



12-1994

## 164th Infantry News: December 1994

164th Infantry Association

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

Vol. 32 No. 6

1994 is our 48th ass'n yr

December, 1994

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ A Company - 164 Infantry - Getting Ready



**Do you recognize anyone?**

The above picture was taken of A Company 164 Infantry on Bougainville as they awaited transport to Leyte. The picture is dated November 1944 and was taken at the base of Hill 608.

Al Morrone sent the picture in with regrets that he did not know any names. Do you?



## Company E, 164 Infantry - March 1944

In a recent publication of the Americal Newsletter I noticed an article requesting true stories of action. The following is a true accounting that might just shock the men who fought on Hill 250, and of some whose lives might have been saved, except for the greed of glory among individual commanders of high rank. This accounting is true and reflects my disgust at incompetence and alcoholism among the so-called elite brass of our country.

Before the Japanese hit Hill 260 and the 182 Million Dollar Tree, I was hoisted up to that outpost, about 80 feet above the ground. The staff and Company's CO's of

the 2nd Bn, 164 Infantry were making a tour of your front line at the time. While up in the tree I could see nothing but tree tops and jungle, and deemed the trip up the tree and outpost dramatic, but useless.

A few days before the Japs began their anticipated attack on approximately 9 Mar 44, the 2nd Bn. of the 164 was moved to the secondary line behind the 1st Bn, of the 164. (This was on a ridge overlooking the 1st Bn.)

After the initial anticipated artillery fire by the Japs from the far bank of the Torokina River, and from Hill 500 and 1111, (we had a grandstand seat and could see the

## G Company

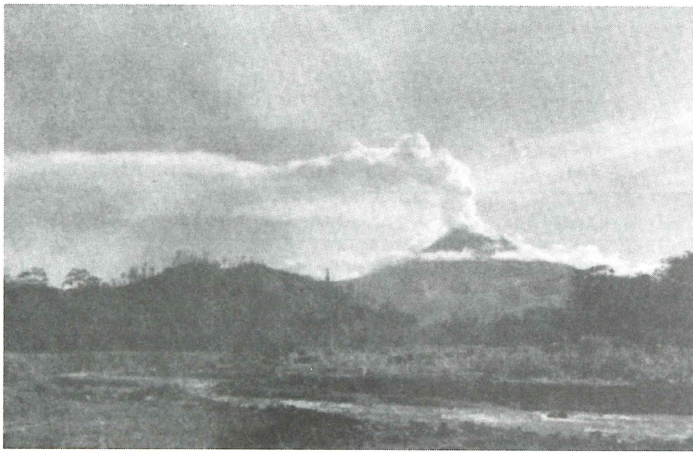
On the way to Leyte we were off the coast of Hollandia, New Guinea. There were several ships in the convoy. I was sleeping on deck in my hammock with the netting on, to let it air out. About six in the morning there was a loud roar and the side of our ship had a 40 foot geyser going up into the air. I was tangled up in the netting when the orders to "Abandoned Ship" were given. We were told to standby the side as the nets were lowered and the lifeboats lowered. Seemed like a 40 foot drop or so but some of us decided to jump. The feeling was like slow motion and after I hit the water it felt like I floating on a cloud, everything seemed so silent. There were life boats all over the place. Some were heading to shore and made it there. We turned around and got back on our ship. The story was that some Jap torpedoes would explode when out of gas.

The payoff came just the other day when I was making arrangement for lunch with two guys from the 164th that I had never met before. The one I spoke to on the phone remembered the incident. He went on to Hollandia and stayed there that night. He told me that the torpedo had glanced off the bow of his ship and exploded at the side of another transport (mine). He lives about 12 miles from me and we haven't met yet, but it sure is a small world.

Jay Roth

flashes of each gun) the 182 Infantry battle for Hill 260 began. I took Co. E, 164 out through the B Co. 164 line on a limited patrol, that was ordered to go up the Torokina to the forks, (alongside Hill 500) then patrol down river to the juncture of the 164 and 182 patrol sector. Arriving at the 182 sector in the early afternoon we met a 182 patrol of about 20 men. To my surprise they were wearing helmets. What can you hear in the jungle wearing a pisspot? I advised the Lt. of the fact and his patrol returned to the line after reaching the river.





**Mount Bagana - Torokina River  
(Hill 500, left-Jap held. 164 Patrol area)**

My lead platoon led by Lt. Jim Pfeiffer, (sp?) was well into the 182 patrol area, for we had no definite lines of demarcation. He returned to tell me that back of Hill 260 a stream of Japs were crossing back and forth across the nearly dry riverbed. You can guess the rest.

