



12-1989

## 164th Infantry News: December 1989

164th Infantry Association

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# The 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY News

Vol. 28 No. 4

1989 is our 43rd ass'n yr

December 1989

## Happy Holidays



### Notes From The Editor:

As 1989 is nearly over, we can report that 429 members and wives were able to attend and enjoy the 1989 Reunion. All comments received indicate a very successful reunion.

We thank Don Miller from the North Dakota National Guard PID group for the informal pictures taken during the reunion and published in this issue of the "News."

Winners of the \$164.00 prizes are: Walt Ensminger, Fred Whisenand and Jim Eastgate.

In response to many requests, we are having additional copies printed of the booklet "An Account of the 164th Infantry Regiment on Guadalcanal from October 7, 1942 through February 23, 1943" written by Lt. Col. Samuel Baglien. We had these booklets available at the Reunion registration desk. They were sold out within a few minutes after they become available. To secure a copy of this booklet send \$6.00 to the Association address. This will cover the cost of printing and mailing.

Your editor is publishing group pictures of A and K Companies taken at the reunion. Also a list of the names of those who signed the company roster. Additional or all of the rest of the company pictures and names will be in subsequent issues of the "News."

Snowbirds who have a change of address for the winter months, please furnish us the change of address twice a year so that we can mail the "News" and reunion information to the correct address.

Any surviving spouses of deceased members of the Association who desire to continue receiving the "News" and reunion information, please let us know so that your name can be kept on the mailing list.



Color Guard furnished by the 191st MP Company, North Dakota National Guard.

## Reunion 1989 — Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the 164th Infantry Association of the United States was called to order by President Patton at 10:00 CDT 7 Oct. 1989 at the Kirkwood Motor Inn, Bismarck, ND.

Association Officers present:

Ray Patton - President  
Harold Krause - Vice President  
Frank Weisgerber - Secretary/  
Treasurer  
William Tillotson - Editor

Colors were posted by the 191st MP Co., NDARNG prior to the business meeting. Pledge of allegiance was led by President Patton. Greetings and a welcome were extended to all members by President Patton.

The minutes of the 1988 business meeting were published in the December 1988 issue of the 164th News and were accepted as published by voice vote upon the recommendation of President Patton.

The following committees were appointed by the President:

Time and Place:  
Bernie Wagner - Chairman  
Gil Shirley  
Clayton Kingston

Auditing:  
Wally Johnson - Chairman  
Stan Pfau  
Harold Krause

Nominations:  
Bernie Wagner - Chairman  
Gil Shirley  
Clayton Kingston

President Patton declared a 15 minute recess to allow the committees to complete

their reports. Meeting reconvened at 10:15.

### Committee Reports:

Time and Place: Report by Chairman Wagner that Bismarck will host the 1990 Reunion and Fargo will host the 1991 Reunion.

Auditing: Wally Johnson, Chairman reported that all financial records are in order and proper procedures are being followed. A financial report for the year was submitted. Motion to accept the report as submitted was made by Stan Pfau and seconded by Wally Johnson. Motion carried.

Nominations: Chairman Wagner reported the following nominations:

President - Harold Krause  
Vice President - Ed Murphy  
Secretary/Treasurer - Frank  
Weisgerber  
Editor - Bill Tillotson

Motion by Max Forster to accept the nominations and seconded by Ray Conlon. Motion carried.

The Secretary/Treasurer submitted the following financial report:

End of FY 88 checking account balance was \$8133.60. Income for FY 89 was \$16,107.99 for a total of \$24,241.59. Expenses for FY 89 were \$5559.19 leaving a balance of \$18,682.40 in the checking account. Total amount of CDs on deposit was \$44,218.11 for a net worth of \$62,900.59. It is projected the 1989 Reunion will have a deficit of approximately \$8,000.00 and that amount will be paid from the Assoc. Hq. checking account. Motion by Will Badow to accept the report and seconded by Don Eichelberger.

Motion carried.

