



11-1992

164th Infantry News: November 1992

164th Infantry Association

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The 164th INFANTRY News

Vol. 31 No. 3

1992 is our 46th ass'n yr

November 1992

Notes From The Editor

The past year has been an eventful time for members of our Association.

On August 1, Guadalcanal Veterans of the 164th Infantry were honored guests at Camp Grafton, North Dakota. The program included a reception and a parade

featuring 4,000 guard members. About 200 Guadalcanal veterans attended.

August 7 was the 50th Anniversary of the Marine landing on Guadalcanal. General Flo and other members of the association joined veterans of other services in the

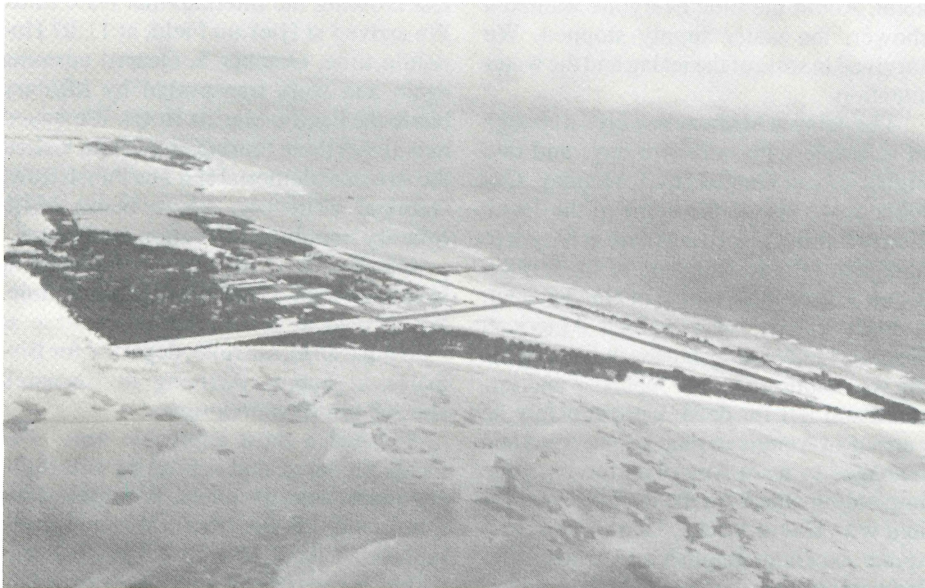
dedication of the American Memorial on Skyline Drive.

On August 30 the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery was dedicated.

On October 1 your editor and other members of the Association left Bismarck for the flight to Guadalcanal, arriving back in Bismarck on October 7.

October 9-10-11 members of the Association gathered at Williston ND for the 46th annual reunion. Minutes and financial report will be included in the next issue of the "News". The reunion was well attended and a unqualified success. Bismarck was selected for the location for the 1993 reunion to be held September 24-25-26. The officers elected for 1992-1993 are: Ben Glatt-President, Don Robinson-Vice President, Bill Tillotson-Editor, Frank Weisgerber-Secretary Treasurer.

Belatedly your Editor acknowledges the help that his beloved wife of 45 years gave in the publishing of the "News". Doris passed away August 16, this year.



Midway Island. About four square miles. The Gooney birds take over the island for months of the year.



Chapel and Visitor Center. North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The cemetery is located south of Mandan, North Dakota adjacent to Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. This picture was taken at the dedication ceremony August 30, 1992.

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Dedicated

About 1,200 Veterans, Guard members and others helped to dedicate The North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery, located south of Mandan adjacent to Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. Much of the construction and preparation of the site was done as a training project for the North Dakota Guard. The dedication ceremony included opening prayers, an original poem by Vietnam Veteran Jim Kramer, music by the 188th Army Band, a flag raising ceremony with the Color Guard from the 191st MP Company, and brief addresses by Governor George Sinner and Adjutant General Alexander McDonald. Taps was played by Brian Berg from the military band. The following is extracted from the opening prayer.

