



12-1992

164th Infantry News: December 1992

164th Infantry Association

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The 164th INFANTRY News

Vol. 31 No. 4

1992 is our 46th ass'n yr

December 1992

Notes From The Editor

There are quite a few items of interest for this issue of the "News." Putting it all together was a chore. Also, done not completely successfully. Of interest to your editor were letters from one who claims to have been a Major of Artillery and often referred to as "Pistol Pete." A letter from David Vouza was forwarded to your Editor by George Christensen. David, as explained in the last issue of the "News," was son of Jacob Vouza, Solomon Islander Coast Watcher and one of the heroes of the Guadalcanal campaign.

The 1993 Reunion will be held in Bismarck Sept. 24-25-26 with headquarters at the Radisson Inn. Details will be included in later issues of the paper.

1942 Guadalcanal



Comedian Joe Brown entertains the troops.

New Members

Victor Gibbons, Bismarck, ND
Austin Roth, West Lake Village, CA
Kenneth Uthus, Nine Mile Falls, WA

164th Memorial Donations

As of December 18, 1992

Anton Hannel	\$25.00
Ted Blahnik	10.00
Herman D. Wildermuth	25.00
Lloyd Weber	10.00
Mitchell Pillarick	25.00
Frank Eide, Sr.	25.00

Home From Guadalcanal



Live wire veterans of the Guadalcanal trip on board Boeing 737 returning to the USA. Right front: Editor Bill Tillotson. Left front: Tony Hannel. In back of Tony: Joe Fenlon.

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the 164th Inf. Assoc. of the United States was called to order by President Atol at 10:30 a.m. 10 Oct. 1992 at the International Inn, Williston, ND.

Officers present:

Ray Atol - President
 Ben Glatt - Vice President
 Bill Tillotson - Editor
 Frank Weisgerber - Sec/Treas
 Don Robinson - Asst Sec/Treas

The colors were in place having been posted by the 6th Infantry for the Memorial Service. The pledge of allegiance was lead by Mary Wagner.

The minutes of the 1991 business meeting were published in the Dec. 91 issue of the 164th News and were approved by voice vote.

The financial report was presented by the Sec/Treas. Motion by Paul Dickerson to accept the report as true and correct. Seconded by Ray Patton and passed by unanimous vote.

The following committees were appointed by the President with the Chairman submitting recommendations as follows:

Time & Place:

Bernie Wagner, Chairman
 Red Cherrey
 Wally Johnson

The committee recommended that Bismarck host the 1993 reunion with dates of 24-26 Sec 03. They also recommended that Bismarck host the 1994 reunion with Oct. date (if available at the Radisson) or

the last weekend of Sep. 1994. Motion was made to accept and passed by voice vote.

Nominations:

Chuck Walker, Chairman
 Jim Cecil
 Jim Fenelon

The committee nominated the following people as officers for the year 1993.

President — Ben Glatt
 Vice President — Don Robinson
 Editor — Bill Tillotson
 Sec/Treas — Frank Weisgerber

Nominations were approved by unanimous vote.

Resolutions Committee:

Doc Christensen, Chairman
 Dwight Petty
 Lee Marchant

Report: Whereas, the 1992 reunion is off to a good start, and Whereas, the Reunion provides an opportunity for members of the Assoc. to visit and enjoy good fellowship. Now therefore be it resolved that the 164th Assoc. commends the Reunion committee and the city of Williston for their efforts in making this a successful reunion.

We wish to commend MG Alex Macdonald and his staff for the trip to the Canal.

We also wish to commend the officials of Guadalcanal for arranging the tour of Guadalcanal.

To commend Gen. (Ret) Stannard for his book on the battle of the Canal.

The President called for any old business, there being none, he called for new

business.

Motion by Vince Powers that the Memorial Servc include the roll call of Association members who passed away during the year preceding the annual reunion. List to be provided by the Editor or Sec/Treas. Seconded by Ray Huseby and passed unanimously.

Motion by Jim Fenelon that the 164th Inf. Memorial be located at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, Ft. Lincoln State Park, Mandan, ND, with the approval of the Adjutant General. Seconded by Lyle Bethke and passed by unanimous vote. Further discussion took place as to the inscription or whether names should be on the Memorial. After no agreement, the President appointed the following committee to submit recommendations to finalize the Memorial.

Jim Fenelon, Chairman
 Red Cherrey
 Chuck Walker
 Bernie Wagner
 Ex-Officio Members:
 Assoc. President
 Assoc. Sec/Treas

The President presented letters of invitation from the Bis-Man Visitors Bureau and the Radisson Inn for the 1993 Reunion in Bismarck, ND.