President Patton called for any old business, there being none, he opened the floor for new business.

Under new business, President Patton gave a report on the book, "The 164th Infantry on Guadalcanal" written by LTC Baglien. This book was reproduced by the Association and made available to the members. 500 copies were available and sold for \$5 a book. All copies were sold in an hour.

The next business item was the subject of the Guadalcanal - Solomon Island War Memorial Foundation. A brochure was received asking for donations, which if Association members desired, should be forwarded to the Treasurer, Harwood Heights, Ill. 60659.

The last business item, presented by President Patton, was a letter from Brig. Gen. (Ret) Fred Flo, requesting input and any interest by the Assoc. members of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Soloman Islands Campaign with a trip to those Islands in 1991 or 1992. Members interested were instructed to correspond directly with Gen. Flo and forward an info copy to the Association Secretary.

An expression of thanks and appreciation was extended to all the officers and committee members for a very successful reunion.

There being no further business, President Patton called for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Wally Starkenberg, seconded by Ervin Ventsch, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 Sat. 7 Oct. 1989.



Downtown high spot. "Grand Pacific Hotel" 1943.

### The 164th Infantry News

USPS 699-800 is published quarterly  
by the 164th Infantry Association  
OFFICE: 618 West Thayer  
Bismarck, N.D. 58501

**BILL TILLOTSON**

Editor

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to the  
164th Inf. News, Box 1111,  
Bismarck, N.D. 58502.



Bernie Wagner reporting nominations for officers for 1989-1990.



Association Officers, left to right: Don Robinson, Bill Tillotson, Ray Patton, Harold Krause and Frank Weisgerber.



Mayor Marlan "Hawk" Haakenson greets the members on behalf of the City of Bismarck.

## Secretary Frank Weisgerber Reports the Following:

### 1989 Reunion Notes

The registration roster for the 1989 Reunion showed 429 members from 28 states in the USA.

On the financial side of the picture, the reunion expense was \$18,600. Receipts totaled \$7,900 from registration fees and the raffle tickets. The deficit of \$10,700 was paid by the Assoc. Hq. from available reserves.

Jim Eastgate, Bismarck, pre WWII, Co. K, 164th Infantry was a winner of the raffle ticket drawing for \$164.00. In appreciation and memory of the 164th Infantry, Jim said give me a life membership and here is a donation of \$50.00 for the ladies luncheon in 1990. Thanks Jim.

### Membership Notes:

As of Dec. 1, 1989, the Association membership stands at 830. Of that number, 150 are life members. Dues for the year 1990 would be appreciated by Jan. 31, 1990 to eliminate some of the cost of notification and postage. Send dues, which are still \$5.00 for annual membership to The Secretary, Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502.

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete		Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>William W. Tillotson</i>	

# Standing on High Ground

Rev. Magnus P. Lutness

Certainly everyone here knows the military importance of holding the high ground. This vantage point provides (1) a good perspective, (2) a strong defense, and (3) a recognizable landmark. The theme I have chosen for this memorial service today is **Standing On High Ground**.

To prepare, I wanted to do my best to understand the mission and accomplishment of the 164th, and I found the book "Citizens as Soldiers" a valuable source.

## I — A GOOD PERSPECTIVE

This is the centennial year for the state of North Dakota and the 50th anniversary of the beginning of WWII. It has been, and is, a year when we have looked back in time to better appreciate how people lived and to note the events which shaped the days of their years. We usually do not reflect much on the past in the midst of our busy lives and it is good for us to take the time to single out the important things and experiences which nurture a sense of gratitude and respect for achievements of others.

The roots of the 164th are deep roots originating with the Dakota Territorial Guard and, in 1889, the North Dakota National Guard. At first, the Guard had one Regiment; later, two. In 1898 the Guard was involved in the War with Spain (Philippine Insurrection). Then, in 1916, service on the Mexican border. Then, back home for only 40 days and both the First and Second regiments were *federalized*. It was in this call-up that the 164th received its name (164th Reg., 41st Infantry Div.). Unit integrity was not honored in WWI and both regiments were broken up.