"Grant that this Cemetery be a place of rest and hope. May the bodies buried here sleep in peace. May this place be a comfort to the living, a sign for their hope for unending love."

Guadalcanal Revisited

A group of 40 including 28 Guadalcanal veteran members of the 164th Infantry Association gathered on October 1 to go on a trip that would prove to be one of the most memorable trips of their lives. The aircraft, a Boeing 737 with 10 crewpersons was furnished by the Colorado Air National Guard. We left Bismarck at 10 am for the first leg of the flight to Elmendorf Airbase, Alaska arriving about 12 noon, Alaska time.

Luxury quarters were assigned. The group was then assembled to go on a bus tour to Portage, Alaska to view the forces of nature as a moving glacier pushed huge ice masses into the sea.

We left Elmendorf Airbase at 6:05 am, Alaska time on Friday, October 2nd. A refueling stop at Adak and then on to Midway Island arriving there at 10:16 Midway time. 4:16 pm Bismarck time. We were told that a malfunction of the hydraulic system on the aircraft would cause a delay while a part for the aircraft was flown in from Hawaii. Luckily quarters were available at the Midway Naval Station. Meals were also available at the Base. The spicy noon meal preferred by the Asiatic personnel at the base was toned down for subsequent meals.

The necessary part arrived early in the afternoon of the following day on an Airforce C 130. The aircraft was speedily repaired and we departed at 2:15 Midway time. The next stop would be Majuro in the Marshall Islands. We crossed the International Dateline at 3:00 pm, skipping a day, October 3. We arrived at Majuro October 4 at 4:30 pm. 11:30 pm October 3, Bismarck time. We cleared customs again. We had a chance to buy a few postcards at

the Terminal building and in about an hour we departed for Guadalcanal, arriving at Henderson Field 7 pm Guadalcanal time.

Quarters had been arranged for us in Honiara, the capital city of the island. We stayed at the Mendana Hotel located in the vicinity of Koli Point. Honiara was not in existence in 1942. It now has a population of about 30,000, mostly native Solomon Islanders and arrivals from the Gilbert Islands. The rest of the population are from China, Japan and other Asiatic countries with smaller groups from Europe, US and Australia. The hotel was not quite up to the standards of an average American hotel. About the time everyone wanted a shower, the water supply stopped. We survived in spite of the jet lag and the water situation.

The delay at Midway required a change of schedule with only two days and two nights stay at Guadalcanal. Monday, October 5, we visited the home of the Jacob Vouza family, placed a wreath at his grave and gave gifts to members of the family. Jacob Vouza was a native of Guadalcanal, a coast watcher who warned American forces of impending Japanese air attacks. He was captured by the Japanese and tortured and left for dead. Unfortunately he carried an American flag. He survived and managed to warn American forces of the impending attack on the airfield. We visited with David Vouza, Jacob's son, who spoke excellent English and whose lifelong ambition is to visit the United States.

On Monday we visited an amphibious landing craft dump, Red Beach. Edson's Ridge and the Skyline memorial. Tuesday was the day for departure and dedication ceremonies at the Allied memorial, and

the main dedication ceremony at the American memorial on Skyline Drive. Also we dedicated the monument at Edson's Ridge. We didn't have time to visit the site of the October battle for Henderson Field, the battle where the Regiment was committed and was given credit for the decisive part that prevented the Japanese from overrunning the airfield. We had a chance to visit and purchase some souvenirs at the trading post."

We arrived at the Henderson Field about 11:30 am, cleared customs and departed for the Marshall Islands and Honolulu. On the way we gained back the day we had lost crossing the International Date Line. We arrived at Hickam Field, at 11:07 Honolulu time, October 5, cleared customs again and were transported by Military bus to the Pacific Marina Hotel. We stayed two nights there touring Honolulu, visited the Arizona Memorial and The Punch Bowl National Cemetery, where many 164th Infantry men killed in action are buried.

