



12-1998

164th Infantry News: December 1998

164th Infantry Association

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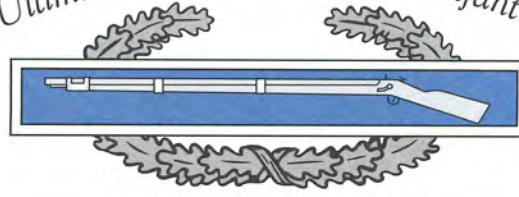
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 38 · No. 7

December 1, 1998

Christmas Guadalcanal 1942



Photo Credit : Life Magazine of US Signal Corps. Circa 1942.

This was Christmas morning on Guadalcanal. Chaplain Abbe held services for Protestant soldiers in a coconut grove, while standing on packing cases for a pulpit. Identification of some of the soldiers attending Christmas services were made by "G" Company's Dick Stowell of Denver, Colorado and Elmo Olsen of Finley, North Dakota. These may not be positive ID's, as Elmo was calling for a magnifying

glass at the Bismarck reunion. Ham Kjellend, Don Oster, Bob Wallin, Vern Olson, Dick Stowel, Oscar Stockland, Ray Linater, Allen Olson, Clarence Hedstrom, Bert Johnson, Bill Eberharvedt, Toby Wagner, Harvey Phillips, George Stephenson, Don Robinson, Tom Nugent, Carl Tait, Mike Conlin and Ron Dahl. The "G" Company men are located in the right handside of the picture.

LETTERS



To The Editor:

Sirs,

Please accept this donation in memory of my father, Elvin H. "Bud" Marmon, who passed from this life on 7-29-97. The 164th was a special brotherhood my father was so proud to have been a part of, and we were so proud and indebted to him and all others who served.

Sincerely,

Georgia Hill

Hi Ben,

Enclosed is my money for the flag and I would like to say how much I enjoy the 164th News. I wish I could have made it to the reunion, but maybe next time. Best to all especially the old guys from "B" Company.

Gordon Bostrom
1SG USA (RET)
3029 Jeanne Road
Augusta, Georgia 30906-3277
e-mail:gordon@groupz.Net.

Ben, Gaby Pounds of Birmingham, Alabama passed away about the 6th of November. Gaby was a member of the 164th Infantry Association for quite a few years. He joined Company "A" on Fiji in March or April of 1943. He was with the Company on Bourgainville, Leyte, Cebu, Nigros and Japan. He really enjoyed the reunions until he became too ill to attend. He leaves a wife, daughter and some grandchildren.

Paul Dickerson
North Canton, Ohio

Hi Ben,

I received the 164th Bumper sticker and put it on the car right away. I keep hoping somebody will see it and tell me they were in the 164th too. No luck so far, though.

I want to thank you very much for going to the trouble of sending it to me. Thank you very much. Here is a couple of dollars to at least cover the postage. See you next year.

Thanks again,

Paul Dickerson
North Canton, Ohio

Dear Jim,

I'm not sure that you were notified of my Brother Donald's death. He passed away Easter morning 1998. He and I served in the medical Det. from Bottineau. Don left us from Guadalcanal with severe malaria. I believe it was diagnosed as cerebral malaria and a couple of other varieties. Enclosed is a copy of his obituary. I get up to North Dakota for our Med. Det. Reunion each year. Wish I could also make the Regimental some year. Our company reunion attendance is falling dramatically for the obvious reasons. I am enjoying each copy of the "News". Keep up the great work.

Orein G. DeLap
2319 SE 28th Street
Cape Coral, Florida 33904-3335

Dear Jim,

I think I know someone who is overdue on getting his dues paid. My rapid file system is a little hard to keep track of. Again I won't be able to get to the reunion. Too much is going on here. A 96-year-old aunt and a 93-year-old Mother in lieu. Not living with us but have to keep in touch. My health hasn't changed since you called, check ups twice a year. You look healthy in your pictures in the news. Do you remember Red Doucette? He did his best to get me to volunteer for the training cadre in the U.S. for a one-time operation. He beat me back to the States by a few weeks. He spent the war with Merrills Marauders One time operation.

Best Regards to you,

Bob Burns
8021 Old Pacific Hwy. N Apt#4
Castle Rock, Washington 98611-9629

Dear Mr. Kemp,

Please find enclosed my check in the amount of ten dollars to cover one-year membership to the 164th Infantry Association. My late husband, Robert H. Sommars, was a member until the time of his death this past February 1998. The last copy of "The 164th News" we received was the September issue, 1998. I would appreciate receiving the December 1998 issue when it is published. I would like to thank you and the officers of the 164th Infantry Association for arranging such an impressive and nice memorial service during your reunion, October 10, 1998 held at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck, North Dakota. Our son, Robert Sommars, JR and I were pleased to be with all of you that morning and appreciate your remembering our brave men of the 164th Infantry, who answered the "Last Roll Call" this past year. All good wishes to the 164th Infantry Association!

Very Sincerely,

Shirley D. Sommars
2221 South Prairie Ave #67
Pueblo, Colorado 81005

Bula Joe,

Returning to a regimental reunion after a 10-year hiatus was a great experience. I noticed a lot more wrinkles, stooped shoulders and slower steps but spirits were still high. Many faces were missing for a variety of reasons. Most of them rather sad and depressing. I eventually was reunited with my old comrades from 3rd Battalion Headquarters, all three of them. Thirty-one of us congregated in the old armory on that fateful day so long ago. February 10, 1941. When I started asking Lyle (Bethke), Mel (Bork) and Merritt (Ogren) about those that didn't show up, I was stunned to hear that all that remained of the original cast were sitting at that table. I do believe that one other, Allan (Bud) Brown was still with us but desperately ill in Porterville, California. The thin skein of mortality became very evident to that foursome gathered at the table in the Radisson dining room. May we all be back for an encore in the future? When Jim (Fenelon) and I finally got on orders to proceed to Kessler Field, Mississippi to begin processing for aviation cadets it was, indeed, a happy time. Bougainville and Tarawa were being mentioned as new island paradises we might visit. As we packed for the safari home I noticed that Jim was discarding a local artillery map that highlighted Japanese positions on Guadalcanal about three months earlier. I grabbed onto it for a souvenir. After an uneventful trip back to the states and passing by customs I eventually got to Kessler and started the process to become an aviation cadet. I did lose a Colts 45 caliber; Model 1911 to customs but thought that was all. Boy, was I wrong. I was in the station hospital with malaria when I receive a summons to appear in Class A uniform at the security desk at 0900 hours, the next day. I was escorted by two M.P.'s to a Headquarters building and brought before an Eagle Colonel, two Light Colonels and two Captains who produced the old souvenir map and demanded an explanation. I gave them the simple facts shaking in my boots. After many inane questions I was dismissed. I told them that the guy who helped produce the map was on base. They consulted later with Jim and here ends the saga of the world-shaking map.

Walt Ensminger
Grants Pass, Oregon

.....

Dear Ben,

Overlooked paying my dues for 1999 when I sent ticket money in at reunion time. Anyway - here's my check for dues now. Enjoyed visit from Jim Fenelon this summer. Always nice when someone stops by when coming through Grand Forks.

Respectfully, in comradeship

Paul M. Bossoletti
316 24th Avenue S
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201-7504

Editor Jim Fenelon now the rest of the story....

My side of the Map saga. Ensminger and I were placed on a high priority to travel via MATS (Military Air Transport Service) to the USA and report to Kessler Field, Mississippi. The MATS flight refueled at Canton Island then on to Hickam Field, Honolulu, Hawaii a 3-4 days of waiting as we were bumped by individuals with higher travel priority. I was assigned to a different MATS flight headed for Hamilton Field north of San Francisco. Upon reaching Hamilton Field, the flight was unable to land because the hydraulic system malfunctioned and the wheels would not come down. The flight was directed to the San Francisco municipal airport to attempt to land. Keep in mind that the San Francisco airport in WWII was a civilian airport with little or no traffic. Apparently, the pilot was directed to circle over San Francisco Bay until the fuel was expended and then head for the San Francisco airport to make a wheels up - belly- landing. Many attempts were made to get the wheels down and locked in place but to no avail. The pilot announced to all on board the aircraft to follow the procedure for a belly landing. This announcement made the passengers rather tense. The fuel was consumed and the pilot brought the plane down to water level, the props were scooping up spray from the bay. The plane touched down on the runway. The props bent and the sparks and noise created by the plane skidding on the concrete runway was unbelievable. Finally, the plane came to a stop. The airport fire and ambulance crew moved in quickly and evacuated all personnel, no one injured, and all passengers thanked the pilot and crew. The customs officials asked do you have anything to declare? All replies negative. All passengers that were O.K. received a 3-day pass and a furlough home and report to Kessler Field. Now back to the map. After Ensminger was escorted by MP's to the confrontation with the "brass" I was summoned to appear and also given an escort. When questioned I replied in the affirmative that I or Sgt. Walter Johnsen had prepared the original map, and Sgt. Johnsen was probably on Bougainville and would appreciate being called back to the U.S. to explain the map. I asked what the big concern was, as long as WWII had long moved on from Guadalcanal? I asked to a pencil and paper and drew a rough sketch of the defense system, perimeter defense system and listed the 164th Infantry and 1st Marine units. When asked why I had so much information about the defense setup I explained Sgt. Walter Johnsen and I were assigned to that particular duty. I was one very frightened soldier. I asked now what will happen to me? Apparently the reviewing officers felt that there was no security risk to US Forces on Guadalcanal as the island was declared secure. The map was returned to Ensminger and now resides in the Military Heritage Center, University of North Dakota. Case closed.

Hello Ben,

First, I want to congratulate the Association Officers for the terrific edition of the September 164th Infantry News. It was very informative and interesting. Ben Steinberg wrote about joining 3rd Bn., on Mindanao. Lt. Col. John Smalley was CO and Major Bud Kane Ex. Ofc. When we received orders to pick up some replacements on the beach. Major Kane ordered Sgt. Ted Kurtz and me to take our five trucks to pick them up. Del Monte Airstrip is on top of a mountain, elevation about 5000 feet 20 miles from the beach. Our battalion strength was 450. There were 452 soldiers on the beach assigned to the 3rd Bn. How in hell do you pick up 452 soldiers in 5 trucks? The quartermaster came to our rescue and we got the men on top of the mountain. Sorry, I can't make the Reunion. Give my regards to my old comrades!

Yours,

Neil Tennyson

Dear Sir,

I just finished reading your very interesting September 1998 newsletter and have to state in all articles and books that I have read about Guadalcanal, nothing is ever said about A) How men of the 2nd platoon Company "B" were caught in a ravine cross fire and most all were killed then Col. Richards ordered the 1st platoon to go up the same ravine: but our Lt. stated we will go if you lead. We never had to go to war in the 1st platoon. B) How P-40 airplanes with bombs were to bomb the Japs ahead of white sheeted arrows laid on the ground; however the P-40 pilots bombed Company "B" soldiers. I was there. Nothing is ever said about that. We won the war so history is not interested in mistakes made. Thought you might be interested in learning about the actual.