In WWII, the 164th became a part of the Americal Division. The 164th (along with some other units of the North Dakota National Guard and the North Dakota Air National Guard) has been involved in the Korean conflict, the Berlin crisis, and the Honduras training. Many Vietnam veterans are currently members of the Guard. The roots of the 164th are deep roots and the tradition of service continues.

## II - A STRONG DEFENSE

It is on the 164th during WWII that I wish to focus my remarks, beginning with

the days of "Goodbye Dear, I'll Be Back in a Year." The days at Camp Claiborne are not recalled with the fondest of memories. After about nine months, December 7th shattered the "back in a year" phrase. It was off to San Francisco, Fort Ord, and from there, via Australia, to New Caledonia. It was here that the famed Americal Division was formed — the only unnumbered Army Division and the only Army Division formed overseas. The 164th was soon detached from the 41st and sent to Guadalcanal and placed under command of the First Marine Division.

It is well to recall those days. America was so unprepared and so crippled by the attack at Pearl Harbor that the entire country was in a state of shock and confusion. Guadalcanal was the first place the American forces went on the offensive. After about six weeks, the First Marines and the Japanese were at a stalemate. Henderson Field was in danger of being taken by the Japanese. It was an extremely critical time! The crack troops of the victory-intoxicated Japanese anticipated that the Americans would fold under pressure. The 164th was soon involved and the struggle was monumental. The Marines called the island "Green Hell;" the Japanese called it "The Island of Death." For a worried U.S., reeling from the attack at Pearl, the victory at Guadalcanal was a stimulous to the country and an initiative to preparation. The courage and valor shown at Guadalcanal brought both a needed and costly victory.

Then, they who had fought well were asked to continue the fight, and the record of the 164th also includes Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, Bohol, Negros, Luzon, and Japan. I doubt that any unit in WWII spent more days in combat than the 164th (nearly 600 days).

## III - RECOGNIZABLE LANDMARKS

As I read the impressive record of the 164th, I realized that this involved some high school classmates, some men who belonged to two parishes I have served, and many friends in the North Dakota National Guard. I marveled how these folks from the upper mid-West, with the plains, limited forests, and cold winters could so rapidly adjust to heat, steaming jungles, bugs, fever, and severe combat and earn the reputation as "Jungle Fighters."

The 164th was well acquainted with the qualities of life that are demanded in times of great crises — the strength to deal with loneliness and long separations, the adjustment required to cope with disappointment, the discipline to deal with danger, the tenacity to face sickness and boredom, the capacity to trust one another when under fire, and, somehow, in the midst of it all, to hang onto faith in God.

They were there at a very critical period of history. The record of the highly decorated regiment shows they measured up to the missions.

It is indeed proper that we should take the time to remember, with love and re-

### *Last Roll Call*

Max D. Conyers, Lexington, KY .....	Oct. 13, 1989
Clarence J. Nelson, Fargo, ND .....	Sept. 19, 1989
Herbert Biss, Puyallup, WA .....	Oct. 20, 1989
Henry Gogun, Gainsville, FL .....	Sept. 9, 1989
John Berger, Dickinson, ND .....	Nov. 1988
Bill Kostelecky, Dickinson, ND .....	March 1989
Selmer Borsheim, Williston, ND .....	Oct. 31, 1989
Paul Holgerson, Williston, ND .....	Nov. 5, 1989
Milton McNea, Bottineau, ND .....	June 20, 1989



**Tom Jundt singing the National Anthem for the Memorial Service.**



**The Reverend Magnus Lutness giving the invocation for the Memorial Service.**

spect, those members of the 164th who died, either in combat or in the succeeding years. To do this, let me share with you an article that moved me deeply. It is called *TAPS*.