October 7, 7:30 am we departed at Hickam Field, 12:30 pm Bismarck time. We arrived at Travis Air Force Base at 5:00 pm California time, departed for Bismarck at 6 p.m. Arriving in Bismarck about 8 pm Bismarck time.

We had a most enjoyable time. The meals prepared and served by the flight attendants were excellent. We enjoyed the informality of the crew. We had great rapport. A thrill of your editors life was sitting in the cockpit as we flew over San Francisco Bay.



Crew from the Colorado Air National Guard who flew us to Guadalcanal and return. The aircraft is a modified Boeing 737. It was comfortably furnished and had equipment to prepare and serve excellent meals. The crews hospitality and professionalism made the trip one that was enjoyed by all.

The 164th Infantry News, USPS 699-800 is published quarterly by The 164th Infantry Association. Office address and location, Bill Tillotson, Editor, 618 West Thayer, Bismarck, ND 58501.

Subscription price of \$6.00 per year is included in the membership fee. Second class postage is paid at Bismarck, ND post office zip code 58501-9996.

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.



Joe Fenlon shaking hands with Japanese tourist who claims to have helped build Henderson Field. Japanese tourists are trying to locate Japanese dead for return to Japan. On the right is Red Cherry, on the left is David Vouza, son of Jacob Vouza.

April 23, 1992

Editor of 164 News,

Dear Sir,

I just got this notice today of the death of Haydon Johnson of Minneapolis, MN.

I had heard before that he had died but I didn't find out the time and place.

Today I heard from his son, telling me that Haydon had died in Minneapolis on Sept. 9, 1990. He was buried in Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Haydon was a member of the original Anti-Tank Company out of Harvey, but he went to Minneapolis soon after his discharge and lived there the rest of his life.

He didn't get to any of our reunions so we sort of lost track of him, but we will always remember he was one of us.

I hope to see you all in Williston this fall.

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

August 31, 1992

Dear Frank,

Please find enclosed my check in the amount of \$20.00 for dues for 1992 and 1993. Note Change of Address.

Did you have an issue out on the 164th honorarium at Camp Grafton? And if so I would like to have four copies of this to give to the three men that accompanied me.

I'm sure you were there and that really was some ceremony. It sure brought out a few tears and a lump in one's throat. I am sure this was covered by one of the persons using a camcorder. Are they going to be copies of this film available to our organization?

I will not be able to go to Williston as I am in the process of having cataract surgery. Hope you have a real good reunion.

Sincerely,
Glenn A. Hoppert
1104 14th Ave. N.
Wahpeton, ND 58075

August 14, 1992

Dear Sir:

I deeply regret the necessity of asking you to include my husband, Arthur L. Chapman, in the "Last Roll Call." He died of cancer on June 3, and is buried at the national cemetery, Bourne, Massachusetts.

He fought as bravely against disease as he fought in battle, but unfortunately this was not a battle it was possible to win. He was very proud of his military service and treasured his association with his comrades of the 164th. His fondest wish would have them to be able to return to Guadalcanal for the 50th Anniversary.

I believe you will also be receiving a letter regarding my husband's death from a personal friend, Walter S. Snowden.

Very sincerely yours,
Katherine H. Chapman
RR #1 Box 16
Eastham, MA 02642-

October 12, 1992

Dear Bill:

On this 50th Anniversary of our landing on Guadalcanal, the enclosed proclamation seems fitting to commemorate an event that will be an everlasting memory.

As promised in my letter to the 164th Infantry Association, I was able to have copies reproduced at my graphic arts school by my colleagues since my retirement in June 1991.

A package of approximately 700 copies was sent to Airport International Inn, in care of Ray Atol. They were sent by UPS and should have arrived by Friday, October 9, 1992. Hoping that everyone attending received a copy for their archives. Your original parchment copy is enclosed with a few extras, as requested.

I was informed that a video and slides of the trip to the "Canal", last August was shown at the reunion. Is it possible to get a copy of the video?