We proceeded downstream within easy rifle shot and killed seven Japs caught in the open. In an effort to get documents, Pfeiffer, Disrud and Catalfamo were wounded and because of overhanging trees we could not use our 60 mortars.

I called on the radio for 245 F.A. fire, not knowing at the time that they could fire only into the 164 sector. After a long agonizing wait, some big shot answered from the other end and ordered me out of the 182 sector. Here we had the opportunity to possibly stop the fighting on Hill 260 but were stymied by the bureaucracy. The impression that I got was that the 182 would do all of the fighting in the 182 area and didn't need any help. I got the impression that this was the private war of the 182.

Upon our return to the lines, Col. Dunn, (I believe he was your 182 C.O. at the time) met me at the B Co. 164 line. He was sick at heart as I, when I explained the facts. (He had been my C.O. in Fiji, 2nd Bn 164 and we had a good rapport). He asked me to present the facts to a one-star, General McCulloch, and overage, pompous, man who was evidently running the 182, overriding Col. Dunn. He had a private tent complete with mappage in the rear of the 182. This man dressed me down and tried to make me out an idiot. He said in no uncertain terms that I had

no business in the 182 patrol area and poohpoohed all the ideas I had about crossing the Torokina and cutting off the Jap supply line. After all, he informed me, I was only a 23 year old captain while he was a graduate of West Point!

The next morning I was ordered to meet with several silver and birds, and a few men carrying stars. I blew my cool.

I was sick of red tape and incompetence and told them all to get off their asses and get out where the bullets were flying. I added some pertinent remarks about graduates of the great school along the Hudson, and of alcoholism and cover-ups.

When I left that meeting I knew I would be up for a court's martial, but didn't give a damn. But it never happened! Perhaps my honest anger shamed them. Instead, a wonderful thing happened. A young Lt. Col. Taylor from the 245 Field Artillery came up and put his hand on my shoulder. He said, "Charley, not all West Pointers are P-----! The next time you want artillery fire, you call me! I'll see you get it!"

From then on, whenever on patrol, I asked for and go a Forward Observer from the 245 F.A.. I fondly remember a few: Lt. Kerlanski and Captain Fall. There were others whose names have slipped by me in the past 50 years. In the Philippines above Ormac, above Capucin, the 245 saved the day for us more than once. Even some of their F.O.'s were wounded while with my company.

Enclose is a brief clip from a 164 member who recently wrote into our Regimental magazine. It supports my claim that



**Left to right: Capt. Taylor, Capt. Full**

Col. Taylor was an exceptional officer and true to his word. ---- "in reading the News, I see a couple of names I recognize. One is Capt. Walker. It seems that he was promoted to Major shortly after we arrived in Japan 8 Sep 45 and was bumped on points because of the advancement to Major and had to stay longer, like us newcomers. I know he was an outstanding officer that knew how to talk on field comm to get artillery support in a hurry"---Zane Jacobs.

If anyone doubts the authenticity of this missive I can provide proof, for many of the Co. E, 164 are still alive. (Williston National Guard) Perhaps Col. Taylor is yet alive. He was somewhat older than me and would be probably be nearing 80. I'm only 74.

Why the patrol of the 182, that we met by the river, didn't pursue down river in their sector is something I can't explain, but I can make a damn good guess!

Sincerely,  
Charles Walker  
Former C.O. of Easy Co.  
164th Infantry

P.S. I suppose you dread putting anything in the Newsletter that is derogatory, but the facts in this case have bothered me this many years. It's only fair that the men who fought on Hill 260 should know the truth, and not the cover-up!

I am enclosing a photo I took of Col. Taylor and Captain Fall (or Full). As we were not allowed cameras, a Japanese officer kindly donated his pistol and camera with three rolls of film to me. Hence the lousy, home developed photo.

**Ed Note:** I read your letter over many times and feel that you are entitled to speak your piece. I am looking forward to receiving a lot of pro's and con's but I believe your story is basically true and I

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1993-94 Association Officers are:

President ..... Milt Kane, Fargo, ND  
Vice President ..... Neyl McClure,  
Bismarck, ND  
Sec./Treas. .... Frank Weisgerber  
Bismarck, ND

Editor ..... Don Robinson  
164th Infantry News Bismarck, ND

**POSTMASTER:** Address changes should be sent to 164th Infantry Association, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502.



for one am glad to hear it.

