



1-1992

164th Infantry News: January 1992

164th Infantry Association

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The 164th INFANTRY News

Vol. 30 No. 4

1991 is our 45th ass'n yr

January 1992

Notes From The President

I was overwhelmed to have been elected president of the 164th Infantry Association.

Just a bit of information for you members. I joined Co. "E" in 1948, was activated with the 164th in January 1951, sent to Korea in July 1951 and assigned to "B" Co., 7th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, and was discharged from the Guards in 1954.

After my discharge I went into law enforcement. I served as Tioga Police Chief for three years; Deputy Sheriff of Williams County for six years; and have served Williston as Chief of Police for 27 years. My retirement is effective December 31, 1991.

The convention will be held at the International Inn. In checking I find many have made their reservations early. I think everyone planning to attend should do this.

As the host city we are working to make this an enjoyable convention.

Ray Atol



Ladies Luncheon, Fargo Reunion 1991

Notes From The Editor

With New Year's Day a recent event, your Editor has decided that a couple of New Year's resolutions are in order for 1992. First, more emphasis on the positive side lest the News deserve the title "The Gloomy News". The Editor's health is much improved so he has also resolved to attend the Williston reunion.

We are indebted to our Secretary, Frank Weisgerber, for filling in thus allowing your Editor to spend much of the winter in Arizona.

Please note the letter from President Ray Atol, with a brief biography and more information on the 1992 reunion in Williston.

We have not received a cartoon from Walter Abbott. When received, the cartoon will be saved for the next issue.



1991 Annual Meeting, Fargo, North Dakota

Guadalcanal Trip

The Guadalcanal trip is still planned. We have received letters from members who want to go on the trip. The aircraft will be provided by the Iowa National Guard and available October 1-15, 1992. The primary loading location will be Bismarck. Remember, you must be an association member and a veteran of the Guadalcanal campaign with the 164th Infantry Regiment. More details will be included in later issues.

Letters ...

December 18, 1991

Dear Bill:

I will try to keep you informed on correspondence I receive as President of 164.

I have appointed Brig. General (Ret) Fred Flo as official representative of the 164 Infantry for the Memorial Dedication in Guadalcanal, August 7, 1992.

We are working early for a good convention in Williston in '92 so I'll keep you posted as to events, etc.

Enclosed is a letter for the bulletin.

Sincerely,

Ray Atol, President
164 Infantry Association
1511 2nd Ave. E
Williston, ND 58801

December 15, 1991

Dear Americal Veterans:

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all eligible members to join the Americal Division Veterans Association and to support the chapter in your region or area. I would like to extend a special invitation to all eligible Vietnam Veterans to join the National and Chapter organizations in your area.

For the Far West Chapter the dues are \$5.00 per year. Anyone needing further information or an application please write or call me at the above address.

Sincerely,

Joe D. Feeler
2923 Truman NE.
Albuquerque, NM 87111

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William W. Tillotson, Publisher			

December 6, 1991

Dear Bill:

I am enclosing a check for \$20— 1991 dues plus 1992.

Sorry I couldn't make the reunion but my wife has been sick. There are not many reunions I have missed. I served with Co. K. and Service Co. Discharged in Memphis, Tennessee.

Enjoy the paper!

Howard W. White
Bowman, ND

PS. Do you suppose the Japs will celebrate tomorrow?

December 9, 1991

Dear Bill:

I would like to send a memorial to the 164th Inf. Association in memory of Veon McConnell who was at one time Company Commander of Company G of which I was a member. I have had the privilege to be able to visit with him on occasion these last few years and would have a great time talking over old times with him.

Sincerely
Ham Kjelland
2705 88th St. CT NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

November 1, 1991

Mr. Raymond J. Patton
151 Redstone Drive
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Raymond:

Thank you so much for the information material you mailed us regarding the action and victory of Guadalcanal.

It was won at a terrible price in loss of life and wounds on both sides.

Bernard Barholz was my wife's twin brother ... and one of my very closest friends.

Until now we never really knew what really happened ... and now we have most of the answers.

At the request of the family Bernard's remains were returned and interred with his father and mother in the hometown of Fertile, MN.

Bismarck, by the way, is one of my favorite towns ... I grew up in Crookston, MN listening to Harry Turner's band and Sam and his City Fellers over KFVR ... later I became a leader of a traveling Midwest band and we played many times at The Dome Ballroom between Mandan

and Bismarck.

And of course we played every large and small town in the Dakotas and other Midwest states over a period of years. I had one of those Sleeper Buses (semi-trailer rigs) and a few years ago I wrote a book about the history of the Midwest Dande bands. There are several Bismarck bands included in the book.