Looking forward to the 1993 reunion in Bismarck.

Keep in touch. Be well. Regards to all and thanks for all your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Nick Cascio
Company H
38 Forte Ave
Medford, NY 11763

Editor's Note: The proclamation mentioned in this letter was reproduced in the April issue.

164th Infantry Veterans Honored

Veterans of the 164th Infantry were honored by a reception and parade at Camp Grafton, North Dakota, near Devils Lake. Association member Colonel Ralph Gaugler served as Honorary Commander of Troops, Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Wagner, Honorary Adjutant and Capt. Earl Red Cherry, served as a member of the staff for a parade of 4,000 guardsmen. This is the largest number of troops ever marching at one time in a parade at Camp Grafton. Even the air guard of about 1,000 strong marched. More than 200 Guadalcanal veterans were honored at the parade and reception that followed.

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.**

Letters . . .

Oct. 22, 1992

Dear Bill,

It's been awhile since we served in the 164th and then attended agricultural college at Fargo. I so enjoy the 164th Infantry News and we all owe so much to you for the fine work you do! I'm sorry we missed the Williston get-together. We'll try hard to get to Bismarck next year.

Mary and I went to Arizona in early October and on our way home we stopped at Weed, California for lunch at the Hi-Lo Cafe. The menu was quite different and was I ever surprised when I opened it up and read about the 164th spending a night in Weed right after Pearl Harbor. I didn't get to go by truck. I was on the train that stopped in Eugene, Oregon on Christmas Day and we got off and marched and then visited with all those beautiful coeds until they blew the whistle and said, "Get back on the train."

Bill, I don't expect you to do anything with this menu but isn't it great how the 164th Infantry appears in places that we old fellows have almost forgotten?

Stay young and keep up the good work!
Clayton T. Kingston

October 13, 1992

To: The Committee relative to the plaque to be placed on Guadalcanal with names of all the 164th fighting men who fought like hell in the jungles with jungle-rot, malaria, jaundice and mud to save the Island from those bloody Japs; and we did.

(1) The plaque originally was determined to be placed on Guadalcanal with the names of the men who were K.I.A., Wounded in Action, and who became Medical Casualties, plus all those who landed on Guadalcanal on October 13, 1942 and those who were with the 164th from the call-up of active duty who beyond their control came later to Guadalcanal; and then left with the regiment when it left Guadalcanal.

(2) The decision to place the plaque at the cemetery at Fort Lincoln instead of Guadalcanal is a very good decision and I concur.

(3) Remember now, the plaque idea started with putting it on Guadalcanal for those who fought on Guadalcanal; so the decision making centers around the men who fought on Guadalcanal.

(4) Common sense tells you the only issue is about the 164th men who fought on Guadalcanal from October 13, 1942 until the regiment left Guadalcanal.

(5) Names from records should be

relatively easy; for starters read Vol. 21 Number 1 the March issue of the 164th News where names are listed; however in going over that list I do not find the names of:

Axel Ultigg Co. "B"
Rudolph Pence Co. "B"
Chin Hing Wah Co. "B"
Herbert B. Glasgow Anti Tank

(6) We are talking about Guadalcanal and not the Philippines, Fiji Islands, Bougainville, etc. etc. - - - the decision is about men who fought on Guadalcanal and who deserve recognition on a plaque.

People of North Dakota for years will observe the plaque and point with pride at names of men they know who fought the big battle for freedom.

Sincerely,
Vince Powers
Company "B"
164th Infantry Regiment
147 Sweathouse Road
Victor, Montana 59875

June 15, 1992

Dear Bill,

You will find enclosed a clipping with the obituary of Pete McDonald who I believe served in Service Company. I saw him drive up the street in Minot just a few weeks ago but couldn't attract his attention to wave to him.

