14TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

FOR THE COMMANDER

GEORGE L. MABRY, JR Major, General, US Army Chief of Staff	JOHN A. O'BRIEN Colonel, AGC Adjutant
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AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION

San Antonio, TX
June 15-18, 2000

Contact the Holiday Inn Select Airport directly by calling [redacted] to make your room reservation. DO IT NOW--THE HOUR IS LATE! Mention the Holiday Inn Airport and the Americal

For Registration form see the Jan-Feb-Mar 220 issue of the Americal Newsletter or call Malcolm East at [redacted].

18th ANNUAL VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION
Kokomo, Indiana
September 14-15-16-17, 2000

The Americal has requested 40 camping spots for the ADVA and the 196 LIB. The camping fee is \$5.00 a day but an additional donation would be appreciated to help the Reunion Committee.

Contact for more info:

Terry Babler Ronald Davis
New Glarus, WI 53574 Fountain City, IN 47341
[redacted] [redacted]

FAR WEST CHAPTER

Laughlin, Nevada
October 1-3, 2000
Edgewater Hotel and Casino

The rate for a standard room, Sunday thru Thursday is \$17.00. The rooms are spacious and very comfortable. Guest parking is free and valet parking is available. there are 1446 guest rooms, a heated swimming pool, restaurants, room service, a barber shop, a beauty salon, an ice cream parlor and show lounges.

Room reservations must be made by calling the hotel at 1-800-677-4837 and refer to Group code "WADVA". Rooms must be reserved by Sept. 1, 2000.

For registration forms and reservation for a banquet that will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2000 contact:

ADVA-Far West Chapter
Paris Tognoli Sec/Tres
[redacted]
Isleton, CA 95641

HILL 4-11 ASSOCIATION
July 22 - 23, 2000
Hyatt Arlington
Washington, DC

The Hill 4-11 Association is for anyone who served on or supported Fire Support Base 4-11. Fire Base 4-11 was established July 1969 in Quang Ngai province by the 3rd Bn. 1st Infantry, 11 LIB. It was staffed by units of 3/1 Inf and 6th Bn, 11th Arty until October 1971. We welcome all interested veterans, even if they did not actually serve on "The Hill". For more info contact the Chairman of the Reunion:

Les Stottle

Honey Grove, PA 17035-9701

196 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

Fairborn, Ohio
August 4-5, 2000

The 196 LIB Ohio Chapter will hold their Reunion in Fairborn, Ohio on August 4-5. 2000. For more info contact:

Ron Davis

[redacted]
Fountain City, OH 47341
Tel: [redacted]

2001 - AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION - 2001

Cleveland Marriott Airport Hotel
June 21,22,23,24, 2001

The Marriott is four miles from the airport and ten minutes from downtown Cleveland. This city boasts the: National Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Canton Ohio Football Hall of Fame, Cleveland Zoo and Tropical Rainforest.

MORE TO FOLLOW

Chairman Co-Chairman
David W. Taylor Larry Watson
[redacted] [redacted]
Medina, Oh 44256 Wooster, OH 44691
Tel; [redacted] [redacted]

2002 - AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION - 2002

November 8-12, 2002
Hotels to be announced later

The Reunion will be held in conjunction with the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry. Contact person:

Terry Babler
[redacted]
New Glarus, WI 53574
Tel: [redacted]

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

If your organization, no matter how large or small, is running a reunion or a get-together we would like to run any information available about it. But, please remember the deadlines for having a timely notice appear in the Americal Newsletter.

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

Send notice to:

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

And don't forget that follow-up story with a group picture if at all possible.

If you know of an Americal veteran that has passed away or that is sick, please notify:

Adi. Bernard Chase
[redacted]
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

VIETNAM WAR STAMP UNVEILED AT NEW JERSEY
VETERANS MEMORIAL

A new commemorative postage stamp remembering the Vietnam War was unveiled on July 26 by the U.S. Postal Service at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel, NJ.

David Solomonm, USPS vice president, New York metro area, who unveiled the stamp said, "the Vietnam War Stamp will be a lasting tribute to the American men and women who served their conty during the war."



Joining solomon at the ceremony were New Jersey Governor Christine Toss Whitman; Rep. Rush Hold, D-NJ; Frank Delaney; president, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Fondation; and Vito Cetta, district manager, Cental New Jersey District, USPS.

The vietnam War stamp was selected by the public during nation-wide balloting in May 1998 as one of 15 commemorative stamps saluting the 1960s. The stamp was designed by Carl Herrman of Laguna Niguel, California. the Vietnam War stamp features a photograph by Army Sgt. 1st Class Howard C. Bredlove of men of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) leaping from a 'Chopper near Chu Lai during Task Force Oregon in the spring of 1967.

the Vietnam War (1954-1975) was the longest military conflict in U.S. history. the hostilities in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia claimed lives of more tthan 58,000 Americans. Another 304,000 were wounded and over 2,000 have not yet been accounted for and are listed as POW/MIA.

(Taken from the 'Forward Observer' VVA New Jersey)

MANY THANKS

Thanks to Jim Buckle for helping me locate Jim Blankenship, my old Vietnam buddy. Now I just have to find time to visit with him.

It sure is something, now, thirty years later, all of us guys are out looking for each other--and finding each other. sort of a healing, not from the war itself, but from the guilt and disdain we suffered from the American people and I will also include Vets from World War II and Korea as well. All that, or most of that is past now.

Of course the apex of all this is that Communist pinko, President Clinton. That draft dodging coward, you know what. I guess now America can see much of that--he sold out to China--jobs, etc, etc. Go to Walmart and see the labels, 'Made in China', on all the products. Sure they are cheap.

So What? How many 'Made in USA' labels will you see in Chinese stores or Japanese stores or Indonesian stores?

What we need is a Vietnam vet to run for President of the United States. Personally a George W. Bush and Elizebeth Dole tickets looks darn good. Old Hillary C. will get a bunch of 'feel sorry old ladies' to vote for her, when she runs for Patrick Moynahan's seat in Congress. But, 'chickens will come home to roost and she a'int got a chance'.

All Vietnam soldiers and their families and friends will some day band together and this country will be strong again.

Release the POW's from our own jails across the country. Many do not deserve incarceration. Of course many do but they also need medical help too. That's another thing.

Just look at the VA Hospitals under the Clinton administration and the treatment the vets are getting. The DAV's are more or less on their own. The WW II's are dying off and their powerful groups as well. The rest of us are just 'chaff in the wind' as far as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is concerned.

Sincerely,
Bob Miller
A/3/1 Inf 11 LIB

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

I have been trying to locate a fellow Americal vet for over 18 years. The information I have is as follows:

SFC Donios, (aka Pineapple) is from either Maui or Kauai, Hawaii. He was the Commo Section Sgt. for the 52nd Infantry, 198 LIB, in 69-70 or 70-71. He was also the Commo Section Chief 4/7th Cav 2nd I.D., Korea in 1968 during the 'USS Pueblo Incident'. I was the Medical Evac NCO for the 4/7 Cav, 2nd I.D. in 1968, and assigned to the HHC 1/6 Inf, 198 LIB and HHC 14th and 123 Avn Bn, 16th CAG from 1970 - Nov 1971. I just want to wish him well and say, "Garry Owens"!

Jim Kirkwood (USA Army Ret)
[redacted]
Villas, NJ 08251-2926

WERE YOU HERE

E TROOP 1st CAVALRY
LZ BRONCO
DUC PHO, VIETNAM

I am looking for anyone that served in E Troop, 1st Cav from 17June 69 to 15 June 70. Hoping that they can remember things that happened on different occasions. Please contact me at:

Jaffrey Laurie
[redacted]
Antrim, NH 03840

WE WANT YOUR STORY

SEND IT IN TODAY!

