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164th Infantry News: November 1991

164th Infantry Association

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The 164th INFANTRY News

Vol. 30 No. 3

1991 is our 45th ass'n yr

November 1991

Dates To Remember

Alexander MacDonald, Adjutant General for North Dakota, is arranging a five day trip scheduled for or on about October 13, 1992. This trip will include a visit and ceremony at the American memorial on Guadalcanal. The details are still indefinite. Space will be available for about twenty 164th Infantry Association members on military aircraft. To qualify, a member must have served with the Regiment in combat on Guadalcanal. Any member who is interested in going on this trip is asked to submit a request with a qualifying statement to the Association. This request will be submitted to the Adjutant General's office. The member will be notified by personal invitation.

Each year, the Adjutant General sponsors a get-together for former North Dakota guard members. This get-together for 1992 will honor former members of the 164th Infantry Regiment. All members of the association are invited and urged to attend. Quarters and meals will be included in the registration fee. Further details will be included in future issues of the News.

The 1992 reunion will be held in Williston, North Dakota, September 25-26-27.

The 1993 reunion will be held in Bismarck, North Dakota, September 24-25-26. The Headquarters will be Radisson Motor Inn.

Notes From The Editor

Any reader who wishes to honor a member who has passed away is invited to send to the editor for publication a brief eulogy.

The Veterans Memorial featured in the July 1989 issue of the News is designed so that on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour, the sun will shine through an aperture in the dome to illuminate on a world globe the location of the Memorial, Capitol grounds, Bismarck, North Dakota. Your editor witnessed this phenomena on a sunny moderate day as part of a memorial service honoring those North Dakota veterans who died in service to their country and whose names are inscribed on bronze plaques.

Litany for a New A.E.F.

From The New Yorker

Henry Morton Robinson

Epaulettes of Farragut,
Powder-horn of Boone,
Hawaii's fateful morning,
Shiloh's fearful moon.

(Be with us as we embark.)

Lincoln's face, its sadness;
"That from these honored dead
We take increased devotion . . ."
Other things he said.

(Support us in the battle.)

Bayonets in Belleau Wood,
Song of Marion's men,
Fox-holes in the Philippines,
Wake's grim garrison.

(Be an example unto us.)

Stars above our cornfields,
Morning-colored wind,
Snow, and wood-fires burning
On hearths we leave behind.

(Shine for us, dear beacons.)

*God of the hidden purpose,
Let our embarking be
The prayer of proud men asking
Not to be safe, but free.*

This clipping from a New Orleans newspaper dated December, 1941, carried across the Pacific and return, helped to sustain your editor through difficult times.

Letters ...

Editor's Note: I could not help but publish this letter as it is about the best compliment that I ever received in my many years in the service.

Sept. 20, 1991

Dear Capt:

I, being a member of the V.F.W., noticed an article of a reunion of the 164th regt. I replied and was surprised and elated of the 164th News.

Let me introduce myself as Bernard "Kris" Krisko who served under you in Co. "C" at Camp Rucker, AL. I was the acting weapons platoon sergeant under Sgt. Gillespie and Sgt. DeSautel.

First of all I would like to thank you for taking the most disgruntled Co. and making it into the best Co. of 164th.

The training I received in Co. C both physical and mental combined with being under your guidance in field problems made me exceptionally prepared for combat in Korea.

I was assigned to a rifle platoon, Co. B of the 179th. Inf. Regt. of the 45 Div. in Korea. I had a great capt. there but I could not believe the lack of training of some of the fillers, non-comms and 2nd Lts. whom I served with. You would be proud to know of the sound judgment I showed in helping others in difficult times in combat.

The following are some of the men

from Co. C who I met on my return to the states.

Everst Roome served with me in Co. B and was with the 60 mm, Larry Parchen, Big John Benko wounded by hand grenade, Paul "Crabs" Koprivnak-Jeep driver for Hqt. and Ralph Cheasea of the weapons platoon, was placed with the P.R. outfit. He was on outpost and they were overrun. He was captured and returned after the war.

Sorry, I cannot make the reunion as I am committed to surf fishing the same

time and will be in N.C.

I retired 6 years ago from the Metallurgical Staff of Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Co., Monessen, PA. Presently I golf, ski, surf fish and enjoy my 2 grandchildren.

Tell everyone you see from Co. C I said hello.

Sincerely,
Bernard E. Krisko
Box 198 RD 5
Rosemont Plan
Belle Vernon, PA 15012



Medic Gerald Sanderson, attached to Co. "G".
Photo taken SW of Winfield, LA - July 1941.

In Remembrance

As we list the names of our departed comrades in "The Last Roll Call," we are reminded of our own mortality and the mortality of those whose lives we shared as friends and comrades at arms. We listed Alvin Paulson in the July issue of the News. Many of us served with Al Paulson in active service during World War II, the Korean conflict, and as a member of the National Guard. We honor him as a fine soldier, commander and friend. We offer sincere sympathy to his family and many friends.

