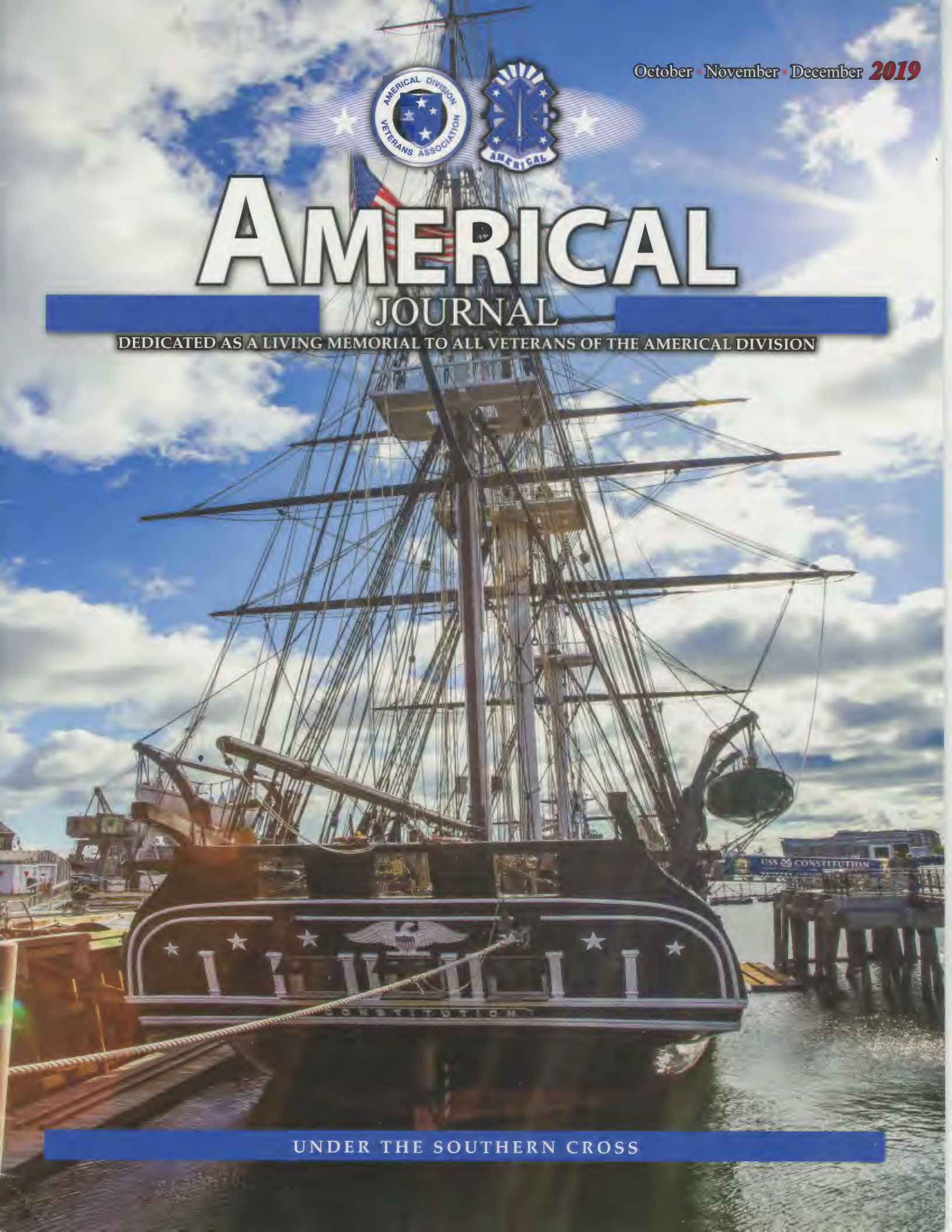


October • November • December **2019**



AMERICAL JOURNAL

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



UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Locator Requests

Looking for: Any information on my grandfather, Staff Sergeant Gerald Bloomer. He was with the 182 Infantry and received a Bronze Star. He was MIA for several months but was finally found. His battles include: Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, New Georgia, and Bougainville. Contact: Amy Connor; [redacted]

Looking for: Information about my Dad, Joseph Sinacola, TEC 5. He passed away in 1976 in an auto accident. He served in the 3rd Battalion 182nd Infantry in the Northern Solomons and Southern Philippines from 1943 to 1945. My goal is to get in contact of someone that served with my Dad and if possible be a guardian for that individual on the Honor Flight Northeast Indiana. Contact: Dennis Sinacola, [redacted]

Looking for: Information on my grandfather. I am the grandson of Seargent George E. Donovan from Massachusetts, who was in the Americal Division, field artillery in the Soloman Islands, Guadalcanal. Then went on to fight in Europe. George passed away before I was born, so begins my search to find out about this incredible man. Contact: Paul Smith; [redacted]

Looking for: Information about Sgt. Charles Harris "Cotton" Vickers, Jr. who was in the Americal Division and killed in WWII on March 11, 1944 on Bougainville, Solomon Islands. Contact: Phillip Plotz, M.D.; [redacted]

Looking for: nformation on my Dad, Lewis Alvin Grass, who went by Al a that time. Indications are he was in the Army Reserves in Massacusetts and on December 8, 1941 - along with some friends - awaited assignment at the armory in Malden or Melrose, Mass. At some point he appears to have been assigned to a Marine unit needing truck drivers. He was evacuated in late December or early January, 1943. Contact: Stephen Grass; [redacted]

Looking for: Information about my uncle, PVT Willard J. Coulter, Co B, 2nd Bn, 164th Inf Regiment, Americal Division. He was KIA on 25 Nov 1942 near the Matanikau River, Guadalcanal. I am trying to find any details of when he joined the North Dakota National Guard, his MOS, and anything else that anyone might know. Contact: Brenda Brockett; [redacted]

Looking for: Information on Sgt. Paul V MacAulay, who was with the Americal Division on Guadalcanal. I am a historian working on a book about the town of Marblehead, Massachusetts in World War II. I have come across a number of newspaper articles about him, but have not been able to obtain his military records. According to local newspaper accounts, Sgt. MacAulay was a "rifle squad leader" and received the purple heart for wounds sustained on Guadalcanal. Contact: Sean M Casey; [redacted]

Looking for: Places that my father, Havard B. Dowlin, Jr. would have served with the Americal Division. I know he shipped out from Pennsylvania in December 1942 and was part of the Occupation Forces in Japan, stationed a few blocks down from General MacArthur. Contact: Nina Dowlin; [redacted]