STOLEN VALOR

In the aftermath of America's debacle in Vietnam, the war was collectively forgotten. Few college courses were offered on the subject, few historians studied it, and even the military avoided the topic as an educational course for its officers.

But Vietnam never left the consciousness of America. Three decades later, it can still ignite passions among participants.

Slowly the war has come back to haunt us. Legions of homeless Vietnam veterans are in the street, hundreds of thousands of them are suffering from agent Orange or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and more of them have died from suicide than died in the war--or so the social advocates and media tell us.

B.G. Burkett, in over ten years of research at the National Archives, filing hundreds of requests for military documents under the Freedom of Information Act, uncovered a massive distortion of history, a distortion that has cost the U.S. taxpayer billions of dollars. Mr. Burkett's work has toppled national political leaders and put criminals in jail.

The authors show killers who have fooled the most astute prosecutors and gotten away with murder, phony heroes who have become the object of award-winning documentaries on national net-work television, and liars and fabricators who have flooded major publishing houses with false tales of heroism which have become best-selling biographies.

Not only do Burkett and Whitley show the price of the myth has been enormous for society, but they spotlight how it has severely denigrated the service, patriotism, and gallantry of the best warriors Americal ever produced.

The 692 pages and 16 pages show how the Vietnam generation was robbed of its heroes and its history.

If you can not find this book in your local library you may order it by sending a check for \$31.95 plus \$4.95 for shipping plus 8.25% sales tax if you live in Texas. For an additional \$3.00 you may have a copy signed by the author B.G. Burkett. Send to:

Verity Press

Dallas, TX 75250

It may also be ordered by calling 1-800-253-6789

(Thanks to Bill Laurie for sending in this info)

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
1360 Beverly Road - Suite 300 - McLean, VA 22101

People sometimes ask me why the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund still needs money. After all, the Memorial Fund successfully completed the building of a strikingly poignant memorial of reflective black granite ascending from the earth, with all the names of those who died in the Vietnam War.

We did it in an unprecedented time period of three years. We did it without any government funding.

We did it only because people like you were behind us 100%.

But is our work over? As far as the beautiful monument is concerned, the answer is "yes." But we still work with the National Park Service to provide directories for the kiosks and volunteers; commission engineers to study present and future needs, thus insuring the Memorial's upkeep and preservation; and, of course, staging the annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, all of which require funding.

And what about our programs to educate Americans about the sacrifices and achievements of our Vietnam veterans? Is that job complete?

Sadly, the job of educating our youth has only just begun. Many students born after the end of the Vietnam War leave high school never having learned about the divisiveness that tore our nation apart just a few decades ago. Tomorrow's leaders are not getting an overview of the longest war in this country's history.

The Memorial Fund is working to change all that. We have undertaken an ambitious project to ensure that every high school teacher in America will have the tools to teach the importance of this epoch. The Young Americans Era Studies Project is using every possible means to tell America's story. That includes Internet Websites as well as interaction between students and their hometown veterans and, of course, traditional instructional curriculum guides. And what about our other programs designed to help the healing and closure? Is that job complete?

Healing Connections serves to put veterans together with friends and families of loved ones whose names are on the Wall.

In Memory salutes those Vietnam veterans who died prematurely due to their service in Vietnam but whose death did not fit the parameters for inclusion on the wall, bringing peace, consolation and honor to grieving family members and friends.

Father's Day Rose Remembrance and the December Holiday Card Remembrances are ongoing projects to highlight the importance of leadership, citizenship and the sacrifice of our veterans.

We're excited about a newly formed group which provides active support and input on our lead projects. Called The Legacy Society, members serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors and help shape our educational vision and programs.

So, yes, the Wall has been built, but the job of ensuring that we learn and heal from our experiences goes on. I hope you can find it in your heart to send a generous gift today of \$5, \$6, \$7 or even more, if you can, to help the Memorial Fund continue its important work. Thanks for being such a caring friend.

Gratefully,
Jan C. Scruggs

P.S. Please free to contact us at [redacted] for additional information about any of our programs.

(This was copied from a letter sent out by The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. It was placed in the Americal Newsletter so that all of our members would be informed of this organization and the work they have been doing since completing the WALL.)

THE AMERICAN G.I.

By General Colin Powell
Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
and now Chairman of America's Promise

From disparate roots but united by patriotic courage, U.S. soldiers preserved freedom around the world.

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I referred to the men and women of the armed forces as "G.I.s". It got me in trouble with some of my colleagues at the time. Several years earlier, the Army had officially excised the term as an unfavorable characterization derived from the designation "government issue". Sailors and Marines wanted to be known as sailors and Marines. Airmen, notwithstanding their origins as a rib of the Army, wished to be called simply airmen. Collectively, they were blandly referred to as "service members".

I persisted in using G.I.s and found I was in good company. Newspapers and television shows used it all the time. The most famous and successful government education program was known as the G.I. Bill and it still uses that title for a newer generation of veterans. When you added one of the most common boys' names to it, you got G.I. Joe, and the name of the most popular boys' toy ever, the G.I. Joe action figure. And let's not forget G.I. Jane.

G.I. is a World War II term that two generations later continues to conjure up the warmest and proudest memories of a noble war and pitted good against pure evil--and good triumphed. The victors in that war were the American G.I.s. the Willies and Joes, the farmer from Iowa and the steelworker from Pittsburgh who stepped off a landing craft into the hell of Omaha Beach. The G.I. was the wisecracking kid Marine from Brooklyn who clawed his way up a deadly hill on a Pacific Island. He was a black fighter pilot escorting white bomber pilots over Italy and Germany, proving that skin color had nothing to do with skilled courage. He was a native Japanese-American infantryman released from his own country's concentration camp to join the fight. She was the nurse relieving the agony of a dying teen-ager. He was a petty officer standing on the edge of a heaving aircraft carrier with two signal paddles in his hands, helping guide a dive-bomber pilot back onto the deck.

They were America. They reflected our diverse origins. They were the embodiment of the American spirit of courage and dedication. They were truly a "peoples army", going forth on a crusade to save democracy and freedom to defeat tyrants, to save oppressed peoples and to make their families proud of them. They were the Private Ryans and they stood firm in the thin red line.

For most of those G.I.s. World War II was the adventure of their lifetime.

Nothing they would ever do in the future would match their experiences as the warriors of democracy, saving the world from its own insanity. You can still see them in every Fourth of July color guard, their gait faltering but ever proud.

Their forebears went by other names; Doughboys, Yanks, Buffalo Soldiers. Johnny Reb, Rough Riders. But "G.I." will be forever lodged in the consciousness of our nation to apply to them all. The G.I. carried the value system of the American

people. The G.I.s were the surest guarantee of America's commitment. For more than 200 years they answered the call to fight the nation's battles. They never went forth as mercenaries on the road to conquest. They went forth as reluctant warriors, as citizen soldiers.

They were as gentle in victory as they were in vicious battle. I've had survivors of Nazi concentration camps tell of the joy they experienced as the G.I.s liberated them; America had arrived! I've had a wealthy Japanese businessman come into my office and tell me what it was like for him as a child in 1945 to await the arrival of the dreaded American beasts, and instead meet a smiling G.I., who gave him a Hershey bar. In thanks, the businessman was donating a large sum of money to the USO. After thanking him, I gave him a Souvenir--a Hershey bar I had autographed. He took it and began to cry.