Frank Richards first joined the National Guard in 1916. He served with the National Guard as a member of the First North Dakota Infantry Regiment on the Mexican border (this name was changed at the beginning of World War I to the 164th Infantry). Frank Richards was called to active duty for World War I, World

War II, and the Korean Conflict. He commanded the Regiment at Camp Rucker, AL, during the Korean Conflict. His written life experience could almost be published as a history of our Regiment. He enlisted as a private and retired as a Brigadier General. General Richards also will be honored as a fine soldier, commander and friend.

Recently we learned of the death of Jerry Wilder and John Caruso. We find ourselves without adequate language to describe the sense of loss of these two friends. Jerry was a veteran of World War

II and the Korean conflict. John served with your editor in Company A.

Jerry Wilder

Jerry Wilder, 73, Williston, died Sept. 26, 1991, in a Fargo hospital. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Old Armory, Williston. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery, Williston.

Mr. Wilder was born Aug. 28, 1918, in Williston. He was active in the National Guard, retiring as a major in 1965.

He is survived by his wife, Alice, Williston, three daughters, Marcia Utke, Enderlin, Kathie Wilder, Williston, and Lizabeth Wilder, Elk River, MN; two sons, Charles and Thomas, both of Williston; four brothers, James and Donald, both of Seattle, and George and Shannon, both of Williston; and one sister, Shirley Sommars, Pueblo, CO.

Last Roll Call

- Earl Lipke, Valley City, NDSept. 22, 1991
- Robert Winkel, Coupeville, WASept. 14, 1991
- John Caruso, St. Paul, MNJune 18, 1991
- Frank Richards, Dickinson, NDJan. 4, 1991
- Jerry Wilder, Williston, NDSept. 26, 1991

Editor's Note: This letter was sent in response to a request from Pvt. Barholz's sister for information.

October 17, 1991

Mr. & Mrs. Elroy Lee
550 S. 69th Street
Omaha, NE 68106

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Lee:

The attached document has been passed on to me to reply to "2nd Topic". I have no idea or knowledge as to who you are; but am assuming that you are probably a sister or some close relative of Pvt. Bernard Barholz. I will also attempt to obtain a copy of Col. Baglein's pamphlet for you.

I certainly do remember the incident of destroying the Japanese ammunition dump. This was two huge piles of artillery shells, exceeding 6 inches in diameter. This dump was located directly in front of "A" company's position. We constantly patrolled it to make sure that they were not trying to retrieve any of it. And when I say constantly, I mean many times each day. It was located in an area where the Jap machine guns could thoroughly cover the area. I was the Sgt. that led all of these patrols. Since this was very hazardous, I complained about having to lead my men into this danger, repeatedly. I went to Col. Richards (our battalion commander and later elevated to General) and told him that if he would give me three or four bottles of gasoline, that I would burn this ammunition dump. He said "No," that the entire area is too dangerous and completely controlled by the Jap machine guns from the coral bank. I was well aware of this danger, more so than anyone else. Private Barholz was not in my squad but was in the same platoon. Since I had complained of the danger in constantly checking this area, they gave me men from other squads, to relieve my men. They ordered that I would be the one to continue leading the patrols.

I had come upon a large ball of very strong cord and a big supply of handgrenades and some incendiary bullets for my rifle. These are rifle bullets that had phosphorus inside and when you shot into something it would set it on fire. (The Infantry did not have these - I stole them from the Airforce back in New Caledonia.) I decided that I would blast this dump on my own, in spite of the Col's opinion. I took the patrol out as usual and took two crates from their piles. One crate contained a large brass case, full of powder, the other was the projective also full of explosives. They were huge - we later checked them, with nothing more than a dollar bill to measure with, and they were in the 8 inch caliber. I gave these crates to my Corporal and told him to lead the patrol back and deliver these crates to headquarters, as I



The rear of Co. "G" moving forward during the LA maneuvers. This was taken in August 1941, in the vicinity of Oretta, LA.

was staying to blow this thing up and end our patrols.

My intention was to tie all these grenades to the crates and run my cord thru the pins and then pull all of these grenade pins at one time, with the cord. The only protection we had from the Jap's fire was the two piles of ammunition and several Jap foxholes in the immediate area. These had a lot of dead Japs in the foxholes which we had killed many days earlier, but shared them even if it smelled pretty badly.

I was getting ready to proceed with the above plans, when Pvt. Barholz came flying into the hole with me and the dead Japs. He did it in a hail of their bullets from the ridge. I told him that I had ordered the patrol back as the Col. had forbidden me to endanger the men. He gave me a grin and said, "Sarge there is no way that I am leaving you here alone." I will never forget the gratitude I had for his help. I am sure that being a tough loner of a Sgt., that I never properly thanked him; but this was common as we constantly laid our lives on the line for each other and I'm sure he felt my gratitude.

After pulling the grenade pins, we had a pretty good fire and explosion going and then proceeded to fire our rifles into the fray, with all the airforce bullets we had.