**COMRADES OF THE 164TH, WE SALUTE YOU!**

### **TAPS**

One of the best known and most loved of all bugle calls is the one named *Taps*. It is also one of the most often heard calls, and it is almost universally recognized throughout America. On many public occasions *Taps* is sounded — over the tomb of the unknown at Arlington, over the battleship "Arizona" at Pearl Harbor, at every one of our national cemeteries, at memorial services for veterans, and at events of many veterans' organizations.

Like many bugle calls, *Taps* is more than a hundred years old. The man who composed it was not a musician, although he had a keen ear for music. Rather, he was a successful lawyer from New York, who commanded the 12th New York Volunteer Infantry at the start of the Civil War, Daniel Butterfield, who, for actions at the Battle of Gaines Mill, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and was later promoted to Major General.

One sultry night in July of 1862, after a long, hard march, General Butterfield was standing with some companions when the final call of the day was sounded. At this time it was a tune inherited from the British, entitled "Extinguish Lights." Turning to a fellow officer, General Butterfield said, "I have never liked that call. It's not the way to end a day."

The next morning the General wrote some musical notes on a piece of paper and

asked the brigade bugler, Private Oliver Norton of the 83rd Pennsylvania Infantry, to sound the call. After some minor corrections, both were pleased with what they had produced, and General Butterfield ordered that this new call be the last call of the day for the brigade.

At that moment, *Taps* was born. Never in the history of unrecorded music, has an unpublished piece spread with such rapidity, lasted so long, or been so loved. Within days other units of the Union Army adopted it, and as the notes drifted over the picket lines, the Confederate Army, too, began ending their day with this call. By the end of the Civil War, *Taps* was well known and used in both armies.

Twenty-five years after the Battle of Gettysburg, a reunion was held on that battleground in the hope that, at long last, the survivors of that conflict might be able to become friends. But, as the veterans walked across the wheat field where so many of their friends had died, and down by Devil's Glen where they had fought with such intense ferocity, the old bitterness welled up in their hearts once again. It seemed as if a reconciliation was a long ways away.

Then, on the second day, a man whose name has been lost, went to Little Round Top, and in a spontaneous moment of inspiration, put a bugle to his lips and sounded *Taps*. As the notes, clear and bright as a star on a winter's night, drifted across the battlefield, the men stopped and listened. It is told that they rose to attention and held a salute until the last echo had died away. That single spontaneous moment proved to be an important factor in helping old soldiers on both sides realize that they were men who had fought with and against one another in

that place for three terrible days in a July when the fate of the United States of America hung in the balance. When the battle was over they had settled that we really were one nation, indivisible. That realization moved them to understand that they no longer had to be Blue or Gray, but could meet together as old comrades.

When soldiers have grown to love the call that ends their day, it is inevitable that this call will become the final call when they are laid to rest. That is what *Taps* is today. It is not a sad call, or a funeral dirge, for it is no more a sad tune than twilight is the sad part of a day. More than anything else, *Taps* is a prayer. The words which have come to be associated with this call are as beautiful as the music — simple and direct, as one might associate with a comrade in arms:

"Day is done. Gone the sun  
From the field, from the hill,  
from the sky.  
All is well. Safely rest.  
God is nigh."

### **AMERICAN LEGION — MICHIGAN**

Comrades: At one of the National Chaplain's Conferences I attended as your Department Chaplain, an account of the origin and meaning of the bugle call *TAPS* was distributed to all chaplains present. The author of the account was not identified, but we were told we could make use of the material in any appropriate way. I have slightly edited that account for our use here in the Department of Michigan.

The Rev. F. Robert Davidson

## Letters . . .

Dear Editor

Keep up the good work. Note my address change. Sorry I didn't make the meeting this year but hope to next year.

Good luck to all.

Veon M. McConnell

10420 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW #302  
Tacoma WA 98499

Sir,

Enclosed is check for \$5.00. Dues for 1989 and newspaper.

I was in Co. B 164 Infantry and I saw service in Fiji, Bougainville, Layte, Bohol, Cebu and Negros. After the war with Japan was over, I spent 6 months in Japan. Sorry I missed the reunion. I'll try next year.