As for the 182 patrol--shortly after the 182 arrived on the line adjustments were made and the 1st and 3rd Battalions were left in the line. The 2nd Battalion was held in reserve, garrisoned Hill 260 and conducted all combat patrols in the 182 sector. (This did not include security patrols in front of the line companies--they provided their own security patrols) I do not ever remember going on a patrol wearing a tin hat. He had one since learned that this was not practical.

Once the battle on Hill 260 started the entire 2nd Battalion was thrown into the struggle. My unit, E Company, was reduced to about twenty men in 24 hours.

Colonial Long was the Regimental Commander during this fight. General McCulloch was the Asst. Div. Commander and was sent to the 182 Command Post to take command of the operation by Americal Commander General Hodge.

Lt. Col Dexter Lowry commanded the attack with E company. Lt. Carlson, E Company C.O. was among the first wounded and evacuated. Col. Lowry then took command of E Company until it was withdrawn the next day.

The history book, Under the Southern Cross, on page 149 states and I quote, "During the day in the Americal Division's zone of action (9 Mar 44) patrols once again moved out to reconnoiter the front. One 164 Infantry patrol ran into a group of fifty Japanese near the banks of the Torokina River, five hundred northeast of Hill 260. Two of the enemy were killed in the exchange of fire and a pair of machine guns and one mortar were put out of action." (Could this have been your patrol?)

I have recently proof-read a book being put out by the Turner Publishing Co. and it is off that this story mentions an incident about helmets, and I quote "Complications developed when the patrols of the 164 Infantry, given instructions to shoot on sight any creature wearing a helmet, ran into patrols from the 37th Division who were unaware, of the orders given Americal men. The two groups avoided mutual carnage at the last minute, and subsequently the patrols of the 37th Division also went bareheaded."

I questioned the writer on this point because I do not believe the Americal ever issued orders to go bareheaded on patrol. We always wore a fatigue hat or cap if you may.

I was out in North Dakota in September to attend the dedication of the 164 Memorial. I am sorry that I did not have a chance to talk to you.

## Names and/or amounts corrections to Memorial Book

Page 2 Chaplain (Col) Donald W. Hier  
*Should read Donald W. Hill*

Page 8 Starkenberg, B.E. NOJG  
*Should read WOJG*

Page 20 American Legion Post No 147  
Fargo, ND  
*Should read American Legion Post No.  
147 Park River ND*

Page 27 Red Steckler  
*Should read Ted Steckler*

Page 27 Joseph C. Schwartz  
*Should read Joseph C. Schwartz*

Page 27 Alford C. Shellum \$25.00  
*Should read \$50.00*

Page 28 Rowland H. Bernis  
*Should read Rowland H. Bemis*

Page 28 Harold G. Donna &  
Delores Hoff \$75.00  
*Should read \$200.00*

Page 29 Joe Gemmeringer \$25.00  
*Should read Joe Gummeringer \$50.00*

Page 30 Charles T. Bell In Memory of  
Roger T. Melroe and Dorothea  
Melroe  
*Should read Dorothea Melroe in  
Memory of Roger T. Melroe*

Page 32 President of Association 1974-  
Ray Gibbens  
*Should read Ray Gibbens*

## Confused about your Donation?

Many folks have been confused about the total amount of their donations to the "Veterans Cemetery." There are two separate funds.

Donations to the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery may be sent to The Militia Foundation, P.O. Box 5511, Bismarck, ND 58502-5511. This is used for maintenance & perpetual care at the Cemetery.

Donations for the 164th monument at the Cemetery may be sent to the 164th Infantry Association Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111. This money is used to fund the 164th Memorial monument and other associated costs.

## Books and postcards for sale

Commerative books and postcards are still available from the Association secretary at PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111.

The 40 page soft cover book include historical narratives, list of KIA/MIA, and photos of the 164th Infantry Memorial at the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery. Cost is \$11.50 (includes postage).

The postcard includes photos of the front and rear of the 164th Memorial. Cost is 5 postcards for \$2.50 (includes postage).

## Notes from Editor Don:

*To Ted Steckler who wrote to advise us that his name was misspelled in the Memorial Book.*

I'm deeply sorry that this happened but there is nothing we can do about it now as all of the books have been printed and distributed. To all of you that have books please turn to page 27 of your Memorial Book and change the first name of Mr. Steckler to Ted. After all he is a \$100.00 donor and we don't want to discourage this type of supporter. Thanks again TED.

