



9-1996

164th Infantry News: September 1996

164th Infantry Association

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The 164th INFANTRY News

Vol. 34 No.3

1996 is our 50th ass'n yr

September, 1996

CARL HAUKE DAHL'S REPORT ON SAVO ISLAND

Thinking back to Savo, Captain Mjogdalen and I were the only two from Company C to walk around the island.

A fighter plane had crashed on a mountain and the natives complained about the pilot being left in the cockpit. A group from the Marines was sent over to bury the pilot, but for some reason they did not do this, so a squad from Company C was sent up there to take care of this. I do not remember who was in this detail.

I met a Mr. Leif Schroeder on Savo. He said he was born in Narvik, Norway and his parents emigrated to Australia. He later went to the Solomons where he had been for thirty-five years at that time.

I had an outline on a map of Savo produced from an aerial photo. Captain Mjogdalen and I walked around the island. At each village we went through, a bunch of natives joined us. So, by the time we had walked around the island about one hundred natives had joined us.

Schroeder was like a God or Judge to the people. He settled arguments, divorces, etc. He communicated in pidgeon English and a few talked English.

At each village he would ask if they had picked up anything Japanese. The Japs had made small bamboo rafts and floated in hand grenades, one hundred fifty-five casings etc. All information gathered I put on this map such as, a good boat landing area, poor area, where boat was picked up, location of each village, etc.

Schroeder said that I was the first man to map the island.

Regimental headquarters set up a communications station about four miles from our CP. A path was hacked out so they could get there with a jeep they had brought along. There was a level piece of grassland one hundred fifty feet in diameter where they set up their CP.

It was quite an experience to see the natives get their first ride in a jeep. At first they were scared, but as one after the other rode, everyone wanted a ride.

Natives picked up one of our pilots out on the ocean while we were there. Schroeder said that was the seventh one rescued on Savo.

We left the island with a six by six truck full of bananas furnished by the good-hearted natives.

I came back to the States just before the company left for the Philippines. I was assigned to the Army Air Corp on my return to duty.

(The following two items were taken from "Retirement Services" Fort Biley, Kansas.)

VA NEWS

The National Cemetery System will honor a request from the surviving veteran spouse for adjacent national cemetery burial spaces, if the request is formally made at the time the first veteran dies. All eligible veterans are entitled to a burial space in a national cemetery and a headstone recognizing their military service. Previously, military couples were buried in the same plot with the name and information of the first deceased veteran on the front of the marker and the second veteran's information on the back of the marker. Veteran couples now have the option of adjacent plots or burial in a common plot, but must make the decision at the time of arrangements for the interment of the first veteran spouse.

VETERANS HOMES

North Dakota Veterans Home was established in 1891 to provide care to veterans spouses and surviving spouses. It has 112 basic care beds. The skilled nursing facility at the Veterans Home consists of 38 beds. To be eligible for services you must be: (a) bonafide resident of North Dakota for at least one year or (b) have served in an activated North Dakota National Guard or (c) been a resident of North Dakota upon entering the Armed Forces or spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran.

For information on applying for admission you may write to the North Dakota Veteran's Home, P.O. Box 673, Lisbon, ND 58054 or call (701) 683-4125.

LETTERS ...

Dear Sir:

We are intersted in coming to the reunion of 164th Infantry in October. Where is it to be held - what hotels are available and whom should we contact as to reservations?

We did not even know about any reunion until a year ago. In 1944 I was a replacement in the 164th division in Bougainville. I met Ed Mulligan from Detroit Lakes, MN last September and we had a nice visit - talking about our experiences. Am enclosing a picture taken sometime in June '44 on Bougainville. Haven't had any contact with any of them but thought you might be interested in having this picture for the newsletter. As I remember, the names are on the back but no addresses.

I have poor vision so my wife is writing this for me. Please let us hear from you soon so we can make our plans.