We then proceeded to cover each other's retreat as we dodged from one Jap foxhole to the other and disappeared into the jungle.

By the time we got back to headquarters, the crates were opened and the fellows were admiring the shells that they now knew would not be fired at them.

As I said, Pvt. Barholz was in another squad. On the day he was killed, my squad had a portion of a bar cord ridge to advance over. His squad was a couple hundred yards to our right in a brushy ravined area. See Page 13 of Col. Bagliena description - Pvt. Kmiecik was one killed and he was next to me on my left. Sgt. Schumaker was next to me on my right; he got wounded, but lived. Our platoon Commander Lt. Derham, Pvt. Jenkins, Sgt. Hamery, Sgt. Burckhardt, Pfc. Jenkins were all in the area a couple hundred yards to my right along with Pvt. Barholz and were all killed. The Japs had several machine guns dug in on the high ground and we paid an awful price to take it.

This is rather lengthy. I am in a little of a cold sweat after this recollection, even after all these years. I hope this may give you some consolation after all this time. He was a very nice person, a good and brave soldier and well liked by all the guys.

Sincerely,
Ray Patton
151 Redstone Drive
Bismarck, ND 58501



Knute Foassen and his sister ("Rag") at 164th reunion departure breakfast in Bismarck, ND.

Aug. 15, 1991

Dear Bill,

Just a short letter to let you know about our Anti-tank and Tank reunion we held on the weekend of July 12, 13, & 14.

This was the 50th anniversary for the Anti-tank and the 40th for the Tank company, so this had to be special and I believe it really was.

We had at least 56 registrations with most of them for man and wife. We had people from 19 different states and at least 6 or 7 who had never been here before. For some, it was the first time we had heard from them since we separated in the 40s.

Of course there was also the sad note. A few who were on our mailing list died during the time we were planning this reunion, and two comrades who were planning to be here had to cancel at the last minute because of medical problems. At this time I would like to report the passing of one of our old comrades, Edward Poslusny in Minn. since our reunion.

Our program consisted of a memorial program for our deceased on Sat. morning, a noon luncheon, a business meeting in the afternoon, and a banquet in the evening. We had the honor of having Gen. Alexander MacDonald for our main speaker.

We have had our last reunions every three years, but we decided at this one to have the next two reunions at two year intervals, 1993 & 1995.

I will be looking forward to seeing many of you at our 164 reunion in Fargo in September. Let's have a great reunion!

John L. Strauss
505 E. Brewster St.
Harvey, ND 58341

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle ticket drawing for \$164.00

Emil Oelschlager, Kenyon, MN

Robert Korman, Anchorage AL

Mitchell Pilarick, Florissant, MO

Sept. 1, 1991

Hi, Frank:

I received your letter and the newsletter and was glad to get it. I am sending a check for two years' dues, if I can - 1992 & 1993.

I am proud to join up with the old outfit again. I have never forgotten the guys I served with and I have always wondered what they are doing now. If a lot of them are still alive they must be old men like me by now. I am 69.

I was just 18 when I was transferred into the 164. I joined the California National Guard when I was 17. I lied about my age to get in. I was still in high school at the time and spent my 21st birthday on Bougainvillea.

I will never forget my first time on Guadalcanal when we got off the landing craft and hit the damn beach. I still can remember the ship we sailed on from New Caledonia. It was the USS MS Cawley APA 4. She was torpedoed off of Rendova later in 1943 and that first day on the beach with the Marines trying to swipe our rations by yelling air raid. You can't blame them, they didn't have anything until we got on the island.

And the first real air raid, boy, was I scared as hell. And that night the Jap cruiser shelling Henderson field all night. That was the time when my squad leader was killed, Cpl. Wally Andrick. A shell landed near the palm tree he was behind.

Blew his head off. The poor guy didn't have a chance his first day on the beach. I have never forgotten him. It has always stuck in my mind.

I don't know if you take the WW2 magazine or not, but if you do, look in the September issue, 1990. That tells what a Marine Colonel thinks of the 164. Col. Chesty Puller after the October 24 battle to retake Henderson said the 164 commanded by Col. Bryant Moore were almost as good as Marines. I guess that was a pat on the back coming from a Marine.

I still think of my old friends in HQ Co. 2 BN and the guys that were in the motor pool like Sgt. Bob Hammond and the rest of the drivers. Most of them are from Cando, ND. I still miss my old deuce and a half jimie. We forded many a river on Bougainvillea and Cebu. It was a good old truck.

Well enough of the gab. I hope to hear from you again. Thank you for your time to hear from an old man. Good luck to the 164 Association.

Best regards,
Victor Athias
266 Miller Avenue Apt. 2
Mill Valley, CA 94941

PS: I had a nickname at the motor pool. I was known as "The Duck." The guys will know me by that name.

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 1992 — \$10.00 which includes \$4.00 subscription to 164th News.
Send to Secretary 164th Infantry, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502.**