Also: At the last reunion in Bismarck we held an election to replace Frank Weisgerber as Sec./Treas. due to the fact that Frank is considering moving to warmer climates. We nominated Vern Fetch in absentia because Mr. Fetch was out of town. I guess we should have waited because upon his return he advised us that he is unable to accept the appointment because of other duties along with being Grand Chef DeGar of the 40/8 and would not have time to properly take care of the many duties of Sec./Treas. of the 164 Assn. Frank Weisgerber has volunteered to continue as Sec./Treas. for the time being but we still must find a replacement. Thank you Frank.

*Editor*



# Contributing to the Good Life...

RE: 1 64th Infantry  
By SUSAN M.A. LARSON  
Daily News Writer

If you read the Goodlife story on this page, you already know that I attended the dedication of the 164th Infantry Memorial at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Mandan Saturday.

My reasons for going were more personal than professional. My dad was a member of the 164th Infantry E Company. He fought in Guadalcanal during World War II.

Dad died in May. He's buried at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. To be honest, when Mom told of her plans to bury him there, I had mixed feelings at first; I hated to think of him being up there all alone.

But then she explained how much it meant to him. When he first heard of plans to build the cemetery, he sent in a donation. And after Saturday, I realized that he's not really alone there; he's surrounded by members of his other family—members of the 164th who are also buried there.

He was very proud to say he was a member of the 164th. Before he went overseas in WWII he had "164th E Co." tattooed on his arm. He said if he was wounded (which he was), he wanted whoever found him to know where he belonged. At home we had the 164th logo on our door. It included the words "Jesuis Pret." It means "We are ready."

The memorial money we received when

he died was donated to the cemetery and to the building of the 164th monument. He would have loved the dedication Saturday. Some of his old Army buddies were there, and they remembered Mom from past reunions.

Saturday was the first time I had ever been to the cemetery. It's a neat place. It's situated on a hill where you can look out and see miles of beautiful North Dakota countryside.

A poem was included on the cover of the dedication program Saturday. I think it's rather fitting:

Taps—by Arta Nottingham Chappius

There will be a great encampment in the land of clouds today. A mingling and a merging of our boys who've gone away. Though on earth they are disbanding, they are very close and near; for these brave and honored heroes show no sorrow, shed no tear. They have lived a life of glory; history pins their medals high. Listen to the thunder rolling—they are marching in the sky!

## New Members

Arthur K. Amos - San Antonio, TX  
Paul T. Gray - Placentia, CA  
Laura Ventsch - Minot, ND  
Allan J. Olson - Elbridge, NY  
Kenneth Shaver - Marshall, WN

## Donations as of 12/1/94

Arthur K. Amos .....	164.00	Vera Cleveland .....	25.00
Carl A. Rorvig .....	10.00	<i>In Memory of Tom Cleveland</i>	
Frances M. Zietlow & Family .....	50.00	Paul Fischer .....	50.00
<i>In Memory of Walter E. Zietlow</i>		<i>In Memory of Father Tracy &amp; Father Felix Andrews</i>	
James Lumsden Post #243 .....	50.00	<i>In Honor of K. Freed, R. Turner, P. Fischer</i>	
American Legion, Noonan, ND		Collen L. Welch .....	100.00
Lucas Allex .....	25.00	<i>In Memory of My Beloved Father Sgt William F. Cody</i>	
William S. Boyd .....	164.00	Stephen J. & Mary J. Burkart .....	25.00
Richard Stout .....	75.00	Marilyn Patterson .....	20.00
<i>In Honor of Richard &amp; Charlie Stout</i>		<i>In Memory of My Husband Merlin Patterson</i>	
Jim Winter .....	40.00	Lorraine M. Gislason .....	25.00
Victor C. Gilbertson .....	25.00	<i>In Memory of Marvin Gislason</i>	
E.J. Brennan .....	20.00	Vernet R. Anderson .....	25.00
Timothy Kurtz .....	50.00	Walter Rivinius .....	50.00
John Jordan, LtCol USA (Ret) .....	50.00	Margaret S. Sanders .....	20.00
<i>In Memory of Brother LtCol C.L. Jordan</i>		<i>In Memory of Robert L. Sanders</i>	
Carmelo C. Borgia .....	50.00	Will Hill Tankersley .....	50.00
<i>In Memory of John P. Barry, Co H</i>			