The 20th century can be called many things, but it was most certainly a century of war. The American G.I.s helped defeat fascism and communism. They came home in triumph from the ferocious battlefields of War War I and II. In Korea and Vietnam, they fought just as bravely as any of their predecessors, but no triumphant receptions awaited them at home. They soldiered on through the twilight struggles of the cold war and showed what they were capable of in Desert Storm. The American people took them into their hearts again.

In this century hundreds of thousands of G.I.s died to bring to the beginning of the 21st century the victory of democracy as the ascendant political system on the face of the earth. The G.I.s willing to travel far away and give their lives, if necessary, to secure the rights and freedom of others. Only a nation such as ours, based on a firm moral foundation, could make such a request of its citizens. And the G.I.s wanted nothing more than to get the job done and return home safely. All they asked for in repayment from those they freed was the opportunity to help them become part of the world of democracy--and just enough land to bury their fallen comrades, beneath simple white crosses and Stars of David.

The volunteer G.I.s today stand watch in Korea, the Persian Gulf, Europe and the dangerous terrain of the Balkans. We must never see them as mere hirelings, off in a corner of our society. They are our best, and we owe them our full support and sincerest thanks.

As this century closes, we look back to identify the great leaders and personalities of the past 100 years. We do so in a world still troubled, but full of promise. That promise was gained by the young men and women of America who fought and died for freedom. Near the top of any listing of the most important people of the 20th century must stand, in singular honor, the American G.I.

Taken from Forward Observer--VVA New Jersey

FATHER'S DAY ROSE REMEMBRANCE

It was a spectacular sight that we wish everyone could have seen with us early Father's Day morning, before the sun got so hot and the WALL became thick with visitors. Volunteers read messages and left roses in memory of those men and women who sacrifices everything. Even earlier that morning, the volunteers attached the thousands of messages sent to us from around the country, which were personalized and directed to a loved one whose names were on the Wall. One

thousand red and yellow roses (to represent the the MIA's) were left at the Wall, after a beautiful ceremony whereby each volunteer read a representative message.

Like this one:
"In remembrance of Capt. William A. Branch, Panel 9 West, Line 18

My Dad:

Each year, I dream of what I would buy you for a Father's Day, Dad. I scour the racks for the perfect card or present, and I buy it in my mind. I wish we could be together today. Just once. I would sit here with you at this Wall and listen and hug and love you.

I don't remember you. I was too young when you died. But in my heart I know you, Dad. I have read your letters and talked to your friends. I have learned more from you, despite your death, than I have in a lifetime of schooling. Your lessons are evident. they are gifts to me, Dad, that I treasure.

Thank you for loving Mom so much--for writing to her every day from that war. Lessons on how a man should treat a woman. Thank you for making me feel loved--for taking time to write me a letter before you died that day.

Thank you for teaching me about conviction and bravery--for volunteering twice to go and fight for what is right. You were the first in your family to graduate from college. You wanted to make the world safer. You wanted to end communism. I am proud of you, Dad. I appreciate you. And I try hard to be like you. this is my gift to you. I love you.

Little Miss Jen

We hope that you will participate next year by sending in your personal Father's Day message again. Or that you will even make the trip to join us in this most moving ceremony on Father's day. Because, after all, it is your support, your participation, and your caring that makes this event so special.

(This was taken from 'Reflections from the Wall', the Newsletter put out by the VVMF.)

CAN YOU HELP THIS MAN?

Does anyone have any knowledge of a recent proposal from any veterans organization to the Dept. of the Army concerning the Army authorizing a Bronze Star Medal for soldiers who served in Vietnam and were awarded the CIB or the CMB.

This would seem fair since the World War II veterans were given the Bronze Star Medal if they had been awarded the CIB or the CMB. I feel this is long over due for the Vietnam veterans.

I hope that my opinion is shared with other former members of the Americal. Our Association should seriously put a priority on this subject.

If any one knows of any action being taken on this problem, please contact me.

James H. Smith

Brawley, CA 92227

SHARK 4

From my wife's notes on building the Shark hootch:

Building the Shark Hootch -- In late November 1967, Jim began flying the gunships or Sharks. His flight records note that his first flight in a Shark (a UH-1C) was on November 29, 1967. So, after about six months with the Misfits, he moved into the Shark's tent. He got there just in time to help them build the first hootch in the 174th.

When Jim first arrived in the 174th, the unit had just completed a series of moves in a short time. The word around the company was that they were going to move again any day. That is the reason that the men didn't want to "harden" their position or do much work of a permanent nature. So they continued to stay in tents for their first six months.

But as the mortars kept coming the pilots couldn't forget the tent that had taken the mortar round soon after Jim's arrival in the company. "It took out almost everyone in the tent. We were getting a little skittish about that." Finally, the Shark pilots got tired of waiting. Even though they hadn't gotten the word that they would be there permanently, they decided to build themselves a hootch to live in. They were the first ones in the 174th to do so.

The Army wouldn't provide them with building materials, so they used captured Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) weapons to trade for building materials. A lot of structures in Vietnam, called hootches, were fairly thin and not real strong. Because they were getting mortared fairly regularly, the Shark pilots decided to build a mortar-proof hootch. All of the Shark pilots, including Jim, worked on it. Jim says he worked a lot on that hootch.

They built their hootch right under their existing tent. First, they put support beams in the ground to hold the roof. Two 4x8-inch beams were put together to create 8x8-inch support beams. The roof would need a lot of support, so they put those large beams up every ten feet. Next, they built a wooden floor and after that the roof. It wasn't until their roof was ready to go up that they took down their tent. After the tent came down, it only took them a day or two to get the roof up.

A wooden ceiling was constructed on top of the 8x8 beams. On that was placed three layers of PSP, the thick, heavy-gage steel that was used for the temporary runways for airplanes. Then three layers of sandbags were placed on top of the PSP. Over the top of all those layers, they built an A-frame and put a tin roof on it. The sides of the hootch had screen-covered windows in them that were fairly high. Encircling the hootch, they put 55-gallon drums that were filled with sand to absorb shrapnel. Sandbags were then placed on top of the 55- gallon drums up to the lower edge of the windows. They also added a porch that they used for sunning themselves or just lounging.

That fortified Shark hootch broke the ice and set the standard for the area. The men felt much safer living in their hootch. During the next six months, the Sharks took several direct mortar hits into their tin roof. It was so well constructed that the shrapnel went into the sandbags and they never even had any sand fall through.

Within several months all of the other tents had been replaced by hootches. Some of the other

hootches were built by the pilots or enlisted crews from other flight platoons, and later on some engineers came to the unit and built more hootches and other buildings. But Jim's Shark hootch and some of the other early ones were entirely built by the pilots or enlisted men who lived in them.

When Jim was back in the area during his second tour in Vietnam in 1971, he went back to Duc Pho to see the hootch that he had helped build. "The funny thing was, when I came back years later, they were still there, just the same, except that all around the buildings they were encased in concrete and looked solid but strange--kind of like World War II "pill boxes." The insides were pretty much the same. They had just made cocoons around them." On the Shark hootch they had enclosed the porch. A roof was over the porch and up on that roof there was a sun deck and a reservoir to hold shower water. They had installed a shower below where the old sun deck used to be.

Aside from Duffy, some of Jim's friends, and the men he shared the Shark hootch with, included Captain BILLY WOOD, the platoon leader, and 1st Lieutenant LANNY MCCRARY, the assistant platoon leader, JIM "MOON" YOUNG, RICK DODGE, JOE MOYS, DANNY BURTON and REX PEARSON. McCrary was later promoted to captain and became the platoon leader when Wood left. They were all close, but of all the Shark pilots Jim felt closer to Duffy than anyone else. "I considered Duff (Doersam) as probably my best friend in the whole company that year."