I operated under the stage name of Lee Barron.

Once again our very sincere thanks and best wishes, and we salute you for your brave service for your country in its time of need.

El Roy and Bernice Lee

December 14, 1991

Dear Bill:

I was unable to attend the last Reg. 164th reunion so just learned from the 164th Inf. News, which I received Thursday, of the proposed trip to Guadalcanal next October. I hope the fact that I just found out about the trip doesn't put me so far down the list that I'm out of luck.

I was in the Pacific several years ago and at that time considered going to the canal but the travel arrangements were difficult and uncertain so had to give it up.

The 164th group is high on my list of

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1992 Association Officers are:

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Vice President Ben Glatt,
Bismarck, ND
Sec./Treas. Frank Weisgerber,
Bismarck, ND
Asst. Sec./Treas. Don Robinson,
Bismarck, ND

Editor Bill Tillotson
164th Infantry News Bismarck, ND
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Last Roll Call

Veon McConnell, Tacoma, WA Nov. 12, 1991
Ray Iverson, Grafton, ND Dec. 7, 1991
Francis Ernster, Tunas, MO Oct. 29, 1991
Joe A. Kennedy, ND Jan. 31, 1992

favorites as is the Co "G" group which meets every two years. There is no greater pleasure than getting together with the men one served with during war time.

By the way I was at the first meeting of 164th veterans where we organized the Assn. and was president at our 2nd reunion at Dickinson so have had a long time association with the group.

I hope there will be room for me to make this historic trip.

Holiday greetings!
Sincerely,
Elmo R. Olson
RR1B1H
Finley, ND 58230

November 28, 1991
Commander, Or to Whom It May Concern:

At the request of Hamlin Kjelland, I have written an obituary of my late brother-in-law, V.M. McConnell, for the 164th Newsletter and the Valley City paper. Copy enclosed herewith. I am sorry to be tardy in this, but two other recent family deaths also have unhappy demands.

I am a North Dakota native, (Hazen), and have long been a friend and admirer of 164 and its people, several of whom are relatives or close friends. For instance, (and my failing memory will doubtless cause me to neglect to mention all of the guys), Hazen pals include Joe Schwartz, Raymond Moore and Butch Chase in Co. K, Harold Krause, Emil Rahn and the Bauer brothers Arnold and Ewald of Co A, Johnny Divers of the Jamestown Company and several of my wife's relatives and others in Co. G., (She is a Valley City girl), Ham and Arne Kjelland, Kenny McDonough, Kenny Olson, Her one-time schoolmaster, Ben Northridge, and others. I served in the 75th Seabee Bn. and we and 164 sort of followed each other around in the South Pacific. I particularly recall that happy Christmas Day when 164 arrived on the beach at Bougainville. I was about out of essential personal supplies, so the fresh pants and shirts from Joe Schwartz and a bottle of Scotch from brother-in-law McConnell were welcome indeed! I was able to return the favors in part because we Seabees had a helluva lot better kitchen than did the 164. A fun sort of situation developed a few days later when Joe Schwartz' foot locker was riddled with shrapnel and he had to come over and borrow back his clothes.

I enclose my check as a token of memorial to McConnell, and I suspect there may be other memorials as well. May I suggest that the acknowledgment of such contributions be made to his daughter, Mrs. James Baxter, E. 13003 Guthrie Dr.,

Spokane, WA, 99216, or to his son, Jim McConnell, 4421 W. Roosevelt Ave., Santa-Ana, CA, 92703

Veon M. McConnell
RIP

Sincerely,
Don Brooks
3403 E. Main
Mesa, AZ 85213

December 5, 1991

Dear Bill:

I was pleasantly surprised to find Don Hoppe is alive and kicking. If I'm not mistaken he shot down a Jap plane, using a ring mounted 50 cal — which was mounted on the back of a deuce and a half. The only man I knew to perform such a feat. He was regular army — and a professional.

It's pleasant to hear of one man satisfied with me as a CO. Most thought I was a S.O.B. (and they probably still do!)

It would be nice to join the group picked to go back to Guadalcanal, but with my lottery luck, I'd lose. Example: I was one of the last eight of the original regiment to leave Japan. I doubt my name was ever in the pot.

On Guadal, my machine gun platoon supported Easy Co. and it was my end machine gun (Kevin McCarthy) that opened the ball that evening. When Dick Hoffman (my platoon sergeant) and I carried the first reserve ammo to Kevin, I asked him what had happened. He said, "Hell, they walked up to the barbed wire in a column of two's, most of them smoking cigarettes. When I challenged them — you should have seen the cigarettes fly!"