Vince R. Powers
816 Nez Perce Drive
Hamilton, Montana 59840-9010

Dear Jim,

Congratulations on an absolutely outstanding December Newsletter. That arrived today. Wonderful job. I read it - all 16 pages as soon as it arrived. You and I know that a good newsletter is the glue that can bring and hold together the veterans of the 164th Infantry. Thank you for printing my Tribute to Charles Walker. Reading it now in you newsletter it brings back memories and I mean every word of it.

With best wishes,

Charles Ross

RECEIVED LETTER 56 YEARS LATER

Hey, Jim. I've got another one here. Would you be interested in hearing a story about how my wife received a letter here, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on January 30, 1998 that I had written to her on July 12, 1942, while we were stationed on New Caledonia? Anyway, I've got a lot of tape left so, I'll tell you. On July 12, 1942 on New Caledonia, the regiment decided to send some of these underage fellas back home to the states. We had two in Company B. They were about ready to leave that day and I got the bright idea to write a letter to my wife, or girlfriend at that time, that wouldn't be censored. It gave it to one of these fellas and he would mail it when he got to Fargo, North Dakota that's where he was from. He agreed to do that and I proceeded to write the letter and gave it to him. So he went home and while he was on the boat going to the United States, his mother had passed away, which he didn't know about until he got to Fargo. His dad had moved to the East Coast some place, but his brother was still there and he and his brother decided to turn around and go back to California. By the way, he was discharged from the Army because of his age. I guess in January of 1998, he happened to run across this letter that he had forgot to mail back in 1942. He didn't know where I was, but he knew of one of the fellas in Company B by the name of Brent Knutson, who lives in California and he knew of his whereabouts. So, he called him up and got my address from Brent out of the Regimental Roster that was mailed out recently. Anyway, he sent me this letter that I had written and hoped that I had married the girl and told me a little bit about what had happened to him, I'll tell you about that later. But, anyway, I got this letter and I saw that it was kind of old and it had not been opened. I looked at the date and my gosh! I went into the den, where my wife was watching TV, and said "Here, Honey, here's a letter that I wrote to you in July of 1942". She was flabbergasted as I was. Anyway, this fellas name that I gave this letter to is Howard Brenim, he was the youngster Company B sent home. He was discharged and three months later he was inducted into the service again. He went to Georgia and became part of a training cadre to train in new troops. He did that for a little while then went to the European Theater and got in on the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944 and he was wounded. He didn't go back to the states, but he was hospitalized for awhile then he went into combat again and was wounded a second time. It wasn't too serious. He went back to his unit and he was finally sent home a month before the war ended and now resided in California, he is 73 years old, retired and doing quite well, I guess.

EDITORS NOTES: Les Wichmann, Ken Starr better not find out how you circumvented the censorship law in 1942 or you will be investigated. I know you and Louise have been happily married for 50 plus years.

Bolo Knife Story:

A WWII Friendly Baseball Game

This is November 5, 1998 and this is Les Wickman. Hi Jim Fenelon! I'm going to try and get this story off to you- it's about that Bolo Knife I presented to you during our reunion. Here goes.... We have to go back to the middle of July 1945. We were still fighting on the island of Cebu, Philippines on about the 15th day of July. I happened to be in the CP alone for some reason and I think it was on Sunday, when a Philippine gentleman came up to see me and asked me if we, The American GI's, had a baseball team. I said, no we don't have one as such, but we can certainly rustle up a bunch of guys whom are willing to play. I asked what type of baseball do you play, and what size ball do you use? Is it one about this size (with my hands I indicated a hardball). He said no, it's bigger and then I showed him about the size of softball. He said, "Yeah, that's it". I said we call that kitten ball or softball. No, he said, that's baseball. Okay, that's fine, I said. He said, we would like to play on Sunday, July 27th. He said the village of Pardu Cebu is going to celebrate a fiesta and we'd like to play the Americans in a game of baseball. I said great that would be fine. I said I think I can get some fellas together and we'll do that. He said all right, I'll show you where the baseball field is and you meet us there at 1:00 or thereabouts on this Sunday, July 27. I said okay, fine and he proceeded to show me where the diamond was and it looked real good. They had it all laid out. Then I went back to the regiment and proceeded to find some baseball players. I went to several companies. I was mainly interested in a good pitcher and finally found one or two, I think, in Company "A" or Company "C", I forget, but anyway, the first battalion. I told them where the diamond was and to meet us there about 11:00 or so on Sunday, or something like that, so that we could practice a little bit together before we played the Filipinos. I got all the guys together and told them where to meet. So come Sunday, the 27th of July, we went out to the field and we didn't see any Filipinos around so we tossed the ball around and hit a few and got limbered up and practiced a bit. The fellas were assigned their positions and so on, and it got to be noon and afternoon and I forgot exactly what time it was, but there were no Filipinos around. I was wondering if I had made a mistake as far as the date or location was concerned. After a bit we heard some music, like a four or five piece band playing marching music. We didn't know where it was coming from, but after a bit we saw this band marching down the road towards us. They were marching around the corner playing this music. Well, fine! Great! Then we noticed that behind the marching band, some ball players with old style pin stripped baseball uniforms. Oh, my gosh! Here they came all set to play and behind the baseball players were, I would guess, almost a thousand Filipinos - all marching down the road. So they came onto the field - band, baseball

players and we had an instant audience of Filipinos. So the fella that had contacted me originally came to me and wanted to know about the rules and regulations and son on, so we discussed that for a while, decided on umpires and then decided on score keepers. So then we're about ready to play. Now these Filipino people were getting so excited that they could hardly stand it. These baseball players had these old uniforms on that looked like they'd been in storage for five years- I imagine while they were under Japanese rule. You could tell that some of them didn't fit too well. It was kind of hilarious. We were having a great time and the people certainly were. As you can well imagine, this is their first celebration for maybe four or five years, whatever, and they really put it on. So we started to play ball and with the most enthusiastic crowd I've ever heard, I believe, we played, I forget, how many innings. Regulation, whatever it was, seven or nine innings. We played them nine innings, and the temperature was quite warm, quite hot. We beat them on the first game, I remember. I say the first game, because after we finished that one, we were ready to play another one. The crowd wouldn't let us leave without playing that second game anyway. We rested for a little while and got something to drink, then started the second game. The second game was tougher on us because we were getting pretty tired, but those Filipinos were so enthusiastic, they played their hearts out. I believe we beat them by a narrow margin, but I'm not sure if we won or not. The people were still as enthusiastic after the second game as they were during the first one. After the second game, this fella that had originally contacted me at the CP grabbed my hand and took me out to the pitchers mound and made a little speech about the Americans liberating them and etc. That this was the first ball game played in the Philippines since before the war and since the Americans beat us playing baseball, he presented me with this Bolo Knife. I was flabbergasted. I didn't know what to say. However, I did say something to the crowd, I forget what it was. That was the end of that, but the crowd didn't leave, they wanted to visit with us. We had a great time just standing around talking to these people. On this Bolo Knife is an inscription that reads, first prize, Pardu Fiesta and something else July 27, 1945. I was able to take this home with me or send it home somehow. It really doesn't belong to me; it should be a part of the 164th Infantry Association memorabilia. I am more than happy to give it to Mr. Fenelon so he can put it with the other memorabilia that is in the Heritage Center at the University of North Dakota. Okay, end of story.

EDITORS NOTE: Thanks Les, the Bolo Knife is on display in the East Asian Room at the Military Heritage Center, University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

Ben Kemp, Sec/Tres, reports that the 164th Infantry Regimental Flags will be mailed to you as soon as the new shipment arrives in January. The original contractor failed to follow the contractor specifications, which called for the Infantry blue and the contractors delivered the flag on white cloth and the artwork was poor quality. The shipment was rejected. A new contractor is preparing a new order and the flags should be mailed to you in January 1999. Your patience is appreciated.

HEADQUARTERS BASE SECTION NO 4 U.S.A.F.I.A.

Port Melbourne, Victoria
April, 12, 1942

Embarkation Order:
No. 1

SECRET

Movement of Allied Forces

The following personnel now quartered on the U.S.A.T "PRESIDENT COOLIDGE", will move from that transport and embark on the S.S. MAET-SUCKER, S.S. "Van Heutsz, and S.S. "CREMER" in accordance with the following schedule and in the order shown. S.S. "MAETSUYKER"

UNIT	OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN	LEAVE COOLIDGE	EMBARK
164TH Inf. 3 Bn (less Co 1)	22	701	6:00 P.M.	Immediately
Service Co.	1	17		
Hq. Co.	1	17		
Med. Det.	2	27		
Anti-Tank Co.	1	48		
Service Co.	3	51		
S.S. "VAN HEUTSZ"				
Anti-Tank Co.	1	48		
2nd Bn	17	904		
Service Co.	1	32		
Hq. Co.	1	17		
Med. Det.	2	27		
Headquarters	1	63		
S.S. "CREMER"				
Hq & Hq Co.	9	52		
1st Bn.	27	904		
Service Co.	2	32		
Hq. Co.	1	17		
Medical Det.	3	33		
Anti-Tank	4	82		
Band	1	CWO 36		

2. Personnel will debark carrying all baggage and equipment in their possession. Barracks bags, foot lockers, and hand bags will be deposited in unit piles on the docks and transported to Princess Pier via Motor truck.
The Commanding Officer will detail sufficient personnel to handle this baggage.
3. Troops will be marched by unit from Station Pier to Princess Pier under full field equipment.
4. Troops will move in complete uniform. Shoes will be shined. Ties and garrison caps (former over seas caps) will be worn. Care will be exercised to see that Troops uniform are consistent and that troops give the best appearance possible.
5. Smoking on the piers is "STRICTLY PROHIBITED"
6. The Provost Marshall, Base Section 4, will detail sufficient guards to ensure that no motor traffic or civilian spectators interfere in the continuous movement of Troops from Station Pier to Princess Pier.
7. Field Rations for Troops have been left behind and will follow on next Transport.

EDITORS NOTE: Unable to locate the rest of Embarkation order in Col. Timboe papers but thought you might be interested.



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BISMARCK

January 25, 1943

JOHN MOSES
GOVERNOR

Lt. Col. A. C. Timboe
164th Infantry
c/o Postmaster, APO-502
San Francisco, California
U. S. Army

My dear Colonel:

It was very good of you to think of me, when you thought of your friends in North Dakota at or before Christmas time. I was happy to get your greetings and thank you most sincerely for sending them to me.

You may rest assured that your regards will be given to General Edwards and the staff at Fraine Barracks.

Indeed, Art, we are might proud of our North Dakota regiment. The only fly in the ointment is that according to the press despatches, the marines have received all of the credit for the splendid fighting in Guadalcanal. However, when General Vandegrift tells a high-ranking North Dakota officer that, the North Dakota boys made as fine a body of soldiers as were ever in any army, and that he would have been glad to welcome the entire group complete into the marine corps, then I think that is as high praise as any marine could give a soldier.