Looking for: Anyone who served with Pat Schwedler (my brother-in-law). Lost him in 1984. He went in for two years, beginning 1971. I know he was in Chu Lai and his DD214 says CO E 4 BN 31 INF 196 BDE. He was a point man for his platoon. He is in the photo above. Contact: Jean Schwedler; [redacted]

Looking for: Anyone that served with me in the 23rd MP Co., 10/69 to 11/70, in Chu lai and Hawk Hill. Contact: Vic Valela; [redacted]

Looking for: Sal Costa, 1/6th Inf., 198th LIB. He was a Sp4 and last known to be on LZ Bayonet. Contact: Dave Salemma; [redacted]

Looking for: Information about my father. He was in Vietnam from March 1969 to February 1970. Those are the dates on his Bronze Star award. I am looking for anyone that might have known him or why he received the award. I have a picture of him standing in front of a red sign with gold letters that says Charlie Battery, 3rd Batallion 16th Artillery. Contact: Tessa Gosnell-Sater; [redacted]

Looking for: Anyone who served with 2nd Plt., Bravo Co., 1/6, 198th LIB, July 70-71. Contact: Arthur "R.C." Casto; [redacted]

Looking for: Anyone who served with my father, Jeff Smith, from Ohio. He said he served in Chu Lai and Marble Mountain in 1970/71. He always talked about someone named Ruben Hernandez from Texas. Contact: Michael Smith; [redacted]

Looking for: Information for evidence for a VA claim for tinnitus. I need buddy statements about the location of an electrical generator located by the cooks hooch. I served with F Troop, 8th Cavalry, 123 Avn. Bn. in Chu Lai in 1970. Contact: Edward Baker; [redacted]


Looking for: The name of the firebase that I was at after the Americal colors were sent home. I spent my first six months in Phanrang. I believe I was attached to a signal corps because I ran a teletype system in Phanrang and at the firebase they sent me to finish my twelve month tour. Contact: Ken Stafford; [redacted]

Co. A, 5/46 Inf. Holds Reunion
By Ellen Gause



A little over 50 years ago a group of young men left home, most of them drafted, to serve their country in the Vietnam War. Over the course of a year, they became best friends. After that year, they returned home to begin another life with a family, career and other ventures. In 2011 the group met for their first reunion in White Lake. Twelve members of the first platoon of Alpha Company, 5th/46th 198th Light Infantry Brigade traded stories of their lives and remembered missions they were involved in when some of their buddies were killed in action during the war during those days spent together. Some were hesitant to attend that first time.

But since that initial reunion in 2011, the group has continued to meet each fall at Oak Haven Resort in Sevierville, Tennessee. This year, 19 veterans and 12 wives joined together for a week of rekindling their friendships. They traveled to Tennessee from Texas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Florida, New Jersey, South Carolina, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia. Sadness loomed over the group as they remembered six members of their platoon who have died since they first started meeting. Two passed away since the group met in 2018.



The Americal Journal is the official publication of the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA). It is published each calendar quarter.

- Editor-In-Chief: Gary L. Noller
- Contributing Editor: David W. Taylor
- Creative Director: Lisa Anderson

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Members attending were Bob Latham, Sid Liming, Dwight Saddler, John Dyer, Kenneth Butcher, Joe Moody, Bill Bennett, Kenneth Quinn, Maury James, Rodney Outten, George Lakins, Oliver Gause, Wendell Roberts, Paul Sprouse, Jerry Laack, Aaron Rochester, Jack Crisp, Jack Vater and Bob Olenzak.

National World War One Museum
Vietnam War Exhibit
By Colonel Robert M. Dudley

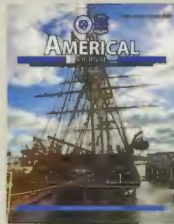
The National World War One Museum and Memorial has an exciting exhibition coming to Kansas City, The Vietnam War: 1945-1975. The Vietnam War: 1945-1975 will be on display at the National WWI Museum and Memorial's Wylie Gallery from Veterans Day, November 11, 2019 to Memorial weekend, May 25, 2020.

The traveling exhibition is on loan from the New York Historical Society, curated by Marci Reaven, VP of History Exhibitions. Topics covered in the exhibition include: the Cold War, the draft, military campaigns initiated by both sides, the growth of the antiwar movement, the role of the president and the loss of political consensus. It is free and open to the public.

We know people will wonder what WWI has to do with the Vietnam War. Due to Vietnam being a French colony, nearly 100,000 Vietnamese (Annamese) served France in WWI as soldiers, medical staff and laborers. Military wins and losses, as well as the experience of laborers working in factories and industries, contributed to a sense of national identity, which were to take root in the anti-colonial and nationalists' movements post-WWI. Vietnam's independence from France was a request made by a young man, Nguyễn Sinh Cung, at the Paris peace talks in 1919. He was ignored. His country became Vietnam, and he renamed himself Ho Chi Minh.

The exhibit along with various programs during the six months are estimated to cost \$435,000. Fred and Dianne Smith, founders of FedEx and (Fred) a Vietnam veteran, have granted the Museum a \$100,000 challenge grant once the Museum and Memorial raises \$300,000. There are opportunities to provide financial support that will leverage the Smith's \$100,000. All sponsorship levels include listing on the Exhibition Acknowledgment Panel, exclusive invitation to the VIP Opening Reception and recognition in the Museum and Memorial Annual Report. Please consider making a gift as generously as you can.

For more information, you can contact me Robert M. Dudley, Colonel, US Army (Retired), Past President, Society of the Fifth Division, US Army, [redacted]



Cover: USS Constitution, Boston Harbor.
Photo by PNC Dutch DeGroot.

Adjutant's Notes

By Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant

What a great turnout at the Providence, Rhode Island annual reunion. Great to see fellow ADVA members again and see all keeping as healthy as we can for our age.