Jim McDaniel
174th AHC 67-69

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

VETERANS

I sent out a couple thank you notes to the schools that made the little flowers given out on Vet's Day. One was Blatchley Middle School in Sitka, Alaska and the other was Homewood-Flossmoor High School in Flossmoor, IL. The note stated the following:

Dear Students and Faculty,

I'm a Vietnam War veteran who served from 1969-1970. I was an infantryman for 9 months. I was walking a point man when the third guy behind me hit a booby trap and was killed instantly. I was seriously wounded and sent home.

I'm now 60% disabled and currently live in Fairfax, VA. This past Veteran's Day I was host and guide to a group of World II and Vietnam vets who lived throughout the United States. Initially I came to know these men by communicating via electronic mail from my home computer. During the last couple of year's we've exchanged many stories about our combat experiences and shared many personal emotions. Our sentiments are not easily understood by the American public, or anyone for that matter, that has never had to experience combat first-hand. After 20 plus years some vets are just beginning to talk about their experiences and express their feelings. We have become very good friends and there is a very special bond between us. It's unfortunate that it's taken so many years for the American public to acknowledge and recognize the men and women who fought and/or served during the Vietnam War. For many, as in

all other wars, it was the "ultimate sacrifice"...they gave their lives.

Most of us actually met for the first time this past Veterans' holiday weekend. What an experience! We spent time at the Wall and participated in as many of the activities as possible during the week. One evening we shared slides and photos that had been taken during the war. It was during this time that two of us realized we had walked the same trails, bathed in the same stream, and fought in the same area. Two of us were wounded on the same hill during different battles.

One member of our group, George AKA Doug Idlett, was taken prisoner by the Japanese for three years during World War II. After the U.S. surrendered he had to walk for 9 days and covered about 78 miles, without one bite of food. Our history books refer to this march as "The Death March". Many did not survive. We discovered during his "show and tell" -- he had numerous 50-year-old newspapers w/articles and photos about him -- that he was held prisoner during the same time as the father of one of the Vietnam vets in our group. The other prisoner had escaped captivity and also lived to talk about it. Needless to say, son immediately called father and relayed the information.

Well, I could go on and on sharing stories with you but this really was not my purpose in writing the letter. My intentions were to write and thank you for participating in the holiday activities. I can speak for all of us when I say it was heart warming to receive the flowers made by your school.

Thank you for caring. Be proud of your soldiers and loyal to your country!

Charlie Mankin
B/3/1 11th 69-70

(PRODIGY BULLETIN BOARD)

THE FLAG AMENDMENT

How do you feel about the Flag Amendment? The Americal Legion has been trying to get the Flag amendment passed for several years.

The House of Representatives has passed the amendment but in the Senate has it has failed two year in a row--this year by just four votes.

During World War II the Americal was made up basically by National Guard units from Massachusetts, North Dakota and Illinois. Of the six Senators representing these States only one voted "YES" for the Amendment--Republican Senator Fitzgerald from Illinois. The two Senators from North Dakota, both Democrats voted "NO". And of course the two liberal Democrats from Massachusetts, Kennedy and Kerry, voted "NO".

According to Polls taken across the country the people are for the Amendment. How can the men that represent us in the Senate vote against the will of the people? Let your senator know how you feel and support the American Legion in their effort to get this legislation passed, This is an election year and they might just listen!

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

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, sometimes called Decoration Day, is a holiday set aside to honor United States servicemen and women who gave their lives for their country.

It usually is celebrated at the end of May. It was established by General John O. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an association of of United States Veterans in remembrance of soldiers and sailors who died in the Civil War.

General Logan set May 30th as Memorial Day, but because there was great bitterness between the North and South, the Confederate States refused to recognize this day. The Southern States set their own days, and some of these are still observed, although more and more the South is coming to recognize May 30th also.

Observance of Memorial Day includes military parades and placing of flowers, wreaths and flags on the graves of service personnel and sometimes civilians who died in the service of their country.

There are special services at the Battlefield of Gettysburg, PA, and Arlington National Cemetery.

After World War I and World War II it would have been very unusual not to find any large city or small country hamlet that was not in some way celebrating Memorial Day with parades and speeches and with relatives decorating their loved ones' graves with flowers and American flags. The front porches of every home were proudly displaying "Old Glory". Business places in town were also decorated with banners and flags. The deceased veterans were being honored for the sacrifices they made to keep our country free.

Today's scenario concerning the celebration of Memorial Day in some communities, focuses on the beginning of the summer season, with all manner of commercial sales emphasizing bedding plants, shrubs, tree, picnic and barbecuing equipment. For school children it means a day off from studies, and those employed a day off from their hectic work schedule. Many times little emphasis is placed on the true meaning of this holiday, the honoring of our deceased veterans.

Our Korean and Vietnam veterans suffered untold hardships in their service to our country, only to return home to be insulted and derided and reviled as "war criminals" by the likes of Jane Fonda, war protesters and flag burners. These are the same people who had never contributed anything to the well-being of our country. Imagine the hurt that Henry Fonda, who served his country gallantly in World War II, must have suffered while viewing newsreels depicting his daughter Jane standing next to and supporting the efforts of a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft crew firing upon American aircraft.

Brooklyn area residents should be very proud of the patriotism they show in so many ways. The various veterans organizations have participated in the Memorial Day parades. They sell poppies to support hospitalized veterans and provide military funerals for families requesting this service.

I personally remember a Memorial Day in May of 1944, during World War II, on the island of Bougainville in the Solomon Islands. Three of our comrades had perished during a Japanese attack on one of our gun positions. A young Pfc, Robert

Baird from Kentucky, who had survived Pearl Harbor, was crying out in pain from his injuries while another member of the gun crew who had been less seriously wounded, cradled him in his arms to console him and make his passing less painful.

A poem, which follows, written shortly after the incident, tells the tragic story of this young soldier's final moments. This is what Memorial day is all about.

(This commentary was given by Leonard Owczarzak an Americal member who served with the 746 AAA Gun Bn. Btry D. Leonard is Post Historian for the William Bartlett Post 315 of the American Legion in Brooklyn, NY.)

A LETTER HOME

I helped a buddy die today,
By "helped" I mean I talked with him
until he passed away
He lay there bleeding, cradled in my arms;
And while he bled, he said these things to me;
He guessed this was the end, so went the game,
You lived, you chanced, you died; It was the same
Some must be sacrificed for victory's sake,
But then he had a lone request to make,
He held the photo of a little boy;
Begrimed, the image with youthful joy,
'My brother's kid" he smiled with pride,
Then winced, as pain traversed his wounded side.
He stirred to ease the sharpness of his pain
Asked for a drink, then he spoke again,
He wanted something, for the life he gave,
He asked those he loved, that they should save,
In years to come, when mem'ry dim must grow,
From Fates like this, such little tykes as Joe,
He did not ask for mourners, or marble shrine,
Nor tears, nor tomb, nor stricken likeness fine;
But one request he made before "twas time to go".
"Spare them of this, don't let them know".
I turned, to cradle his wounded head,
Then looked again, he was already dead.

Author Unknown

THANK YOU

A vote of thanks is due our Adjutant, Bernie Chase, for his dedication in placing flags on the graves of members of the Americal Division at the National Cemetery in Bourne, Massachusetts. He has done this on Memorial Day and Veterans Day for many years.

There is a ceremony at the National Cemetery here in Massachusetts on both of these holidays. The National Cemetery is located on land within the confines of Camp Edwards, where many members of the Americal, who were then in the Yankee Division, trained for a year before heading off to war.

For many year the Americal members posted a Color Guard, along with marching members, in the short parade that preceded the ceremonies. This is no longer possible due to the aging of our membership.