The legislative session is slowly getting under way. I have been handicapped for the past thirty days, suffering from a rather severe sinus infection. For the last eight days I have been permitted to come to the office during afternoons, and look forward to getting into my stride completely within two or three days. The session, so far, has produced very little excitement.

With best personal regards to you, and my sincere good wishes to the officers and the men of the 164th Infantry, I am,

Sincerely yours,


GOVERNOR
John Moses

JM:BJ



Photo credit - John A Fischbach

Father Tracy celebrating Christmas Mass next to the train carrying 164th Infantry troops from San Francisco Cow Palace to Umatilla Ordinance depot in Oregon.

**First Marines, First Marine Division
Fleet marine Force.**

October 29, 1942

From: Commanding Officer, First Marines
To: Commanding Officer, 164th Infantry, United States Army
Subject: Congratulations.

1. The officers and men of the First Marines salute you for a most wonderful piece of work on the night of 25 and 26 of October 1942. Will you please extend our sincere congratulations to all concerned. We are honored to serve with a unit such as yours.
2. Little did we realize when we turned over our "quiet sector" to you that you would bear the brunt of an attack so soon. I'm sure you are very proud of the fighting ability demonstrated by your unit and our hat is off to you.

/s/ C. B. Cates

1st Ind.

Headquarters 164th Infantry, 31 October 1942.

To: Commanding Officers, First Battalion, 164th Infantry.

1. The above copy of a letter from the Commanding Officer, First Marines, will be taken through the lines and read to all officers and men. Destroy it after it has served its purpose.

Bryant E. Moore Colonel,
164th Infantry, Commanding

New Life Members



Franklin Bergstrom, September 22, 1998 - Nashwauk, Minnesota
Warren O. Brodie, October 23, 1998 - Post St. John, Florida
E. James Cecil, October 27, 1998 - Bemidji, Minnesota

Donald L. Writz, October 9, 1998 - Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
Monte Swonson, November 25, 1998 - Prescott Valley, Arizona

New Members

Robert Buchheit, October 27, 1998 - Fort Peck, Montana
Rudolph Edwardson, October 27, 1998 - Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
***Benny J. Haman**, September 14, 1998 - Williston, North Dakota
***Kenneth E. Hiltner**, October 3, 1998 - Williston, North Dakota
Jack E. Ikel, October 30, 1998 - Hawley, Minnesota
Dennis W. Larson, October 26, 1998 - Devils Lake, Minnesota

***Philip A. Miller**, October 4, 1998 - Bismarck, North Dakota
Don Morken, October 26, 1998 - Dubuque, Iowa
John Revers, October 27, 1998 - Omaha, Nebraska
George F. Shiek, October 26, 1998 - Apopka, Florida
*Associate Member

LAUNDRY

Shortly after joining Company "C" in the Fiji Islands, one of the veterans told me that the Fiji women would do our laundry for a small amount of money. They were supposed to be there the next morning to pick it up, and I could make an agreement at that time.

A group of these women showed up the next morning and I could not believe what I was seeing. If you remember, and I'm sure you do, Fiji women were physically well endowed, and wore nothing from the waist up. One of my buddies sent two of them over to see me about doing my laundry. It made it very difficult for a twenty-year-old soldier to concentrate on laundry, but I managed to blunder my way through it, with a very red face, and to the bewilderment of the Fiji women, a bunch of laughing soldiers.

The Division Chaplain happened to be in the area that morning and observed all these topless Fiji women in the area and didn't like it. That afternoon an order came out that these women could not come in the area without a shirt on, so each Fiji woman was given a fatigue shirt to wear.

Now the Fiji women didn't understand this, they had never covered their breasts. The next laundry day, here came the Fiji women in their fatigue shirts with two large holes cut out of the front. Eventually, things went back to normal and the order was never mentioned again.

Joe Jackson

Dues are Due on or before January 1999. To Date 144 Members Have Paid 1999 Dues.



THE OTHER WAR EUROPE JAP SNIPERS

In the hedgerows of Normandy the Germans set sniping as art on a wholesale manner they would dig in the hedge rows with water and food for three or four days, at the most you would see a trip of a rifle barrel sticking out, others would be in the tree, perfect sniper country. Bombed out stone buildings and trees still standing. A sniper in the tree and a sniper in the rubble, they would wait till the regular Infantry went through and picked off the stragglers or men bringing up food or ammunition causing a lot of K.I.A.

In a manner of speaking, this part of France was perfect sniper country with its jungle like marshes, small fields enclosed with hedgerows taller trees growing out of them, one veteran Infantry Officer of the Pacific war said it was no different then the jungles.

At first, when they shot a sniper out of a tree and found it was a Jap yellow skin small features, as they shot many more out all Japs they found these were Mangols from the far reaches of Russia captured by the tens of thousands the Germans used them as snipers and other nasty jobs.

One Infantry soldier learned how to deal with them, as the sniper fired he would hear a pop as the rifle bullet went over his head and placed the actual rifle report by a second. Through practice when the pop went by he sighted in on the trees from the rifle report and with his B.A.R. let a burst in the right tree, and out would fall a Jap (Mangol). When they ran out of food, water, or ammunition they would give up and be taken prisoner.

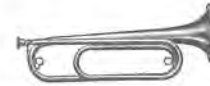
I understood during the Civil War and during the First World War they were shot, treated as if they were spies.

Contributed by Elliot Carey

From Ernie Pyle's Book Brave Men



Last Roll Call



*I thank you for the love you each have shown, but now it's time I traveled on alone.
So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must, then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only a while that we must part, so bless the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on. So if you need me, call and I will hear.*

Author Unknown



Richard V. Krogh

South Port, North Carolina (August 28, 1998)
Company "G"/Life Member

Robert Sommars

Pueblo, Colorado (February 28, 1998)
Company "F"

Leonard Severson

Seattle, Washington (August 18, 1998)
Company "L"

Karl A. Sternborg

Waupaca, Wisconsin (January 30, 1998)

Adolph Tyler

South Dakota (October 30, 1998)
Company "H"

Elvin G. "Bud" Marmon

North Glenn, Colorado (August 29, 1998)

Ellis J. Clancey

Buffalo, North Dakota (October 13, 1998)
Service Company
*After WWII Clancey served 11 " years as a Buffalo City Council member.

Donald D. DeLap

Cape Coral, Florida (April 12, 1998)
1st Sgt. Medical Det.

Melvin Heyne

Fargo, North Dakota (November 4, 1998)
Korean Veteran

*Retired from the military after 30 years of service.

Kenneth Schauss

St. Louis, Missouri
Company "A"

Gaby B. Pounds

Birmingham, Alabama (November 6, 1998)

Joseph B. Horski

Grand Forks, North Dakota (October 7, 1998)
Company "M"

On Guadalcanal Horski had a heavy machine gun section and in the battle for Henderson Field just over the top of the jungle a Jap zero was on the tail of a marine Grumman fighter plane. The Jap was pouring the machine gun bullets into the U.S. fighter; Horski's machine gun section tipped their gun up and shot the Jap fighter plane down. In describing the action, Horski stated that the Jap plane's wheels fell off, and the fuselage with pilot crashed into the jungle. About an hour later an individual appeared in a clean uniform, shaved and didn't smell like the 164th troops. This individual in a loud voice demanded to know who the SOB was that shot down the Jap zero? After some time lapse and many words Horski stepped forth and said I did it. The clean stranger identified himself as a Marine fighter pilot and hugged Horski thanking him properly stating in another 10 seconds the Jap pilot would have nailed him. Horski could not remember the name of the marine pilot, but did remember receiving a bottle of bourbon and a box of Hershey bars, which he reluctantly shared. Thanks and rest easy Joe.

OBITUARIES

An obituary is generally the last public notice of an individuals existence on earth. Therefore it should be prepared carefully covering all the facts. Among the more important facts is the military service of the deceased such as the identification of the military unit Regiment, Company Unit, Division and the dates of service. The Military Heritage Center, University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota is starting a collection of WWII personnel for historical research. Copies of past obituaries are acceptable. Please send to Military Heritage Center, Chester Fritz Library - University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202-7144.

'Fighting 164th' WWII regiment contributes artifacts to library

Presentation held 56 years after all-North Dakota regiment landed in War

By Erik Siemers
Dakota Student Staff Writer

It was dawn on October 13, 1942 when the members of the 164th Infantry Regiment landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands to provide support to the Marines who were already there fighting against the Japanese.

Exactly 56 years later, to the day, members of that all-North Dakota regiment — 104 of whom were UND graduates — came to campus to donate some of their World War II artifacts.

More than 40 people came to the East Asian Room of the Chester Fritz Library for the presentation Wednesday.

Among them was James M. Fenelon, a 1951 UND law graduate and Staff Sgt. with the 164th.

"On behalf of the 164th, I want to thank the University for the opportunity to store these artifacts," said Fenelon, who coordinated the event.

Among the items being stored in the library are:

- The painting "Spring" by a leading Japanese artist named Shunko Mochizuki. The painting was given to the 164th in 1963 during their annual reunion.

- A poem titled "The Fighting 164th" by Howard G. Van Tassel,

who wrote it while in a foxhole during night battles on the front line at Guadalcanal.

- A framed list of the men from the 164th who were killed in action or who died from their wounds in World War II.

- A wooden wheel off of a Higgins boat, which was the type of boat used to land the 164th into Guadalcanal. The Higgins boat could hold up to 40 men and had a ramp that dropped so the men could run out to battle.

- A Japanese officer's Samurai sword which had a bullet hole through the blade caused by an American rifleman. Fenelon described how the Japanese soldiers used these swords.

"They would charge yelling 'Banzai, banzai,'" he said, mimicking the motion of the sword.

- A Japanese flag that Les Wichman, a member of B Company, took off of a soldier he shot. The flag, which was covered in Japanese writing was found inside the dead soldiers helmet. Fenelon said all the Japanese soldiers were given these flags as good luck charms from the people of their home towns.

- A Kava Bowl and half shell coconut shells which were used in ceremonies conducted in the Fiji Islands. Fenelon said these bowls

were filled with a liquid mixture, made from the Kava root, that acted like a narcotic.

Al Weist, who was the commander of M Company, a heavy machine company, had fond memories of the Kava Bowl.

"You never could empty those things," he said, referring to the number of times the tribesmen repeatedly filled the bowls. "Some of us became quite adept at letting it slip down our sides.

"That was taboo, you're supposed to drink that stuff."

All of the artifacts will be going into Carleton Elliott Simensen Military Heritage Collection in the library's Department of Special Collections, according to UND Director of Libraries Frank D'Andraia.

The Simensen Collection is an on-going collection of documents which shows the effects of military conflicts on North Dakota families. Carleton Simonsen became the first UND graduate killed in action during World War II after he was struck by machine gun fire while aboard the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor.