In the American Legion paper that came today, the name of Joseph A. Kennedy appeared in the Post Everlasting. He was from Grafton and served in Co. C. I believe his date of death was 1/2/92. I also know that Helmer Mohagen of Grafton and Co. C. also passed away I think in December, but I do know he has passed away. It seems to me that I read that Don McLennan also passed away in Fargo but I do not have the Legion paper where I think I saw it.

Our ranks are getting smaller but that is life.

Hope all is well with you and yours.

Your friend,

George M. Christensen
15 Fairway
Minot, ND 58701

Oct. 22, 1992

Bill,

Just to let you know another one of us is gone.

Leonard W. Pfeifer

Born: August 27, 1919 at Zeeland, ND

Died: August 9, 1992 at La Puente, CA

He was a member of Regt. Headquarters Co., 164th Infantry American Division from 2/10/41 - 3/1945.

Bill, I took my last Larium tablet this morning! Hope you didn't forget yours. Am sending you a snapshot of yourself taken on Marshall Island stop. See you at Bismarck in '93 - God willing.

Sincerely,
Raymond Sinkbeil

August 19, 1992

Dear Bill,

Enclosed is a check for dues 1993 and for raffle tickets at the reunion. I am sorry I can't make the reunions as at 87 years, and a few operations one can't travel anymore. I do enjoy our 164th Chapter here in the Twin Cities.

I would appreciate if someone would explain in the 164th News why the 164th Regt. was never mentioned at 50th reunion of Guadalcanal main battles. I'm sure the 164th men remember.

Sincerely,
Geo Huffman
4021 Standish Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55407

October 13, 1992

Dear Roy,

I was one of the fortunate guys to make the recent trip back to Guadalcanal. In reference to the proposed memorial I would recommend it be located in North Dakota.

I feel the monument would not receive proper attention and care at Guadalcanal. There is evidence of vandalism at the Japanese memorial.

Yours truly,
Harold P. Aarhus
Co. "B"
2748 Kay Ave.
Concord, CA 94520

Last Roll Call

Leonard W. Pfeifer, LaPuente, CA	August 9, 1992
Herschel H. Larson, Williston, ND	October 10, 1992
Arthur Chapman, Eastham, MA	June 3, 1992
Robert Helsper, Beach, ND	August 14, 1992
Haydon Johnson, Minneapolis, MN	Date Unknown
Ralph Ike, Williston, ND	September 27, 1992
John Monzelowsky, Solen, ND	September 29, 1992
Leland Oferdahl, Elbow Lake, MN	September 29, 1992
Joe LaFournaise, Carrington, ND	October 2, 1992

Guadalcanal Remembered

Visiting Guadalcanal after 50 years was like the reopening of an old wound. The memory of the faces and personalities of our friends who died there returned. The remembrance of the squalor of the place was renewed. Guadalcanal in 1942 was not a tourist attraction. Nor is it today except for old soldiers and for history buffs.

We are thankful for the chance to return. We recaptured, in part, the excitement of the frenetic activity; the unforgettable sound of 16 inch Japanese naval fire; the deadly air duels; the drama of the sea battle offshore; the sound of machine gun and rifle fire; the twang of an empty ejecting M-1 clip and the frenzy to reload; the mud and trying to dig a foxhole in coral rock; the death danger and fear that was always near. All these memories and others returned.

The trip was rewarding and enjoyed. We enjoyed the friendship either renewed or formed. We enjoyed the exchange of stories, most of them true. We gained a better understanding of the total Guadalcanal campaign. We don't know why we survived the battles in 1942. That is humbling question. The trip will be a memory that will last our lifetime and perhaps be a part of the heritage of our families.

Letters ...

July 21, 1992

Dear Bill,

I still remember you when you were an officer and I was a medic with K Co. especially in Fiji.