Ray Patton briefly discussed the Canal trip and indicated he would present a video and slides on Saturday afternoon.

There being no further business, the President called for adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Ray Huseby and seconded by Ray Conlon. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. 10 Oct. 1992.

Financial Report — Fiscal Year 1992

INCOME:

End of FY 1991 balance		\$ 8997.00
Dues, miscellaneous	6279.00	
Interest on CDs	1212.00	
Interest on Checking Account	263.00	
Total	\$ 7754.00	7754.00
		\$16751.00

EXPENDITURES:

Printing	2681.00	
Postage	822.00	
Administration	1310.00	
CD Purchase	5000.00	
Miscellaneous	418.00	
Total	\$10231.00	10231.00
Total unobligated funds		6520.00
Total amount of CDs on deposit		35881.97
TOTAL NET WORTH		\$42401.97

I certify that the above financial report for the 164th Infantry Association of the United States is true and correct for the Fiscal Year ending 30 Sep 1992. /s/ Frank Weisgerber, Sec/Treas.

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1992-93 Association Officers are:

President Ben Glatt, Bismarck, ND
 Vice President Don Robinson, Bismarck, ND
 Sec./Treas. Frank Weisgerber, Bismarck, ND
 Editor Bill Tillotson
 164th Infantry News Bismarck, ND
POSTMASTER: Address changes should be sent to 164th Infantry Association, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502.

Letters . . .

October 10, 1992

Dear Ray:

In response to the letter received from James M. Fenelon concerning the 164th Infantry Memorial, your site selection as the N.D. Veterans Cemetery is excellent. Tourists like myself always visit the Capital when we return to North Dakota. In fact we feel Fort Lincoln State Park is one of the best in the United States.

During my years at the Boeing Company, I served in various elected as well as volunteer positions (General Chairman of the B-17 50th Anniversary 1956). Service in these areas gave us an opportunity to use publicity to our advantage. I have been a subscriber to the Towner County Record Herald for the past 30 years, not once has this paper carried a story about the N.D. Veterans Cemetery. Had it not been for the 164th Infantry News I would not have known it existed. I'm sure many of us who live out of state and receive papers from back home would appreciate more news of the past, present and future of the NDNG.

One thing I will never understand is why the 164th Infantry was deactivated following its Korean War activation. The 164th should still exist as a Regimental Combat Team, but that's a whole different subject.

Back to publicity, each week the Record Herald lists contributions to various groups in memory of some deceased friend. In my case I have sent contributions to the local Cemetery Fund, the Church Restoration, the Audi Theater Restoration, etc. I would like to see a forum similar to the one on page 4 of the July 164th News that could be used to cover contributions to the Veterans Cemetery or the 164th Memorial or both with some means of notifying the family concerned. Other methods of fund raising such as a community contribution in memory of one of their own KIA, in Cando's case Corporal Rollie Andrick. It would seem the local Legion Post (Hal Parker) would step up to this fund raiser. The number of over 300 sticks in my mind as the number KIA in the 164th/WWII. Many of these must come from N.D. communities like Cando. The Cando community seems quite proud of its Guard Units participation in the Gulf. With that feeling and a look at those who served in the Cando unit HQ, Co. 2nd Bn. 164th, the community would get behind a fund drive. Once in awhile we need a history lesson on just how much was contributed to the Army in the call-up of these N.D. units for WWII service as well as the Korean War.

In closing I would be more than happy to contribute to the Memorial Fund, but more important let's get some publicity going. I know of at least a dozen former 164th members from the 1947 and on guard unit that don't know a thing about 164th Infantry Association. Let's make everyone aware that the 164th Infantry is still alive and well.

Thanks for the opportunity to participate.

R.G. McLester
5118 S. 164th St.
Seattle, WA 98188

12-1-92

Dear Friend Bill,

Just a note to wish you well in this holiday season and thru the coming year. Hope that Arizona sure helps to take some of the kinks out, it's tough to get old.

The reunion was great as usual, and it was a pleasant surprise to see one of my old sergeants from M Co., whom I hadn't seen since Bougainville, Jack Ross who lives in Red Wing, MN.

Also enclosed is the obituary of Anton Herding who was a former D Co. member.

Have a good winter and we'll see you next year in Bismarck.

Sincerely,
John Tuff
Fargo, ND

Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will find my dues and some old photos I found when I moved. I joined the 164th Co. "E" on Leyte and that's where I came up with them. I don't remember how. They are from the Solomon Islands. Perhaps some of the earlier men would recognize them.