"I'm pleased, not only because it's going to improve the collection, but I'm a veteran as well," said D'Andraia. "This group of veterans, their era is coming to a close."

Weist was pleased too, but for different reasons.

"A finer bunch of soldiers I've never come up with."

Remembering WWII Comrades

Grand Forks Herald, Wednesday, October 14, 1998



Chuck Kimmerle, staff photographer

Melvin Bork, left, and Reinhold Nuelle read a list of the 164th Infantry Regiment of the North Dakota National Guard killed during World War II at a ceremony to present war artifacts to the Special Collections at the Chester Fritz Library. Bork, a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, was reading the names of friends. Nuelle was looking for the name of his brother, Ed Nuelle, who was killed in action on Leyte.

*My business is not to remake myself,
But to make the absolute best of what
God made.*

Robert Browning

INFANTRY ASSOCIATION TRANSFER OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS/ ARTIFACTS

**OCTOBER 13, 1998 • CHESTER FRITZ
LIBRARY UND
ATTENDEES**

Bernie & Mary Wagner	Valley City, North Dakota
Ray Maxson	Red Lake Falls, Minnesota
Bob Huff, JR	Fargo, North Dakota
Eugene & Evelyn Hill	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Linda Pladson	Lakeville, Minnesota
John Landowski	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Raymond D. Conlon	Minto, North Dakota
Emil & Lois Blomstrann	New Britain, Connecticut
Robert W. Amstrup, JR	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Cpt. Wade Davis, US Army	UND Grand Forks, North Dakota
SFC Kevin Holmes, US Army	UND Grand Forks, North Dakota
Michael & Lisa Drong	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Lois & Byron Baldwin	Grand Forks, North Dakota
James M. Fenelon	Marshalltown, Iowa
Earl "Red" Cherrey	Fairview, Montana
Trumann Lykken	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Reinhold Nuelle	Langdon, North Dakota
"Al" & Arla Wiest	Olympia, Washington
Thirston D. Nelson & son Eric	Hillsboro, North Dakota
Hetty Walker	Pembina, North Dakota
Melvin & Dorothy Bork	Moorhead, Minnesota
Arvid & Noreen Hansval	Golden Valley, Minnesota
Joel & Amy Fedje	Hoople, North Dakota
Pat Wanger Drong	Sanborn, North Dakota
Elmer Montgomery	Manvel, North Dakota
Jackie D. Flaten	East Grand Forks, North Dakota
Doris & William Radke	Breckenridge, Minnesota
Genevieve Swenson	Grand Forks, North Dakota
James Swenson	Moorhead, Minnesota
Milt & Vonnie Kane	Fargo, North Dakota
Walter T. Johnsen	Fargo, North Dakota
Alvin & Marion Tollefsrud	Mayville, North Dakota
Lorie Yearkie	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Edward J. Kemble	East Grand Forks, North Dakota

OCTOBER 13, 1998

October 13, 1942, a date that will be forever remembered by many men in the 164th Infantry, as it is the date the 164th landed on Guadalcanal to provide crucial reinforcement to the First Marine Division. The Regiment was bombed by the enemy about noon. The real fire works came that night when two Japanese battleships and escorts laid down a naval barrage that shook the Island and everyone on it.

October 13, 1998 seemed an appropriate date to formally transfer the 164th Infantry historical documents and artifacts to the Military Heritage Center at the University of North Dakota. "Sandy" Slater, archivist arranged a reception for the people attending the formal transfer of documents.

The program opened when Frank D'Andraia, Director of Libraries, welcomed the 60 plus guests with some very humorous remarks and then got down to serious business. D'Andraia pointed out how important it is to safeguard and preserve historical documents for future generations to study. He stated that the Military Heritage Center, Special Collections Division has up to date vaults, procedures for preserving and restoring documents. D'Andraia assured the guests present and representatives of the 164th Infantry Association that the 164th historical data will be safe and available for study. President Kendall Baker, University of North Dakota was introduced by D'Andraia.

President Baker in his remarks pointed out the value and great importance of preserving documents that have had a very great effect on so many lives and the history of the United States. Baker stated the 164th Infantry Regiment WWII documents are greatly appreciated and will be available along

with the valuable collection of the General George S. Patton papers.

Before he closed his remarks President Baker stated that he was an army brat as his father served in the Army Air Corps in WWII and continued in the service when it became the Air Force.

James Fenelon described and explained the artifacts being presented, the list of the 164th men KIA, the Japanese Flag and sword, Filipino Bolo Knife (all donated by Les Wichmann), Kava Bowl, Tiller from wrecked landing craft, poem entitled The Fighting 164th, by Howard VanTassel and a painting called Spring, depicting Peace given to the 164th by Yasuo Obi, a former enemy that engaged in the battle against the 164th Regiment on Guadalcanal.

Hetty Walker, Mayor of Pembina and representing her husband Charles "Chuck" Walker presented a beautiful Tapa Bark cloth wall hanging to the Heritage Center. Based on information from "Chuck", Hetty explained that the Tapa Bark Tapestry was given to Walker by a high Fijian Official as a gift of friendship. Hetty pointed out that Tapa cloth is made from the bark of the paper mulberry tree. In the villages the women take the damp fiber and beat the pulp vigorously with little wooden mallets. During the beating process the pulp becomes thinner and thinner. If a break occurs under the heavy beating the fiber is folded back over the breaks mending the breaks by beating them.

In completing the tapa cloth a design cut is cut from a banana leaf. Each worker generally creates their own design, so each tapa is unique. Lampblack mixed with coconut oil



Left to Right.: "Bernie" Wagner, Ken Baker " President U.N.D., and Jim Fenelon.

and a reddish earth similar to a painter's siena is used to color the design.

It takes many days to hand-paint a large tapa cloth. The tapa cloth is no longer being produced in Fiji except those worn on formal occasions. Thanks Walker, you were well represented by your wife.

Fenelon called on "Al" Wiest to speak about his experiences in the 164th Infantry. In introducing Wiest some of the highlights of his military career were pointed out. Wiest joined Company "H" in 1931 and was a brand new 2nd Lt. when the 164th was inducted into federal service for one year. "Al" stayed with Company "H" until he was placed in command of Company "M" on New Caledonia in September of 1942.

Wiest was promoted to captain on Guadalcanal. By the

luck of the draw Al Wiest and Tony Beer left Bourgainville in June of 1944 on rotation for the U.S.

After WWII Wiest elected to remain in the army seeing service in Korea in 1952 and again in 1954 with a tour of duty in Germany from 1961 until the Spring of 1964 and retired as a Colonel in 1964.

Wiest told the group that the men of the 164th moved into night battle positions on Guadalcanal with firm resolve and engaged in an all night battle with a very determined enemy. Mentioning the Kava Bowl, Wiest had fond memories and explained that it was most difficult to empty the Kava Bowl and the half coconut shell used to serve the drink.

In closing Wiest stated he never served with a finer bunch of soldiers than he found in the 164th.

ACCEPTANCE AND REMARKS

Sandy Slater

Reading from the poem "THE FIGHTING 164TH"

On April 22, 1994, the Chester Fritz Library dedicated the Carleton Elliott Simensen Military Heritage Collection, established to document the effects of wars and military conflicts on North Dakota families and communities. Since that time the Department of Special Collections has received scrapbooks, memories, letters to and from the home front, mementos, newspaper clippings, photographs and a number of books.

On October 12, 1996, the 164th Infantry Association passed resolutions at its annual convention naming the Simensen Military Heritage Collection as the repository for historical documents of North Dakota National Guard's 164th Infantry Regiment, including the list of 164th soldiers Killed In Action, and the painting "Spring", depicting Peace, given by Yasuo Obi. This is exactly the kind of reaction we had hoped for when the Simensen Collection was established, that is, the ability to attract significant historical records such as those of the 164th.

We are particularly indebted to Jim Fenelon, who in these past two years has collected and encouraged others to send materials for the 164th archive. To date, the 164th Infantry Regiment archives contains S-1, S-2, and S-3 journals, the administrative intelligence, plans, operations and training reports from 1942 to 1945, memoirs, scrapbooks, photographs, newsletters, newspaper and magazine clippings, video tapes on the war and the video of the 1992 50th anniversary reunion of the 164th on Guadalcanal, maps, mementos, unpublished histories relating to the 164th and the North Dakota National Guard, and books about Guadalcanal and the war in the Pacific.

This list gives you some idea of the type of material we

continue to solicit for the collection and we most certainly invite additions to the archives. If you have any questions, you may talk with me, or the Assistant Archivist, Bob Garrett, who directs the archival processing and inventoring of all collections.

(Again) It is very appropriate that we gather today for this presentation and dedication, October 13, fifty-six years after the 164th Infantry regiment landed on Guadalcanal, the first US Army unit to take offensive action against the Japanese during WWII. During our many conversations with Jim, and our discussion yesterday with Jim and "Red" Cherrey, we are struck that their 164th service days are forever imbedded in their psyche. On the table, Jim mapped out operations and battle plans and talked like Guadalcanal was just yesterday.

In closing, we are honored to accept the 164th archive and sincerely thank and commend the members of the 164th Infantry Association for recognizing the importance of preserving the preservation of our freedom.

Ms. Slater's reading of the poem was an emotional experience shared by all those in attendance and the high point of the transfer of the documents.

D'Andraia, a veteran, stated it very well "This group of veteran's, their era is coming to a close".

Finis.

EDITOR'S NOTES: This is probably the last major news stories about the 164th Infantry WWII as coverage was given by the media, Grand Forks Herald (cir. 37,710), Dakota Student (cir. 10,500), Alumni Review, University of North Dakota (cir. 78,000 plus international) and the three local television channels.

INTERNET – WEB PAGE

If you are familiar with computers and fathom the web page " if not have your grandchild work it for you. Plug in URL (Universal Resource Locator) the library's 164th web page address www.nodak.edu/dept/libray/Collections/164 ". Up will come the 164th Infantry Association and the regimental crest along with historical information about the 164th WWII. Good Luck.



Group at 164th Infantry Reception on October 13, 1998 at the Chester Fritz Library on the campus of University of North Dakota.



*Poem of THE FIG.
Howard G. Van Tas
KIA"s.*

"Al" Wiest (Retired Colonel) addressing the audience at the 164th Infantry Reception in the East Asian Room at the Chester Fritz Library. Jim Fenelon.





HTING 164TH "by
ssel, list of the 164th



164th Infantry Artifacts at the UND Library. Upper left is the list of 164th men KIA – Jap Flag – Tiller from Higgins boat, on the table is the Kava Bowl, Jap Sword, Filipino Bolo Knife and the Tapa Bark cloth. Upper right is a Japanese painting depicting Peace.



Frank D. Anraisa, Director of Libraries at UND opened the 164th Reception on October 13, 1998.