Sincerely,
Robert Rives, Sr.
6100 W. Friendly Rd. #1107
Greensboro, NC 27410



BACK ROW (L to R): John McCall, S/Sgt Wisconsin; Bob Wilkinson, PFC Arkansas; L. Goodwin, T Sgt California; Robert Rives, PFC Greensboro NC.
FRONT ROW (L to R): PFC Daniel Wise, PA; unknown; PFC Bernard Ray.

LETTERS ...

To all 164th Infantry Association Members:

This is to inform you that at the 164th Assn. Reunion in Bismarck on October 11-12-13, 1996. Editor Don Robinson and Secretary Treasurer Frank Weisgerber will not accept nominations for the offices now held. Please be prepared to nominate the people of your choice.

Note: We have dropped approximately 30 members from our roster for non-payment of dues.

Editor

August 24, 1996

Reunion Committee:

As much as I would have liked to attend the reunion I am not up to it because of my health. This past March I had a lung removed. Also I have a bad heart. But, God willing, I will be with you next year. Here are my tickets for the drawing. I will be thinking about the good time we will be missing.

Jim Rains & wife Alta
528 Center Road
Buffalo, NY 14224

Hi:

Sorry I cannot attend this reunion as much as I would like to. But I cannot. I don't get around very good anymore and I am 74 years old now. I hope all my old buddies are well and OK? I will never forget the 164th. It is always on my mind and the time I spent as a part of it even if North Dakota isn't my home state. I am glad I served with a great bunch of guys. I am sending a check for the raffle tickets but I am not going to use them so use the ten dollars as you see fit. It's a good cause. Again, good luck to all and good health to all of you. I am paid up for this year's dues and will send in for 1997 at the end of the year.

Best regards,
Vic Athias
266 Miller Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941-2868

Dear 164th Infantry Association:

Still hoping to make the reunion but not definite yet. If I don't make it, hello to Tony Beer, Chuck Walker and others.

Sincerely,
Dick Hamer
701 Whispering Pines Circle
Melbourne, FL 32940

August 10, 1996

Dear Neyl,

Best wishes for a great get together in Bismarck this October.

I joined Co. I in 1947 while a student at NDSC school. Served on active duty in the early 50's and got out in the early 60's. What I appreciated most was the men I got to know, especially the WWII vets., that guided us youngsters along. I'll always remember and appreciate what your generation did for me and America.

Enclosed is my continued membership and the price of the three tickets.

Keep this note. If I should win in the drawing, put the \$164 into the 164th treasury as a gift.

Please advise me if this comes to pass.

Sincerely,
Bob Alin
867 Oak Street
West Fargo, ND 58078

Dear Secretary:

Greetings to one of the finest organizations in America!

Do you still have any Guatal Canal Comm. booklets left at \$10 Softcover?

Also, I have copies of a booklet (1943) from the War Dept. (dark dull blue cover) that is a summary of the Battle for Guadal... It is all interviews of Marines and 164th men with their thoughts on the battle. Outstanding commentary. If you would like a copy just say so.

Allan J. Olson
3570 Whistlestop Lane
Elbridge, NY 13060

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have many of the above mentioned booklet — at \$10 plus postage.

August 23, 1996

Dear Frank:

One day I hope to get up your way to say hello at least. Frank, I am mailing a check for the 1997 dues, raffle tickets and \$10 for the pot. Use the \$10 for whatever.

Keep up the good work and I hope you have a good reunion.

Don E. Hoppe
6139 Melita Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

August 4, 1996

Dear Reunion Committee:

Should my name be drawn for one of the \$164 prize, I plan to donate entire prize to the military cemetery located near Mandan, ND.

Keep up the good work you all.

Tony Hannel
LTC USA (ret.)
1001 Rosewood Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

August 5, 1996

164th Reunion Committee:

Enclosed are the three tickets. A check for \$10.00 and my regards. I would love to be able to be in Bismarck in October, but cannot. Both of us are homebound, but even though, we will be at another 164th Reunion — just wait and see. We did make the Medics Mini Reunion this year. So next year it is supposed to be the Regimental.