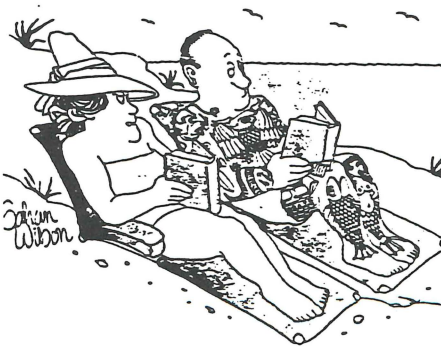
# WWII Commemorative Retreat

A Commemorative Retreat will be held at Camp Grafton on 14 June 1995 to honor North Dakota National Guard units that were mobilized for WWII. Units honored will be the 188th Field Artillery Battalion, the 957 Field Artillery Battalion, the 776 Tank Destroyer Battalion. All veterans of WWII will be recognized, along with members of the members of the 164 Infantry Regiment which was honored at Camp Grafton in 1992. The ceremony is planned for later afternoon on June 14th. Members of the honored units will be offered the opportunity to hold celebrations at Camp Grafton prior to the official Retreat Ceremony.

## Capt Andrew Panettiere, Bn Surgeon, 3d Bn 164th Infantry 1942

The Association has received a request, on behalf of John Panettiere, for information on his father, Capt Andrew Panettiere, who was killed in action 23 Nov 1942 on Guadalcanal when enemy artillery and mortar fire destroyed the Battalion Hq Command Post. Lt Col Hall, the Battalion Commander was wounded and several officers, including Capt Panattiere, were killed.

John was five years of age at that time and is now attempting to bring together the military career of his father. Any stories, photos, friendships, etc. from the Association members will be greatly appreciated by John. The point of contact is John's friend Will Hill Tankersley, Box 470, Montgomery, AL 36101. Mr. Tankersley tells us that a hospital on one of the Solomon Islands is named for Capt Panettiere.



"Just when did you acquire those tattoos, Warner?"





**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY  
NORTH DAKOTA  
VETERANS' CEMETERY  
1400 hours, 29 May 1995  
Commemorating the  
50th Anniversary of WWII**



*All veterans' organizations are invited to take part  
in the 3rd annual Memorial Day ceremony at the  
North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery*

**Tentative Events (not necessarily in this order)**

Army National Guard Flyover (UH-1 or OH-58)

Posting of the Color Guards and/or Rifle Squads

National Anthem(?)

Dedication of Memorial Plaque, 776 Tank Destroyer Battalion

Recognition of NDARNG WWII units

(188th FA, 957 FA, 164 Inf, 776 Bn)

Recognition of all WWII veterans

Guest Speaker: Adm. Wm. A. Owens, Vice Chair,

Joint Chiefs of Staff

Memorial Day Prayer

Air National Guard Flyover (F-16)

Tentative: P-51 or Corsair flyover

Ceremonial rifle firing (WWII rifle squad)

Taps

21-Gun salute (cannon)

Flags are raised to full staff

**(Below is a list of previous participants)**

American Legion Post #1, Bismarck

American Legion Post #40, Mandan

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #3

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #150

AMVETS Post #9, Bismarck

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1326, Bismarck

ND Chapter, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Ft McKeen Detachment of the Old Scout Society

17th Infantry Regiment, Fort Abraham Lincoln

American Legion Post #173, Fort Yates

Standing Rock Vietnam Veterans Association

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #\_\_\_\_, Fort Yates

## Letters. . .

Dear Mr. Robinson,

This is to inform you that my husband, Theodore Conrath, a veteran of the 164th Infantry Regiment, Company K. Died on Jan. 4, 1995.

We were at the reunion in Bismarck two years ago, and he wanted to attend the memorial service on Sept. 24th. Unfortunately, he had a massive stroke Sept. 11th, from which he never recovered.

Ted was disabled with Malaria and served on Guadalcanal, The Solomons, etc.

He was so attached to his "buddies" that he saved every scrap of paper connected to his service.

He joined the National Guard in 1939, to pay his rent at Dickinson State College. He got \$2 a drill per month.

Pres. Roosevelt activated the National Guard soon after, and Ted was sent for training to Cap Claibourne, Louisiana. The rest is history.

I have a long photograph of Company K taken in 1941. Ted is in the middle next to last row. It says Lt. P.F. Ebeltoft, CA Mdg., Lt. T.N. Steckler, and Lt. D. Flegel "Absent".

If you want this photograph for your archives, I'd be proud to send it to you.