(Above) Left to Right.
Mrs. James Dong & Mrs. Mary Wagner, what a beautiful mother/daughter combination, at the registration desk handing out the colorful name tags.

(Below) Left to Right.
Les Wichmann, of "B" Company, from Minneapolis, MN and James Fenelon from Marshalltown, IO.
Wichmann is holding a Japanese Sgt. Sword. An armor-piercing bullet had apparently penetrated scabbard and saber. Les obtained the sword on Cebu, and the Japanese flag on Guadalcanal. The bolo knife and scabbard held by Fenelon were given to Wichmann by a group of Filipinos on Cebu for playing a baseball game. Wichmann has placed the above named items in the Military Heritage Center at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.



(Below) Memorial Ceremony with 26 candles lit to represent the members answering the Last Roll Call. Kemp read the names, the bell tolled by "Bernie" Wagner and "Woody" Gagnon extinguished the candle.



(Above) Left to Right.
Ben Kemp, Sec/Tres, of Bismarck, ND. Tom Jundt sang the Hymn at the Memorial Services. Amazingly enough, Dennis Ferk, "A" Company, of Sante Fe, NM can still fit into his WWII uniform.



(Left Photo)
Left to Right.
Robert P. "Bob" Gerham (E. Co.) St. Paul, MN. Earl "Red" Cherrey (E. Co.) Fairview, MT.





(Left Photo)

Left to Right.

The old and older 164th " Harry R. Vandie, Sgt./Lt. - Bismarck, ND.
Anton (Tony) Beer, Sgt./Lt. Col. " Mandan, ND. No doubt reminiscing about the many privileges and special amenities that go with a commission, Officers Club, mess, etc.



(Above)

Left to Right.

Tony Beer, Mandan, Leo F. Doyle, Medford, MA. An old soldier and old salt exchanging WWII Guadalcanal experiences at the reunion. Doyle was a navy man aboard the USS ALCHIBA when it was torpedoed off Guadalcanal. The ship was carrying 164th personnel from New Caledonia to region the 164th. Doyle happened to see the 164th reunion date on the hotel sign and dropped in for a visit. Doyle stated he was well aware of the history of the famous 164th. Doyle, while serving on the USS Alchiba, made his first trip to Guadalcanal delivering the 1st Marines on August 8, 1942.

Left to Right.
G" Company (seated) Tony Griffin, Elmo Olson, Dick Stowell, (back) Bernie Wagner, Don Robinson, Ben Glatt and Pete Grant.



(Above)

Left to Right.

From "H" Company - Len A. Clemens of Spokane, WA, and Don Hoffman of Jamestown, ND.



(Above)

Left to Right.

Heddy Walker, Mayor of Pembina, ND. Charles "Chuck" Walker, County Commissioner of Pembina, ND.



A happy handsome couple from Cicero, Ill., Dale and Fran Dempsey. Dale was in Anti-tank Company.



Left to Right.
Walt Johnsen of Fargo, ND, Cliff Ottinger of Corvallis, MT and Walt Ensminger of Grants Pass, OR.



Leland Simek, Medics, of Bottineau



3rd Bn Headquarters " Melvin Bork, Lyle Bethke and Meriett Ogren.



Two happy cherubs "Bud" Boisen and Ralph Gaugler both of K Co.



Left to Right.
Frank Weisgerber 89th Division, Wally Heisler (Korean Veteran-164th Camp Rucker), and Frank Eide also 164th Korean Veteran.



Left to Right.
The Ladies Luncheon Committee: Lorraine Kemp, Donna Kjonaas, Lila Burns Hedstrom and Ione Towne, Chair.

SUBJECT; 53RD ANNUAL REUNION BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the 164th Infantry Association was called to order by our President Bernard A. Wagner at 9:30 AM, October 10, 1998 at the Radisson Inn, Bismarck, North Dakota.

OFFICERS PRESENT

BERNARD A. WAGNER " PRESIDENT
RALPH L. GAUGLER " VICE PRESIDENT
JAMES M. FENELON " NEWS EDITOR
VENNET J. KEMP " SEC/TREASURER

The colors were posted during the Memorial Service by personnel from HHC 164th Engineer Group, North Dakota Army National Guard of Bismarck, North Dakota. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The minutes of the 1997 business meeting were published in the December 1997 issue of the 164th News letter and were adopted/approved by a voice vote.

The Financial Report for FY 1998 was presented by Sec/Treasurer, and was approved by a voice vote after Waldemar "Wally" Johnson reported that the review of the financial records were proper and correct.

The following committees, chairman indicated, were appointed by the President and the meeting recessed for 15 minutes for the committees to accomplish their mission.

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE; CHAIRMAN " DONALD ROBINSON, MEMBERS " ELMO R. OLSON and WALTER T. JOHNSEN. In 1999 the reunion will be held at the Radisson Inn, Bismarck, North Dakota on the 24, 25, and 26 of September 1999. Radisson Inn's rates will be \$54.00 single and \$64.00 double. In the year 2000 the reunion will be held in Fargo, North Dakota on the 22, 23, and 24 of September 2000.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN " WARREN C. GRIFFIN, MEMBERS " GEORGE HOPKINS AND ANTON C. BEER. NOMINATIONS WERE;

FRANK WEISGERBER " PRESIDENT
WALTER T. JOHNSEN " VICE PRESIDENT
JAMES M. FENELON " NEWS EDITOR
BENNET J. KEMP " SEC/TREASURER

Nominations were approved by a voice vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN " WALDEMAR C. JOHNSON, MEMBERS " HARRY R. VADNIE AND LOUIS HANSON. (Note this committee met on October 9th 1998.)

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN " JAMES M. FENELON, MEMBERS " GILBERT SHIRLEY AND TREUMAN LYKKEN.

The LAST ROLL CALL was read for 26 members during the Memorial Services. A candle was lit and a bell was sounded for each individual as their name was read and then the candles were snuffed out.

OLD BUSINESS: The listings of the KIA's and the fighting 164th poem is NOW posted at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

The limited edition book on the 164th Infantry was delivered

to each high school in North Dakota and to each library in the State of North Dakota. (Sec/Treas Note: If anyone wants the book to go to a high school or library in their state let me know and it will be done.)

President, Bernie Wagner, read a letter from the Governor of North Dakota, Edward T. Schafer, extending his greetings to the members and guests of the 164th Infantry Association.

Mrs. Charles H. Walker updated the members on the Pembina Wall with the 164th Infantry insignia on it located at Pembina, North Dakota. She stated that the project was near completion, but was short \$200.00 and asked if the Association would give the additional monies to complete the project. President, Bernie Wagner, stated that he would bring this up as new business.

As there was no additional old we moved on to new business.

Dennis R. Ferk, Sante Fe, New Mexico addressed the meeting and asks if a 12" x 18" Regimental Flag could be made available to family members of deceased. The 164th infantry personnel that have gone to their final resting place. The flags are requested so that they could be displayed at their tombstones on special occasions. President Wagner asked if anyone knew what the cost of a flag of this size would be? Mr. Kemp stated the 2" x 4" flag we ordered cost around \$18.00 and our big regimental flag cost around \$5000.00 about 20 years ago. The chair made a motion to table this suggestion until the next meeting in order to come up with a price on a flag this size.

Albert Olenberger, Rapid City, South Dakota asked for some additional information on the application and eligibility for burial in the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Our president stated that this is not a Federal Cemetery, and it is funded out of state funds controlled by a veteran's group. Basically all you need to be buried there is a honorable discharge. Bernie discussed the North Dakota Veteran's license plates and the fact that they bring in additional funds for the cemetery. If both husband and wife are veterans they are both authorized a separate plot. Also, dependent children of a veteran can be buried with the Veteran. You can Pre-apply and all you need is a copy of your discharge. Contact The North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery at 1825 46th Street, Mandan, North Dakota 58554. Phone (701) 667-1418 or Fax (701) 667-1419 and ask for an application.

A report was given by Lyle W. Bethke of Kulm, North Dakota stating that they have built a veterans memorial in Kulm and are displaying the names of the deceased veterans from that area. He suggested that other small communities should look into doing the same.

The following resolutions were read by Chairman of Resolutions Committee, James M. Fenelon: WHEREAS, the objectives of this Association are to perpetuate the comradeship developed in serving together in a common military unit, and to continue to foster devotion and loyalty to God, State and Nation.

Resolution #1. Thanking our President Bernard "Bernie" Wagner and his committee members for all the hard work they had done.

Resolution #2. Request that the 34th Infantry Division use the 164 number of the present 164th Engineer Group when said Engineering Group is phased into the 34th Infantry Division.

Resolution #3. That 20th Century Fox movie producers

and the three man team, Craig Byrd, Steve Wacks and Rick Hayes be commended and thanked for their diplomacy and sensitive skill in filming and personal interviews of Guadalcanal Veterans of the 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle).

Resolution #4. Membership present commends and thank lone Towne and the members of the ladies committee for a warm and friendly luncheon. Be it resolved that Ladies' Luncheon is an extremely important part of the annual reunion of the 164th Association activities.

Resolution #5. It is the will of the membership present to express a deep feeling of thanks to 188th Army Band for a wonderful evening of pleasurable music and entertainment.

Resolution #6. The members present express thanks to Walter A. Hickey for his generous act in paying for the additional costs of the 164th Infantry Crest in the historical wall in Pembina, North Dakota. This liquidates any financial obligations of the 164th Infantry Association.

Resolution #7. Membership present express thanks to W. Mark Durley, JR for the \$500.00 donation to the 164th Infantry Foundation.

Resolution #8. Membership present express thanks to Howard White for the \$500.00 donation to the 164th Infantry Foundation.

Note Resolution #6, 7 and 8 were added at the end of the meeting.

Walter T. Johnsen of Fargo, North Dakota and James M. Fenelon of Marshalltown, Iowa addressed the meeting regarding the 164th Infantry Foundation of North Dakota. They were to report in accordance with instructions from last years meeting. Mr. Johnsen stated that this scholarship initiative was to be separate from the Association and NOT TO BE FINANCED BY THE ASSOCIATION EXCEPT WITH A LOAN OF \$500.00 to help get started with administrative cost etc. This \$500.00 is to be a loan and to be repaid to the Association. No members were to be asked for donations, but if they wish they may and will be tax deductible.

Wm Freeman, Simpsonville, South Carolina addressed the meeting and explained how he planned to administer his estate. He stated that he has set up a charitable scholarship foundation like this.

James Fenelon stated that this would be set up under a 501C as the 164th Infantry Foundation, separate from the association, it would be anon-profit organization and donations would be tax deductible. James asked that the association give it's blessing to this project.

After much discussion from the floor to include a statement from Mr. Elmo Olson of Finely, North Dakota wanting it to be officially recorded that if this loan of \$500.00 is instated that the Scholarship Foundation cannot come back later and ask for money, that they will shall not have this perogative. Before this could be put into a motion, Mr. Mark Durley, JR of Sonoma, California stated he would give the foundation the \$500.00 that they needed to get started. THANKS MARK! Howard White of Bowman, North Dakota stated that he would like to match that \$500.00. THANKS HOWARD!