It was partly through the efforts of another Americal member, Richard Gallant, that the National Cemetery is located here in Camp Edwards. Dick Gallant was also the the Master of Ceremonies here at the Cemetery for many years. He passed away in March of 1996 and is now buried here in the Cemetery he helped to create.

AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION

San Antonio, TX
June 15-18, 2000

Contact the Holiday Inn Select Airport directly by calling 1-800-445-8475 to make your room reservation. DO IT NOW--THE HOUR IS LATE! Mention the Holiday Inn Airport and the Americal

For Registration form see the Jan-Feb-Mar 220 issue of the Americal Newsletter or call Malcolm East at 1-409-755-2892.

18th ANNUAL VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION
Kokomo, Indiana
September 14-15-16-17, 2000

The Americal has requested 40 camping spots for the ADVA and the 196 LIB. The camping fee is \$5.00 a day but an additional donation would be appreciated to help the Reunion Committee.

Contact for more info:

Terry Babler Ronald Davis
New Glarus, WI 53574 Fountain City, IN 47341

FAR WEST CHAPTER

Laughlin, Nevada
October 1-3, 2000
Edgewater Hotel and Casino

The rate for a standard room, Sunday thru Thursday is \$17.00. The rooms are spacious and very comfortable. Guest parking is free and valet parking is available. there are 1446 guest rooms, a heated swimming pool, restaurants, room service, a barber shop, a beauty salon, an ice cream parlor and show lounges.

Room reservations must be made by calling the hotel at 1-800-677-4837 and refer to Group code "WADVA". Rooms must be reserved by Sept. 1, 2000.

For registration forms and reservation for a banquet that will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2000 contact:

ADVA-Far West Chapter
Paris Tognoli Sec/Tres
Isleton, CA 95641

132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT WORLD WAR II

REUNION
August 18 - 20, 2000

For more info contact:

Joseph G. Micek
Norridge, IL 60706
Tel: [redacted]

E-MAIL [redacted]

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

2001 - AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION - 2001

Cleveland Marriott Airport Hotel
June 21,22,23,24, 2001

The Marriott is four miles from the airport and ten minutes from downtown Cleveland. This city boasts the: National Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Canton Ohio Football Hall of Fame, Cleveland Zoo and Tropical Rainforest.

MORE TO FOLLOW

Chairman Co-Chairman
David W. Taylor Larry Watson
Medina, Oh 44256 Wooster, OH 44691
Tel; [redacted]

2002 - AMERICAL NATIONAL REUNION - 2002

November 8-12, 2002
Hotels to be announced later

The Reunion will be held in conjunction with the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry. Contact person:

Terry Babler
New Glarus, WI 53574
Tel: [redacted]

L CO. 182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

September 16, 2000

Robert Doucette
Lynn, MA 01904
Tel: [redacted]

Any and all members of the 182nd Infanry Regiment are invited to attend. If you plan to attend please contact bob at the above address for directions and informations, or call Jim McCarthy at [redacted].

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

If your organization, no matter how large or small, is running a reunion or a get-together we would like to run any information available about it. But, please remember the deadlines for having a timely notice appear in the Americal Newsletter.

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

Send notice to:

Editor James C. Buckle
East Harwich, MA 02645-1470

And don't forget that follow-up story with a group picture if at all possible.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT WORLD WAR II

REUNION
August 18 - 20, 2000

For more info contact:

Joseph G. Micek
[REDACTED]
Norridge, IL 60706
Tel: [REDACTED]

E-MAIL [REDACTED]

L CO. 182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

September 16, 2000

Robert Doucette
[REDACTED]
Lynn, MA 01904
Tel: [REDACTED]

Any and all members of the 182nd Infantry Regiment are invited to attend. If you plan to attend please contact bob at the above address for directions and informations, or call Jim McCarthy at [REDACTED].

FIRST BATTALION - 182nd BUDDIES ASSOCIATION

REUNION
August 19, 2000
1:00 P.M.

Eliot Carey Farm
35 Nashua Road
North Billerica, MA 01862

SEVEN DOLLARS (\$7.00) FOR ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!

Contact Eliot Carey NOW!

Sunday August 20, 2000 - Rain Date

A VETERAN DIED TODAY

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast. And he sat around the Legion telling stories of his past. Of a war that he had fought in, and the deeds that he had done. In his exploits with his buddies, they were heroes everyone. And tho' sometimes to his neighbors, his tales became a joke, all his buddies listened... for they knew whereof he spoke. But, we'll hear his tales no longer, for ol' Joe has passed away, and the world's a little poorer for a Veteran died today.

No, he won't be mourned by many, just his children and his wife. For he lived an ordinary, very quiet sort of life. He had a job and raised a family, quietly going on his way. And the world won't note his passing, tho' a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state, while thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great. Papers tell of their life stories, from the time that they were young, but the passing of a Veteran goes unnoticed and unsung. Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land, some jerk who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man? Or the ordinary fellow, who in times of war and strife, goes off to serve his country and offers up his life?

The politicians stipend and the style in which he lives, are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives. While the ordinary Veteran who has offered up his all, is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension small. It's so easy to forget them, for it was so long ago, that our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys went to battle, but we know. It was not the politicians and their compromise and ploys, who won for us our freedom, that our country now enjoys. Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand, would you really want some cop-out, with his ever wavering stand? Or would you want a Veteran who has sworn to defend, his home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common veteran and his ranks are growing thin, but his presence should remind us, we may need his likes again. For when countries are in conflict, then we find the Military's part, is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor, while he's here to hear the praise, then at least let's give him the homage at the ending of his days. Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say:

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING FOR A VETERAN DIED TODAY.

(Author unknown)

Thanks to Harold Stein, 26th Signal, for sending in this, all to true, poem.

THE FLAG AMENDMENT

How do you feel about the Flag Amendment? The Americal Legion has been trying to get the Flag amendment passed for several years.

The House of Representatives has passed the amendment but in the Senate has it has failed two year in a row--this year by just four votes.

During World War II the Americal was made up basically by National Guard units from Massachusetts, North Dakota and Illinois. Of the six Senators representing these States only one voted "YES" for the Amendment--Republican Senator Fitzgerald from Illinois. The two Senators from North Dakota, both Democrats voted "NO". And of course the two liberal Democrats from Massachusetts, Kennedy and Kerry, voted "NO".

According to Polls taken across the country the people are for the Amendment. How can the men that represent us in the Senate vote against the will of the people? Let your senator know how you feel and support the American Legion in their effort to get this legislation passed. This is an election year and they might just listen!

AMERICAL VETS IN THE STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS AREA

I am trying to recruit members of the Americal Division Veterans Association to participate in the mammoth Millennium Parade being planned for Stoneham in September of 2000.

I would like to see some Americal veterans in the parade. There are some Vietnam veterans signed up all ready. If you are interested please call me.