I am enclosing a 1991 editorial from the N.Y Times on Guadalcanal.

It says it all. Let's hope the, younger generation doesn't forget the sacrifices these men made to keep the world free.

Sincerely

Frances Conrath

72 Pondfield Road West

Bronxville, NY 10708

P.S. Ted and I visited N. Dakota every two years for about 46 years. He has a brother and sister living in Mandan. His brother is Fred Conrath and his sister is Caroline Conrath.

## Guadalcanal Gulf

*Reprinted from the New York Times 7-9-91*

"Guadalcanal. The name will not die out of the memories of this generation. It will endure in honor." So proclaimed an editorial in this paper in October 1942 as American forces were fighting a fierce battle to wrest the strategic island from Japan's grip. The Japanese had honey-combed the island with miles of interlocking tunnels. Rooting them out took a horrendous toll. Some 15,000 Japanese died; 6,000 Americans were killed or wounded.

Later, the memory of Guadalcanal fell victim to the generation gap. In the mid-1950's, marines in a training exercise

*continued on page 6*



**Guadalcanal...continued from page 5**

stormed Guadalcanal's beaches and took its high ground. But when correspondents asked how it felt to re-enact a famous battle they drew blank stares from young marines who had been in kindergarten at the time of the actual campaign.

The Japanese Government did not forget. It built a two-story monument to its fallen men. That action led Americans to form the Guadalcanal-Solomon Islands Was Memorial Foundation, based in Illinois. So, far, it has bought a plot of land on the island and raised \$360,000 of a needed \$500,000 to build a monument. Now it hopes that Persian Gulf enthusiasm will loosen a new generation's pocketbooks to honor heroes who, half a century ago, bested an enemy far tougher than Saddam Hussein.

**Theodore Conrath**

*Reprinted from The Bismarck Tribune*

A North Dakota native son and respected New York artist died last month.

A gifted sculptor and painter, Theodore Conrath broke into the New York art scene in 1962 with a solo exhibition of paintings at the Key Gallery in Manhattan. From his large studio in Pelham, N. Y., he went on to create contemporary works for the Elaine Benson Gallery, Hastings-on Hudson Gallery, and Jain-Maranouchie Gallery in Soho.

Early on, he received recognition for his book illustrations at the New Books Exhibit at the National Arts Club in Grammercy Park, where he maintained his first art studio and was a member of the Art Student League.

Conrath showed artistic talent at age 9 and developed his abilities throughout his youth.

A native of Hebron and a graduate of high school there, Conrath went to New York City in 1944 after serving in the South Pacific with the 164th Infantry Battalion, Company K. The war interrupted studies at North Dakota State University and Dickinson State College, where he spent a year. He also had to forfeit art scholarships for study in Germany and later the Chicago Art Institute because of his military service.

He graduated with a master's degree in fine art from New York University where he met his wife, Frances Lapin. Together they taught art in New York public schools for 30 years.

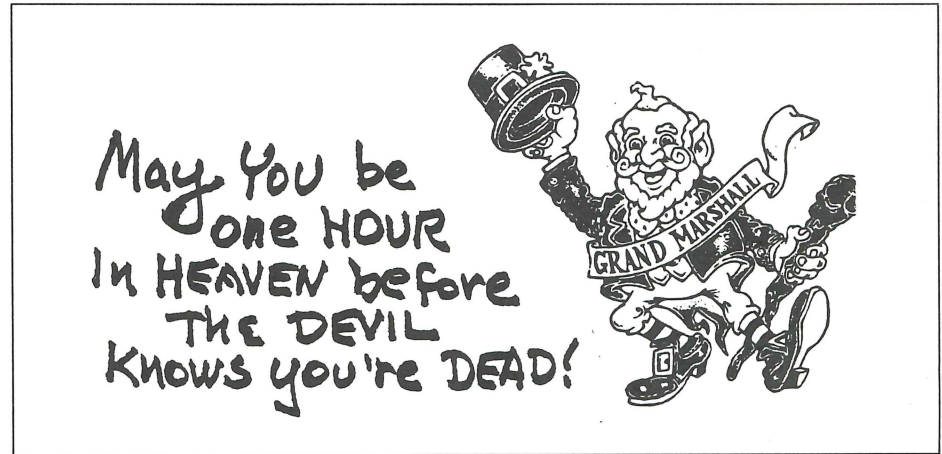
Greetings 164th: One and all;

The years sure roll around and we haven't been able to get around much. That's why all is dropped when the 164th news comes in. Yep, we are thinning out. Bette and I have our 50th anvs this coming Jan 13th.