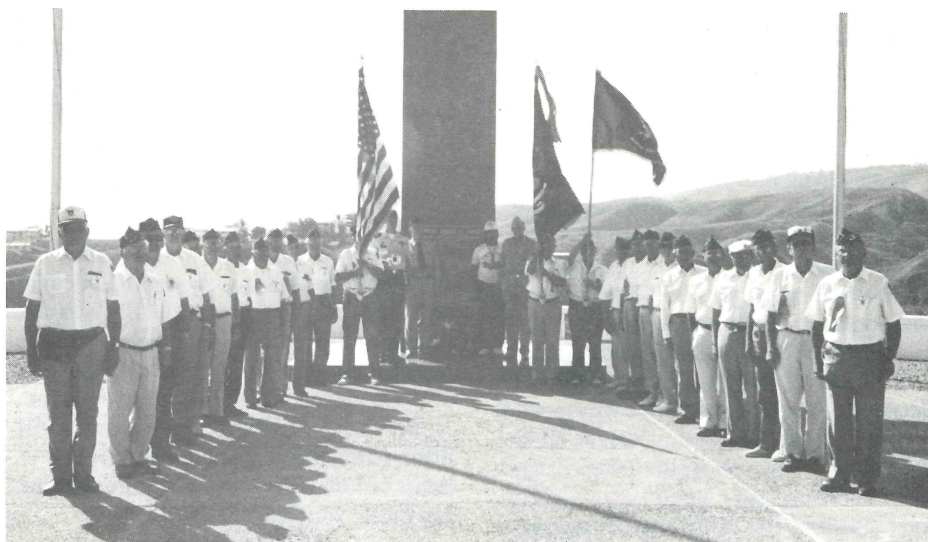
I am sending you a news item which I cut out of the Twin Cities Star Tribune of June 19th of the war we fought on Guadalcanal with the 164th Infantry and I was proud to be a part of it. And as you read through it I'm sure you'll agree that more would have been written of the 164th Infantry and the Americal Division because we landed Oct. 13th.

I hope the honor for the Guadalcanal Veterans at Camp Grafton on Aug. 1st goes well.

I don't get around very well as I lost part of my right leg beneath the knee two years ago and I'm still having problems.

I remain

Arthur Johnson
313 East Main St.
Belle Plains, MN 56011



Picture taken of ceremony at the American memorial on Skyline Drive. All the Guadalcanal veterans on the trip should be in this picture.



W.O. Bud Baldwin, Major Shirley Olgeirson from the state national guard staff, Tony Beer and Ralph Gaugler. Tony gave the prayer for the dedication ceremonies. Mayor Olgeirson deserves the credit for planning and making necessary arrangements and in general for the success of the Guadalcanal trip.

August 11, 1992

Dear Sir,

Just a note to advise you that Arthur L. Chapman died on June 3, 1992 in Eastham, Massachusetts. He served throughout World War II in the 164th Infantry and was a technical sergeant at the time of his honorable discharge. Art won the Silver Star "... for gallantry in action against the enemy in Bougainville."

His widow would appreciate your including Art's name in the "Last Roll Call" in the next edition of your newsletter.

Sincerely,
Walter S. Snowdon
335 Mary Chase Road
Eastham, MA 02642

New Members Since Last Issue of the News

Leonard McLaughlin	Pueblo, CO
Arthur P. Pepple	Fessenden, ND
Byron Lee Clark	Billings, MT
Angelo Sualone	Enfield, CT
Edward Anderson	Carpio, ND
Phalen J. Vig	Williston, ND
Lawrence Drabus	Kenmare, ND
Cletis E. King	Annapolis, MO
Donald Trust	St. Paul, MN
Andrew Tragesser	New Park, PA
Don Jacobson	Wenatchee, WA
Dwight Petty	Spokane, WA
Robert Sarff	Kent, WA

Letters . . .

Oct. 11, 1992

Dear Sir:
Subject: The planned 164th memorial plaque

Dear Ray:

Enclosed please find my check for \$25 toward that project. The choice that was finally made to put the plaque in the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, was the right choice I believe.

By the way James Fenelon was in our group visiting Guadalcanal. Just a few days ago in connection with our 50th anniversary on the "Canal" back in 1942.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
LTC Anthony A. Hannel
1001 Rosewood Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070-3837

P.S. Sorry I did not get a chance to know you better on our "One-Mile High" Guadalcanal trip.