The matter of the additional \$200.00 to complete the Pembina project was brought up by the President and before any discussion could be brought up on this subject, Walter A. Hickey of Hilliard, Florida stated that he would give the \$200.00 to Mrs. Walker to complete the project. THANKS WALTER!

James M. Fenelon gave a report on the movement of the 164th Infantry records from the Fraine Barracks in Bismarck to the Military Heritage Center at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota. (This will be reported in detail in the News Letter.)

Motion was made for adjournment, second and approved by a voice vote.

Bennet J. Kemp
Sec/ Treasurer

LADIES LUNCHEON

The ladies attending the luncheon reported a tasty meal of chicken ALA king over a puff pastry with rice pilaf and a fruit cup.

Sue Kambeitz entertained the ladies by reading palms, reciting a poem and singing a medley of songs. When asked the question of how many of you have been married for 50 years or longer, approximately 2/3 of those who were present raised their hands. You are beautiful people. The winners of the door prizes were most happy. Thanks lone Towne for serving as chairperson.

Dear Ladies of the 164th Reunion,

We welcome you to our fair city for the 53rd reunion. Bismarck has many fine retail shops. They are featuring special bargains; our location is within minutes of everything in Bismarck.

We hope you enjoy the Ladies Luncheon. We have many prizes to give away for the lucky ones. Please sign your name for the drawings. Sue Kambeitz will entertain us.

There will be a bus tour to the Veteran's Cemetery

in Mandan. You will enjoy the well-organized cemetery and a setting rich with military history. Our hearts go out for the Veterans who fought for our country and justice.

Almighty God, we give thanks for our awareness of your presence, out of which all needs and desires are fulfilled. Oh, God, honor our Veterans by providing a location where they may find eternal peace and a setting rich with military history and quiet dignity. Thank you God, for being with us. We thank you for our sister, comrades and all of our friends and for all those who have helped us in our endurance and whose faith has spurred us on to harder efforts and higher purposes. We ask you to protect and guide us always.

Oh, loving God, here our prayers. Amen.

M.C. lone

Towne

Hi Jim,

I didn't neglect to keep in touch. Everyone said the reunion was a great success, and you helped make it so. We need more people like you!

lone

REUNION REMINISCENCE

The dance music was great and made it easier for us old timers to move on the dance floor not as fast nor as often, but happy. When the talented Russ Elvrum with his guitar sat in with the band playing many of the old songs such as Sweet Georgia Brown, All of ME, and Honey Suckle Rose, memories flashed back to the many times when Russ played beautiful music for us so far away from home. Do it again Russ!

The annual business meeting generated some rather lively talk when the subject was the creation of the 164th Infantry Foundation to provide scholarships for students in need of financial aid to complete their education.

When it is suggested the Association loan \$500.00 to assist the committee as seed money to initiate the 164th Infantry Foundation. The brouhaha started with the request for a loan. Two venerable members immediately stood up with ringing rancor in their voices diametrically opposed any type of funding from the association. One would think the request was to remove the Vestal Virgins from guarding the sacred fire in the temple of Vesta. It is most unfortunate that we don't have people like Tony Beer and Elmo Olson in U.S. Congress when

it comes time to inhibit spending taxpayers dollars for worthy purposes.

The undercurrent of conversation after the business meeting was suggested that care should be taken when requesting funds from the association as it causes great stress for two old timers and that might cause health problems. In conversations it was mentioned that maybe a detachment of corpsmen be on call to provide assistance if required. The situation was resolved when Mark Durley pledged \$500.00 and Howard White came in with another \$500.00 for the committee.

George Laughlin, while visiting with friends, presented a concern that he had about homeless veterans being interned in nothing more than a paper box. Homeless veterans certainly deserve better than that. Maybe various veterans' organizations should be contacted to assure that no homeless veteran is buried in a paper box.

The reunion always brings back so many memories and old friends that makes leaving on Sunday a sad and difficult time to say goodbye. See you next year, God willing.

*Down in the China Sea
On the road to Maudaloy,
Lie the spoils of the Free French Sale,
In beautiful Caledonia Bay*

*Where there are no ten commandments
And a man can raise a thirst
Lies the outcast and old sunshiners
The lowest and the worst*

*On this mosquito infested island
I sit by my tent and dream
Wishing to kill my memories
With liquor, brandy, or benedictine*

*Living as dirty natives
Out in the wooded zones
Battling flies and mosquitoes
Ten thousand miles from home*

*Oh to eat without fear of infection
Or sleep without using a net
To throw away my collection
Of Iodine, Quinine, and Get.*

*Oh Lord for a wind with a tingle
And atmosphere restful and clean
Oh Lord once again just to mingle
With crowds that are white folks and clean*

*Oh Lord for the rush and clamor
The hurry and fret of the West
I'd give all of this Oriental glamour
That damn lying poets suggest*

*They write of this place as entralling
That is one reason I started to roam
But I hear America calling
Oh Lord I want to go home.*

*The bugs at night keep us hopping
Mosquito bar only allure
Hell no, we're not convicts,
But just soldiers on a foreign tour.*

By John Warren, Co. "C"

LUCK OF THE DRAW

Winner of Reunion Door Prize

John E. Gunderson
8808 NW Lakeshore Avenue
Vancouver, WA

Winners of 164th Reunion Raffle

John N. Alme \$164.00
2874 Lynae Way
Helmet, CA

Rayneld Nelson \$164.00
8685 56th Avenue SW
Carson, ND

Donald L. Wirtz \$164.00
PO Box 304
Detroit Lakes, MN

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE MEMBERS
FOR YOUR SUPPORT PICTURES FROM THE
164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 53RD
ANNUAL REUNION " BISMARCK, NORTH
DAKOTA**

164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
53RD ANNUAL REUNION
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 9-11 OCTOBER 1998

The following Individuals were in attendance
164th INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Walter T. Johnsen	Fargo, North Dakota
Douglas P. Burtell	Bowman, North Dakota
Dennis R. Ferik	Santa Fe, New Mexico
W. Mark Durley Jr.	Sonoma, California

SERVICE COMPANY

Walter T. Johnsen	Fargo, North Dakota
Kenneth Shaver	Marshall, Wisconsin
John A. Kurtz	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Eldred Welch	Bismarck, North Dakota
Howard White	Bowman, North Dakota
Les Wichmann	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Dennis R. Ferik	Santa Fe, New Mexico
Cliff Ottinger	Corvallis, Montana
James M. Fenelon	Marshalltown, Iowa
Harry R. Vadnie	Bismarck, North Dakota
Gerald Waldhauser	South Saint Paul, Minnesota

ANTI TANK COMPANY

Anton C. Beer	Mandan, North Dakota
Adam J. Miltenberger	Carson, City, Nevada
Dale Dempsey	Cicero, Illinois
Joseph F. Dest	Hamden, Connecticut
Albert Olenberger	Rapid City, South Dakota
Ralph H. Oehlke	Kathryn, North Dakota
Ewald Heisler	Bismarck, North Dakota
Art Pepple	Fessenden, North Dakota
Charles H. Walker	Pembina, North Dakota
John L. Strauss	Harvey, North Dakota

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 1ST BATTALION

Wendell W. Wichmann	Timonium, Maryland
John L. Samson	Cavalier, North Dakota
Ray Farrow	Cavalier, North Dakota
Bert Coffey	Monterey, California
Robert O. Bradley	Lake Port, California
Vernon W. Bogner	Portland, Oregon
Charles H. Walker	Pembina, North Dakota
Roger B. Fuller	Middle Port, New York

COMPANY "A" 1ST BATTALION

Paul E. Dickerson	North Canton, Ohio
Wendell W. Wichmann	Timonium, Maryland
Orville E. Howe	Osceola, Iowa
Dennis R. Ferik	Santa Fe, New Mexico
Walter A. Hickey	Hilliard, Florida
Mel Shirley	Fresno, California
Gilbert Shirley	Bismarck, North Dakota
John H. Tuff	Fargo, North Dakota
Arnold W. Bauer	New Salem, North Dakota

COMPANY "B" 1ST BATTALION

Ben Osborne	Ponsford, Minnesota
Donald L. Wirtz	Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
William J. Hagen	Moorhead, Minnesota
Raymond D. Conlon	Minto, North Dakota
L. G. Wichmann	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Clarice Nordhougen	Fargo, North Dakota
Arnold S. Johnson	Cloquet, Minnesota
Ione Towne	Bismarck, North Dakota
Charles H. Walker	Pembina, North Dakota

COMPANY "C" 1ST BATTALION

Treumann Lykken	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Maurice A. Hannum	Powell, Wyoming
Charles Adamsen	Grafton, North Dakota
Henry M. Wiik	Minot, North Dakota

COMPANY "D" 1ST BATTALION

Wendell W. Wichmann	Timonium, Maryland
Raynold E. Nelson	Carson, North Dakota
Joe Poleschook	Max, North Dakota
Albert Martin	Kief, North Dakota
Henry A. Violett	Rugby, North Dakota
John H. Tuff	Fargo, North Dakota
Donald L. Monger	Rugby, North Dakota
Clement J. Fox	Felton, Minnesota
M. T. Gutterud	Park River, North Dakota
Donna Kjonaas	Bismarck, North Dakota

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 2ND BATTALION

Louis Hanson Jamestown, North Dakota
Charles H. Walker Pembina, North Dakota

COMPANY "E" 2ND BATTALION

Louis Hanson Jamestown, North Dakota
Ben Osborne Ponsford, Minnesota
Earl "Red" Cherrey Fairview, Montana
Francis J. Sommers Saint Paul, Minnesota
Robert P. Gehrman ,SR. Saint Paul, Minnesota
Emil I. Blomstrann New Britain, Connecticut
Charles H. Walker Pembina, North Dakota
Charlotte J. Flexhaug Williston, North Dakota
Dorothy J. Sande Bismarck, North Dakota
E. James Cecil Bemidji, Minnesota

COMPANY "F" 2ND BATTALION

Philip Roy Engstrom Moorhead, Minnesota
George B. Laughlin Glendive, Montana
Rudy Edwardson Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

COMPANY "G" 2ND BATTALION

Bernard A. Wagner Valley City, North Dakota
Warren C. Griffin Valley City, North Dakota
Richard E. Stowell Denver, Colorado
Peter H. Grant Strum, Wisconsin
Elmo R. Olson Finely, North Dakota

COMPANY "G" 2ND BATTALION CONTINUED

Howard Kunze Valley City, North Dakota
Donald Robinson Bismarck, North Dakota
William W. Freeman Simpsonville, South Carolina
Ben Glatt Bismarck, North Dakota
Ray Kreidlkamp Valley City, North Dakota

