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164th Infantry News: May 1999

164th Infantry Association

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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 39 · No. 1

May 1, 1999

164th Infantry Memorial Monument

Walter Johnson departed this vale of tears 18 December 1998 but he left us with the beautiful 164th Infantry Memorial Monument, Veterans Cemetery, Mandan, North Dakota. Johnson served in the 164th from 1941-1945 and returned to U.S. from the Philippines he completed his professional schooling as an Architect at NDSU. Walt Johnson's creative and design skills produced the 164th monument, he was very

proud of this.

It was the last project of his career. Johnson was a long time member of the American Institute of Architects, he was very proud of the initials AIA behind his name. In designing the 164th monument Walter refused any Architectural fees offered to him. Thanks Walter Johnson.



164th Infantry Scholarship Fund

Before Walter T. Johnson slipped away he was working on a project in which he really believed. It is the 164th Infantry Foundation. It was Walter's dream to create a scholarship fund for young people who might need a helping hand to start or perhaps complete their education.

Two major contributions, made by Mark Durley and Howard White, have given the fund a good start. Contributions have been coming in from the membership

in memory of deceased 164th Infantry men.

The committee will have a report for the annual meeting on contributions and will also make a recommendation on the future status of the scholarship fund.

The committee would also appreciate your thoughts on this matter, so if you would please let us know what you might think.

GUADALCANAL WWII MOVIE???

By: Jim Fenelon

Many comments have been uttered by Guadalcanal veterans about the movie "The Thin Red Line". I have had the dubious experience of having to sit through the long movie (170 minutes) three times. Twice I was invited by the press to attend a screening of the 20th Century Fox project. The third time I viewed it with a special person. The shouting by the Lt. Colonel was not typical of most officers in WWII. I called 25 members of the 164th and asked if they ever heard an officer yell and scream at a Company Commander or refer to how many times he had been passed over for a promotion and that this particular action is his opportunity to win a promotion. All the replies to my question were the same, no they never heard an officer carry on like the Lt. Colonel did in the movie. At the screening in Minneapolis, I arranged invitations for several 164th members to attend the movie. Included in this group was "Al" Schuster as he had served in the 25th division on Guadalcanal. Schuster was very positive in stating that he had never heard any battalion commander act in the manner depicted in the movie. Schuster carried the communication system for the battalion commander all through the battle for the cleansing of the Japs from Guadalcanal. The Long Gray Line from West Point should be highly incensed about the dialogue of the General, Lt. Colonel and the Captain Commanding "C" for Charlie Company. The conversation made it clear that the West Pointers (ring knockers) took care of their own (WPA) and considered themselves a cut above any one that did not attend the Point. The Battalion Commander in awarding medals insulated officer's integrity in making these decisions. The General and Lt. Colonel visiting on the troop ship prior to landing created the impression that they were leading an assault on Guadalcanal to save Henderson Field. This is not true. Movie director Terrence Malick was not accurate in all the facts. The 25th division landed on Guadalcanal in late November or early December. The real 25th division participated in some furious fighting to complete the cleansing of the enemy from Guadalcanal. The press kits handed to viewers stated that Malick hadn't directed a movie for 20 years

well, he probably should wait another 20 years or contact other people that actually participated in the battle. The script was pure "Hollywood"! I am not alone in my concern about "The Thin Red Line" and how James Jones's writing was treated. Jones was a gifted writer as stated by Charles A. Pfeifer, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in a letter to editor expressing his disappointment in the presentation of the movie. Pfeifer stated he almost walked out of the movie in the first half hour of the artistic scenes and conversations that he could not understand. Pfeifer is an ex-combat infantryman and served in the Central Pacific. He considers the film to be an insult to James Jones' writing. Pfeifer stated that the surviving members of the 25th division should file a class action lawsuit against director Terrence Malick. Bruce Fessier, reporter for the Desert Sun Newspaper, interviewed Marine Col. Mitchell Page for his reaction to "The Thin Red Line". Mitchell Page was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his action on Bloody Ridge when the Japanese forces were stopped about a half mile from capturing Henderson Field. Page, in the interview, said he recognized the terrain in "The Thin Red Line" but it was in Australia. The producers said they filmed primarily in the Daintree Rain forest in Queensland, Australia. The producers did film some areas in Guadalcanal after the Australia shoot. Page said he did recognize Guadalcanal in one empty beach scene. I agree with Pfeifer and Page in their comments. After seeing the movie three times I did recognize a beach and a scene looking towards Point Cruz showing Savo Island. Just the action the 164th participated in would make a better movie. Such as the first bombing, naval gunfire from Jap battle ships, night move of the 3rd Bn. to plug the breach in the front lines at the juncture of the 2nd Bn. 164th and 7th marine. The Koli Point operation considered a success by the marines. The Mantankau Ridge battle and the various side patrols to Savo Islands. Director Malick and actors you tried but missed the mark of the real talk, fighting and dying men did on Guadalcanal. The movie really gives the public the wrong impression of the terrible struggle.



SAY A PRAYER

Many of the members of the 164th are at that stage of maturity that the body needs repairs and some repairs cannot correct the problem so, remember them in your prayers. They deserve some extra time for services rendered in WWII.

A THEATER PARTY

On January 14, 1999 many members of the 164th Infantry Association along with other veterans and guests attended a pleasant pre-movie theater party at the Bismarck VFW post. The people enjoyed a beer and cheese social at the VFW post. It must be a sign of advanced maturity as the cheese plate disappeared before the libation (beer). There was a fair amount of a keg left. About 125 guests enjoyed a good time visiting friends and family. A surprise Limo service was provided for some of the Guadalcanal Veterans.

"The Thin Red Line", a movie based on a fictional "C" company, 25th Division from the book authored by James Jones. Jones was a member of the 25th division, he was wounded in a battle on Guadalcanal. The screening was an invitation extended by 20th Century Fox to say thanks to the first Army unit to see offensive action in the Pacific (Guadalcanal). Thanks to Shirley Olgeirson and Lorraine Kemp for the fine color pictures taken at the movie reception.



Welcome to Party!



From left to right. Moody Dalke (Moody served on landing craft WWII) Ralph Gaugler (K Company) – Bismarck, ND Bernie Wagner (G Company) Valley City, ND.



Louis Hanson, Art Link, former ND Governor, looking over the Thin Red Line press kit.



Louis Hanson (Bismarck) interviewed on TV.



Alvin Tollefsrud (L Company, Mayville) with his wife Marion.



Ralph Gaugler (K Company – Bismarck) and sons Bruce and David. Bruce Gaugler is a Vietnam Veteran. While fighting in Vietnam, Bruce (Spec 4) was assigned to the MP's but volunteered to man an M60 – 7.62 mm MG as door gunner on a Huey Helicopter. Bruce served one year 1996 based at An-Loc., Vietnam. Bruce has a 30% disability for his service in Vietnam.



Attending the screening of "The Thin Red Line" were two 1st platoon A Company 164th Infantry buddies, "Gil" Shirley and Ray Patton (Bismarck) 1941 Camp Claiborne, La, Melbourne, Australia, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji Islands. Due to health problems Patton was evacuated from the Fiji Islands to the U.S. and Shirley was promoted to 1st Sgt. and sailed/marched on into more combat in the Philippines and returned to the U.S. in 1945. The two old soldiers have been very active in the 164th Association. Patton was a member of the group of 164thers that returned to Guadalcanal in October 1992. Family members Colleen and Dave Pearce, Evelyn and Michael Patton, Ashley Fleck and daughter Kathy Fleck, grandson Nathan Fleck and daughter Mary Jane Kadrmas surround Patton. Ray has some very serious health problems, send him a note and your prayers.



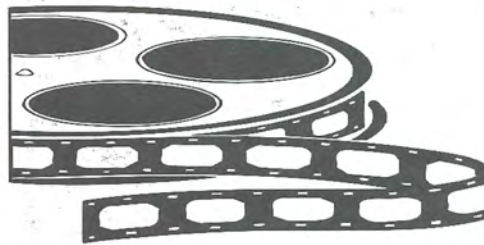
Photo Right:
Ray Patton (A Company – Bismarck) his wife, Evelyn, daughter, Colleen Pearce and son Michael Patton.



Howard White (K Company & Service Company – Bowman, ND) grandson and son – 3 generations.



VIP Limo rider – Ray Conlon of B Company (Minto, ND) and Elmo Olson of G Company (Finley, ND)



More Theater Photos continued
on Page 25...