Also, are you coming out with an up-to-date address list? My name and address are not listed and I haven't seen it in any of the newsletters.

I enjoyed the letters of Capt. Walker and Sgt. Don Hoppe. I too found Capt. Walker to be a respected and energetic leader. It's good to hear about them and that they are healthy and enjoying life after all the years.

Thank you for your time. Good luck and health to all the remaining 164th.

Sincerely,
Andrew Trageser
Rt 1 - Box 155-3
New Park, PA 17352
1-717-382-1030



One of the total failures of World War II was Nguzu-Nguzu, the Solomon Islander's ancient god of war. Nguzu-Nguzu found that foot stomping and spear waving had little effect against modern day weapons. The hand carved wood figure shown in the photograph was purchased at the trading post on Guadalcanal.

**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 \$6.00 subscription to 164th News.
Send to Secretary 164th Infantry, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502.**

Oct. 10, 1992

Hi, Bill:

What a rewarding trip including seeing you guys after long 50 years. Just to be with a group such as ours was great. Sorry I was unable to accept your kind offer to drive up to Williston with you from Bismarck. Hope you all had an outstanding reunion.

Enclosed herewith are zerox copies concerning letters from or about Pistol Pete, Akio Mantis Tani, and a copy of marine sergeants sheet that he sent to me only yesterday. In his letters he always says I would have made a good marine and also he says our 164th Inf. Regt. would have been o.k. had he not been a marine. Like he wrote in one recent letter to me he praises our outfit saying that our 164th really helped to save the "Canal."

Hope to hear from you when you find time to write and take care of yourself.

Sincerely,

Anthony A. Hannel

1001 Rosewood Ave.

San Carlos, CA 94070-3837

P.S. Buser and Tani are now personal friends.

Editor's Note: Akio Mantis Tani was a Major in the Japanese Artillery who served on Guadalcanal and was "not affectionately" referred to as "Pistol Pete."

May 3, 1989

Dear Buser:

I must apologize to you for being late in answering. Following has been sent for Veterans:

My trip for U.S.A. will be postponed till this summer or autumn because of operation of cataract. I, however, have decided to visit Michigan including the museum of Kalamazoo and Washington D.C. Will be able to visit with other places if possible.

Also, I am sorry that did not reply you for your information about the map of Henderson field which was sent from you July 9, last year.

In the fact, your above maps of Henderson field is quite important to research our history. We thought that Kawaguchi had no maps without navy chart in Guadalcanal. One of the maps that you sent me is captured by Marine and the owner is Japanese First Lieutenant, named KAWABATA. This means that they had exact maps when the attack of September 13. There is a book which contents is of maps in Guadalcanal. In the book, the author wrote that KAWAGUCHI had no maps except navy chart. Most of Japanese authors had writ-

ten unreliable articles after the war. Civilian write with imagination. Veterans write own exploit. I can find "The truth" by the actual evidence only, for example, your maps are actual evidence. Thank you so much.

I think it will be very difficult to see those evidence at the U.S. Marine Corps Museum and/or other historical materials library in Washington because it needs many days to search.

I, anyway, wish to write you when I decide exact scheduled in your country.

Sincerely yours,
Old Tani

Sept. 17, 1992

Dear Buser:

I regret that have had too much delayed to answer you. Received your recent letter on August 25 of 1992 and for which I thank you very much.

My condition of sick is recovering very slowly by and by. I could not eat original hard boiled rice even now. My main food is rice gruel. Needs two hours for each meal. Doctor said it will need more half years to be able to eat common food.

Thanks also for your kind letter of June 15 1992 but I did not read it even now. I shall read this your letter and reply you my opinion as early as I can.

By the way, there were two of big events while those several months. One was the visited of Horsman. He came here on May 28th and the press men of National Geographic took pictures and recorded conversations of Horsman and me. This was very pleasant and unforgettable thing for me.

The second is that I donated a scale model to Kalamazoo Museum. This is the model of Japanese battleship KONGO which bombarded Henderson field in Oct 13 of 1942.

I began again to type this word-machine since this June. I stopped to send translation work to Barsch in Geneva who is proceeding to write true history of Guadalcanal for one year. As I feel one of the reason that I took ill of stomach was caused by overwork of word-processing machine, I am not type so much. Usually, I type two hours per day. I typed over eighteen hours per day before the ill.

Thanks again for your kind letter sent me while my sick. I shall reply you as early as possible.