I remember with gratitude the leadership of John Gossett, Ben Northridge and countless numbers of the men I served with. As Don Hoppe said, "We didn't have a coward in the outfit. It would be hard to pick out any individual for praise — for they were all wonderful soldiers.

Chuck Walker
Box 525
Pembina, ND 58271

P.S. Kevin got a DSC for a later action.

November 15, 1991

Gentlemen:

Sorry to have missed the convention in Fargo. I also just discovered that I had missed sending in my dues for 1992. As I can do something about that I have enclosed a check for that purpose.

This may be old news, but I have recently finished reading a relatively new book "GUADALCANAL" by Richard B. Frank. Highly recommend it. Great detail and maps of all the ground action by marine and Army units plus much detail on the naval and air actions during the Guadalcanal campaign. Some kind words for the 164th are also included.

Hope to see you all at next years reunion.

Brent Knudson, B Co.
820 Garfield Dr.
Petaluma, CA 94954-4634

Dear Sir:

Would you please put the death notice of Francis M. Ernster (Grease Gus) of Tunas, Missouri, who passed away October 29, 1991.

He had been in L Co, then in Service Co.

His wife,
LaVonne Ernster
Rt 1 - Box 339
Tunas, MO 65764

Ready For An Afternoon In Suva!



Les Vanvig, Ted Zergurski,
K Co., Fiji, 1943.

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

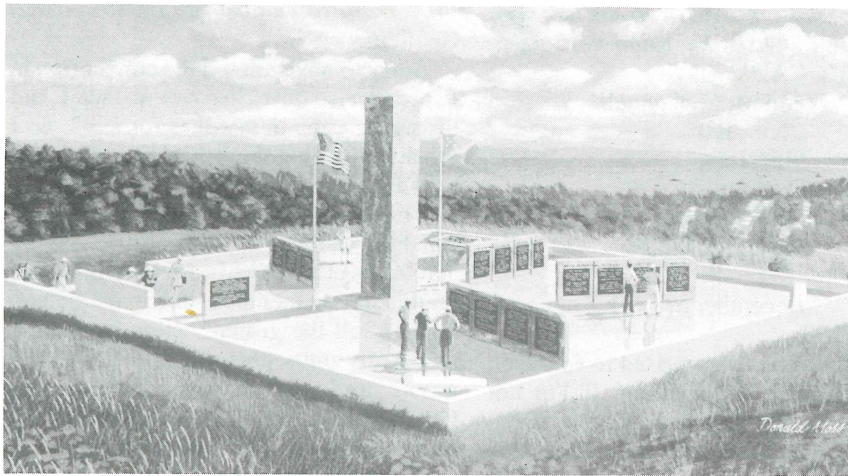
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The American Battle Monuments Commission together with the American Fine Arts Commission have applauded the proposed design and enthusiastically approved of the commanding Skyline Ridge site. The Foundation purchased the site and transferred the ownership to the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Directional walls, bearing descriptions of the battles and the units involved, point from this panoramic vista towards historic battle sites as important in our history as Valley Forge, Gettysburg and Meuse-Argonne (WWI).

Peripheral obelisks will highlight a showcase tour of the battle sites including: Red Beach, Tulagi, Henderson Field, the Ilu River, Edson's Bloody Ridge, the Matanikau River, Bloody Ridge at Fighter One, Wright Road at Mount Austen, and the end of the land struggle at Cape Esperance.

"Guadalcanal's military importance was not judged by cold statistics of men killed, or ships sunk, aircraft destroyed or prisoners taken. Its significance was in delivering to the Japanese Imperial forces the stark reality of defeat! Their dreams of a timeless empire were shattered for eternity."

Bob Muehrcke

Robert C. Muehrcke,
Former Infantryman American Infantry Division
Editor: "Orchids in the Mud" 1986
J.S. Printing, Chicago, IL

LET THIS MEMORIAL BE YOUR LASTING TRIBUTE TO MORE THAN 10,100 SERVICEMEN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE BITTER BATTLES OF GUADALCANAL AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS DURING WWII.

YOU CAN HELP ERECT THIS HISTORIC MEMORIAL AT GUADALCANAL

Enclosed is a check for \$5,000.00. Please send Charter Directorship Certificate.

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Enclosed is a check for \$_____ it's my contribution to help construct the memorial to honor our fellow comrades.

Send me a Guadalcanal Memorial Tour Brochure.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*There is a final need of \$140,000 to complete this memorial.
Guadalcanal-Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation
P.O. Box 56189 Harwood Heights, IL 60656-0189

Cut along dotted line

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SOLOMON ISLANDS

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**At Home In Their
Little Grass Shack!**



K Co. Group, Fiji, 1943.

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