LETTERS



TO THE EDITOR :

Dear Jim,

We speak of you so often, Jim, and the terrific job you do in putting out the news.

Eli: "That Fenelon turns out a good paper!"

In part, we both like to read it first. Your last issue was the best. So many pictures and colorful narratives and articles.

Eli: Thanks, Jim for that Eleanor Roosevelt articles and the picture you took of me on Guadalcanal.

The big lake is getting closer but so far we are 20 feet higher.

Best regards, Jim, and keep up the good work.

Eli & Marjorie Dobervich
312 Burke Blvd. Lakewood
Devils Lake, ND 58301

Dear Sir:

I just received the December issue of the 164th Infantry News and it goes without saying what a magnificent issue you put out. – thank you.

If you have not already mailed the Limited Edition Book on the 164th Infantry to:

1. Bitterroot Public Library
306 State Street
Hamilton, Montana 59840-2759
2. Missoula City Library
301 E. Main
Missoula, Montana 59802
3. State Capitol Library
State Capitol Building
Helena, Montana 59601

Please do so, if you have copies. You know us who are members of the 164th and who fought on Guadalcanal are all too modest in portraying our exploits; because we fought for freedom.

One always reads or hears that the Marines are the ones who won the battle of Guadalcanal when those of us who knew if the 164th had not landed; the Marines would have lost the Island; but Marine Colonel Vandergriff recognized and praised the 164th for a job well done.

Hope to be at the 1999 reunion.
Vince R. Powers
816 Nez Perce Drive
Hamilton, MT 59840-9010

Hi Ben:

Thanks for sending me the form for the 164th Regimental Flag. I'll display it with pride right here in the City of Hilliard, Florida. I'll bet a few heads will turn when they see it.

Always,
Heather A. Stickey
A Company

The 164th Infantry News:

This stormy day has us house bound and was reading the December News issue which reminded me I must send in my membership fee.

Enclosed is my \$10.00 check.

Was a member of the 3rd battalion Medics.

Willaim Pautzke
1301-31 Ave. SW Apt. 308
Minot, ND 58701-6992

Ben:

Thanks for the answer I think the life membership will be a good buy.

Happy New Year.

Thanks,
Raymond D. Scharnowske
RR 3 Box 319B
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Dear Sir:

Please find check for dues of \$10.00 this year. Thank you, I enjoy the 164th Infantry News very much. Hope all you have a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,
T. R. Evans
13621 Highway 63 S
Alexander City, AL 35010-6344

Secretary:

You probably have already been notified that John Tuff died on the 9th of December in Fargo. I just want to make sure you have this info – hence my short note.

He came in with D Company – for a battlefield commission on the Canal and joined M Company on Fiji as Exec. and later, on Bougainville, took command when I returned to the States. A fine Officer.

Regards,
Al Wiest
4924 Carole Drive NE
Olympia, WA 98516-2224

Ben:
Checking my records I see I'm not up to date with my dues.
I'm sorry I missed my '98 dues.
Attached is my check for late '98 dues and the now '99 dues.
Have a good year 164th.

Best to all,
S. J. Klava
780 Watson Bridge Rd.
Dothan, AL 36303

.....
164th Infantry Association:

I don't believe I mailed my 1999 dues. \$10.00 is enclosed for that purpose. I am a Korean member of the 164th from Mott - Hg. & Hg. Co.

Enjoy the interesting newsletter. Congratulations to new President Frank Weisgerber - we served together in the Korean War.

Sincerely,
Gerald M. Skogley
111 Canabury Ct.
Saint Paul, MN 55117

.....
Dear Sir:

I'm sorry I'm late sending my dues in. I hope I can still be a member.

Betty Anderson
Wife of F. Willard Anderson
164th Company E - Deceased

EDITOR'S NOTE: You are welcome to be a member for as long as you like. Your support and honoring your late husband is appreciated.

.....
Dear Ben:

I am writing to you to see if I can order the 164th Infantry Flag. Jim Fenelon gave me your name to contact.

I will be very thankful if I can get this flag to add to my collection of the 164th Infantry.

My husband, Kenneth D. Swenson, was a member of M Company.

Enclosed is my check for \$20.00. Keep up the good work, the News letter, is great. I look forward to it. Not too many of the old boys left. Sad, isn't it?

Sincerely,
Gen Swenson
1007 18th Ave S
Grand Forks, ND 58201-6827

Hi Jim,
Nice to hear from you. Enclose some snap shots. Hope these will help you out on your article. If I come across any more I'll forward them to you. Hope all is well. Hoping to see you again in Bismarck. We will go to the casino there. Last time I won \$600.00 bucks. See you in Bismarck. Stay healthy and good luck on your article. If I can be of any more assistance drop me a line.

As Ever
Joe

P.S. I have lost track of Bob Boyd. Sent him cards to S. Dakota & Washington, all came back. Any information let me know.



*J. Maier, J. Unknown, C. Dalton and J. Unknown.
Back Row: F. Dempsey, J. Curry and J. Dest.*

.....
164th Infantry Association:

As you know my husband, Joe Burgad, passed away in April of 1998 - he was in Company "E".

I want to keep in contact with his and my friends of the 164th.

Enclosed find a check for \$25.00. Please keep me on the mailing list.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Carmen Burgad
PO Box 297
Napoleon, ND 58561-0297

Dear Ben:

I want to inform you that my brother, Richard (Dick) Carr, died October 16, 1998.

Dick was born and raised in Bismarck. After high school he joined Company "A" he was with the original group of Company "A" members that left Bismarck in February 1941 for Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

He was 79 when he died in Junction City, Oregon.

I am enjoying the new look of the News.

Best Regards,
Bob Carr
Company "B"

.....
Mr. Ben Kemp,

Sorry I missed the last reunion in October of 1998. God willing I'll be at the next one in 1999.

Sincerely,
Raymond Sinkheil

.....
Dear James,

How nice of you to send me all those goodies. I shall show them off and take good care of what you sent me. We all are lucky to have you in our exclusive 164th unit.

One correction in the print, I stayed with "C" Company till fall of 1944 when I transferred to Hq. Special troops when the fighting on Bougainville was over.

Again, Jim, thanks a million.

Your 164th friend,
Anthony A. Hannel
LTC USA RET
1001 Rosewood Ave
San Carlos, CA 94070-3837

.....
Dear Jim,

I look forward to receiving the 164th Infantry News. You are doing a good job relating all types of news and pictures.

Thought you might like to know I went to the first showing in Tucson of the movie "Thin Red Line". It's a good movie of war on the Island. It's very intense and quite realistic, by good acting – but is a little long. I am glad I went to see it as I had listened to a lot of conversations from guys of the 164th Infantry after they came back from Guadalcanal in the 1940's and 1950's. Marv "Gus" never talked about it much except when he saw someone who had been there too.

I tagged along and listened mostly.

Hope to see you at the 1999 reunion in Bismarck in September.

As ever,
Lorraine Gislason

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lorraine is the widow of Marvin G. Gislason, 1st Bn. Hqd, 164th Cavalier, ND. Lorraine, thank you for being such a loyal member these past years.

Dear Jim, Editor:

In the May issue a son was inquiring about his father, Ingolf Sather, Company "B". I remember him, so I wrote the enclosed letter.

This was one event in his army life that was told that I remembered.

Bob Carr
Company "B"

Dear John Sather,

In the May '97 issue of the 164th Infantry News I read your notice about your father, Ingolf.

I am enclosing some information about our regiment, 164th Infantry, and our division "Americal".

I was the supply sergeant of Company "B" which your father was a member of. I knew him in Fargo, ND when we were activated into the U. S. Army, 2-10-41. I liked him and we were friends. That was 56 years ago. I'm now 79 and my memories of stories and details are not very good.

He was a good soldier, a leader, dependable, carried out orders, never got into any trouble that I can remember.

The last and only time I saw him after the war was at a 164th reunion many years ago. I think it was in Bismarck, ND. We had a good visit and talked about the old army days. I asked him if he brought back his Japanese Officer's sword. He said yes. Did he ever show it to you? Or how he got it?

As I remember we were on Bougainville in the Solomon Islands in 1944. I don't remember the month or day that his squad, about 8 or 10 men, were given orders to go out in front of our lines, and follow a trail until they made contact with the enemy. He was the squad leader, a Sgt. He was up front leading his men on the trail when they came upon a bend in the trail they heard and saw a group of Japanese soldiers lead by an officer about 30 yards away. They saw each other at about the same time. The officer pulled out his sword and started running and yelling, swinging his sword towards your dad's squad. The officer got so close your dad didn't have time to raise his M-1 rifle to his shoulder. He fired it from his hip hitting the officer and picked up his sword. He then lead his squad safely back to the Company "B" front line.