Thank you,

Elmer Eilers

PO Box 28

Union, KY 41091

October 31, 1989

Dear Mr. Tillotson:

Today's news: Japs have purchased Rockefeller Center in New York and many more buildings that they already own in the United States and even in Canada; and our top officials encourage such action — I wonder if these officials would do the same thing if they had been on Guadalcanal fighting the sneaky, treacherous Japs who committed atrocities on the United States Marines and the attached 164th Infantry buddies who turned the tide and beat the Japs off. I know Pence and I never took any prisoners — SO the Japs couldn't win at Guadalcanal; so now they outfox us by buying the United States piece by piece.

Sincerely,

V. R. Powers 37027940

Co. "B" 164th Infantry

147 Sweathouse Creek Road

Victor, Montana 59875

September 7, 1989

Dear Ray and/or Frank,

The enclosed check covers the raffle tickets and dues for another year. Sorry we can't make the reunion this year; it sounds like you should have a real shindig.

Please change my mailing address to:

Raymond R. Porter

3457 Papaya Road

Venice, FL 34293

This will be effective 10/1/89. We head for Florida this time of year to keep the sun shining on these old bones.

Good luck on the reunion.

Sincerely,

Ray Porter



**Gaby B. Pounds**

**Robert Radune**

**Emil Rahn**

**Ernie Tolliver**

**William Berndt**

**Erwin Ventsch**

**Emil Schock**

**Leslie Balerud**

**Bob Well**

**Ted M. Niec**

**Merwine Bokelmann**

**Byron Burdette**

**John Tuff**

**Buriel Watkins**

**Bill Tillotson**

**Magnus Olson**

**E.L. "Huey" Miller**

**John Monzelowsky**

**Willard Swift**

**Ken Schauss**

**Lucas Alex**

**Mel Shirley**

**Butch Gjesvold**

**Ray Patton**

**Tony Sturn**

**Alfred A. Brown**

**Orville Howe**

**Harold Krause**

**Malcom Anderson**

**Wally Johnson**

**H.O. McAdow**

**Dennis Ferk**

**Don Stevens**

**George Christenson**

**Harold Caya**

**Gil Shirley**

**Gene Brinkman**

**Walter Hickey**

**Paul E. Dickerson**

11-9-89

Dear Frank:

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$50.00 to pay for a life membership in the association.

Due to a death in the family I was unable to attend the last reunion.

If you see the editor, have him list the name of Selmer Borsheim for the last roll call. Selmer died Oct. 31, 1989 in Bismarck. He was a member of Co. C 164th Infantry.

Sincerely,

Carl Haukedahl

PO Box 584

Wildrose, ND 58795

Nov. 25, 1989

Dear Bill,

I am sorry to report the death of my friend, Max D. Conyers.

You printed a letter from him in the "News" of Sept. He had planned on attending the reunion, but his wife informed us he didn't feel well the day they were to leave so decided to cancel. He died on Oct. 13.

Mrs. Conyers lives at 524 Wonstead Way, Lexington, KY 40505

Sincerely,

Doug McMahon

Mesa, AZ

September 4, 1989

Dear Friends,

We have perhaps a 50% chance of getting to the reunion this year. Must obtain the okay from my wife's doc. She has completed treatment for a lymphoma and seems to be recovering excellently.

Enclosed is a check for the tickets and next year's dues.

Please change my address from Santa Cruz to Scotts Valley. We have not moved but now have a post office in Scotts Valley, which is nearer to where we live.

In comradeship,

Harry Wiens

401 Lacuesta Dr.

Scotts Valley, CA 95066

P.S. Thanks for all the effort you folks are putting into the reunion. It is much appreciated.

Oct. 4, 1989

Dear Sirs:

Just a note to inform you of the death of Clarence J. Nelson - 164th Infantry Co. B. He died Sept. 19, 1989 of bone cancer. He served his country for four years serving in the South Pacific.

Sincerely,

Marcella Nelson

1133 9 St. N.