I'm enclosing a check to cover a copy of the dedication book, cards and 95 dues and a little for memorial.

To all members of 164th, hang in there fellows, really take it easy and God Bless and keep up the excellent paper.

Bill and Bette Tucker  
Chickasha, Okla 73018



Dear Friends'

MSG John Halcman died Jan. 19, 1995 of a heart attack. Enclosed the obituary. He was unable to attend the last few reunions but I'm sure many will remember him.

Loretta Hackman  
3700 Gladstone  
Butte, Montana 59701

**John W. Hackman, 75**

John W. Hackman, 75, of Butte, died Thursday in Dillon.

He was born on June 28, 1919, in Tappen, N.D., the son of Robert and Ella Hackman. Mr. Hackman was raised in Tappen and later moved to Minnesota. He served in the Army for 49 months in the South Pacific. He served in the Army Reserve with the 164th Infantry and retired from the 841st in Butte.

He was a member of the Army Reserve pistol team in Butte. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, riding horses and the outdoors.

He married Loretta Farrell on July 16, 1945, in Fargo, N.D. He was an engineer at St. James Community Hospital. He retired from the State Park Division at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park in 1984.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Ralph.

Survivors include his wife, Loretta of Butte; twin brother, Bill of Butte, brother, Roy of Steel, N.D., and Robert of Fargo, N.D.; and sister, Bernice Foran of Fargo, N.D.

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday in St. Patrick's Church. Burial of ashes will be held at a later date in North Dakota.

Memorials: Our Lady of the Rockies or a charity of the donor's choice.

**Last Roll Call**

Howard D. Feeler Sr, Clinton, IA .....	12 Aug 94
David J. Price, Dickinson, ND .....	21 Nov 94
Erwin A. Ventsch, Minot, ND .....	11 Dec 94
James P. Hanson, Puyallup, WA .....	7 Nov 94
Theo Conrath, Bronxville, NY .....	4 Jan 94
Merlin D. (Bud) Patterson , Ritzville, WA .....	20 Aug 94
Adrian Holten, Portland, OR .....	11 Dec 94
Albert J. Luther, Aitkin, Mn .....	Oct 94
Glen Wick, Albuquerque, NM .....	21 Feb 95
Robert Baird, Dickinson, ND .....	21 Feb 95
Obert L. Indvik, Walnut Creek, CA .....	12 Feb 95
John W. Hackman, Butte, MT .....	19 Jan 95
Clarence Tollefson, Steele, ND .....	6 Mar 95
Lee Hallgren, Williston, ND .....	20 Mar 95



## To Editor - News

This is to notify the association that my uncle James Hanson Sr passed away on the 7 of Nov 1994. He was always proud of the time with B Co 164th of which we were both members. Best to all.

Sincerely  
Gordon Bostrow  
3029 Jeanne Rd  
Augusty, GA 30906

## Glen Wick

Glen Wick, 79, Albuquerque N.M., formerly of Bismarck, died Feb. 21, 1995, in a Bismarck hospital. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bismarck, with the Rev. Hensel Hendrickson officiating. Burial will be in North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, rural Mandan, with military rites by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1326.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. today at Eastgate Funeral Service, Bismarck and will continue at the church one hour before services.

Mr. Wick was born March 28, 1915, in Robinson, the son of Carl and Lillian (Haimler) Wick. He graduated from Robinson High School in 1933 and served in the Civilian Conservation Corp before joining the Northern Pacific Railroad as a telegraph lineman. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1941 receiving his training at Camp Claiborne, La. On Oct 19, 1941 in a double wedding, he married Lucy Allan of Tuttle, with lifelong friend Gilbert Shirley marrying Marjorie Allan. He was a member of the 164th Infantry until his discharge in 1945, serving with distinction in the pivotal Guadal Canal and Bougainville Campaigns. After the war he returned to Bismarck where he was employed by Benson Optical. Following a stint in Billings Mont. from 1948-1951, he again returned to Bismarck until 1968 when he transferred to Albuquerque to manage a new Benson Optical office in that city. He retired in 1978.

## Erwin Ventsch

NEW TOWN - Erwin A. Ventsch, 78, Minot, formerly of New Town, died Sunday, Dec 11 1994, in a Minot hospital.