I'm enclosing a photo I took on Guadalcanal in November 1942. Some of the guys were "horsing" around. Your dad has 45 cal. Pistol pointing at Bill Hagen's head.

The other small photo was taken in Bougainville, 1944 in the Company "B" area. I believe Ingolf is in the back row, third from the left.

I hope you hear from others that knew your dad. We are all getting older and memories are fading. I fell honored to have known you dad and serve in the army with him.

P.S. I always called you dad "Ingolf" – not Red. I liked that name.

Sincerely,
Bob Carr
5756 Florence Terrace
Oakland, CA 94611

A request for help answered by Bob Carr. Thanks, Bob, for your thoughtful reply to a son's inquiry about his father.

Dear Jim,

I think I know someone who is overdue on getting 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 going on here. A 96 year old aunt and a 93 year old mother-in-law. 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 camp 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

.....

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for the interesting articles. I now regret even more being unable to attend the reunion in October. The presentation and commemoration at the University would have been doubly enjoyable since I haven't been back to Grand Forks since 1950.

Regarding the mortarman, I must say the resemblance is great but it is not me but some other handsome soldier. I remember a number of weapons and equipment demonstrations on Fiji but at the time I was a MG platoon leader in "H" Company and would have been a spectator rather than a demonstrator. (My wife is still not convinced but she is wrong again.)

Since going back in the army during the Korean War and then living in VA and FL since retirement I had pretty much lost contact with 164th activities and only recently have I been getting back on board. While it has been great hearing from old friends etc., what has been particularly gratifying has been to see how you and other old members have dedicated your efforts toward preserving and commemorating the history and traditions and heritage of the regiment. Everyone is proud of the heritage but keeping it alive takes some effort and as a somewhat absentee member I really appreciate what you all have done and are doing.

I will definitely be at the next reunion, wherever it is held. In the meantime, warm regards and best wishes.

I just read an excellent book GUADALCANAL by Richard Franks, Penguin Press. Very interesting, detailed and accurate good coverage of the 164th involvement.

Thanks again for the articles and the 164th News letter is great.

Sincerely,
Dick Hannel

Dear Jim and Ben,

In checking all the KIA lists I have not seen the name of 1st Lt. Combs. I do not recall his first name. He was assigned as C.O. of "H" Company for a very short time on Bougainville. He was killed on his 1st patrol on Hill 250. I was with him at that time. I do not recall the date but also wounded in the same action was Earl (Pinky) Johnson, Walt Distadd and Andy Wetternek from the 2nd platoon of "H" Company. I'm sure Pinky or Andy could provide the date.

I hope this can be cleared up.

Yours in comradeship,
Lloyd A. Weber
12122 Stagg Street
N. Hollywood, CA 91605

.....

Dear Ben,

Enjoyed the December 1998 issue of the 164th Infantry News. Jim Fenelon and staff are to be commended for their professionalism in modernizing with full color all of the recent issues. Continue the good work guys!

Over the years, I've been sending Christmas cards, but in 1997, due to the "blahs" I didn't send too many. In 1998 I restarted my energy to send greetings to make up for 1997 lapse.

On a sad note, I received a letter from a nephew of Andrew Wetternik that his uncle had died on February 20, 1997. Andy was a member of Company "H" of the 164th. He was wounded in Bougainville while on a volunteer patrol in which Captain Combs of Company "H" was KIA. Andy resided in Cos Cob, CT. I believe he was a member of the 164th Association, but was unable to attend any reunions. His nephew also mentioned in his letter that his aunt had also died May 23 (Andy's sister). May they both rest in peace.

On the front cover of the December 1998 issue was an unforgettable occasion to have Christmas Church services 1942. I recognized so many attending the services under the guidance of Chaplain Abbe.

As I recall, we also had a Christmas Mass, led by the beloved Chaplain Father Thomas Tracy.

Memories never to be forgotten.

With fond regards to all,
Jesus Pret
Nick Cascio
Company "H"

REGIMENTAL FLAG

Ben Kemp reports that the 164th Regimental Flags have arrived and orders mailed. A small inventory of Regimental Flags, with battle streamers can be ordered from Kemp. Cost \$18.00 plus a \$2.00 mailing and handling. If you want a flag better send in your order promptly.

Dear Don,

I am sending my \$10.00 for membership in the 164th Infantry Association. Will also try and get to the reunion in Bismarck in September 1999.

I was a member of the 164th Infantry Company "D" from 1943 until 1946 and saw service in the Solomon Islands and the Philippines.

My army serial number is #37554913, rank PFC.

Sincerely,

Gordon C. Everett
2819 E 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55812

Dear Jim,

I want to compliment you on the 164th paper, you are doing a hell of a job.

This Combs you are asking about is not too fresh on my mind. I remember when he came into the Company "H" and fell the Company in. He informed us that we were National Guard and he was from West Point. He went out on patrol and took a hit by Jap machine gun fire on hill 250. We had to go out and get him the next day. I wasn't in the patrol when he got hit. I don't think he was in the company over 3 weeks.

Yes we are keeping those poor Indians of yours off of welfare. See you in Bismarck the Lord willing.

Don Hoffman
"H" Company

Jim Fenelon,

I am writing to you pertaining to an article I read about the 182nd Infantry on Guadalcanal and being rather frustrated to have everyone think that the 182nd Infantry was the first Army unit on Guadalcanal. I recall an incident of those soldiers running and leaving their wounded buddy by throwing a canteen of water to him. Well, this is all true. They were supposed to have lost their colors over that incident. Maybe it is scuttlebut. I recall moving in with other members of the 164th to retake and occupy the positions the 182nd had left in the Point Cruz - Matanikau area.

I probably should not have written you about the incident and apologize for doing so. I am soon 80 years old so blame my memory.

Sincerely,

Vince R. Powers

EDITOR'S NOTE: The records indicate that a unit of the 182nd Infantry had a very serious problem holding firm in their first time on the front lines at Point Cruz - Matanikau area. If anyone else recalls the incident the information would be appreciated. The 182nd Infantry arrived on Guadalcanal in late November and early December.

Dear Ben,

I can't thank you enough for the package of information you sent. I have been reading through it all morning, and I am finding it very interesting and informative. This is going to be a huge project, but one that I feel very strongly about, and I appreciate all the help I have been getting. I just wish I would have started this while my dad was still alive.

I am acquainted with one of the people, Ralph Gaugler, on the list you sent, and I am going to try and get in contact with him. It would be nice to have some writings from someone that was in the same company.

Enclosed is my check for \$30.00 to cover a 1 year associated membership, and a 164th Regimental Flag. The newsletter is very informative, and the flag will make a great addition to my dad's memorial album. I'm looking forward to receiving it.

If it would be at all possible to put something in the next newsletter regarding my search for information, I would really appreciate it. I have found everyone to be very helpful with my quest, and would like to gather all the information that I can. Please let me know, and again, thank you for all your help.

Sincerely,

Joan Jurgens
Daughter of Robert E. Helsper, "K" Co.
PO Box 3
Medora, ND 58645

Dear Sirs,

I am sending you \$10.00 to renew my membership for 1999.

I was with the 164th Infantry from Fiji Island to the occupation of Japan. I enjoy reading about my old buddies in The 164th Infantry News. I read every bit of it. The 164th was a very good regiment.

Please change my address from RR 3 Box 415, Hayesville, NC to 1522 East Vineyard Road, Hayesville, NC 28904.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Dailey

Dear Mr. Kemp,

My father was Herbert J. Mack and his wife, my mother, Irene Mack, currently receives information related to the 164th and she appreciates that. However, she is now living with me on a permanent basis and would like the mailing address changed.

Her new address is:
Mrs. Irene Mack
2211 160th Avenue SE
Arthur, ND 58006
Thank you for taking care of this.

Sincerely,

Sharon Mack Kleeman

Dear Ben,

Thanks for the December issue of the 164th Infantry News. A real great one, as usual. It still is the greatest experiences of my life to serve with the great guys in Headquarters Company of the 164th in Bougainville and the Philippines. Still haven't met a finer group that will always remain with me. Odd Jacobson-Claude Funk –John Almee-Janus Acampora-Ed Brennan-Tony Dadario-Art Larsen-Robert and First Sergeant Don Hoff-Eugene Weidman-Dunc Macgibbon Puckett- the band leader – Sam Nahama – great fighter – Milo Davis a little guy who hit like a mule. What a bunch!