Jim Standish
[REDACTED]

132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Looking for John W. Stark who served with 132nd Infantry from 1944 to 1946. Contact:

William Snell
[REDACTED]
Toledo, OH 43617
Tel: [REDACTED]
E-Mail [REDACTED]

182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Looking for friends of Adolf Haffenreffer. My late father served in the 182nd Infantry as a 1st Lieutenant and a Captain. Contact:

Adolf Haffenreffer III
[REDACTED]
Little Compton, RI 02837
[REDACTED]

COMPANY I - 164th INFANTRY REGIMENT

I would like to contact former soldiers of the 164th Infantry that knew my father, S/Sgt. Isaia V. Vasquez--also known as "Shadow". He was also known to provide hair cuts to his fellow soldiers. He was a veteran of Guadalcanal.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who can provide insight to the experiences/missions of I Company, 164th Infantry. Contact:

1/Sgt. Dora Vasquez-Hellner
[REDACTED]
Red Springs, NC 28377
[REDACTED]

182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

I am trying to locate anyone that served with the 182nd Infantry and knew Horace Bentley on March 1945 during the invasion of Cebu Island. He was my father and was killed during that invasion. Please contact:

Carl Bentley
[REDACTED]
Bakersfield, CA 93380-0482
Tel: [REDACTED]

B COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY

I am trying to locate any former member of B Company, 182nd Infantry that knew my brother, S/Sgt. Herman J. Harlan. Herman went overseas in 1942 and served on New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji and Bougainville. He was KIA on Cebu, Philippines on March 28, 1945. He had two friends, Otis Moore and Jack Davis, who were both killed on Bougainville in March of 1944.

It would mean a lot to his family if friends of Herman could be located. Please contact:

Albert B. Harlan
[REDACTED]
Seagoville, CA 75159

HAVE YOU MADE RESERVATION FOR THE REUNION YET?

COMPANY I - 182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Looking for anyone that served with I company, 182nd Infantry during 1941-1943. Contact:

Francis E. Chesley
[REDACTED]
Mesquite, TX 75150
[REDACTED]

182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

I would like to hear from anyone that knew Albany A. Doucette who was KIA on Guadalcanal. Contact:

Theodore J. Doucette
[REDACTED]
Pocasset, MA 02559-1930
[REDACTED]

COMPANY E - 164th INFANTRY REGIMENT

Looking for anyone that knew my father, Pfc. Dominick Amoroso, E Company, 164th Infantry. He served in the following campaigns: Bougainville, Philippines and Japan. Contact:

Dominick Amoroso Jr.
[REDACTED]
Howell, NJ 07731
[REDACTED]

COMPANY G - 132nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Bougainville - Leyte - Cebu
Looking for anyone who served with G Company, 132nd Infantry on Bougainville, Leyte or Cebu.

Please contact:

Floyd Petty
[REDACTED]
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Ed Note: Floyd, thanks for your kind remarks about the Newsletter. Gary and I put a lot of time and effort into producing each issue. Jim

132 INFANTRY REGIMENT

I would like to contact anyone that was in the Guadalcanal Campaign and who may have known my uncle, S/Sgt. James Biggs. Please drop me a note or an E-Mail.

Mark Balasi
[REDACTED]
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
E-Mail [REDACTED]

If you know of an Americal veteran that has passed away or that is sick, please notify:

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

ARE YOUR DUES PAID? - CHECK THE ADDRESS LABEL

F COMPANY - 182nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

F Company, 182nd Infantry held its annual reunion on April 26, 2000 at the Chateau Restaurant in Waltham, MA.

Co. F Chairman, Frank Rourke, gave a welcoming address. A moment of silent prayer for Dan Ramsey, Robert Perry and Delmo Feranti, was given. These men had passed away since our 1999 Reunion.

Bob Mitchell wrote from Florida, Al Hartwell from Kentucky, Vinnie Leblanc from California. The letters were read to the members.

Attending the luncheon were: Bill Lambert, Duckie Rollo, Tony Di Parro, Buddy Lorenz, Joe Rando, Paul Miele, Joe Papa, Frank Rourke, Frank LaValle, Joe and Barbara Chin and Jim Buckle. Joe served with M Company and Jim Buckle served with E Company. Jim is also editor of the Americal Newsletter.



Frank Rourke-Chairman Joe Papa

Also attending were eleven members of the Massachusetts National Guard Vets Unit 14, Joe Siano Chapter. They were Commander Bob Gould, Public Relations Chuck Gould, Reunion Chairman Bill Berquist, President of the Waltham Museum, Al Arena and Walter Peirce. Walter is 90 years young and started his military career with the Horse Artillery and served overseas with the Americal Division with 247 Field Artillery.

Can you believe, 55 years after World War II and we are still having Company F Reunions!!! Many of us have been forever called away, but there is a special bond between the few of us that are left, that shared the foxholes of Guadalcanal, Bougainville and the Philippines, and YES, we do have a certain "smugness" compared to those that served in safer places.

Committeeman,
Joe Papa

The members of the Committee were: Frank Rourke, Chairman, Paul Miele, Joe Rando and Joe Papa.

101st MEDICAL REGIMENT BAND

We are having a luncheon in Quincy, Massachusetts on August 19, 2000. If you are interested please contact:

Domenic Pantaleo
[Redacted]
Plymouth, MA 02360

WW II MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING IN NOVEMBER

According to law, all funds needed to build the National World War II Memorial must be collected by this May. Through the combined efforts of donors and Congress, the goal of \$100 million has been met.

PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS \$2 MILLION



Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge and Stanley Wojtusik, national vice-president of veterans affairs for the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, present Senator Bob Dole with a \$2 million check honoring the Pennsylvanians who served in World War II. (Photo by Terry Way)

Above is a picture of Governor Ridge of Pennsylvania presenting Senator Bob Dole with a \$2 million check honoring the Pennsylvanians who served in World War II.

Governor Ridge served with the Americal division in Vietnam.

GUADALCANAL ECHOES

The 'Guadalcanal Echoes' is the Newsletter put out by the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans Association.

Ted Blahnik had been the Editor-in-Chief of the 'Echoes' for many years at the time of his death on December 4, 1999.

Joseph Micek has been appointed the new Editor-in-Chief of the 'Echoes'.

Joe, an Americal veteran, served with the 132nd Infantry on Guadalcanal and Bougainville. He also worked with Dr. Robert C. Muehrcke, another Americal veteran, to establish the Memorial to the Americal on Guadalcanal.

Joe has been present in all the activities of the 132nd Infantry since the end of World War II and at this time he is putting together a Reunion for the 132nd in August.

Best wishes for his success in this new endeavor.

ARE YOU DUES PAID UP? CHECK THE ADDRESS LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER. THIS IS THE EXPIRATION DATE.

GUADALCANAL VET. MEETS NEW ZEALAND M.D.

I first met Joe Abernathy M.D. at the Medical Center in Brockton, MA, as an outpatient. I was assigned to Dr. Abernathy as my primary care physician. In speaking with him he revealed a British accent and eventually I found he was from New Zealand.

My unit, 101st Med. Reg. Band, served a year in Auckland and I must admit it was not duty that was hard to take. At the end of the hostilities on the "Canal", the 101st Medical Regiment was broken down to a battalion, which did not call for a band and we were shipped back to New Caledonia.

Then in 1943 the Band was shipped to New Zealand and we became the 290th Army Ground Forces Band (USAFINZ) for a 1,000 bed Army hospital, R & R facilities, Air Combat Forces and other military personnel. Naturally, our mission was for morale purposes.



Dom Pantaleo - Dr. Joe Abernathy

Dr. John was but ten years of age when the first Yanks arrived and was awe-struck by their speech, uniforms and deportment. Dr. John said the soldiers appeared to have come from another world and vowed, someday, he would come to the United States.

After becoming an M.D. in New Zealand he came here, got married and settled down in Massachusetts, where they raised a family.

Dom Pantaleo
101st Med Reg Band

THE POW

The recent capture of American servicemen in Kosovo, brings to mind the terror and fear that many servicemen suffered during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

I personally remember the fear my unit experienced when on Bougainville, in the Solomon Islands during World War II. We were informed that because of the superiority of the Japanese forces on the island, that were attacking our positions, we might be overwhelmed and suffer capture by the enemy.