Please regard me to your family.

Sincerely,

Thin Mantis, A. Tani

Hatoyama Matugaoka 3-3-1

Saitama, Japan 350-03

19 Nov. 92

Dear Bill -

I hope you are feeling better and well rested after our trip to Guadalcanal.

I really enjoyed the trip. It was hard to believe that there is a town of 30,000 people living in the battle area of the Matanikau River and Point Cruz. Also, it seemed strange to see the hills and ridges along the coast line where there was lots of fighting. They are now bare. For some reason all the jungle vegetation has been burnt off or removed.

It was too bad we lost that day in Guadalcanal. I would have liked to gone all the way up to Cape Esperance.

However, it was a great experience, but I wouldn't want to live there. I'm hoping someday that we get to see some of that TV video that was taken.

Some of my photos turned out pretty good. I'm enclosing a few.

Now I have sad news to report. One of my Co. "B" buddies, Robert (Bob) McComb, died in Olympia, WA. He joined us at Fort Ord just before we went overseas. He came from Southern California.

Born - July 4, 1917

Died - November 6, 1992

Take care of yourself, Bill. Thank you for all the work you have done for the 164th Assn. Hope to see you next year.

Bob Carr

Nov. 17, 1992

Dear Sir:

I thought I would draft a few lines to let you know I am very proud to have been a member of Company "I" 164th while on Guadalcanal. They tell me "I" Company 164th Inf. served the first hot meal for the Army. I was the Mess Sgt. there. I was at the big reception at Camp Grafton August 1st. I want to thank you all for the hard work they did.

Company "I" lost four fellows since last June 1992. They are Eskoba Kalka, Cook, MN, passed away August 28, 1992; Joseph LaFromboise passed away 10-2-92, Carrington, ND; Arnold Casey Kline passed away Nov. 7, 1992, Wahpeton, ND; Joe Sukind, Genesco, Ill. passed away 11-10-92.

Thank you very much,

Ira A. Keeney, Sec. Treas.

Co. I, 164th

PS: I have been Sec. Treas. for the last 40 some years. Our next reunion will be the last week in June in Wahpeton, ND. I will send you a letter when they come off the press.

Editor's Note: I had a hard time with a couple of these names and couldn't find them in the roster. Thank you, Ira, for the letter.



KOREAN VETERANS: Back Row, left to right: Bernie Wagner, Red Cherry, Ernest Gibbons, Frank Dahl, Vic Gibbons, Vic Posterniuk, Lee Clark. Front Row: Bob Sarff, Bob Jeffrey, Lee Marchant, Leonard Bearce, John Wozniak.



"A" COMPANY: Back Row, left to right: Dennis Ferk, Ray Patton, Bill Tillotson, George Isenberg, Bob Well, George Christiansen, Orville Howe, Paul Dickerson. Front Row: Angus Olson, John Tuff, Willard Swift, Ernest Ventsch, Don Stevens, Wallace Everett (Butch) Gjesvold, Emil Rahn.



"B" COMPANY: Back Row, left to right: Ray Conlon, Malcolm McKay, Bill Hagen, Vince Powers, Brent Knudsen. Front Row: Mel Kjera, Ben Osborne, Gordon Steinweg, Charles Walker, Arnie Johnson.



"C" COMPANY: Front Row, left to right: Maurice Hannum, Carl Haukedahl, Bill Tillotson, Henry Wiik. Back Row: Bill Babbe, Ernest Gibbons.



"G" COMPANY: Front Row, left to right: Pete Grant, Lloyd Weiland, Carl Tait, Sam Nitscke, Tony Griffin. Back Row: Bernie Wagner, Dick Slowell, Don Robinson, Ben Glatt, Hamlin Kjelland.



"K" COMPANY: Front Row, left to right: Clarence Dalzell, Bill Tillotson, George McGinnis, Herbert Klein. Back Row: Ray Nelson, Harry Dolyniuk.

October 19, 1992

Mr. Bill,

I am sorry I missed the Williston Reunion and was happy to hear that it was a success.

Health problems prevented me from attending. I was in the V.A. Hospital here in Fargo for about a week and am still taking treatments.

The good Lord willing, I will be in attendance next year at the Bismarck reunion.

Everett (Ike) Forde called me and he is having a great deal of trouble with his eyes. Ike was with "L" Company of the 164.

After listening to fellows like Ike, I count my blessings.