Fargo, ND 58102



Herbert J. Mack  
 Harry Dolyniuk  
 Joe Schwartz  
 Tim Sullivan  
 Herbert Klein  
 Ray Summers  
 Tony Beer

Joe Motil  
 George McGuiness  
 Joseph Wadnizak  
 Ray R. Nelson  
 Gordon Holt  
 Earl W. Chase  
 Howard White

Paul Dowhaniuk  
 Knute Fosaaen  
 John E. Gunderson  
 Ralph Gaugler  
 Byron Gilbertson  
 Ray Ellerman  
 Bill Tillotson

October 1, 1989

Dear Bill:

Just wanted to let you know I received that great diary kept by Colonel Baglein. Really appreciate it and it will, eventually, find its way into our Museum library.

I really enjoyed reading its contents and his day by day account is just great when wanting to cross-reference with other things going on at same times. I wish more people would have done that.

It goes without saying that most servicemen are really only vitally interested in what their outfit, ship or station did and do little thinking about what was going on at the same time elsewhere. I must admit to having been guilty of the same "tunnel vision" before joining our GCV. Very honestly, Bill, before joining I had no idea on what was actually happening on the canal. I never heard of the 164th much less the 132nd, 182nd etc. I couldn't have told you what Marine Div's were ashore or what Army divisions. Ships that did not serve in the Task Forces we were attached to never crossed my mind. Hell, I always thought we (USS HELENA) won the war all by ourselves...Live and learn, eh?

I'm very happy you enjoyed our calendar and hope you will find it a good piece of reference concerning the campaign.

Off to San Antonio on the 4th with a few stops along the way.

In Comradeship,  
 Ted Blahnik, President  
 Guadalcanal Combat Veterans  
 PO Box 181  
 Coloma, MI 49038-0181

Do you know whatever happened to Rudy Pence? He and I were in the same tent when at Claiborne and fox hole on Canal. I was evacuated from Canal and never ever saw him again. I tried once when I was in St. Paul, Minnesota, but just could not find him. Do you know what happened?

V. R. Powers  
 147 Sweathouse Creek Road  
 Victor, MT 59895

11-9-89

Dear Bill,

Bula Joe! I am enclosing the obituary notice from my old friend Paul Holgerson of Co. E. Someone in Williston may have already sent it but I didn't want to take a chance on having it missed.

I am enclosing a few pictures of days gone by that I thought you might like to see and to use for the paper if you wish. The old newspaper clippings were from a scrapbook that my mother had put together while we were gone. I don't know if they can be reproduced or not. I would like all of them back eventually if you will when you are through with them but there is no hurry.

We are going up to Williston on Saturday to participate in the Veterans Day observance at the Old Armory. This building holds so many memories as that is where I attended drill for 3 years and also is where Co. E was inducted into the Federal Service on Feb. 10, 1941, and we spent about 2 weeks living there until we left for Camp Claiborne. It was also the place for many dances and plays in those days. The Williston people have done a great job in restoring it as you already know.

We enjoyed the reunion in Bismarck and want to thank all of you that worked so hard to make it a success. We look forward to next year.

With best wishes for the upcoming holiday season, I remain,

Yours in comradeship,  
 George M. Christensen, D.V.M.  
 15 Fairway  
 Minot, ND 58701

Jan. 25, 1989

Dear Sir,

Bill and I are writing to you because we are concerned about other veterans who may have heard of this G.I. Insurance refund article and sent their names and numbers in. We did and mailed in for it. And no answer. I called our state rep. He suggested I write to the Boise, Ida. State Division of Veterans Services. Am enclosing both the article and reply. In the Bulletin it is stated this has been going on since 1948.

I'll leave it up to you if you wish to publish it.

Bill enjoys the 164th Inf. News. He was in the Medical Det. and was with Co. F while overseas.