Having heard numerous tales of how American prisoners of the Japanese had been subjected to humiliation, starvation, torture, mutilation, and even death, we had made a pact among ourselves, that we would fight to death, to avoid becoming prisoners of war.

The Chinese and North Korean treatment of captured Americans was very brutal. Thousands of American servicemen were never heard from again. Americans captured in Vietnam were subjected to even worse treatment. They were paraded through villages and cities where they were subjected to being spit upon, beaten and humiliated. Their imprisonment included being tortured, starved, denied medical treatment and being placed in cages like wild animals to be further reviled by troops and civilians.

When World War II ended in the Philippines my unit was given the task of recovering and processing over 8,000 Japanese troops that were still a potent force to contend with, on the island of Cebu. Sensitive negotiations convinced the Japanese to surrender. They were brought into the prison camp to be processed. They were given the opportunity to shower, receive fresh clothing, and medical attention when needed. They were then assigned tents for shelter, a cot and a blanket was issued and nutritious food prepared by their own cooks. We never had a Japanese prisoner attempt to escape the POW camp. They were jubilant that the war was over and that they would be returning to their homes and loved ones.

Balance these humanitarian amenities afforded to the Japanese prisoners against the "Death Marches", torture, starvation, lack of shelter or medical attention that American POW's had to endure in the Philippines and other South Pacific locations.

German and Italians prisoners of war during World War II were given such humane treatment that many of them did not want to return home.

Americans have always abided by the Geneva convention on treatment of POW's. Let us hope and pray that any American POW's receive the same treatment.

Leornard Owczarzak
746th AAA Gun Bn.

SEAL PROTECTED, NOT THE FLAG

I have read many articles in the magazine about the flag-protection amendment. I recently came across another example of hypocrisy of flag-protection foes.

A recent television news story ran about a family in New York selling T-shirts for a fund giving college grants to graduating high school seniors. The shirts had the president's seal on them. The Secret Service sent them a "cease and desist" letter on the grounds of improper use of a seal in violation of Executive Order 1164.

Here we have a case where the president can protect his great seal, but we can't protect our FLAG.

(Americal Legion Magazine--Hank Mahoney, Ridge NY)

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDY YET?

WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

FOURTH OF JULY - 2000

The Wakefield Independence Day Committee has notified the member of E Company and the Medical Detachment, 182nd Infantry Regiment, Americal Division they will be honored by being appointed Grand Marshall of the Independence Day Parade that will take place in Wakefield on July 4, 2000.

Wakefield has had a military unit since 1644, a year before the General Court of Massachusetts proclaimed a militia be raised. At that time Wakefield was known as South Reading.

Wakefield has sent a military unit to fight in every war that our country has been engaged in from the Revolution through World War II.

The Americal Division will also be recognizes in the holiday festivities.

COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

132nd INFANTRY - WORLD WAR I

It's been a long time since John Harries, at 105 the oldest U.S. war veteran in Arizona, served in France, but Thursday he received that country's highest honor.

The Sun City man accepted the French Foreign Legion for service on French soil in World War I, one of two local U.S. veterans honored with France's highest civilian awards.

Harries attributes his longevity to his "beautiful wife." Mildred, herself in her 90's.

His award can be attributed to the job he did as a platoon sergeant in the 132nd Infantry.

"I landed in Brest. After that, it was straight into the battle zone. Before we got sent over, all we did was train for trench warfare," he said.

Friends made it clear that Harries should be honored for what he lost for his country as well as what he gave to it.

His brother, Emmons, died on the return boat trip from the war in a flu epidemic.

"It was great sorrow when his brother died. He promised his mother that he'd take care of him, but there was nothing he could do, " his niece, Barbara Friend said.

"He was exposed to mustard gas and was sick for a long time after the war--it took him a long time to recover," she said.

David Walls, an official with the Arizona Department Veterans Affairs said, "If the people of France had not come to the aid of the US of A, we would not be having Independence Day coming up in a few days, and I'd be speaking with a British accent instead of an Oklahoma drawl."

"What goes around comes around," he said. The country has always had people like John Harries, willing to put themselves in harm's way whenever the need arises."

Claude Prosnier, honorary consul for the French government said that no two countries have remained friends as long as France and the United States.

In French-accented English he said the two countries "are like husband and wife who have been married for 200 hundred years. Sometimes they fight and punch each other, but then they make up, and everything is OK."

Prosnier explained that last year, on the 80th anniversary of Armistice Day , French President Jacques Chirac declared that all U.S. World War I veterans who served on French soil would receive the French Foreign Legion.

Before he bestowed the red-ribboned medal onto Harries lapel, Prosnier said, "We are very, very lucky to have John with us. The next generation will only have books to look at."

Ed Note: This story was sent in by Rocco Solto, President of the 132nd Infantry Association WWII. He states in his letter--"We gave John Harries a Certificate of Recognition and awarded him and Honorary Membership in the 132nd Infantry Association.

NOW HEAR THIS

This is a follow-up on my previous letter to you on the subject of the article in the Americal Newsletter on, "POW CAMP #3".

I have telephoned several sources in Australia, Papua New Guinea and England, to wit:

1. Australian Army Archives--Canberra
2. Australian Navy Archives--Melbourne
3. Paul Mason's son, Paul--Papua New Guinea
4. John Channig Pearce--1st European owner of Numma Numma Plantation.
5. Jack Francis--Canberra--Researcher who followed through after my trips to Australia.
6. Sr.M.Gisele(Chaverot) SMSM- Evacuated on the USS Nautilus 1/1/43.

As well as contacts at the Marine (U.S.A.) Historical Division, US Army Historical Office and USN Naval War College for information on the subject.

Items Unearthed:

- A. there was NO one in the patrol service on Bougainville in 1941-42-43 by the same name as the 'Author' of the subject article.
- B. NONE of the 'Anglo' names mentioned could be identified.
- C. There is NO record in the War Crimes files (Australian files) of the incidents recalled by the 'Author'.
- D. There were NO USN, USMC, or Australian Navy craft in the area of Numma Numma on the date quoted.
- E. There are NO hills on the Numma Numma plantation upon which the guards could have stood and observe anything below him.
- F. There IS evidence in the War Crimes files, (Australia), of similiar facts taking place in Papua. (Except there was no evacuation).
- G. The Chief of the WW II Crimes Record, (Australia), said,"It was a good story and the Author had to have some knowledge of the area and time, "BUT" too many facts are incorrect".

My observation is that you should have checked with someone before printing an article of unknown origin. I think you should print a retraction in the Newsletter.

A. Mark Durley Jr.

Ed Note: Thank you very much Mark for your observations. I have certainly gained a great deal of knowledge from your research. As far as a retraction goes I have already done that, with my apology in the last Newsletter.

However, I did not say it was a true story, any more than I vouch for all the other letters that come across my desk and I do not have the time to research every letter. I will say that it was a little more far fetched than the average letter that I receive. Some day I'll take the time to track down Paul Acland and I'm sure he will tell me it was a novel.

Good to hear from you again and thanks for keeping me on my toes.

Jim

THE NATIONAL GUARD IN WORLD WAR II

1949-41 Mobilization

Beginning in September of 1940 the first of 300,034 National Guard troops reported for active duty for "one year of training." This doubled the size of the U.S.Army, adding 18 infantry divisions, 80 separate regiments, and 29 Army Air Corps flying squadrons to the nation's active-duty forces. along with the guard's mobilization came the nation's first peace-time conscription, which put another million men into Army uniform.

In August 1941, Congress extended by one additional year the term of service for draftees and mobilized Guardsmen. Thus the entire National Guard was already on active duty when the United States entered World War II.