I was a New York boy and they took me in like one of their own. We played softball in the rest area in Bougainville and I remember Odd Jacobson as a great catcher with a terrific arm and Tony Dadario as a great pitcher a no hitter which I humbly admit to catching.

Ben, Jim, Frank and all, thanks again for a great issue.

The articles and pictures are outstanding.

Enclosed my dues for 1999. Best to all.

Milton Olan
995 NE 170th Street
NMB, FL 33162

Dear Ben,

Howdy, was surprised to receive your letter with my check returned in yesterdays mail. Also, surprised at how expensive it is to print and mail "The 164th Infantry News".

Went back and read my letter of 2 Jan. again and spotted an error in it. When I wrote that letter I could not remember having fired a colt .45 I have, since 1947.

An article sent me by a friend in Texas arrived a couple of days ago and it tells of a young man accidentally killing his 7 or 8 year old daughter on a recent New Year's Eve when his .25 caliber pistol hang fired. Seems like he was shooting it up in the air when it misfired and he lowered it and started walking toward the front door where his daughter stood. Stupid man. It probably went off while he was trying to eject it, the article not being clear on how it went off but it killing his little girl.

Reading that article set the gray matter in motion and I remember taking my colt .45 in the back yard 31 December 1954 at midnight and firing it 3 times in the air. Stupid thing to ever do, as those slugs go up so far then fall back to earth.

I wonder how many people in Baghdad were killed with all the AA fire sent up in the sky during Desert Storm?

I will make a contribution to the General Fund of enough to take care of mailing the News to me for 1999. Maybe a note from the editor in a 1999 issue setting up a mailing fund, would induce a few to donate a few bucks to help out on mailing the News.

I am a member of "The Naval Weather Service Association" and when the costs of mailing out our "Aerograph" 4 times a year was talked about, a temporary mailing fund was set up

and the next year we raised our annual dues to cover the cost. Military organizations can't afford to operate like our federal government does, by going into the red.

P.S. BRRRRRRRRRRR no thanks for the cold weather back your way, I like it hot more than cold.

Cordially,
Zane E. Jacobs

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jacobs, you are on target about the costs of printing and mailing the 164th Infantry News. Postage rates were increased as of January 1999. In your last paragraph your suggestion to set up a mail fund and/or increase dues to keep up with the rising costs is most valid. Thanks for your \$25.00 check to cover mailing the news to you for the year 1999.



The U.S. warship fires at a Japanese warship off the Solomon's, October 21, 1943. Naval battles off Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands were often night engagements aimed at preventing the enemy from reinforcing their troops. One area off Guadalcanal was nicknamed "Iron Bottom Sound" because of the large number of ships lost there.

RG 80, General Records of the Department of the Navy, 1798-1947 (080-G-54646)

PEMBINA MEN TOGETHER THREE YEARS

With the American division at Bougainville four soldiers from Pembina County, N.D., members of the infantry regiment here, are celebrating three years of inseparable comradship in the army, which has carried them through two campaigns and to five different bases in the South Pacific.

Staff Sgt. John A. Landowski, Drayton; Corp. Edmond N. Lupine, Neche; Pvt. Ben Thompson, Backoo, and Corp. Allen F. Otto, Hensel, all members of an anti-tank company, met for the first time May 5, 1941, when they left Cavalier, N.D. for induction at Fort Snelling and they have been together since. They prize they're comradship above everything else.

From Snelling they went to Camp Claiborne, La., for basic training and after maneuvers in Louisiana, were assigned to the West Coast Defense Area, embarking for overseas duty from Fort Ord, Calif.

They were together in Australia, New Caledonia where the army was activated, went through the Guadalcanal campaign, were stationed in the Fiji islands and landed in Bougainville on Christmas day last year. They have been fighting Japs there since.

Landowski, 26 years old, is squad leader and was recently



awarded the silver star for gallantry. He also has been awarded the purple heart for being wounded in action.

Lupine, 30 is assistant squad leader. His brother, Corp. Richard Lupine, is stationed at Camp Barkeley, Texas, in the armored force.

Thompson, 35, is second gunner on a 37 millimeter anti-tank weapon and has a brother, Pvt. Tom, who also is in service.

Otto, 25, is assistant squad leader and received a citation from Maj. Gen. Hodge, former American division commander, for his outstanding service at Guadalcanal.

THE UNITED STATES ARMY ON GUADALCANAL

(13 October 1942 - 9 February 1943)

Guadalcanal is an evil of earth which festers in the Pacific some 600 miles south of the Equator. The southeastern gateway to the Solomons, it is lofty with blue peaks – rimmed by steaming lowlands and shackled fast in the green fetters of the jungle. Its deep earth melts into slime beneath the lash of tropic rains – hardens into shifting grime as the sun strikes down with brazen hammers.

It is a brutal country of slant hills where the climber fights for upward yards – of ravines laced tight with vines armed at all points. Parakeets quarrel in the treetops and wild cattle graze in the sudden meadows. The areas about Guadalcanal are shark-haunted – peopled by lean grey killers on endless patrol.

Rat and lizard swarm through jungle and palm grove. Malaria's dank banners hang from the gnarled limbs of trees which are strange and hostile. The jungle air is a rising stench – moist green wool which mocks the straining lungs. Eighty by thirty fever-crustled miles, Guadalcanal is well tailored for the trampling rush of war's Four Horsemen.

The gunmetal dawn of October 13 was beginning to tarnish the sky over Guadalcanal when the first Army troops dug their hobnails into Kukum Beach and moved up the shore. They

were part of the 164th Infantry – hard-bitten fighting men from the Dakotas – horny-handed sluggers from farms and ranches – from logging camps and mine shafts.

They were commended by Colonel Bryant M. Moore and death came their way with a swift rush. At 1100, Jap planes droned down the long blue slope of the sky – drenched the bivouac area between the Ilu an Lunga rivers with whistling steal. They came again at 1400 and again at 1600.

That night a storm beat in from the sea – a storm of shrapnel from enemy craft standing arrogantly off the beach. Heavy artillery fire from Mount Austen crossed over this pattern while the 164th lay on it's belly and rocked with the heaving earth.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Document from A. Timboe collection. Many of the 164th troops were moved into areas on Guadalcanal that had no prepared dugouts. Entrenching equipment had been left in the landing area on Kukum Beach. The move was made after dark and all that could be observed was the flash from exploding Japanese 14-inch navy bombardment shells. Stated in the above account many men hugged the ground. Some others ripped the tops off Jap officer's latrines. Not a pleasant smell but they were standing below ground level; next morning these individuals were advised to walk into the blue pacific and come back clean.

EXPEVENTIA DOCET: EXPERIENCE TEACHES.

CORRECTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS, AMPLIFICATIONS, ADDITIONS & SUBTRACTIONS

In the 164th News May 1997, volume 35, number 2 a statement was made that Ben Kemp was the only person to have served in all three 164th units; The 164th Infantry, The 164th Battalion and The 164th Group. Well, the records now reveal that Dennis Jensen, (Lt. Col. Ret.) also served in all three units of the 164th. Dennis Jensen is a Life Member of the Association. Thanks for updating the records. We now have two (2) lifers that served in all three of the 164th units.

The last issue of the 164th News, volume 38, number 7 December 1, 1999, page 17 carried a picture of two old WWII Veterans, an old salt and an old soldier. The "Old Salt" was Leo F. Doyle, 30 Murray Hill Rd., Medford, MA 02155. Doyle was a sailor on the USS Alchiba when it was torpedoed off Guadalcanal in November 1942. The USS Alchiba was carrying a number of 164th men to rejoin their units. Doyle stated he joined the Navy April 19, 1941, served on the battle ships USS Texas for three months then transferred to the USS Alchiba and was part of the Naval contingent that commissioned the USS Alchiba in Boston September 1941. The first trip for the Alchiba was to Iceland to deploy a Marine Corps Communication unit. The Alchiba carried units of the 1st Marine Division from Paris Island to New Zealand. The Alchiba being an attack supply ship, participated in the August 7, 1942 landing of the 1st Marines on Guadalcanal.

On November 28, 1942 the Alchiba was approaching Guadalcanal to begin discharging cargo and troops at Kukum Beach, near Lunga Point when it was hit by a torpedo fired from an enemy submarine that apparently had been tracking the Alchiba waiting for a good shot. Doyle explained that the ship was hit in the number 2 hold, to stop the sea water from

flooding the hold, sailors plugged the hole with several mattresses from the crews quarters. The ship made it to Kukum Beach off Guadalcanal and was there until December 7, 1942 when repairs were completed to make the ship seaworthy.