The association had really good membership gains this past quarter. We added thirty-six new members during this time period. Three new members joined as Paid Life members. Two recruiting initiatives really helped the numbers. In August, members Richard Heroux and David Eichhorn did some membership recruiting at the 196th LIB Association reunion near Chicago. From that initiative, we picked up twelve new members. From the Providence reunion registrations, we picked up eight new members and reinstated one former member. One new member from the Providence reunion is George Watson, a WWII Americal Division veteran who served with the 132nd Infantry Regiment in 1945. All new members listed with Larry Swank as sponsor are signed up from the Providence reunion. Ten annual pay members paid the required life member dues to upgrade their membership, and this is a typical number for annual pay member upgrades during a reporting period. Four former members reinstated their ADVA membership. During a recent get together of my OCS classmates, I was able to recruit another classmate from our training days at Fort Benning. James Dowling and I were platoon mates in OCS Class 2-70. Hats off to ADVA members Brad Newell, James Tarver, Joe Turnwald, Les Hines and PNC David Taylor for their recruiting efforts this quarter.

We had one other recruiting campaign during this quarter. A group of ADVA members, led by member Chuck Holdaway, attended the annual all veterans gathering in Kokomo, Indiana this past September. Chuck and the group had a table and space set up in the vendor area for recruiting Americal Division and Task Force Oregon veterans into the association. At publication time for this article, I had not received the new member applications, but understand from conversations with those in attendance we picked up approximately sixteen new members. These new members will be listed in the next issue of the Americal Journal. All in all, a very successful quarter bringing new members into the Association. Speaking for the ADVA National Commander and the rest of the ADVA staff, we are truly grateful for these recent recruiting efforts by Rich Heroux, Senior Vice Commander David Eichhorn, Chuck Holdaway and all who participating in these events.

Member recruiting initiatives such as these described above are the key to maintaining our overall membership numbers in ADVA. Efforts like these at large veteran gatherings provide great opportunities to pick up larger numbers of members. As we Vietnam Veterans grow older, these larger Vietnam Veteran gatherings may begin to diminish and the recruiting opportunities become fewer. Your local veterans meetings, such as VFW or American Legion posts may provide opportunities to recruit new members. VA Care facilities are another source for meeting Americal Division veterans and speaking with them about the benefits of ADVA membership. I will help provide prospective member information about the association if you have a name and mailing address. Send me the information (see my contact information below) and I will mail the prospective member an application form and instructions on filling out the form. Americal Journal issues are available on request.

Your dues renewal status is listed in the address box on the back cover of this issue. If your annual pay renewal date is listed as JAN19, MAY19 or SEP19, please mail your dues renewal check ASAP.

The Taps listing is not as lengthy as usual, but again lists more names from the Vietnam era than WWII. I certainly appreciate each day when I recognize names in the Taps listing of men I've had contact with over the years at ADVA reunions and other Americal Division events. Please inform me when you know of the passing of an Americal Division veteran or ADVA member so his name, hometown and unit information can be listed in the Taps section.

When you make an address change, whether permanent or seasonal, please inform me as soon as possible so I can update the ADVA roster. Email is the most efficient method of notifying me when you move and you incur no costs. My email address is listed on the back cover of this publication. If you prefer to call, my cell phone number is [REDACTED]. The membership application form on the back cover of any Americal Journal can be used to send written notification of a change to the following address: [REDACTED], Richardson, Texas 75080.