National Guard already overseas as war begins.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, California's 251st Coast Artillery had already been stationed in Hawaii for a year, like the Guardsmen of Hawaii's 298th Infantry Regiment. They took part in the defense of Oahu.

When Japanese troops invaded the Philippines three days later, U.S. troops there included the New Mexico's National Guard 200th Coast Artillery, and two tank battalions made up of National Guard units from various States. Half of these men died as prisoners of the Japanese.

Three other Guard artillery units were in mid-ocean as the war broke out. The 147th(South Dakota), the 148th(Idaho), and 2nd Battalion, 131st(Texas) were diverted from the Philippines to Australia, the first of thousands of U.S. troops to arrive "Down Under." The 131st was sent to Java were it surrendered with the Dutch garrison to the Japanese.

First to ship out; First to fight!

North Dakota's 164th Infantry, sent to reinforce the Marines on Guadalcanal in October 1942, was the first U.S. Army regiment to fight offensively in World War II. They were soon joined by their sister infantry regiments in the newly formed Americal Division, the 132nd (Illinois) and 182nd (Massachusetts).

On New Guinea, the 32nd and 41st Infantry Divisions became the first Army divisions to engage and defeat the Japanese, in late 1942 and early 1943.

The 34th Infantry Division was the first Army division to sail overseas. In North Africa, it

became one of the first two U.S. infantry divisions to fight in the European theatre, and by the end of the war had spent more actual days in combat than any other U.S. Army division.

National Guard flying squadrons were also among the first to reach the combat zone. Three Observation Squadrons, the 111th (Texas), 122nd (La), and 154th (Ark.), arrived in North Africa in the Fall of 1942. In July 1944, Michigan's 107th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, which had flown pre-invasion missions over the Normandy beaches, became the first Army Air Corps unit to operate from the continent of Europe. World War II Campaigns National Guard Infantry Divisions-European Theater:
26th Infantry Division (Mass), N. France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe.

28th Infantry Division (Pa), Normandy, N. France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe.

29th Infantry Division (Va., Md., D.C.), Normandy*, N. France, Rhineland, Central Europe.

30th Infantry Division (N.C., S.C., Tenn.), Normandy, N. France, Rhineland, Central Europe, Ardennes-Alsace.

34th Infantry Division (N.D., S.D., Minn., Iowa), Tunisia*, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, N. Apennines, Po Valley.

35th Infantry Division (Ks., Mo., Neb.),Normandy, N. France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace.

36th Infantry Division (Tex.), Naples-Foggia*, Anzio, Rome-Arno, S. France*, Rhineland, Central Europe,Ardennes-Alsace.

44th Infantry Division (N.J., N.Y.), N. France, Rhineland, Central Europe, Ardennes-Alsace.

45th Infantry Division (Ariz., Colo., N.M., Okla.), Sicily*, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, S. France*, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe.

PACIFIC THEATER;

27th Infantry Division (N.Y.), Central Pacific, Western Pacific, Ryukyus.

31st Infantry Division (Fla., Ala., La., Miss.), New Guinea*, S. Philippines, Western Pacific.

32nd Infantry Division (Miss., Wisc.), New Guinea, S. Philippines, Luzon.

33rd Infantry Division (Ill.), New Guinea, Luzon.

37th Infantry Division (Oh.), Northern Solomons, Luzon*.

38th Infantry Division (Ind., Ken., W.Va.), New Guinea, S. Philippines. Luzon.

40th Infantry Division (Calif., Ut., Nev.), Bismarck, Archipelago, S. Philippines, Luzon*.

41st Infantry Division (Wash., Ore., Ida., Mont., Wyo.), New Guinea, Luzon, S. Philippines.

43rd Infantry Division (Conn., Mn., Vt., R.I.), Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, New Guinea, Luzon.

(Concluded On Next Page)

Americal Division (Organized May 1942, primarily of Ill., Mass., N.D., National Guard Units). Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons. Leyte, S. Philippines*.

(Asterisk denotes initial landing)

National Guard Observation Squadron

At least 29 National Guard Observations Squadrons were called to active duty during World War II. By 1945, six had become fighter or bomber units, but most remained in the observation, tactical reconnaissance, photo reconnaissance or liaison role. The units served in the European, China-Burma-India, Canal Zone, Pacific and Mediterranean Theaters, as well as in the U.S.A., then called the "Z.I.", the zone of the interior.

(Taken from Bravo--Veterans Outlook)

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY - 247th FIELD ARTILLERY

In some future Americal Newsletter could you please mention the enclosed celebration?

I met Bill Truffa when I joined the Hdq. Battery of the 247th Field Artillery in early 1944 on Bougainville. One of my menial tasks was censoring letters that were being sent home. That's when I found out that Bill also came from western Pennsylvania not far from my home town. From time to time we would chat about back home.

Prior to leaving Bougainville I was transferred to a firing battery as a forward observer. After that move I kind of lost touch with Bill 'til many years later. That meeting was at the National Reunion in Carlisle. He thought he was seeing a ghost for he knew that I got beat up on Cebu a little bit. From that day on we have kept in touch.



Charlotte and William
February 17, 1949

The picture above is of Charlotte and Bill that was on the invitation to attend their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.

When my wife passed away almost three years ago they were there to help me through some tough times. They are real friends!

Harry Milne

754th TANK BATTALION

Long time resident Alfred Gutttag was presented with a special Distinguished Service Award for his 25 years continuous service to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

In a ceremony at the Punta Gorda Boat Club, Ron Barrett, Charlotte Harbor Flotilla 98 Commander presented Gutttag with the award on behalf of the Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard. He is the first person in the Charlotte harbor Flotilla to have completed 25 years of consecutive service and to have worked with most of the 600 men and women, who have been members during his time.

The tribute paid Gutttag covered his record of more than 100 search and rescue missions with 300 hours of searches conducted at night. While today's auxiliary has the advantage of sophisticated electronics, much of his work was done with only a compass, a wrist watch and a depth finder, often searching alone in his small boat through the night into sunrise.

During his 25 years as a member of the auxiliary, he served as flotilla commander, established the first emergency radio station, worked on area Coast Guard cutters, engaged in helicopter operations and manned a Coast Guard station at Fort Myers Beach.

He was certified as a vessel examiner, instructor, coxswain and has passed all advanced specialty courses that have been offered.

In 1971, Gutttag was a founder of the Charlotte County Marine Advisory Committee. He still holds a Merchant Marine officers license and a 100-ton Coast Guard license.

In 1942, Gutttag was a young sergeant traveling with the U.S. Army 645th Tank Battalion, acknowledging one of the best cold weather tank battalions in the world. His first combat experience came in repelling the attack of the Japanese on Guadalcanal and surviving Bougainville.

His unit was packing for the invasion of the Japanese mainland when President Truman dropped the atomic bomb to end World War II in the Pacific.

Gutttag said he was proudest of the fact the he was the skipper of the boat that won the sobriquet for Flotilla 98 as the "We Do, Can do" Flotilla, as well as being a member of the outfit on Guadalcanal that won the sobriquet "No Mission too Difficult."

On a typical morning today, he still wakes before dawn to ready himself for another call of the wild as a fisherman. Over the years he has caught more than 600 cobia, documented with photographs and measurement records.

"For everyone I've caught, I've lost one," he admitted. "I consider myself good having a 50 percent success rate. After the years of dedicated service, at age 83, he still instructs other auxiliary members, but spends most of his time boating peacefully, believing that 'doing for oneself and others is the only way to experience Heaven on Earth."

(Staff Report from a Florida paper)

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World War II	1942-1945
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ADVA is dedicated as a LIVING MEMORIAL to all veterans of the Americal Division and is pledged to foster true American patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the Americal Division of the United States Army.

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