In the torpedo attack, one soldier was killed and Doyle suffered severe damage to his back, three sailors were killed and eight wounded. The Army troops and supplies on board the ship were put ashore by Higgins boats and barges. Thanks Doyle, for visiting the 164th reunion and sharing your WWII experiences on the USS Alchiba.

The name of a D Company man and his wife were missed in the proof reading. Edwin J. & Leona Kielstrom, 124 9th Street SE Rugby, ND 58368-2207 attended the October 1998 reunion in Bismarck. Sorry for the omission.

E. J. Kavonius was in attendance at the 1998 reunion, but forgot to sign the A Company roster. E. J. is from St. Paul, Minnesota.

Thanks Howard Lauter for identifying the 164th mortar crew firing on the Numa Numa Trail, in Bougainville. The mortar crew picture was in the 164th news volume 38, number 6, September 1998. The names of the crew Howard Lauter, Milford, NJ holding the shell; Tony Cencich, Hibbing, MN kneeling and Eliot Hyman, New York City, NY.

Howard Lauter
14 Aloco Ln
Milford, NJ 08848-1905

HELP

Maurice R. Hannum was a S/Sgt. in D Company, 3rd Squad, 1st Bn, 164th Infantry and would like to have the names of the people in the picture. Hannum can only identify a Corporal Wallace Elberg last man on the top row right. Hannum plans to attend Capt. John Tuff (M Company originally D Company) Tuff internment 24 May 1999, Veterans Cemetery, Mandan, North Dakota.

Maurice Hannum
145 S. Bernard Street
Powell, WY 82435



1/2 CENTURY AGO (plus)

COMPANY A SETS HIGH MARK FOR 164TH RIFLEMEN

Only Three Fail To Qualify As Expert, Sharpshooter For Marksman

CAMP CLAIBORNE, LA – only three men of Company A who took part in qualifying tests failed to make the grade as riflemen expert, sharpshooter or marksman after three weeks of training of the newly-constructed rifle range here.

Some of the men shot the new Garand rifle, commonly known as the M-1. Others shot the Springfield model 1903, some shot the Browning automatic rifle and others shot the .45 calibre pistol.

Purpose of the range training was to accustom each man to shooting his rifle and to qualify each for classification in one of the three classes of the riflemen.

Men of Company "A" qualifying for expert were: Harold M. Caya, Ronald A. Davis, George H. Dohn, Jack E. Geiger, Theodore Goth, Eino J. Kavonius, Cecil L. Nelson, John J. Miller, Pete Patrick, David O'Rourke, Emil Schock, Raymond J. Patton, Melvin Shirley, Joseph Gross, Eugene Hawley and Helmer Olson.

Qualified sharpshooters are Anton Reidinger, Joseph J. Bride, Harold W. Geise, Reuben Heer, Ernest Tolliver and Kenneth Prosser.

Marksman are: Arnold W. Bauer, John Dinius, William Freed, William P. Owens, Albert Kirchman, Leroy F. Koenig, Aloysius J. Mosser, Pat G. Reilly, Isadore Reidinger, Ramus R. Roberson, Anton J. Sturn, Stanley W. Voight, Richard G. Carr, Ronald H. Erickson, Dennis R. Firk, Joel B. Grotte, Theodore Heer, William G. Kavonius, Oliver C. Kendall, Harold W. Krause, Pete P. Lepo, Warner L. Mummert, Richard C. Myers, Sam Schachair, Joseph F. Schnieder, Alfred P. Schumacher, Norbert J. Seven, Mike Shmorhun, Lucas G. Allex, Ewald J. Bauer, Ernest V. Gilbertson, Wayne T. Jennings, Kenneth R. Johnson, Forrest E. Marvin, Emil L. Rahn, Donald G. Stevens, John Walters, John R. Weigel,

Thomas B. Cleveland, Howard Dietrich, George R. Nelson, Clarence A. Sauers, Earl E. Sprecher, Gerald Voight, Bruce C. Hjelle, and William E. Tucker.

Company A's qualification grade was far above that of other companies in the regiment.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Credit Bismarck Tribune Circa – 1941.

GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK

(an Editorial)

In the darkness of Tuesday night Bismarck said good bye to the boys of Company A, our gallant guardsmen who now are en route to a southern training camp.

In theory they are going out only for a year of training and will return to us next February hale and hearty and with a year of military experience to their credit.

But there obviously were some in that crowd who thought that they might be departing upon a much longer journey. And those folks may be right.

No one knows what the next year will bring forth in this troubled world. No one can say for certain what the next month, the next week or even the next day will bring. Because of this it is entirely possible that when Bismarck next sees this gallant band there will be fewer men to answer the roll call and those who remain will have tales to tell which will become sagas of North Dakota's military history.

We cannot tell about these things.

But this we do know. Wherever they go and whatever they are called upon to do, these men of Bismarck and vicinity will acquit themselves well. Our soldiers always have.

And whether or not they are called upon to fight, we shall be eternally grateful to them for their action in rising to the defense of the nation – to the defense of us who remain at home.

We know not what the future holds but this we know: wherever they go, whatever they do, whatever they may be called upon to face, our best wishes go with them. For these young men in khaki took away with them a piece of the heart of each loyal citizen who remained at home.

These men are making a sacrifice – a sacrifice for us. Because of that fact it is only proper that we who remain should each make firm resolution to give to our country the same high devotion and the same quality of service that these young men are so obviously prepared to give.

Credit Bismarck Tribune Wednesday, February 26, 1941.

INSIGNIA OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

If you are interested in the insignia of the WWII armed forces you can find the information in a copy of the National Geographic Magazine volume LXXXIII, number six, June 1943. This volume carries 991 illustrations in 32 pages of color. Published in 1943, it is the first complete color reproduction of all approved Insignia, with full notes on designs and symbols. A friend sent me a copy and I found it very interesting as that particular volume had some very interesting articles about WWII up to June 3, 1943. The Americal Division shoulder patch and lapel insignia are not shown as it was only formalized as a division in and organized in 1942 in New Caledonia, South Pacific.

Maybe a friend or relative might have saved a copy of the June 3, 1943 issue of the National Geographic Magazine. I sent my copy to The Military Heritage Center, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

CAPTAIN ROCKEY SAYS

North Dakota Sons 'Doing Fine' at Camp Claiborne

Capt. Francis E. Rockey, commanding Co. A, 164th infantry, North Dakota national guard, Monday assured the fathers and mothers of all the boys in his unit that their sons are "doing fine" at Camp Claiborne, La.

Capt. Rockey was here over the weekend, arriving Sunday and leaving Monday evening. He, with two other officers and 26 enlisted men, were sent to Ft. Snelling, Minn., to supervise the transportation to Camp Clairborne of 400 drafted men from this section. They were slated to leave Ft. Snelling, for the return south, sometime Tuesday.

Other officers in the group were Lt. Col. Ronald McDonald, Valley City, and Maj. Cecil O. Ferguson, Kulm.

Also making the trip was Sergt. Robert Burckardt of Co. A, who visited over the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Burckardt, 315 Mandan St.

The men of Company A have just about completed the "hardening process" in which they are taught how to live in camp, and how to take care of themselves and their equipment, Rockey said. At the same time they are acquiring the special skills which they must have to become efficient from a military standpoint. Technical school lasts about an hour and a half each day and most of the boys are attending them. Pvt. 1C1 John O'Rourke and Pvt. Ronald Erickson are attending the army intelligence school eight hours daily.

Food is Good

The mess is excellent and the morale is high, Rockey said. He mentioned them in the same breath because one has much to do with the other.

There was a slight difficulty about the food at first because the regiment was issued the standard ration designed for Camp Claiborne and it did not exactly fit the North Dakota idea of a proper menu. The food was good, Rocky explained, but not what the northern boys were used to. But that soon was straightened out and Rockey boasted that his company now has the best mess in the camp.

In general charge is Mess Sgt. Joe Bride with George Nelson as first cook, Earl Sprecher as second cook and Joe Gross as assistant cook.

On the allowance of 42 cents per man each day there is plenty of everything and it is well prepared and well served. The allowance permits chicken every Sunday if the boys want it, with ice cream on Sunday and sometimes during the week.

Tents Well Equipped

Prices are high in Alexandria, La., the nearest city, but most of Company A trades at the regimental canteen where it is possible to buy anything from magazines to radios. Prices are reasonable, cigarettes selling at \$1.25 per carton for the standard brands. The company mess fund gets a 10 percent dividend on all profits contributed by company members.