COMPANY "H" 2ND BATTALION

Earl H. Johnson Grand Coulee, Washington
William H. Johnson Jamestown, North Dakota
George Hopkins Tappen, North Dakota
Roy D. Olson Saint Louis Park, Minnesota
Albert F. Wiest Olympia, Washington
James A. Johnson Fargo, North Dakota
Harrol D. Collins Madison, Minnesota
Ardis Mathews Fairmont, Minnesota
Marilyn Magenton Britton, South Dakota
Donna Weidenbach Madison, Minnesota
James Aipperspach Jamestown, North Dakota
Charles H. Walker Pembina, North Dakota
Len A. Clemens Spokane, Washington

Don L. Hoffman Jamestown, North Dakota

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 3RD BATTALION

Melvin P. Bork Moorhead, Minnesota
Walt Ensminger Grants Pass, Oregon
Lyle W. Bethke Kulm, North Dakota
Merrit Ogren Edgeley, North Dakota
W. Mark Durley, JR. Sonoma, California

COMPANY "K" 3RD BATTALION

Harry Dolyniuk Thomson, Georgia
Anton C. Beer Mandan, North Dakota
Ralph L. Gaugler Bismarck, North Dakota
Willis G. Clark Dickinson, North Dakota
Orville N. Dodge Las Vegas, Nevada
Lawrence E. Boisen Post Falls, Idaho
John Revers Omaha, Nebraska
Neyl McClure Bismarck, North Dakota

COMPANY "L" 3RD BATTALION

W. Mark Durley, JR. Sonoma, California

COMPANY "M" 3RD BATTALION

Albert F. Wiest Olympia, Washington
John B. "Poogie" Vaneedenburg Haskell, New Jersey
John H. Tuff Fargo, North Dakota

MEDIC 164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Leland Simek Bottineau, North Dakota

Taking a good look at the number of individuals signing the roster one will observe that members from 25 states attended the reunion. The records indicate that members were present from the following states: California, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Montana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada, Illinois, Connecticut, South Dakota, Maryland, Oregon, New York, Ohio, Florida, Wyoming, South Carolina, Washington, Georgia, Idaho, Nebraska, New Jersey, Colorado and North Dakota. North Dakota had the most members in attendance and Minnesota came in second. Many members had to travel many miles to renew old friendships. Many members purchased the 164th raffle and door prize tickets. I have also received many letters along with checks, explaining why people were unable to attend. Most of these letters explained failing health as the biggest reason for not attending. Your support of the 164th Association is really appreciated. Now, we all might undertake to call or write old friends because one of these days there will be no one to receive the call or the mail!

When moving please send in your new address and 9-digit zip code. Having to remail returned news, costs \$7.50.

53rd REUNION FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME		\$ 15,257.00
LOAN FROM THE ASSOCIATION	\$ 500.00	
REGISTRATION (MEALS ONLY)	\$ 8,351.00	
1999 DUES	\$ 910.00	
DOOR PRIZE TICKET SALES	\$ 618.00	
FLAG SALES	\$ 1,088.00	
TOUR BUS FEE	\$ 150.00	
RAFFLE TICKET SALES	\$ 3,280.00	
CASH REDEPOSITED (BUS TOUR)	\$ 45.00	
DONATIONS	\$ 315.00	

TOTAL \$ 15,257.00

EXPENSES		\$ 13,034.88
LOAN REPAID TO THE ASSOCIATION	\$ 500.00	
1999 DUES REPAID	\$ 910.00	
FLAGS REPAID	\$ 1,088.00	
RUBBER STAMP	\$ 14.80	
CITY PERMIT	\$ 25.00	
STAMPS	\$ 16.00	
LADIES LUNCH (GIFTS/ENTERTAINMENT)	\$ 208.00	
DOOR PRIZE	\$ 140.21	
PRINTING (RAFFLE/MEAL TICKETS)	\$ 100.00	
PRINTING REUNION LETTER	\$ 646.57	
MAILING REUNION LETTER (POSTAGE)	\$ 302.00	
TWO LUNCH MEETINGS	\$ 66.00	
CASH REFUND FOR TOUR BUS	\$ 150.00	
NAME PLATES	\$ 84.37	
REFUND FOR "NO SHOWS"	\$ 761.00	
PIANO PLAYER (MEMORIAL SERVICE)	\$ 25.00	
CHAPLAIN (MEMORIAL SERVICES)	\$ 25.00	
RAFFLE DRAWING 3 TICKETS @ \$164 EACH	\$ 492.00	
BUS RENTAL	\$ 240.00	
PETTY CASH REFUND (REUNION SEC/TREAS)	\$ 15.00	
DONATION TO ARMY BAND YOUTH FUND	\$ 250.00	
RADISSON INN (SEE BREAKOUT BELOW)	\$ 6,975.90	

TOTAL \$ 13,034.88

RADISSON INN BREAKOUT		
5 MEAT & CHEESE TRAYS @ 65.00 EACH	\$ 325.00	
2 KEGS (16 GALLONS) @ 150.00 EACH	\$ 300.00	
24 O'DOULS @ 2.25 EACH	\$ 54.00	
175 CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS @ 2.95 EACH	\$ 516.00	
104 EXPRESS BUFFETS @ 5.95 EACH	\$ 618.00	
80 LADIES LUNCHES @ 6.50 EACH	\$ 520.00	
195 DINNERS @ 11.45 EACH	\$ 2,232.75	
181 BREAKFASTS @ 5.95 EACH	\$ 1,076.95	
MISC CHARGES	\$ 59.02	
TAXES (FOOD & LIQUER)	\$ 459.53	
GRATUITY	\$ 813.85	

TOTAL \$ 6,975.90

INCOME	\$ 15,257.00
EXPENSES	\$ 13,034.88
BALANCE	\$ 2,222.12

NOTE. THE BALANCE WILL BE RETURNED TO THE ASSOCIATION TO HELP COVER THE COST OF THE NEWS LETTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT BY-LAWS. CURRENT BY-LAWS ALSO STATE THAT REUNIONS ARE TO BE "STAND ALONE" PROJECTS AND NOT SUBSIDIZED BY THE ASSOCIATION.


EWALD HEISLER
53rd Reunion Sec/Treas

PRESIDENT WEISGERBER

Frank Weisgerber is no stranger to dedicated service to the 164th Infantry Association. Frank served for several years as Sec/Treas. Weisgerber served in the 89 Infantry Division in the Southwest Pacific from January 1944 – November 1945 traveling to New Guinea, New Britain and the Philippines. Frank joined the North Dakota Army National Guard as Chief Warrant Officer (CW4).



EDWARD T. SCHAFER
GOVERNOR

State of North Dakota

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
608 E. BOULEVARD—GROUND FLOOR
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505-0001
(701) 328-2200
FAX (701) 328-2205 TDD (701) 328-2887

TO THE
MEMBERS AND GUESTS
OF THE

164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

ON THE EVENT OF YOUR

ANNUAL REUNION

OCTOBER 9—11, 1998

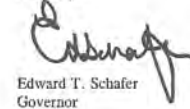
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

As Governor, it is my privilege and pleasure to extend greetings to each of you as you gather in the capital city for your reunion. I join you in thanking members of the organizing and host committees for a job well done.

This year's reunion once again provides the opportunity to visit with comrades and their families – a time to renew the bonds of friendship established through duty and service to the United States of America. I hope the sharing of past events and visiting about current events will be an enjoyable experience for everyone.

North Dakotans are proud of their sons and daughters who answered the call to duty and served with distinction and honor, and for some, their lives. Nancy and I extend our best wishes to each of you for a successful reunion and for health and happiness in the years ahead.

Sincerely,


Edward T. Schafer
Governor

UNIVERSITY OF LND NORTH DAKOTA

ELWYN B. ROBINSON DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
CHESTER FRITZ LIBRARY
P.O. BOX 9000
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58202-9000
(701) 777-4615

On October 13, 1998, the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections, Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota (Hereafter referred to as "Special Collections"), was pleased to accept the following gifts from the 164th Infantry Association.

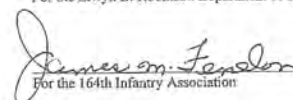
- 1 Japanese flag (taken from a Japanese soldier by a member of the 164th Infantry during World War II)
- 1 Sword (taken from a Japanese soldier by a member of the 164th Infantry during World War II)
- 1 Bola (taken from a Japanese soldier by a member of the 164th Infantry during World War II)
- 1 Fijian kava bowl and 2 half-shell coconut bowls
- 1 Higgins boat tiller wheel
- 1 framed list of 164th members KIA during World War II
- 1 framed poem, "The Fighting 164th" by Howard Van Tassel
- 1 painting, "Spring," by Captain Yasuo Obi

The 164th Infantry Association has previously gifted other items to Special Collections that document the history of the North Dakota National Guard 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) and the 164th Infantry Association. These include copies of World War II S-1, S-2 and S-3 Journals and Operations Reports, letters, scrapbooks, memoirs, unpublished histories, newspaper and magazine articles, newsletters, videotapes and books and other publications. It is understood that the 164th Infantry Association will continue to place such material in Special Collections in the interest of preserving the history of the North Dakota National Guard 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) and the 164th Infantry Association and that such material will be deposited into Special Collections Carleton Elliott Simensen Military Heritage Collection.

Signed,


For the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections

10/13/98
Date


For the 164th Infantry Association

Oct 13, 1998
Date

Excerpts taken from the book *Orchids in the Mud*, from the section Guadalcanal:
Edited by Robert C. Muehrcke

We Who Are about to Die

*Oh, blessed be the fighting men,
That we should die so young,
Let the eulogies begin,
And the funeral chant be sung.*

by
William Sacadat
Staff Sergeant,
Company A



*Oh! weep not beloved one;
Life is not that all.
Our fight is right, for freedom
The accursed ones shall fall.
Grieve not if I should die.
My death will ever be
For a cause much
greater than you and I,
For the land of liberty.
So fondly as I bid adieu,
In glorious years to come,
Preserve thy liberty, I say to you.
"Smile, and carry on my son."*

GUADALCANAL

Written in Tulagi, Solomons, 1943

STOP — THE JAP NOVEMBER COUNTER OFFENSIVE

The Japanese November counter-offensive was brought to a rapid termination using American land, sea and air power. The sinking of four Japanese transports (see Fig. 7L) off the coast of Guadalcanal started with the early dawn artillery fire from "F" Battery of the 224th Coast Artillery Battalion and the Third and Fifth Defense Battalion's five-inch guns. They delivered the heaviest concentration of American artillery fire to the Japanese transports. In addition the destroyer Meade steamed from Tulagi to shell the transports and the adjacent Japanese landing beach area.

The Cactus Air Force and B-17 bombers from Espiritu Santo destroyed both troops and landed supplies. Only 4,000 of 10,000 Japanese troops were safely landed with only five tons of supplies from an initial 10,000 tons. The destruction of this Japanese convoy brought the November counter-offensive to a grinding halt. This battle was the most decisive engagement of the entire Guadalcanal campaign. It sealed

the island from successful Japanese air and land attacks. Only the heavy and difficult infantry fighting lay ahead.