New Members

John M. Bible
B/3/1st Inf
Oklahoma City, OK
★ Brad Newell

Herbert J. Brady
523rd Sig Bn
Spring Valley, CA
★ PNC David W. Taylor

Stan Chadwick
196th LIB HHC
Leesville, LA
★ James Tarver

Frank Conlon
1/6th Inf
Agawam, MA
★ PNC Larry Swank

J. William Cowdright
C/3/21st Inf
University Park, FL
★ SVC David Eichhorn

James F. Dowling
B/3/21st Inf
San Rafael, CA
★ Roger Gilmore

Douglas Duston
26th Cmbt Engrs Co B
Perry, GA
★ Les Hines

Billy G. Folk
E/3/21st Inf
Madisonville, KY
★ Rich Heroux

Robert C. Gartz
C/2/1st Inf
Rochester, NY
★ Self

Kenneth W. Gibson
4/31st Inf
DeRidder, LA
★ James Tarver

Lee Grannis
1/6th Inf
Bethany, CT
★ PNC Larry Swank

David A. Heitmeyer
1st/1st Cav (Air) D Trp
Cloverdale, OH
★ Joe Turnwald

Elvin Holliday
335th Trans
DeRidder, LA
★ James Tarver

Shane Houghton
C/3/21st Inf
Ionia, MI
★ Rich Heroux

Eddie Johns
C/3/21st Inf
Morven, GA
★ SVC David Eichhorn

Ross Johnson
3/82nd Arty Btry B
Fargo, ND
★ SVC David Eichhorn

Calvin L. King
A/4/31st Inf
Paterson, NJ
★ Rich Heroux

Dan Liford
A/3/21st Inf
Indianapolis, IN
★ Rich Heroux

Bennie J. Martin
196th LIB
Pontotoc, MS
★ SVC David Eichhorn

Rick Nelson
D/5/46th Inf
Warren, PA
★ Self

Gary V. Nordmeyer
3/21st Inf
Lake Benton, MN
★ Rich Heroux

Jerry L. Plaszczewski
1st/1st Cav Trp A&C
Ocala, FL
★ SVC David Eichhorn

Mark Singleton
A/1/20th Inf
Hingham, MA
★ PNC Larry Swank

Ronald Smith
1/20th Inf
South Wales, NY
★ PNC Larry Swank

Hank Suffoletto
4/21st Inf
West Warwick, RI
★ PNC Larry Swank

Bill Sylvester
B/1/20th Inf
Coventry, RI
★ PNC Larry Swank

Jessie C. Tilghman
31st Surg Hosp
Leesville, LA
★ James Tarver

Bartley Travis
55th Arty G Btry
DeRidder, LA
★ James Tarver

Francis Vincent
A/3/21st Inf
Fenton, MI
★ Rich Heroux

George Watson
132nd Inf Rgmt Co M
Wilmington, DE
★ PNC Larry Swank

Russ White
3/82nd Arty HHB
Bonfield, IL
★ SVC David Eichhorn

Robert C. Wilcox
B/2/1st Inf
Mocksville, NC
★ Self

David Zappa
D/5/46th Inf
St. Clair Shores, MI
★ SVC David Eichhorn

New Paid Life Members

Ronald Dougard
196th LIB
Brick, NJ
★ Self

Ron Rawls
1st/1st Cav Trp A
Paragould, AR
★ SVC David Eichhorn

Robert Simmons
No Unit Given
St. Louis, MO
★ Self

James D. Dresser
D/5/46th Inf
Easley, SC
★ Richard Ellashek

Mahlon M. Hile
No Unit Given
Fresno, CA
★ Bob Kapp

Bernardo Jordan
3/16th Arty
Douglas, AZ
★ PNC Ronald Ward

Bradford Marshall
723rd Maint Bn Co A
Waco, KY
★ Self

William J. McMeechan
132nd Avn Co
Gamaliel, AR
★ Self

Bob Mosher
23rd Admin Co
Haslett, MI
★ Self

Kenneth T. Phillips
D/4/31st Inf
Beaver Falls, PA
★ Vince Van Wieren

Michael R. Smith
D/5/46th Inf
Fort Collins, CO
★ Richard Ellashek

Michael Thomas
A/1/20th Inf
Woburn, MA
★ Self

Donald Wilson
5/46th Inf
Williamsburg, VA
★ PNC David W. Taylor

Reinstated Members

Alan Allen
A/1/6th Inf
Austin, TX
★ PNC Larry Watson

Manuel D. Chavarria, Jr.
C/1/6th Inf
Big Spring, TX
★ PNC Gary L. Noller

Francisco Garcia
C/1/52nd Inf
Gilbert, AZ
★ Self

Michael Machon
1/14th Arty Btry A
Warwick, RI
★ Don Ballou

TAPS LISTING; MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

World War II Veterans

Burdette F. Burch *
132nd Inf Rgmt Co B
Mt. Carroll, IL
August 20, 2018

Earl Cook *
26th Signal Co
Juno Beach, FL
August 7, 2019

Vietnam Veterans

Rod W. Bublitz
3/82 Arty Btry B
Bay City, MI
September 10, 2019

Terry R. Copt
6/11th Arty
Milwaukee, WI
August 27, 2019

Charles S. Dinges *
14th Avn Bn 178th AHC
Warren, OH
August 22, 2019

Stan Disorda *
2/1st Inf
Essex Junction, VT
April 2018

Dennis Esterline *
E/4/3rd Inf
Villas, NJ
August 22, 2019

William Hewins *
11th LIB
East Falmouth, MA
September 30, 2018

Kenneth Kokemueller
17th Cav F Trp
Milwaukee, WI
September 11, 2019

Vernon McFarland
A/5/46th Inf
Media, PA
August 17, 2019

Doug Rebman *
D/4/21st Inf
Stella, NC
August 8, 2019

Henry Smith
17th Cav F Trp
Milwaukee, WI
January 6, 2016

Clyde Tate
HHC/1/46 Inf.
Hagerstown, MD
August 28, 2019

Associate Members

Phyllis H. LeFever
Lancaster, PA
Date Unknown

* ADVA Member

ADVA MEMBERSHIP 31 October 2019

World War II	267
Vietnam	2,516
Cold War	6
Associate Members	182
Total Members	2,971

Americal Legacy Foundation Report

By Roger Gilmore, Chairman, Board of Directors

Foundation Web Site

The Foundation web site, www.americalfoundation.org, is a great source for information on Americal Division action and key battle dates. From the web site Americal History link you will find a drop down box lists the three eras of activation. From there, information specific to each era of Americal Division activation can be obtained. The information available for WWII and the Cold War era is more general and high level.

For the Vietnam Era, several detailed sources can be viewed. Issues of the Americal magazine began a quarterly publication in May 1968 in Vietnam. An index of publications available can be viewed by clicking the blue text box. The Division news sheet titled Southern Cross was distributed in country also commencing in May 1968. This was generally an eight page distribution covering stories of interest focusing on unit actions from previous weeks. Division Tactical Operations Center logs recorded the minute-by-minute activities of the units in the division. Photocopies of DTOC logs were obtained by ADVA Vietnam Historian Les Hines and other historical researchers. ADVA members Bruce Flaherty, Larry Swank, Conrad Geibel and John Boyer spearheaded the effort to collect and transcribe these reports to facilitate searches. The DTOC logs have quite a bit of detail and knowing specific dates for your search helps reduce time expended.

A PayPal tool is available on the website for making a foundation donation. You have the option of using PayPal or your personal debit or credit card to make the donation. Use the Donate link and click on the yellow oval image (with the word Donate) at the top left of the screen to get into the donation process.

Americal Legacy Calendar – 2020 Edition

The 2020 edition of the Foundation calendar is included with this Journal issue mailing. The calendar is our primary source of funding for the Foundation's monument construction program. This edition is one of the best we have produced. The design is unique in terms of how layout coordinator David Taylor represents the eras of Americal Division history within each month's art image. I think all will agree this issue is truly unique. Many of you have steadfastly supported the Foundation's various monument and grant programs in past years, and we are confident that we will see that same financial support from ADVA member donations from this calendar.

Some may question why the Americal Legacy Foundation continues a program of monument placement. The answer is this monument program is our legacy and our way of educating future generations about the service and sacrifice of the thousands of Americal Division soldiers who answered the call to duty to protect our freedoms. There is no more Americal Division to continue the heritage; once we are all gone these permanent monuments are our legacy. Without the support from donors over the past years, this monument program honoring the legacy of the Americal Division in its three eras of activation would not be possible.

David is stepping down from his role as layout coordinator for the Americal Legacy Calendar. The 2020 calendar is his last. We truly appreciate his work on the calendar and will miss his fine work. The Foundation directors would like to continue the calendar issue. We need an individual to pick up the calendar pre-layout process David has done over the past years. We expect to have the fine services of Lisa Anderson available for the final layout as she has done for past issues if we find someone to do the initial layout work. If you would like to take on this responsibility, please contact I and I will put you in contact with David for more details on the requirements.

Americal Monument Programs – National VA Cemeteries

In the last issue of the Americal Journal I wrote a brief summary of the policy the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has in place for review and approval of donations to VA cemeteries throughout the nation. The NCA issued an update to the handbook in January 2019. I've looked through the revisions to the policy (actually two different handbooks) to be sure we are in compliance with all requirements for the donor party. There are a couple of new requirements for Standardized Memorial Monuments (SMM) and we are working with the cemeteries we selected for placement to get these requirements satisfied. We are aware that the chain of approval moves slowly through the VA Cemetery system. VA Cemetery staffs have many responsibilities and reviewing monument placement proposals is likely far down the list of priorities. We continue to work with our POCs at these locations to be sure the documentation is complete and is being moved up the approval chain. Following is a recap of VA cemetery sites selected and where we stand with our placement proposals.