One radio is permitted in each tent and each has electric lights and a gas stove.

Laundry must be sent out – if the boys do not wash their own clothes – and there was some trouble about lost articles at the start. Now that condition has been cured and the service is better. Prices are reasonable.

Recreational facilities are fair but not as good as they will be later. Each regiment has a recreation hall. Talent recruited within the various units has been putting on two shows a week and there have been movies every night and on Sunday at a theater tent. Recently some outside talent has been giving free shows at the regimental recreation centers.

A library has begun to operate, although it is not yet completed, and the proposed hostess house still is under construction, so there is no activity in that field as yet. Rockey said he did not know if dances would be held at the camp later under the direction of a hostess, as is being done at some camps.

Weather Is Damp

It is 18 miles to Alexandria and 128 to New Orleans, but neither officers nor men have had much opportunity to travel far from camp. In Alexandria military police assist the local authorities and certain establishments there have been declared off limits for soldiers.

Luckily, the sun hasn't shone much and the boys have had a chance to get acclimated gradually, Rockey said. He is beginning to tan but some of the men with tender skin have begun to burn. The thermometer hasn't gone very high as yet but the men find the damp heat harder to bear than the drier heat of this region. There were some colds and mild influenza shortly after the company arrived but few men were incapacitated for more than a day.

In building the camp, the contractors cut down some hills and distributed the dirt around the camp. When it rains, which is frequently, this gets rather "soupy" but duck boards have been placed around the regimental area so the men can keep out of the mud at least most of the time.

As to military equipment, the men have most of the items they need for training purposes, although they are not yet fully equipped. There are, in the company, 29 Garand rifles, the rest being the old Springfield type. Two of three 60 millimeter mortars are on hand and each man has a gas mask and practically all of the clothing provided for in army regulations. Machine guns in use are the heavy type, rather than the light machine guns which will be part of the company's regular equipment.

Company A now musters 101 men but soon will get 70 draftees. War strength is 217 men.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bismarck Tribune April 28, 1941. In the story it was reported that Sgt. Robert "Bobby" Burchart, A Company, was a member of the trip back to Bismarck, in May of 1941 and was later killed in action (KIA) November of 1942–Mantanikau Ridge – Gaudalcanal.

The slight difficult referred to about the food involved feeding the troops "Grits", colored green, Hominy, corned beef allegedly from WWII.

PISTOL TAKEN FROM DEAD JAP SOLDIER SAVES LIFE OF LOCAL MAN IN COMBAT

George E. Duis answered the last roll call in a macarabe happening. After surviving the hard scrabble years of the depression in the 1930's Duis was brutally murdered by an assailant that broken into his apartment and law office struck a devastating blow to his head. After robbing Duis the attacker set fire to Duis in the apartment. Duis served in the Civil Conservation Corps prior to the outbreak of WWII. He joined M Company 164th Infantry in 1941 and trained in Camp Claiborne, La.

When the 164th engaged in the deadly battle for Guadalcanal. Duis suffered severe wounds at the hands of the enemy. In 1943 Duis was home on furlough recovering from his wounds he was interviewed, May 30, 1943 by the Crookston Daily Times, Crookston, Minnesota. This is the story.



He's a twenty-year-old army private but he's seen more action in the last year than many men have seen in a life time. His face is calm, showing little emotion; his manner is mild and unassuming, giving no indication of the three bayonet wounds in his abdomen and shrapnel wounds in his left hand; his uniform is the only hint of what he has witnessed. His name is George Duis, formerly of Crookston, now visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bert Levins.

Two battle ribbons, the order of the Purple Heart medal, and expert rifle machine gun medals given to him before he left the country adorn his army blouse.

"I guess it was the Jap pistol I took off a dead Jap officer that saved my life that night in the jungles of Guadalcanal," he said today in an interview.

Duis had taken a saber, a .765 mm. Pistol (equivalent to the U. S. .32 caliber), and a pair of field glasses off the officer. He had 18 rounds of ammunition for the gun. The saber had been placed in the hands of the company commander for safe keeping until George had a chance to take it out of the island. He said he had been offered \$450 for the saber but was advised not to sell because he could name his own price in the states.

"I remember the night I was wounded well – but most of it seems like a rambling dream that you can't piece together. Things happened that I have no recollection of, like two bullet holes in my canteen."

Japs Infiltrate Lines

"Mostly I remember the start of the attack. Six of us were assigned to a machine gun. Three men were on the gun and three of us were about 25 yards behind and to the left of the gun."

"The Japs had infiltrated through our lines and attacked from the rear. The first intimation they were around us was a grenade exploding between us and the gun. The second grenade lit in our pit. I grabbed it and threw it out but it exploded right away. That's when the shrapnel got me and knocked out my buddies."

"Then the Nips hit us. I saw six of them start for out foxhole. I shot at them with my rifle and I'm sure I hit four. But they charged into the hole with bayonets, bayoneting me and killing my two unconscious pals. The Nip stabbed me three times in the stomach before I was able to get the pistol loose. I shot him while his rifle was still in my stomach."

First Thoughts of Food

"I lay there conscious thinking how lucky I was to be wounded and able to be evacuated from this hellhole. Then

the shock wore off and I began wondering if I would live. My first thoughts had been of getting back to the states and eating chicken for Sunday dinner and sinking my teeth into apple pie and thick steaks and seeing white women again. But when the shock wore off I got panicky, wondering if I'd ever see the United States. It seemed to mean everything to me that I get back to all the comforts back here – and I prayed that I'd live to enjoy those things."

"Later – I don't know how much later, because I kept watching for more Japs, keeping the pistol ready – some bearers picked me up. I had to walk about a mile on the way back to camp because the men were so overloaded. There they performed an emergency operation and kept me in the hospital for three days before an ambulance airplane flew me away from the island."

But that was not the only story George Duis had to tell about his month and a half on Guadalcanal. He had seen two other battles and plenty of air raids and artillery shelling before this battle.

In Three Battles

The first battle he was in was the battle of Lunga (the correct name for this battle is not known here; this is the name given to it by the troops), which lasted from October 24 to 26; the second was the battle of Koli Point from November 3 to 10; and the third, which lasted nearly 30 days after Duis was evacuated, was the battle of Grassy Knoll. This battle started November 19 and George was wounded the night of the 21st.

George continued his story, "When we first landed on Guadal we thought things were pretty quiet. But within a few hours we started getting the air raids. We had four of them the first day that blew up most of our supplies. Then we went in to an American – occupied Jap camp in the comparative safety shelters. Then they started shelling us from the hills with eight and fourteen inch guns and from the sea with big navy guns."

"One gunner in the hills we called Pistol Pete. He shelled us every day with an eight incher. Our planes couldn't find him because he had his gun in a cave. The gunner would roll it out, fire a few rounds, and roll it back in again before we could learn the direction."

Nips Storm Guns

"Yes," he said, "we took a lot of pounding and were all pretty scared those first few nights. We had a strong line

(continued on page 16)

INCIDENT AT COFFIN CORNER

(Nips Storm Guns continued)

around the camp of heavy machine guns. The Nips were trying to break through by storming the guns. We lost 80 men that night – but they lost 3,000. I guess we minded the smell of those dead bodies more than anything else, particularly after ten days of it.”

“Those Japs used to hide in the jungles a few hundred yards from us and yell in real American slang, ‘Come out, yellow bellies, or we’ll come in and get you.’ But the fluent answers they got back from the Yanks cramped their remarks.”

When asked about sleep and food over there, he answered, “Sleep is practically unheard of. We went 10 days without any sleep, and we only had about two nights rest out of 17. The food is okay – but not like chicken dinners and apple pie,” recalling his thoughts while lying wounded in the foxhole. The food and strain is apparent on him. He said he weighed 170 pounds when he left the states and he lost 30 in Guadal.

He has many tales to tell about the Pacific fighting. He mentioned a marine on Tulagi island. The marine was guarding a bivouac area while the troops were sleeping. The man said in good English, “Hi, Buddy, what’s your name,” and the marine shot him. The next morning his commanding officer asked why he had shot at the Jap before he recognized him. “Well,” said the marine, “I knew there were no soldiers around here. If it had been a marine he would have said Mac or Joe, not Buddy.”

Shoots Woman Sniper

Duis also mentioned the shooting of a woman sniper. Apparently she had been a “geeshier” or geisha girl, while the Japs were stationed there and had turned sniper when the Americans drove them out.