NO AMERICAN AIRFIELD IN THE AOLA SWAMPS

Before the island was sealed off from the Japanese, Gen. Vandegrift was in dire need of additional land troops. The 147th Infantry Regiment troops, commanded by Col. W. B. Tuttle, were sent to Aola Bay area with marines and Navy seabees. In spite of discouraging and strong negative reports from the Australian Engineers and the American Navy Engineers, Adm. Richard (Kelly) Turner still persisted in a desire to turn the Aola swamp into an American airfield.

Admiral Turner was finally convinced that the selection of Aola Bay for an airstrip was wholly unsatisfactory. One month after the Aola Bay landing, the 147th Infantry was transported to Koli Point to reinforce Gen. Vandegrift's perimeter.

COLONEL NELSON — PART IV — GUADALCANAL

Rumors flew. We were getting ready for combat. The marines had made a tentative landing on Guadalcanal. And, "Lady Rumor" had it, we were going there to join the first offensive action taken by the United States in World War II. We were ready; and eager. Even I (Ed Schmid) was eager.

As we readied for the battles ahead, I got the wonderful news: Col. Nelson wanted me to accompany him to Guadalcanal by plane. The rest of the regiment would follow in a week or two by ship. We'd join the marines on the "Canal" and the two of us would acquire some knowledge of jungle warfare—something the army was mighty short of in those days.

So, the two of us flew on ahead, in an old, unarmed DC-3. I recall that it had no seats for passengers but even Brig. Gen. William I. Rose, who was along, didn't seem to mind sprawling on assorted crates and bags of stuff. No seat belts—no coffee, tea, or milk no hostesses: we just bounced along close to the water's surface. We stopped overnight at Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides Islands and at dawn took off again for Henderson Field, Guadalcanal; an uneventful flight.

Col. Nelson spent his first days there at marine headquarters learning the lay of the land, jungle tactics and logistics peculiar to that type of warfare—and trying to scrounge some maps. I spent my time assigned to a number of marine patrol units.

The marines were fine. They were mostly a bunch of kids, though tough kids. And they had been through hell. It showed on their drawn faces and in their salty speech. They were nice enough to me, even though I was "army." I never confessed to them that I was a reserve officer.

But the really happy day came when the ships brought the 132d Infantry to Guadalcanal and landing craft discharged the men onto the beach. Quickly, our "boys" moved through the coconut plantation (see Fig. 7C) landing area and into

the jungle's mud (see Fig. 7M). Gawd, they looked good to me! Beautiful. Each was like an orchid—a special individual. What a reunion, we had grins, hand-shakes, and the pounding of backs.

Almost at once they moved deeper into the jungle and across the Matanikau River. Everybody threw away their canvas leggings (there were no snakes on the island) and gas mask, and dug a foxhole or made a logcovered pit in the mud. We drew sniper fire from the Japanese who had tied themselves in the tops of the towering coco palms. Soon we were subjected to naval shelling from the Japanese vessels a half-mile or so offshore.

Those big naval guns fired at their leisure, it seemed. And why not? The enemy controlled the Pacific, at that time. They were safe. Maybe they heard the U.S. Secretary of Navy, Frank Knox say on overseas radio network, as some of us had, that the brave soldiers and marines on Guadalcanal were goners—or something to that effect. (I was listening to Col. Nelson's Zenith.)

I won't dwell on the terrible, tragic days of human suffering in the battles leading up to the final assault on Mount Austen; the death of Lt. Col. William C. Wright, our Third Battalion commander, and so many others who were to leave us in that second "War to End All Wars." Like everyone else, I sobbed and I cursed. Col. Nelson, perhaps, felt those losses more deeply than most, because he felt that he was a father to each of us.

THE BATTLE FOR MOUNT AUSTEN

On 8 December 1942, Maj. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift and the 1st Marine Division were withdrawn from Guadalcanal. The Island Command transferred to army Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Jr. During the Guadalcanal campaign, Gen. Vandegrift was found to be truly an outstanding commander. One may compare him to Gen. George Meade, the union commander at the Gettysburg Battle. Both held a tight defense perimeter, and both were extremely effective in moving their troops to confront each successive enemy move. However, Gen. Vandegrift did so for four intensive action packed months, and did so in the most ingenious manner, not equalled by any other commander, before or since. On a "shoestring" Gen. Vandegrift and his men fought against the best the Japanese air force, navy and army had to offer in spite of superior Japanese aircraft, pilots and naval vessels.

When Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Jr. took command, the Japanese Imperial Staff had planned a withdrawal from Guadalcanal starting 4 January 1943. The Japanese felt the full loss of their aircraft carriers at Midway six months before. In early December 1942, the Americans now had superiority in the air and on the seas surrounding Guadalcanal.

The Japanese sinking of all American aircraft carriers, near the Guadalcanal waters, forced the navy and marines to fly out of Henderson Field, the adjacent two fighter strips, and the single bomber strip. The island was unsinkable, and one had no fears that the "aircraft carrier" would withdraw for refueling. The Japanese sinking of the American aircraft

carriers provided the balance of victory to fall to the Americans. The American aircraft now flew out of Guadalcanal. This turned the tide of battle to the Americans and finally to victory.

Mount Austen (Oesten as the Germans call it) dominated the airfields, the port, sea and most landing beaches. It was a strategical mountain, 1,514 feet, with a series of ridges (Hills 27 and 31) and knolls (Grassy Knoll) more than six miles southwest of Lunga Point. The only offensive action on Guadalcanal followed the closing phase of the Koli Point action. The 18 November 1942 offensive bogged down short of the Poha River.

Brig. Gen. Edward B. Sebree (called John the Baptist), the American Assistant Division Commander, and later commander, succeeded in establishing the American lines west of the Matanikau River, but no further.

On 25 November 1942 Col. LeRoy E. Nelson, and a group of key officers from the 132d Infantry, flew into Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, to become familiar with the terrain and battle conditions. On 8 December 1942, Col. Nelson saw a beautiful sight when the Second and Third Battalions arrived at Red Beach. On 12 December the First Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. Earl F. Ripstra arrived. The Second Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. George F. Ferry remained in the Lunga Point defense perimeter, and worked unloading war supplies. By 16 December Gen. Patch was ready to inaugurate preparation for the January offensive by seizing Mount Austen. The operation was to be conducted under the west sector commander, marine Col. John M. Arthur who was responsible directly to Gen. Patch.

Unknown to the Americans, in late November 1942, Gen. Harukichi Hyakutake was silently and secretly building up an extremely strong defense perimeter on Mount Austen. From Mount Austen, with the hope of replacements or reinforcements, the Japanese would successfully attack Henderson Field.

Above all, the Japanese used this strategical hill as a valuable observation post. They were able to report all United States air, land, and sea movements, especially bomber aircraft activity such as numbers of American planes and their direction of flight. Moreover, from Mount Austen, the Japanese could prevent the Americans from making any large scale offensive action west of the Matanikau River (see Fig. 8I) toward Cape Esperance.

Diaries from the Japanese soldiers occupying Mount Austen reflected a common desire to fight and drive the Americans from Guadalcanal. Col. Oka's force included remnants of a re-enforced brigade; in addition, there were portions of three Japanese regiments, the 124th Infantry, 228th Infantry and the 10th Mountain Artillery Regiment used in the fight as infantry (see Fig. 8D). Also he had unusually strong radio sending equipment.

Unknown to the Americans, since 25 November 1942 the Japanese silently built a 1,500-yard long pillbox fortification of interlocking fire lanes, mutually protected, containing 75 pillboxes called by the Japanese the Gifu. Most of these Japanese of the 228th Infantry came from the Gifu, a Japanese prefecture on Honshu. They called their regiment

the "Gifu Regiment" and they named the fortification the Gifu. It is interesting to note that as stated above the Japanese 228th Infantry came from one specific area in Japan—the Gifu. Similarly, the Americans who fought them, that is the soldiers in the 132d Infantry, all came from Illinois, mostly Chicago and

Not only were the Japanese defenses extremely well camouflaged positions, but strongly built, covered with three overlapping cross layers of palm trees. The dirt from the diggings was carried away and vegetation placed on top and around the pillboxes. Only three feet of the pillbox was above ground. These were the strongest Japanese defensive positions ever built in the jungle. They had interlacing lanes of fire which mutually protected each other.

MOUNT AUSTEN

Aerial photographs or aerial reconnaissance did not permit a clear image of Mount Austen. A dense jungle rain forest covered the summit while many of the foothills were covered by at least 5 foot tall Kunai grass. The grassy spaces, at the top of the hill, although they were not separate hills, were designated by assigned numbers; such as Hill 30, 31 and 27. Thus Mount Austen was not a single peak; it consisted of Hills 27 and 31. The summit was a confusing jungle rain forest with steep and rocky ridges. Where the jungle ended the tall kunai grass began. The summit rose abruptly out of the smaller foothills two miles south of Red Beach, and east of the jungled Matanikau River.

Hill 27, a separate rocky mound, was 920 feet high and was southwest of the summit. The Mount Austen crest rose above the surrounding tree tops; it was barely visible, while Hill 31 was a grassy area approximately 750800 yards of up and down terrain north of Hill 27. From Hill 31 one overlooked Lunga Point and could see the entire American perimeter and all ship traffic. From Mount Austen the Japanese observers noted all troop movements.

The Australian coastwatchers used code to radio valuable military information on Japanese air and sea movement to the Allied Forces. The Japanese had broken this simple Australian code and were able to pinpoint the coastwatchers location.

EMOTIONAL BATTLE SCARS

During the glory at the mountain, emotional scars were suffered as well as physical scars. A second lieutenant from the Second Battalion Headquarters Company was wounded at Hill 27; he recovered from his wounds. When in the Fiji Islands while the regiment prepared for the Bougainville Campaign, he took his life. One infantryman's psychiatric illness was related to his life-threatening struggle and his decapitating a Japanese officer in his encounter with death and living.

(Watch next issue for the continuation of "Orchids in the Mud")



Photo credit – "Chuck" Walker

John Gossett from the 164th is pictured here with native kids and parents. Guadalcanal – 1942 - 1943

DEFIANCE AT DAWN

Another day!
 And here I am
 Alive and well.
 Yes, I might say
 I'm feeling swell,
 In spite of Japs,
 In spite of hell.
 Does it grieve you, Death,
 That I defy you,
 That I refuse to be taken by you?
 Then on the morrow
 Try again,
 Perhaps I'll now get by again.
 That sniper,
 Hidden in the trees,
 Lies in wait,
 Prepared to squeeze
 The trigger.
 What machine gun
 Or mortar shell
 Will find its mark?
 What bursting bomb
 Or what grenade
 Thrown in the night
 Be beforehand warned
 And plan it well
 If you intend my doom to spell
 For I intend to fight.

Anonymous