Massachusetts National Cemetery (Bourne, MA)

Earlier this year, Foundation Director Gary Noller contacted this national VA Cemetery with a proposal to place one of our Americal Division monuments at this site. This cemetery is near the 26th Division headquarters, to which the 182nd Infantry Regiment was assigned before being re-assigned to TF 6814 and eventually the Americal Division during WWII. Some Americal Division veterans who served with the 182nd Infantry Regiment and support units are buried here. The cemetery director here advised there is already an Americal Division monument in place at their monument walk within cemetery grounds. Gary and I made a side trip to the cemetery following the Providence reunion in October to view the monument and decide if our current monument design would be a better fit in the cemetery. After viewing the Americal Monument presentation there, we decided the monument in place is very fitting and an appropriate tribute the Americal Division's service to this country. Our decision is to not pursue replacing the existing monument with a newer version. The following picture is the Americal Division monument setting at Massachusetts National Cemetery.



Long Island National Cemetery - (Farmingdale, NY)

I received a voice mail report from the new director at this location in late September. She advised her staff is working with our proposal package to ensure we have all necessary documentation before she signs off and sends it on to the district director. My conversation in mid October with a staff member at the cemetery confirms a site is selected for our monument and our package is under review for completeness before the cemetery director signs off and sends it to the district director.

Camp Butler National Cemetery - (Springfield, IL)

We put together the additional documentation required under the new NCA policy (conceptual landscape design, contractor plan and certification of liability insurance) and emailed it to the director in late September. A response from the director advised the additional documents were received and under review by the cemetery assistant director. After reviewing our supplemental documentation, the assistant director advised we need to amend one document. At the time this article was written, we are awaiting a revised document form from the cemetery so it can be completed and returned for inclusion in the proposal package.

Rock Island Arsenal National Cemetery (Rock Island, IL)

At the time this article was written, we are awaiting a response from the district director regarding the placement package review and decision.

Washington Crossing National Cemetery (Newtown, PA)

In September, the cemetery director sent the NCA handbook update issued in January 2019 as a source document for the proposal package. We expect to get the placement proposal package for this location put together and submitted by year end 2019.

Americal Monument/Memorial Programs – Other Locations

Museum of the U.S. Army – Unit Tribute Plaque

Some slight changes were submitted to the Museum Marketing staff in August. The last communications Director

Gary Noller had from the Museum staff POC is the changes would be drafted once the vendor reviewed the renderings and confirm the changes can be done. We await word on drafting the changes.

Fort Polk, LA

Due to a lack of response from the POC (Deputy Director of Mission Training) at Fort Polk, I advised the staff there we are withdrawing our placement proposal due to a perceived lack of interest for the proposal. In mid-September, I received a response stating the post still has an interest in our monument proposal. I was given the name for a new POC for the proposal. The complete placement proposal package went to the new POC the end of September. I received assurances via email the package will be reviewed and presented to the post Memorialization Committee for review and a decision on placement. At the time this article was written, I had no response from the POC regarding any review of our proposal package.

Fort Rucker, AL

Columbus Monument Company in Columbus, Georgia completed the initial design for the monument in late September. A couple of minor revisions were submitted to Columbus Monument following our review of the proof. A revised proof came to me in mid October. The next step is preparation of the Request for Memorialization letter and accompanying documentation for the Foundation's mission. We expect the package to be submitted to the Fort Rucker Memorialization Board POC by the time this publication goes to press.

Other Foundation Projects

The Vietnam Center and Archive

In the last issue of the Americal Journal, I reported on the progress the Archive staff at Texas Tech University made digitizing the Americal Division records provided by ADVA Vietnam Historian Les Hines. Texas Tech's Archive Center reported they indexed over 4,000 items last year under the non endowed gift agreement entered into between the Foundation and the Archive Center. Les feels most all the records provided to the Archive staff has been archived. Les is now looking for volunteers to access the ADVA portal page at the Texas Tech Archive Center to confirm the records can be accessed and are complete. If you would like to participate in such a project, please contact Les at americalhistory@gmail.com. In the coming months, we will be in contact with Dr. Steve Maxner at the VN Archive Center to determine our status with the Americal project and what additional work needs to be done.

A brief video tutorial (five minutes) is now available on YouTube to assist members accessing the website to search records. The YouTube link to the tutorial is https://youtu.be/Sdv_3L2zvq4. I highly recommend viewing this tutorial before you attempt to access Americal Records via the portal. The tutorial is also available on the ADVA portal page. The new Americal portal address is <https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/portals/americal.php>.

The Texas Tech VN Archive staff is happy to assist ADVA members with searching and using the Virtual Archive at any time. The staff can be reached via phone [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED].



Dear editor,

I recently received the only 2/1st Inf. Bn. newsletter that I have been able to locate in over 30 years effort. It is named The Legionnaire and is dated 15 January 1970. CPT Roger Sherrard, LTC Nerone, 1SG William Gibson, Elwood Tipton, and Shirley Tipton, SSG Charles Holdaway and CPT Dwight Sypolt and several others are named in this issue. The newsletter features a Christmas story about 2/1 soldiers

playing Santa at the Thien An orphanage at Tam Ky. Since this was volume 9....that means there are at least eight other issues that existed. I would like to locate them.

Les Hines; ADVA Vietnam Historian

Dear editor,

I just read your column in the newsletter. Wow! It doesn't seem like 25 years have passed since we created the americal.org website. Also, I think I need to write down some things about my service so that the next generations of my family have something more than my retirement flag and medals.

**Tony Greene
Bowie, MD**

Dear editor,

There is a full size Vietnam Wall permanently installed at Perryville, Missouri. Nine members of the 1968-69 5/46 Echo Recon met there Friday June 28, 2019. It is an exact replica of The Wall in Washington, D.C. It is located at 1172 Veterans Memorial Parkway in Perryville. This is relatively close to Interstate 55 about an hour south of St. Louis. It's out in the middle of corn growing country. It is very well done and there are very professional facilities there as well. This is great for those who cannot or choose not to go Washington, DC.

John Forshag; Recon, 5/46 Inf., 1969

Dear editor,

It is with a heavy heart that I pass along the news that Dad, Colonel Clyde Tate, died shortly after midnight on August 28. He was still in the nursing home and had been without Mom for 19 days. Sadie Tate passed away on August 9. He just couldn't wait any longer to reunite with her. His passing was peaceful and quiet. His kidneys and heart began to shut down and he simply was ready. He will be buried with full honors in Arlington at a later date. I will keep you informed.