Sincerely,
Bill Parker
805 W. Chase Avenue
El Cajon, CA 92020

July 29, 1996

Dear Frank:

Sorry I can't make the 50th reunion this year. I'm enclosing an editorial from the N.C.O.A. Journal. Thought you and the others might like to read it.

In October I'm going into the Orting, Washington Old Soldier's Home, which has full nursing care. Orting is a 200 bed home. They have another in the Port Orchard area that is 400 beds. The one they have in Prescott, Arizona has a very long waiting list and would be a long ways for any of the family to visit me. My wife will get an apartment nearby and we also have a son and daughter in the immediate area.

I read in the Jamestown Sun around the middle of May that Lisbon was requesting an addition to it's home. They ended up getting only 11 more, I guess. My brother, Roscoe is buried there. They will now have 125 beds, but have to go to Fargo for medical service. What a shame.

The other clipping I'm sending is self explanatory, and it's what I've had since 1985. I will send my new address as soon as I have it. I'm enclosing a check for my 1997 dues.

Best of luck in Minot and forever.

Bob and Donna Todd
Co. H.

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1994-95 Association Officers are:

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Bismarck, ND

Vice President George Christensen
Minot, 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.

Hi Don:

Each of us have combat memories of these "Green Hell Years," in the South Pacific of WWII. The story I'm about to recall may be remembered by many members of B Company 164th Infantry on Bougainville in 1944, Solomon Islands.

Our company was located on the front line perimeter, at the base of hill called "Snuffy Nose Ridge." We were well dug in with plenty of fire power. In the rear of the company, we set up a mess hall and, of course, we had a Class A screened in "latrine," situation was becoming "livable," and the chow was improving.

One day after chow, a soldier/or officer was blown-up in the latrine. It seems the guy on latrine duty couldn't find the Lime, so he improvised by pouring in a can of gasoline into the trench. The unsuspecting guy comes in and has a seat, he would have been OK, until he decided to light up a cigarette. That's when the big "Boom" happened, setting fire to our latrine and blowing-out the soldier sitting there. Many of us heard the explosion and saw the man rolling down the hill, in front of the latrine covered in flames, he looked like a flame thrower hit him. He was evacuated with severe burns. To this day I wonder who he was and also how he explained this to his family.

So guys if you remember this incident, please let me know if he made it.

Mitch Pillarick
"B" Company 164th Inf.
1335 Verlene Drive
Florissant, MO 63031

July 15, 1996

Hello again Frank:

Sorry for the delay in sending the annual dues. The past six months have made my mail pile up and completely forgot to acknowledge and to give many thanks for your cooperation in sending the video tapes since last year's reunion.

Hope this finds you and yours in good health and spirits. All is okay with us here, except that laziness creeps in from time to time.

Enclosed dues for 1996.
Best regards to everyone.

Sincerely,
Nick Cascio
38 Forte Avenue
Medford, NY 11763-4431

Dear Neyl:

Sorry, wife and I don't travel that far anymore, but being NDaks we would sure be happy to meet all of you!

Herman D. Wildermuth
7487 Bannock Trail
Yucca Valley, CA 92284-3136

July 8, 1996

Dear Sir:

Back in 1987 when my wife and I joined a group of "Canal" vets, to return 45 years later to break ground for a fit memorial. I was the only 164th member of that group of mostly marines and sailors. In that group was a chap named C.A. Buser who was during the campaign, stationed at the Pagoda (air operation center) Henderson Field. Buser's job was in the nature to assist the air traffic controller. Anyhow, we became good friends early on. Especially when he heaped so much praise for our 164th Rgt. He continues to do so to this day and in his frequent letters writes that if our Rgt. had not helped save Henderson Field then likely all could have been lost including his own life.