Sincerely,  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. A Hall  
 415 S. Ella, Sandpoint, Ida. 83864

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP and/or ANNUAL RENEWAL  
 164th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Served With and Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES FOR 1989 — \$5.00 which includes \$4.00 subscription to 164th News.  
 Send to: Secretary 164th Infantry, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502**

September 27, 1989

To the Reunion Committee,

I am sending a check for \$5.00 for the raffle tickets sent to Mac. I'm sending it as a donation and you needn't even put the tickets in for the drawing as Mac passed away on June 20 — just at the time of the Medics reunion at Bottineau. There was a reason for us not to plan to be there. He had another stroke — a cerebral hemorrhage this time. It has been 12 years on August 31 since he had the first stroke.

I have enjoyed the reunions we attended and I'll be thinking of you when you are together.

Sincerely,  
Jeanne McNea (Mrs. Milton)  
1708 Sunset Blvd.  
Minot, ND 58701

September 15, 1989

It is with much regret that I inform you of my father's death on September 9, 1989. He was a member of the 164th Infantry Association. He died unexpectedly of a heart attack. My father was buried on September 13, 1989 at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

On a further note, in going through my father's files, I came upon a letter from Mr. Keith P. Parsons, Editor/Historian 164th Inf. Assn. where he asked for information volunteered by my father on his experiences in Leyte. I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of any material on my dad that you might have in your archives. The correspondence was dated 1985.

Sincerely,  
Linda Gogun LeBlanc  
3300 Connecticut Avenue  
Kenner, LA 70065

September 30, 1989

Dear Bill,

As a former member of Co. E's machine gun section, I hoped to make it to Bismarck for my first reunion since the war. Unfortunately, my wife was in the hospital in early September and with scheduled check-up exams, it was apparent neither one of us would be going anywhere for a while.

I would like to make two comments — the first, on retirement, a change of residence had to be considered and my friends (?) were only too happy to tell me where to go! Suggestions included Frankfurt, Hamburg, and even Paris, a site I could not accept. I would just as soon live on the banks of the Torokina River in the vicinity of Hill 250 where you could find hot and cold running water in the river itself. But that may no longer be true since I understand Mt. Bagana blew up (in the 60's?) and perhaps the hot water is no longer present.

Next, I have recently had time to recall a very strange day in the Philippines in early 1944. The intervening 45 years left little time or memories with engineering school, marriage, a move to Washington D.C. and a career in nuclear submarine air purification and marine gas turbine corrosion to contend with. (Incidentally, I helped to measure the floodable volume of the Triton, probably the world's longest sub, I saw the George Washington being converted with missile compartments, I knew the executive officer on the thresher, I saw

the Scorpion at a Norfolk dock, and I sailed on the Skate from New London, Conn. to Key West, Florida.)

But to get back to this weird day (on Leyte?), it must have been a company operation for Co. E, 164th Inf. Regt. since both machine gun squads were present. We took a hill from the Japs without any difficulty and my gun — I was first gunner — was placed on the reverse slope. I was able to go forward to watch the Japs scurrying back and forth at the base of the hill in response to our rifle fire. Then I heard our other machine gun open up only to be silenced by a single Japanese shot. Word quickly spread that Okie, Lawrence Jennings, the other first gunner had been killed.

This seemed to be a personal message to me since my counterpart was the only casualty to only one shot fired by the Japs that day. I can truly say my chances of being killed on that particular day had been one out of two and I would like to know if anyone remembers what day of the year this happened. On the next morning a fine elderly family man, L.B. Bishop, I believe, was killed on a scouting mission at the base of that hill.

I hope beautiful weather contributes to a happy reunion for all.

Sincerely,  
Stanley T. Gadomski  
13 Cree Dr.  
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

## The 164th Infantry News

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IT'S AMAZING! - THE  
NUMBER OF GOOD THINGS WHICH  
HAVE BECOME REALITY IN THE  
WORLD DURING THE PAST FEW  
MONTHS.  
LET'S HOPE AND PRAY OUR  
GOOD THOUGHTS AND DREAMS  
REMAIN PERMANENT FIXTURES!