Please inform the troops. Thanks.

Butch Tate

[LTC Clyde Tate commanded 1/46th Infantry immediately after the attack on FSB Mary Ann on March 28, 1971. Thanks to Joe Wolfe, 1/46 veteran, for passing this news to me. I served under LTC Tate for about a month before I came home.]

Dear editor,

We wanted to personally thank the Americal Legacy Foundation for recent scholarship awards to my granddaughter, Rachael Paige Cruikshank. Your support and faith in Paige as a student has truly helped this young Lady achieve her dream.

Paige graduated on Sunday, May 11, 2019, with honors, receiving her AAS in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. She interviewed for a position on Tuesday of that week. Received a call on Wednesday of the same week offering her a full time position with all benefits. She began her working career at Thomas Memorial Hospital on June 3, 2019.

Thank you again Americal Legacy Foundation for investing in our nations future.

Hobert Salisbury; C Co 1/6th, 198th LIB

Dear editor,

I had the privilege to photograph the D-DAY ceremony on June 6 at the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. While there I met another Americal veteran-Dennis Ferk. Dennis is a WWII Army veteran who served with the Americal Division at Guadalcanal. He is in his 90s and a neat guy to talk with. He was one of the 25 WWII vets that were honored at the ceremony.

Bill Shugarts



Bait

The Battle Of Kham Duc Special Forces Camp

By James D. McLeroy and Gregory W. Sanders

Review by Gary L. Noller

Kham Duc is a small village due west of Tam Ky and a few miles inside the Vietnamese border with Laos. It lies at the intersection of highways QL 14E and AH 17. AH 17 is now called the Ho Chi Minh Road and was once part of the supply route from North Vietnam to South Vietnam.

During the Vietnam War the United States Army established a Special Forces camp at Kham Duc. As the book states, "The Kham Duc SF camp had only two functions: basic training for indigenous militia recruits and occasional launches of top-secret reconnaissance-commando teams into Laos. Kham Duc had a benefit of a landing strip capable of handling C-130 aircraft. But it also had a major disadvantage in poor weather much of the time.

The North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong suffered a major defeat in the January-February 1968 Tet Offensive. They retreated to their camps along the border with Laos and planned their next move. It was an all out attack on Kham Duc by the 2nd NVA Division and scheduled for the middle of May 1968. They wanted another siege comparable to the 1969 battles at Khe Sanh and the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu..

Once U.S. Military leaders determined the enemy's move a decision was made to reinforce Kham Duc. The Americal Division was the responsible element and quickly sent troops of the 1/46 Infantry and 2/1 Infantry. The enemy attack soon followed with heavy bombardment and ground attacks.

Shortly after the battle began the U.S. decided not to hold the base and ordered an immediate evacuation by air. The action resulted in twelve aircraft shot down including one with the loss of 183 civilians. USAF pilot Joe M. Jackson was awarded the Medal of Honor for rescuing three air traffic controllers who were misplaced on the runway at the end of the fight. It is also notable that Patrick Brady, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, also participated in the evacuation of Kham Duc.

It is estimated that 2,000 enemy soldiers were killed by massive air attacks. The U.S. Army lost one killed and 71 wounded. But the initial tally also included the largest number of missing in action of the Vietnam War. A count of 31 was eventually decreased by the return of three personnel and the determination of some to have been killed. One was taken prisoner and kept until March 1973. A related battle at nearby Ngok Tavak resulted in heavy casualties to a U.S. Marine artillery unit.

The authors contend that the base at Kham Duc was intended to draw a large force of enemy soldiers that could be dispatched by use of overpowering air bombardment. That is the reason for the title of their book. Some may disagree with the authors as controversy does not seem to be hard to find in the analysis of the Vietnam War.



Soldiering After The Vietnam War

Changed Soldiers In A Changed Country

By Glyn Haynie

Review by Gary L. Noller

Glyn Haynie enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 28, 1968 and left for Vietnam on March 10, 1969. He served as an infantryman with Company A, 3/1st Infantry, 11th Light Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division. He returned home on March 7, 1970 at the age of 19.

Haynie begins his book with a stark fact. He says, "During my one-year tour, I experienced many hardships, including the death of 13 platoon brothers and the wounding of 12, three of the 12 wounded more than once." He goes on to say, "The first time I repeated the names of the 13 killed was early morning of August 16, 1969. A squad member woke me because I was reciting the names out loud in my sleep, and he feared it might attract the enemy." He remembers the 13 to this day and their names are listed in the prologue of his book.

Many of us returned from Vietnam and left the Army. But Haynie decided to stay in the service and completed a 20 year career. He ended his service as an instructor at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

The Army was in turmoil at the end of the Vietnam War and many necessary changes were initiated. Haynie saw the move to an all volunteer force and the inclusion of women into a wider variety of military occupations. It was also a time of changing attitudes of Americans for the military and veterans. Vietnam veterans returned home to a country that did not appear to care for them. Some Americans were angry because the Army could not lose fast enough and other Americans were angry because the Army could not win fast enough. Haynie describes how wrong the protesters were to blame the returning veterans for their dislike of the Vietnam War.

The assignments that Haynie received included stints at Ft. Benning, Georgia; Heilbronn, Germany; and Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. In Germany his duty was to guard Pershing missiles. This was quite a change from his combat role in Vietnam. Once back in the United States he served as a drill sergeant and as a recruiter.

The descriptions in this book are of special interest to me. I separated from the Army when I returned home from Vietnam. My total active duty was for 19 months and one day. But a month after I returned home my 18 year-old brother, Greg, joined the Army. I often refer to him as my replacement. I wonder if my brother and Glyn ever met. My brother was in Germany at the same time as Glyn and also attended the Sergeants Major Academy.

The book closes with a chapter titled The Fallen. The author pays tribute to the heroes of the first platoon. Haynie states, "These 13 members of the First Platoon died protecting their brothers and their country. They are true heroes, and those of us in First Platoon who survived came home because of their sacrifice."



Images From My Lens

The Americal Photos of
Herbert Brady



(Contributing Editor's Note)
This is the final edition of our 2019 series of photo images by Americal combat photographer Herbert Brady. Brady served with the Americal in Vietnam from August 1969 until September 1970. When offered the opportunity to become a combat photographer he jumped at the assignment although, being with the infantry in contact with the enemy, had its moments.