He was born Sept. 23, 1916 in Van Hook to Carl and Berth Ventsch. He was raised there and attended Van Hook Consolidated School. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and was stationed in Dunseith and Plentywood, Mont., for three year. Her served in the Army from 1941 to 1945 and served in the South Pacific.

He married Laura Sevalson in 1945 in Van Hook. We went to work for the Soil

Conservation Service in Van Hook and then moved to New Town and retired in 1971. He worked for Rensch Chevrolet in New Town, for Brown and Root on the McClusky Canal and did private surveying throughout western North Dakota as a licensed surveyor. He also was a trapper.

He was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, New Town, a charter member of the Beck-Sherven American Legion Post in New Town, was past district commander of the American Legion and was a member and past president of the 164th Infantry Association.

Survivors: wife, Minot: sons, Warren, Valley City, Leslie, Chicago, Curtis, Minot; daughter, Coleen Johannes, Albuquerque, N.M.; seven grandchildren; sister, Dorothea Wenzel, Minot.

Funeral: Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Bethel Lutheran Church, New Town.

Burial: Van Hook Cemetery, near New Town.

Visitation: Today from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Johnson Funeral Home, New Town.

## Robert Baird

DICKINSON - Robert B. Baird, 75, a lifelong resident of Dickinson, died Feb 21, 1995, in the Dickinson hospital after a long illness. Services will be held at 10 a.m. MST Saturday at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dickinson. Special mu-

sic will be provided by Jill and David Baird, Jans Carlson and Helene MacDonald, organist. Burial will follow in Dickinson Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Paul Ebeltoft Sr., Walt Rehling, Tom Murtha, Joe Boespflug, Pat Fadden and Maynard Windmueller.

Honorary bearers will be Terry Wehner, George Letbin and members of the Dickinson and rural fire departments.

Military rites will be by the Veterans Drill Team.

Visitation will be from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. today.

Robert "Bob" B. Baird was born June 12, 1919, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Dickinson. After completing elementary school in Dickinson and graduating from Marshall High School in Minneapolis, Mr. Baird attended Dickinson Normal School, and graduated from University of North Dakota. He received his law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1949.

As a major in the U.S. Army from Company K from Dickinson, Mr. Baird served through stateside training and the 164th Infantry Amphibious Unit in the South Pacific during World War II. Mr. Baird received a Navy commendation from his service in the military and an honorable discharge, retiring as a major in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.



LeRoy Baird is on the left, Tim Sullivan is without a shirt. Both pictures are from 1942 at 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 1994 — \$10.00 which includes \$6.00 subscription to 164th News.  
Send to Secretary 164th Infantry, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502.**





## Little girl recognized by grandmother

Dec 10, 1994

Dear Sir,

I received the "164th Infantry News" today. Was surprised to see my Grandchild's picture on the front page.

Her name is Elaine Larson, she is 7 yrs old. Her parent's name are Susan and John Larson from Wahpeton, ND.

Elaine's Grandfather was F. Willard Anderson who was in the 164th Infantry Co. E. who now is buried there at the

Veterans' Cemetery. Some of the family were at the dedication program. Such a good program. Was good to see so many friends there. I wonder what Elaine was thinking as she stood there looking at the monument.

Sincerely

Betty Anderson  
203 8th Ave W. #72  
West Fargo, ND

## Clarence Tollefson

Clarence "Tolly" Tollefson, 77, Steele, died March 6, 1995, in Mesa, Ariz. Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Steele, with the Rev. Donald Schumacher officiating. Burial will be in North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, rural Mandan.

Visitation will be from noon to 9 p.m. Sunday at Eastgate Steel Memorial Chapel.

Clarence was born Sept. 23, 1917, the son of Tollef and Theoline (Nerby) Tollefson at Robinson. He was raised and educated at Robinson. He entered the U.S. Army in 1941 and was a member of the 164th Infantry Co. H1. He was discharged in 1945 and given a Purple Heart. Clarence married Eva Stroh. They owned Tollefson Super Valu in Steele for 35 years before retiring in 1982. For the last 13 years they spent the winter months in Mesa.

Clarence was a member of Bismarck Elks, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Disabled Veterans. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Steele and their choir, and was a seasonal member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mesa. Services were held in Mesa before returning home.

He is survived by his wife, Eva; one son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Candy, Washburn; one daughter, Kathryn Muir, Moorhead, Minn; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one sister; Dorothy, Rapid City, S.D.; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Milla and Agnes; and two brothers, Martin and Ted.

## The 164th Infantry News

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