He said the natives of the island are dead against the Japs. They are paid 25 cents for the ears of the Japs they kill.

One other story he told was of a Jap officer who came into camp under a flag of truce, saying he had 80 men in the hills who wanted to surrender but were afraid the marines would kill them. A colonel took a detail to bring them in. They were ambushed and only two of the men returned.

Duis is leaving Crookston today for a hospital on the west coast. He will receive orders there. He left with the North Dakota State guards in February, 1941, for Camp Claiborne, LA. He arrived on Guadalcanal October 13 after being stationed in Australia and New Caledonia and came back to the states December 27.

Saturday, May 30, 1943 Crookston Daily Times, Crookston, Minnesota

While reading the December 1st News, I noticed something that brought back memories of 1942.

My position on the perimeter line was quite close to the Japanese attack area (within a short rifle range). In the morning after the first night of the battle it seemed to pretty quiet so I thought the attack had probably ended. Of course, I was mistaken about that. Anyway I went to the platoon C.P. to find out what happened during the night, and when I got back my foxhole partner (Harvey Hubbard) had been shot and killed by a sniper.



A couple days later, when the attack had really ended, Jim Casey

and I were walking around in the battle area. Jim picked up an Officer’s Samurai sword. When he tried to take the sword out of the scabbard, he couldn’t get it out. We looked it over and found that a bullet had gone through the scabbard and sword bending the metal and making it impossible to remove the sword. I don’t know what happened to his sword, but thought it was quite a coincidence.

At this same time, I picked up a map that had all our positions and the defense line marked on it. I turned the map in. Maybe, its still in the Regimental files somewhere.

My platoon Sgt. At this time was Laverne Lange. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. while we were on Fiji. My platoon guide was Sgt. John Stannard, who left us on Fiji to attend West Point. He later became a General.

G. K. Landes (E Co.)

Galice1@aol.com

2304 Cloverdale Drive

Missoula, MT 59803-1104

EDITOR’S NOTE: Gale Landers was one of the 27 members of the 164th Infantry Association that returned to Guadalcanal in October 1992 for the 50th Anniversary of the 164th landing on Guadalcanal October 13th, 1942. Gail, thanks for sharing your experience. To all members, please send in your personal experiences.

A democracy without a free and truthful flow of information to it’s people is nothing more than an elected dictatorship. A free press can be irritating but it is very much needed.

GUADALCANAL — SAVO ISLAND

INFANTRY RIFLE COMPANY STRENGTH LONG RANGE PATROL

By: LTC A.A. Hannel, USA Retired

On January 10, 1943, Company C returned from a 5 day patrol back of Grassy Knoll (Mt. Austin). We were to be re-supplied by airdrop, but somehow the re-supply was canceled. After the third day we resorted to fishing, using concussion and frag grenades to stun fish in the streams. Eating the fish, cooked in a steel, paint covered helmet was an experience. Our company found evidence of a Jap field hospital, with abandoned gear including some 25 caliber rifles. (I brought a 25 cal. back to the perimeter, later on had it sent home.)

In some places the jungle growth was so restrictively dense it was much easier to wade up or down stream if not too deep. Tired and hungry, upon our return to the perimeter, we all tore into rations, now available.

Savo Island, January 28, 1943: Company C, 164th Infantry Mission departed from Guadalcanal on tank lighter for Savo Island, landing near Pago Pago native village. Our mission was to search for Jap survivors. At that village we were met by friendly natives, some who spoke good English. They said that were no Japs there as far as they knew. Capt. Mjogdalen gave each platoon its mission; each platoon was to scout approximately one-third of the island. Prior to departure each platoon was assigned three native guides; my platoon's chief guide was Sananah, and to his two helpers we issued machetes for the purpose of hacking lanes through the jungle ahead of my platoon toward the center of the island, over an extinct volcano, then across to the opposite coast. Near the volcano depression in the heavy, dense jungle we came upon one of our missing, downed fighter planes with pilot's remains still strapped in his seat, likely downed several

days previously. We spent that night on the coast. When the Tokyo Express showed up that night, with the fireworks all around the island, we were not sure if the Japs were making landings around us. Early next morning Jap planes were flying at treetop level right in front of us, so close we could see the pilot's face. We soon observed what they were after when we saw them low-level bomb a Navy D.E. (destroyer's escort). Within minutes the D.E. was engulfed in smoke and sunk. That morning we returned to our C.P. to report our findings – all negative on Jap presence, also our sighting of the downed plane and its location.

On our way back to our C.P. along the beach we observed a Jap long-lance torpedo which had slid ashore without exploding. At the Company C.P. we learned that the natives had picked up one of our downed pilots, not far offshore. His face was badly cut; he was soon taken to Tulagi for treatment. All three of our patrols had negative reports about any Japs on Savo. Our Company C.P. was in radio contact with the 164th Infantry H.Q. on Guadalcanal. During the Jap intrusion our sound wire line was severed temporarily; our wire chief, Carl Haukedahl, went out alone to locate the breaks and make repairs. In my book, he should have been recommended for a Silver Star. Also, we learned that early that morning natives found a beached PT boat with crew, result of Jap intrusion during the night. Help we received from the natives was invaluable. Prior to our return to Guadalcanal, the natives loaded us up with fresh fruits and even fresh eggs.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hannel was a member of the 164th group that made the return visit to Guadalcanal in October 1992, fifty years after the original October 13th, 1942 landing.



Connecticut Anti-Tank Men Take Rest in Pacific

With the American infantry division somewhere in southwest Pacific – Five Connecticut soldiers, members of the same anti-tank unit in the Americal Division, taking time out from duties on a Southwest Pacific island. From left to right: Pvt. John Casertona, New Haven; Pfc. Alcide Bolduc, New Britain; Pfc., Joseph Dest, New Haven; Pvt. Angelo Scicilone, Thompsonville. In front: Pfc. Stephen Chemistruch, Rockville. – {U.S. Army Photo}

**HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
OF THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET**

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commander South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force, takes pleasure in awarding you the NAVY CROSS to

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT KERR HALL
UNITED STATES ARMY

for service as set forth in the following:

"For extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands, during the night of October 24, 1942. Lieutenant Colonel Hall, having been ordered to move his battalion to the relief of a Marine battalion which was then under attack by numerically superior Japanese forces, had his troops advance by forced march, at night, through rain and over difficult and unfamiliar terrain, to the assigned sector. He preceded his battalion, made a personal reconnaissance under heavy enemy fire, and when the battalion arrived his leadership made possible the repulse of continued enemy attacks and the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

W. F. Halsey
Admiral, U. S. Navy

Temporary Citation

A TRUE COPY

/ s/ Carl F. McKinney
Colonel, G. S. C.

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

NIGHTS IN A FOXHOLE

Nights in a foxhole facing the Japanese were truly an unusual experience; one accommodation a person never, never, never forgets. Once in a foxhole after dark one never moves out of it regardless of the rain and mud soaked hole. Any human movement is considered enemy and is fired upon. With this basic "rule" only a rare American was accidentally killed outside his foxhole at night. At Hill 27 two sets of foxholes were dug. One was positioned forward and one behind. At dusk, the forward positions were occupied. This confused the enemy as to the exact location of American positions. After twilight, the second position was occupied.

At night in his foxhole the infantryman relies on his keen and cunning sense of hearing, his sight, and above all his "cool." In fact, he develops almost an "animal instinct." At night he is able to distinguish between the background night sounds of the jungle from those sounds made by man. The infantryman quickly differentiates the sounds, and above all he must retain his "battle cool." Should two men share a foxhole, one always remained awake and on guard, while his "buddy" sleeps.

(continued on page 28)

FINANCIAL REPORT — FISCAL YEAR 1998

END OF FY 97 BALANCE (22 SEP 97)	CHECK BOOK BAL	\$ 7,373.27
CD		\$10,725.00
CD		\$ 7,000.00
TOTAL		\$25,098.27

INCOME

NOTE # 1 (DUES, LIFE MEMBERSHIP, DONATIONS, CD INTEREST, SALES OF MEMORIAL BOOKS, 164 TH INF REGT LAPEL PINS, ETC.)		\$13,270.63
NOTE #2 (CHECK BOOK INTEREST)	\$ 92.04	
TOTAL	\$13,362.67	\$38,460.94

EXPENDITURES

NOTE #3 (MINOT REUNION)		\$ 110.00
NOTE #4 (PRINTING COSTS)		\$ 5,504.87
NOTE #5 (ADMINISTRATIVE)		\$ 5,236.33
NOTE #6 (PETTY CASH)		\$ 450.00
NOTE #7 (POSTAGE)		\$ 782.05
NOTE #8 (BANK SVC CHANGES)		\$ 97.45
TOTAL	\$12,180.70	\$26,280.24

END OF FY 98 BALANCE (21 SEP 98)	CHECK BOOK	\$ 8,555.23
	CD	\$ 7,000.00
	CD	\$12,275.83
TOTAL BALANCE AS OF 21 SEP 98		\$27,830.76

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE REPORT IS TRUE AND CORRECT FOR FY 98 END 21 SEP 1998.