We are grateful for his service and sharing his images with the Americal veterans of the ADVA. This last issue is devoted to various additional images that will bring back memories that will never be erased from our minds.



SCENES FROM A WAR LONG AGO



1st/1st Armored Cav soldier watches the "back door" on his track.



ACAV track gets to where it needs to be despite a bumpy ride.



This CH-47 hovers in the air over ACAV's for the troopers to unhook fuel blivets to refuel and continue their mission.



1st/46th Infantry troops deal with "collateral damage". Soldier pointing is a medic with the 1st/1st Armored Cav directing care for civilians caught in the middle of a firefight.

SCENES FROM A WAR LONG AGO



105mm battery in support of an infantry company in contact; they are members of the 3rd/82nd Artillery stationed on Hawk Hill.



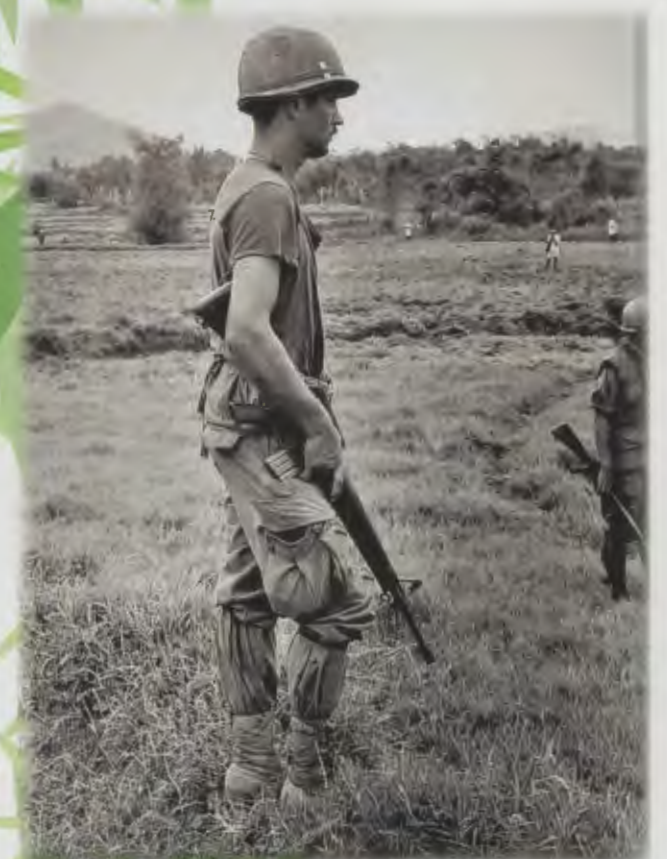
The Huey helicopter was the "workhorse" of Vietnam.



The demise of the MEDEVAC helicopter, "Mother Goose".



It was this setting that the soldier got to experience the age old military standard...hurry up and wait.



1st/46th soldier watches Vietnamese children during rice harvest (and they are watching him).



Group gathers for Saturday banquet



National Anthem at banquet



Vern Pike, Janice Gelnett, Jan DeGroot



Veterans of Co. D, 5/46 Infantry



23 MP Co. veterans



WWII veteran George Watson presented gifts



Larry Swank displays print for raffle



Reunion chair Larry Swank pulls winning ticket



Commander Reggie Horton



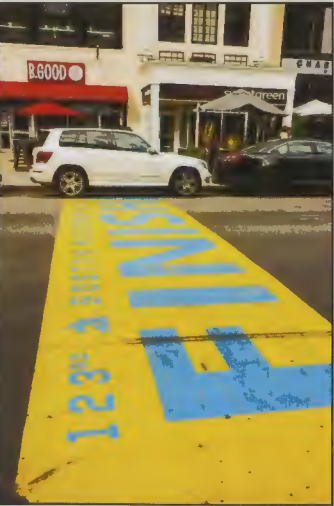
Friends gather for portrait



New reflects old -
downtown Boston



Fenway Park statue -
Boston



Marathon finish line -
Boston



Boarding USS Constitution - Boston



Guide describes attractions - Boston



Beginning mansion tour - Newport



Ornate mansion dining room -
Newport



Greeter at USS Constitution - Boston



Harbor scene - Boston



Mansion kitchen - Newport



Jay Leno with fans - Newport



Opening prayer at banquet



POW/MIA table at banquet



Colonel Pike begins
memorial service



WWII veteran
George Watson recognized



Boarding bus at hotel - Warwick



Harbor scene - New England coast



Vets at shore - Newport



Whaling Museum auditorium -
New Bedford



Whaling Museum atrium -
New Bedford



Historic Ft. Adams - Newport

Reunion photos courtesy of PNC Dutch DeGroot

Reunion News

By Gary L. Noller

Approximately 400 ADVA members and guests had a great time at the 2019 annual reunion held in Warwick, Rhode Island. The weather was variable but did not curtail any of the activities. Arrival on Wednesday saw a stuffy 80 degree day with much humidity. The Friday tour to Boston was much different with temperatures in the 50s and a gusty wind.

Photos of the reunion are featured on the previous pages. They were taken by PNC Dutch DeGroot and represent only a fraction of the frames that he shot.

One World War II veteran, George Watson, attended the reunion. He was in the company of his daughter and made the trip from his home in Wilmington, Delaware. George served with Co. M, 132nd Infantry Regiment. I had the opportunity to chat with him on Friday evening as he entered a local restaurant for a meal. He is a hardy soul and very congenial. The restaurant was crowded and we were squeezed into a small foyer waiting on a table to open. When I asked George if he would like to find a seat inside he simply replied, "No, I am doing just fine here." Needless to say his presence was a hit at the reunion.

Long time reunion attendees had a bittersweet reunion with Janice Gelnett of nearby Cape Cod. Janice is the widow of SGT Larry Gelnett. Larry served in the 23rd M.P. Company in Vietnam. He and Janice faithfully attended ADVA national reunions throughout the 1990s. Larry's last reunion was in San Antonio in 2000. He was as affable as ever. Unfortunately he developed

lung cancer and passed away in September 2001. May he rest in Peace. A special presentation was made to Wayne and Gena Bryant to show appreciation for their many years of hard work to operate the ADVA PX. Wayne and Gena recently announced that they intend to further their retirement plans effective the end of this year. They have actively pursued the PX operation for nearly 20 years and provided a vast array of Americal items to ADVA members. Before they took over the PX the annual sales amounted to a few hundred dollars. They pushed this up by greatly expanding the number and variety of items carried in the PX. In recent years PX sales have amounted to several thousand dollars and have contributed to the financial health of the association.