Sincerely,
Ed Murphy
730 28th Street North
Fargo, ND

Dec. 9, 1992

Dear Frank:

Enclosed find check in the amount of \$25.00 with the request that it be donated to the 164th Infantry Memorial Fund. This request was received from Mitchell E. Pillarick, Florissant, MO, who returned his refund check of \$25.00 (he was unable to attend the reunion) with the above request.

We are sending a zerox copy of the letter he sent to Ray Atol — it is very informative, and would be of interest to all 164th members.

We received many comments on the Reunion — this was the first for a friend of mine, and he plans to come back for the next one.

Sincerely yours,
Owen Heller, Treas.
164th Inf. Reunion
511 21st St. W.
Williston, ND 58801

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Letters . . .

Nov. 6, 1992

Dear Ray:

I regret not being able to attend this year's reunion. Thank you for the refund check of \$25.00. I'm returning the check to you with request that it be donated to the 164th Infantry Memorial Fund.

I agree in the location of the memorial to be North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Please let us guys out of state know where the address will be so we may visit it.

As a member of Company B, I have the "last" roster made up in Japan before we sailed home. By the way, Ray, if any member wishes to obtain a CURRENT ADDRESS of a buddy, have them write me, and I'll be happy to obtain it from the "Military Records Center" here in St. Louis, Missouri. All that is needed is Name and Army Serial Number.

In closing, I enjoy reading the 164 Infantry News, if possible, like to see more pictures of past and present interests. Looking forward to the 1993 Reunion in Bismarck.

Sincerely yours,
Mitchell E. Pillarick
Company B
1335 Verlene Drive
Florissant, MO 63031

P.S. Is it possible to obtain a copy of VCR tapes of Guadalcanal Memorial Dedication? Please let me know. Thank you.

11-14-92

Hi!

I feel I am writing for a lot of the ladies, for I wanted you to know that we really appreciated all the work you did to entertain us. At each reunion you always see that we get that *special treatment*. We

enjoy it and love it!

This year at Williston was no exception. We know it takes a lot of work and planning.

Thank you!
Hetty Walker
Pembina, ND

Sept. 25, 1992

Dear Sir:

Relative to 164th Infantry News Vol. 31 No. 2 dated July 1992, and James M. Fenehon's letter on next to last page wherein he requests that the names of all members of the 164th Infantry Regiment that served on Guadalcanal until the Regiment left Guadalcanal be put on the plaque.

I take exception to the wording "that served on Guadalcanal until the Regiment left Guadalcanal."

(1) I was dumb and green and never knew what a Purple Heart meant and when one lung louie lets loose on the Anti Tank Company I got some hot shrapnel that cut my leg a bit but to me not bad enough to go see a medic.

(2) In February of 1943 I was evacuated because of malaria, jungle rot, and yellow jaundice so bad I grunted to urinate and all that came was yellow pus. I was in hospital from Feb. until June and advised to not go back to unit by the doctor.

My point is I fought in all the major battles of Guadalcanal in the mud and what all; so I feel I deserve to have my name on the plaque too even though I was not with the Regiment when it left Guadalcanal.

I joined the 164th in April 1941 and left due to illness in February 1943.

V.R. Powers
Co. "B" 164th Infantry Reg.
37027940

Dear Bill,

Enclosed is a copy of the letter from David Vouza worded just as he wrote it. I shall keep it with my other mementos of Guadalcanal.

We were in Bismarck Wed. and Thurs. and visited with Gil and Marge but Bette spent most of her time there as I had meetings of League of Cities.

Hope you have a good winter in Scottsdale and we look forward to your return. We appreciate the good work you do on the paper.

George Christensen
#15 Fairway, Minot 58701
(701) 852-1923

5-11-92

Dear Dr. George M. Christensen,

It has been an honor for me to have the chance in meeting you when you visited the island last month. I was very privileged to meet you and Bill and all the other friends.

Well, Dr., I am very well at this moment when I am writing this letter to you. I am on duty for the night when I sat up to drop you these few lines.

Well I hope you have enjoyed your short stay in the Islands.

Well Doctor, I am still maintaining my wish to visit the state. I hope you and Bill and other friends will help me out.

My family and I are well and all fine out in the village.

We just have a big road accident which claim 10 lives or 11. The big truck ran off the bridge and fell into the river. 40 people survive and 11 killed.

Hope to hear from you soon. May God bless you. Give my regards to your family. Tell them I love you all.

Your friend,
David Vouza (son)
California Village
P.O. Box 509
Honiara, Guadalcanal
Solomon Islands

NB Now you have a new President. God bless him & family.

The 164th Infantry News

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BISMARCK, N.D. 58502

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