Now one of Buser's close friends is doing research work on various points of "Chesty" Puller's life. As I recall "Chesty" was the C.O. of the 1st Bn. of the 7th Marine Rgt. During the October 23-26 period the Japs hit his Bn. very hard and in short order our 3rd Bn. 164th was rushed into the line to assist his Bn. and our own 2nd Bn. I was with Co "C" 3rd Platoon Ldr. along Alligator (Tenaru) Creek during the fight and a marine runner came to Company Mq. ready to lead my platoon wherever it was needed. Fortunately the lines held. Since my retirement in 1975 in my travels etc. I have met several marines who were there and you would be surprised how many told me "You guys saved our butts".

Not long after the big battle I visited my old company "K" where I had been 1st Sgt. I knew all the men and in our conversations several mentioned that they had visits from marine "Brass" thanking them for their fighting ability. Now if anyone can recall such visits with marines - please contact MR C.A. Buser.

Prior to the Ntl. American Div. Reunion in Reno, Nevada June 20-23 I received a nice letter from Lloyd J. Morrell, reunion coordinator, asking me to be the parade marshall - but I begged off. However I felt it an honor to be offered that position in the 1st place. Lloyd used to live across the bay a few years ago so we got to know each other.

For what it's worth - you may find some help for our good friend C.A. Buser. Wish you had the 164th Reunion in Dickinson - I would be there come hell or high water.

Sincerely,
Tony Hannel, LTC USA (ret)
1001 Rosewood Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

(C.A. Buser
7008 Arbor Drive
Frederick, MD 21703)

July 25, 1996

Hi Don:

Enclosed are copies of some old "Americal Newsletter" dated August 5, 1945 and September 8, 20, 1945, which I believe our members would enjoy reading the historical news of the war. I also sent the same copies to the Americal Association for their publication.

Looking forward to our 1996 Reunion in Bismarck.

With Best Regards
Mitch Pillarick
B Company 164th
1335 Verlene Drive
Florissant, MO 63031

Dear Reunion Committee:

Looking forward to the reunion. We have never heard about it before — I hope someone will be there from Company B.

Robert G. Rives

August 5, 1996

Dear Comrades:

Hope you have a good and successful gathering for the 164th Infantry Association's 50th Anniversary.

God willing, we will see you in Minot in 1997 — Best regards to all.

Enclosed stubs and check — "Make me a Winner!"

Nick Cascio - Co. H
38 Forte Avenue
Medford, NY 11763

Dear Neyl:

I will not be able to attend the reunion this year, but here is a check for \$30.00 towards my dues and the expenses of the reunion.

The Strolling Strings are certainly the ideal group to entertain us — particularly for those of us whose hearing has deteriorated. I go through life missing punch lines.

I'm sure it will be a great success.

Sincerely,
John R. Holt

Hi Captain Christy:

I would not miss this reunion for the world. Here's my check for registration and tickets.

I'm trying to have a few more A co. members to attend.

See you in October.

Walt Hickey
PO Box 373
Hilliard, FL 32046

Last Roll Call

Norman Gunderson, Bellflower, CA April 11, 1996
Carl Haukedahl, Wildrose, ND July 22, 1996
Robert Kyllingstad, Valley City, ND April 18, 1996
W.J. Kelly, Jamestown, ND November 30, 1995
Anetta Nitschke, Jud, ND June 6, 1996
Dr. Charles R. Taylor, Pulaski, PA November 12, 1995

New Members:

Ruby G. Hendrickson, Fargo, ND
(Ruby's brother, Annerd Dale, was the Mess Sergeant of HQ Co 164th Infantry)
Otto E. Heath, Anaheim, CA
Joe B. Horski, Grand Forks, ND

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha



Blessed Kateri was an American Indian, born at Ossernenon (Auriesville) in New York State in 1656.

Cherokee Indian Blessing

May the warm winds of Heaven
Blow softly on your house,
And may the Great Spirit
Bless all who enter there.



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. _____

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The 164th Infantry News

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