The Friday tour took us to nearby Newport, Rhode Island. Newport is an old seaport and the summer home of many of the uber rich of olden days. The tour included a stop at a mansion called The Breakers. Cyrus Vanderbilt constructed the 125,000 square foot mammoth in 1893 to 1895. The abode has five floors and 70 rooms and is now owned by the Preservation Society of Newport County. Jay Leno has a massive home a short distance away and was a surprise visitor to The Breakers while the ADVA tour was present. He was happy to visit with tourists and allowed many to snap photos with him.

Newport was spared destruction by the British during the Revolutionary War and has many shops and residences that are nearly 300 years old. This property is now highly valued and well kept and is somewhat similar to other coastal port cities such as Annapolis, Maryland.

The Friday tour included a stop in Boston Harbor to visit the USS Constitution, also known as Old Ironsides. This vessel is the oldest commissioned ship in the US Navy and is kept in operating order at all times. It is incredible to note that the USS Constitution once sailed into the harbor at Tourane in present day Vietnam. Tourane is the name the French gave to the port city of Da Nang. The Americans landed in an attempt to rescue a French missionary held in a local jail.

Saturday morning business meeting of the Executive Council and General Membership were well attended. A short meeting was also held by the directors of the Americal Legacy Foundation. Several chapter groups also had formal meetings while at the reunion.

The Saturday afternoon tour took visitors to The Whaling Museum in New Bedford, MA. A full-size skeleton of a huge whale suspended from the ceiling of the museum attracted much attention. A narrated program in the museum's auditorium provided a good education about the whaling industry of the New England area.

PNC Larry Swank did a great job in making all the arrangements for the 2019 reunion. The hotel had plenty of space and was generous in using its shuttle to get reunion guests back and forth to the airport, restaurants, and other nearby attractions.

The 2020 reunion will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 19 to 23. The host hotel is the Wyndham Indianapolis West and is a very short distance from the Indianapolis airport and also close to interstate highways. Chuck Holdaway is chairman and will coordinate activities through Armed Forces Reunions. Details of the reunion will be in the first quarter 2020 Americal Journal magazine and on the americal.org website.

Larry Swank has made a preliminary search for the location of the 2021 reunion. He is looking at the Southeast and has interest in the area from Savannah, Georgia to Pensacola, Florida. Weather is always a factor when planning a summer event close to the coast and this will be a prime consideration in reunion planning.

David Eichhorn has stepped up to handle planning for the 2022 reunion. Dave would like to hold the reunion in the Washington, D.C. area. The Army Museum outside Ft. Belvoir, Virginia is expected to be open by that time. It will also be the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A potential host hotel in the Crystal City area near the Pentagon is under consideration.



Phone [REDACTED]
ADVA PX Order Form

Item #	Description	Price	Size	Qty	Total
2301	ADVA Logo Patch - (Small) 2 1/2"	\$5.00			
2302	ADVA Logo Patch (Large) 4"	\$5.00			
2303	ADVA Life Patch (Small)	\$5.00			
2304	Americal Shoulder Patch (Blue)	\$5.00			
2305	Americal Shoulder Patch (Subdued)	\$5.00			
2306	ADVA Outside Window Sticker - 3 1/2"	\$5.00			
2307	Americal Bumper Sticker - 11 1/2" x 3"	\$5.00			
2308	ADVA License Plate	\$8.00			
2309	Americal Shield Pin (Large)	\$5.00			
2310	Americal Crest Pin	\$5.00			
2311	Americal Ornament	\$8.00			
2312	ADVA Decal Inside Window - 3" x 3 1/2"	\$3.00			
2313	Americal Lapel (Small)	\$5.00			
2314	CIB Mini	\$5.00			
2315	ADVA playing cards	\$8.00			
2316	182nd Regiment Unit Pin	\$5.00			
2317	11th Brigade Unit Pin	\$5.00			
2318	196th Brigade Unit Pin	\$5.00			
2319	198th Brigade Unit Pin	\$5.00			
2320	Baseball Cap - Khaki w/ADVA Logo	\$14.00			
2322	T-Shirt, ADVA Gray (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$18.00			
2323	Americal Trailer Hitch Cover	\$10.00			
2324	Americal white License Plate Holder	\$5.00			
2325	Americal Koozie	\$4.00			
2327	Americal Division History - DVD	\$15.00			
2330	Baseball Cap - White, Black, or Blue w/Americal Patch	\$14.00			
2331	Americal Coffee Mug, Blue - Acrylic	\$12.00			
2332	Americal Grey Sweatshirt (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$35.00			
2333	ADVA Challenge Coin	\$10.00			
2334	Americal Division polo shirt, Black (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$28.00			
2335	Americal Flag w/grommets	\$46.00			
2336	T-Shirt Americal Brigades (Med, Lg, XL, XXL)	\$18.00			
2337	Americal Nylon Wallet	\$8.00			
2338	Americal Tie	\$23.00			
2339	Americal Beer Stein	\$45.00			
2340	ADVA Ballpoint Pen, Blue	\$7.00			
3512	Americal Division Vietnam Veteran-decal, round, multicolor	\$5.00			
3513	Americal Div Vietnam Proudly Served-decal, oval, blue & white	\$6.00			
3515	Americal Jungle Fighter T-Shirt	\$18.00			
				Total:	

Ship To Name: _____
Address: _____
City, St, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Mail Order Form To:
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[REDACTED]
Greensboro, NC 27405
Phone [REDACTED]



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DEDICATION



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

Eligibility for Membership

Membership in the ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted personnel who have served with the 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division in an assigned or attached status during the following periods of service:

World War II	1942-1945
Panama	1954-1956
Vietnam War	1967-1973

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



Application For Membership /Change of Address Americal Division Veterans Association

Send applications and dues to:
PNC Ron Ellis, Asst. Fin. Officer
[Redacted]
Henderson, Texas 75652

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Americal Unit: _____ Dates of Service: _____

Name of Spouse: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsored By: _____ DD214 (Optional): _____

Change of address notification should be sent to Mr. Roger Gilmore, [Redacted]
Richardson, TX, 75080 [Redacted]
If changes are seasonal please provide dates.

Please enclose dues: 1 year \$15
(WWII Vets pay \$12/year)
Life Dues: 75 years & over = \$50
Under 75 years of age = \$125