August 3, 1992

Dear General Mac:

The 164th Infantry Association extends a deep appreciation and sincere thanks for the magnificent recognition ceremonies honoring the 164th Infantry Regiment on August 1, 1992 at Camp Grafton.

This was truly one of the most historic and touching events to ever take place at Camp Grafton. It will forever remain in the memory of those who attended on that day.

Again we wish to pay the highest tribute to you, your staff and every North Dakota Army and Air National Guard person who participated in this ceremony and demonstrated the utmost professionalism of the North Dakota National Guard.

Ray Atol
President

Editor's Note: This is a copy of a letter sent to Adjutant General McDonald.

Oct. 14, 1992

Editor of the News,

I just got home from our reunion and I must say I had a real great time.

Fr. Hill at our memorial service said it would be nice if some of us would write some item to remember about Fr. Tracey. This one I will always remember.

On New Caledonia, Fr. Tracey came to our company the evening before he was to say a mass for us so he could hear our confessions. He would sit in the seat of his jeep and we would just walk up alongside to make our confession.

This was in that mosquito area, and just before my turn he came out of his jeep and said we would have to build a smoke screen because the mosquitoes were eating him up. Well with the mosquitoes driven away we just sat around and visited for awhile before he finished hearing confessions and during that time he told us of what happened to him while he was an assistant priest at Bismarck.

This was during the tobacco auctioneer days, also when all the prayers in the Catholic church were in Latin. Before the body was taken out of the church the priest would walk around the coffin and chant the Our Father in Latin and about the time a small boy in the rear of the church shouted Sold American. Fr. said it was a good thing he was done because he couldn't keep from laughing.

I also would like to add that I had a notice of the death of two members of our anti-tank Company. I have the names and addresses but I don't have the date of death.

The names are Hayden Johnson of Minneapolis, MN and Alvin Thomas of Idaho Springs, CO.

Thanks again for a great reunion, it's so nice to keep in touch.

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

August 31, 1992

Dear Mr. Tillotson:

The summer of 1992 has certainly brought back a host of memories for the men of the 164th Infantry and their families as they commemorate the 50th Anniversary of one of the most hard fought battles of the South Pacific and World War II, the Battle of Guadalcanal! The 164th's participation and the many sacrifices made, contributed greatly to a victory which resulted in a very important turning point of the war that lead eventually to the defeat of the Japanese!

Company E, consisting of young men from Williston, ND and the surrounding area of my home town, included my brother, Jerry Wilder. I was a member of the high school graduating class of 1941 when Jerry and his buddies left for Camp Claiborne, Louisiana in early 1941, probably never realizing what was ahead. It wasn't until after the war and I had met my husband, Bob Sommars from Carrington that I learned he served on the U.S.S. Chicago and participated in the landing of the marines on Guadalcanal and later in October, 1942 the landing of the 164th Infantry!

We lost Jerry in September just a year ago after heart surgery. I understand he was in line to serve as president of the 164th Infantry Association this past year, had he lived. Both Bob and I were pleased our friend, Ray Atol was elected to serve. When Jerry served in that office during the late 1970's, he sent us several copies of the "164th Infantry News" from time to time and we have kept them. We would appreciate very much receiving back copies of the "News," if they are available, covering the Association's meeting in Fargo last fall and particularly the issue listing the "Last Roll Call." I have enclosed my personal check to cover a subscription to "The 164th Infantry News."

With all good wishes to the men of The 164th Infantry Association and for a successful and memorable convention in Williston in October!

Sincerely,
Shirley Wilder Sommars
(Mrs. Robert H.)
2221 South Prairie Avenue, #67
Pueblo, Colorado 81005

The 164th Infantry News

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BISMARCK, N.D. 58502

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Les Balerud Minot, ND
Ralph Lepper ... International Falls, MN