BENNET J. KEMP
 SEC/TREASURE
 164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

AUDIT COMMITTEE APPROVED: (X) YES () NO

BY: <u>WALDEMAN C. JOHNSON</u>	DATE: 10-10-98
BY: <u>HARRY R. VADNIE</u>	DATE: 10-10-98
BY: <u>LOUIS HANSON</u>	DATE: 10-10-98

New Life Members



Vernon "Pete" Hanson, 15 April 1999 - South St. Paul, Minnesota
Robert E. Jeffrey, 06 February 1999 - Epping, North Dakota
Willard D. Korsmo, 10 December 1999 - Reeder, North Dakota

*A. P. Macdonald, 14 January 1999 - Fargo, North Dakota
Ray Scharnowske, 10 January 1999 - Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
*Associate Member

New Members

*Luella Avens, 10 December 1999 - Billings, Montana
*Carmen Burgad, 04 March 1999 - Napoleon, North Dakota
*K. W. Deason, 07 January 1999 - Mendota Heights, Minnesota
*Marjorie Dobervich, 24 March 1999 - Devils Lake, North Dakota
Gordon C. Everett, 12 April 1999 - Duluth, Minnesota

Raymond A. Griffin, 10 December 1999 - Wyndmere, North Dakota
*Joan Jurgens, 12 February 1999 - Medora, North Dakota
Donald L. Sauer, 19 December 1999 - Columbus, Ohio
Hilbert Swanson, 02 March 1999 - Mesa, Arizona
*Associate Member

A PRAYER FOR A PAL

A prayer for a pal on Guadalcanal
Shall we forget the plan?
Of those who fight in a man-made hell
To keep our honor free
A prayer for a pal on Guadalcanal
Is this what we should ask?
Our Father we pray Thou will fare them
well.
"Till they finish an ugly task.

In a letter home to his wife Katherine (Baker) Art Timboe closed a letter with "Say a prayer for a pal on Guadalcanal" this inspired Paul Rugroden (Devils Lake, ND area) to compose the poem which was published in the Devils Journal 1942 or 1943. Fifty years later "Say a Prayer for your pal on Guadalcanal" was the headline used by the Grand Forks Harold newspaper recounting the anniversary of the 164th Infantry fighting in Guadalcanal.

1999 DUES ARE DUE

Hey! 41 members of the 164th Association -
1999 Dues are delinquent - next issue of the
164th News will list names of delinquent troops
and will be dropped pursuant to the by-laws.

Ben Kemp
Sec/Treasure



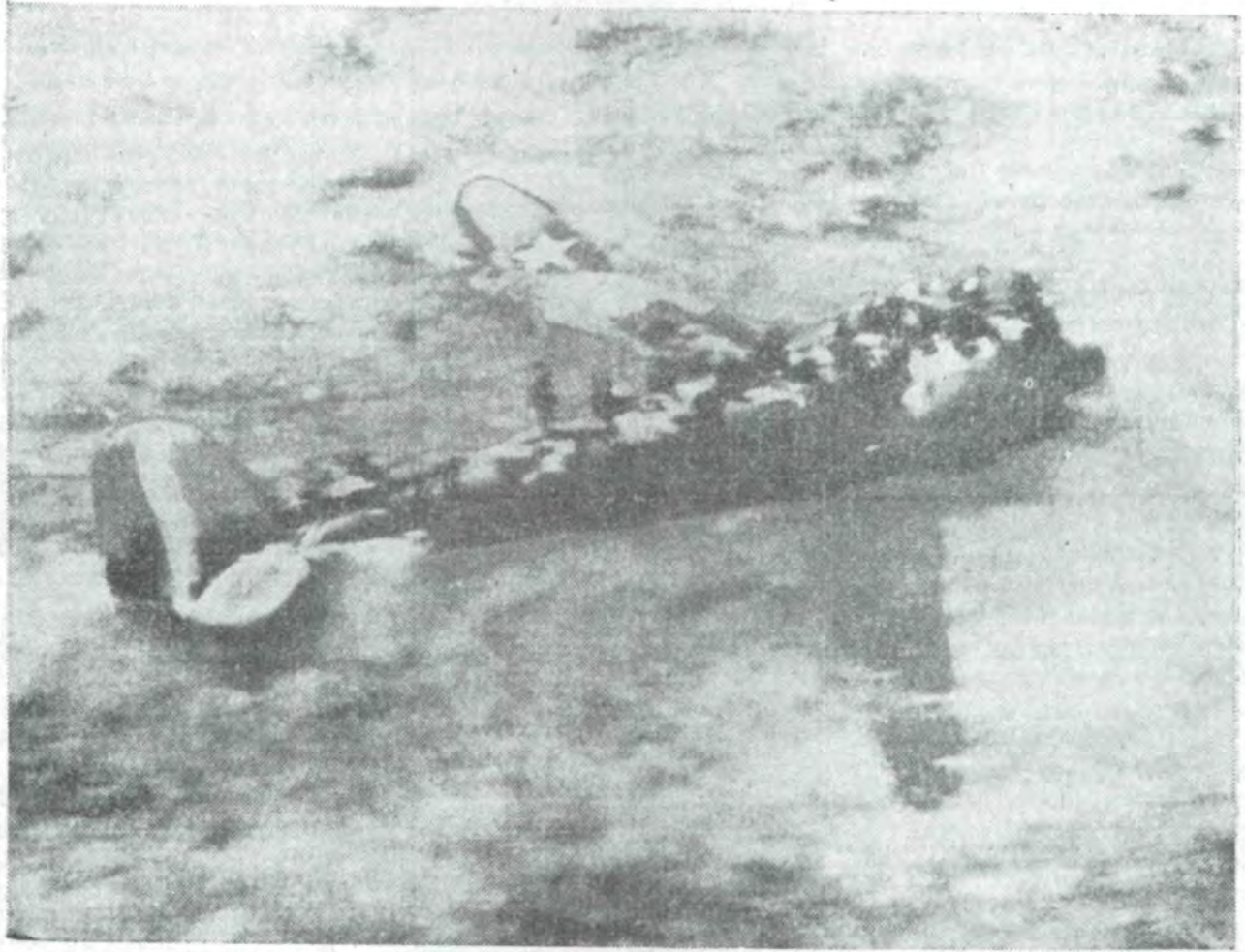
Midway was turning point



The June 4, 1942, Battle of Midway in the Pacific Ocean was a millennial turning point. Less than seven months after its devastating attack on the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Japan's fleet under Adm. Yamamoto Isoroku was on the move, seeking bases at Midway Island and in Alaska. He lost, largely because he made the mistake of splitting his force of 160 vessels. Facing him was U.S. Adm. Chester Nimitz, with 76 ships and three carriers. After three U.S. air attacks failed, things looked dire for Americans facing a larger force. But a wave of 37 dive-bombers discovered the heart of the Japanese fleet and attacked, sinking the carrier Akagi and destroying the Kaga, Soryu and Hiryu. Japan's fleet lost 253 airplanes and 3,500 lives; the United States lost 150 planes and 307 lives, as well as the carrier Yorktown.

— Gannett News Service

Where Maj. Narum Spent An 'Endless' 10 Days



THEIR "HOME" FOR 10 DAYS.

Twenty-five army, marine and navy men, 19 of whom were wounded or sick, including Maj. Arthur J. Narum, 717 Twelfth av N, Fargo, spent 10 harrowing days on this large army transport plane, which was crash-landed on a submerged coral reef in the south Pacific when they became lost and the plane ran out of gasoline.

The plane was partially under water, as shown in this picture, the degree of submersion varying with the ebb and flow of the tide.

Appeals for help sent from a small radio, power for which was hand generated, finally resulted in their rescue, after the seemingly endless hours during which they had little to eat or drink. Each

man had less than a half pound of army ration chocolate and the plane had a gallon and a half of water when it landed, that supply being augmented by catching of rain in helmets.

This army air photo was taken from one of the army planes which dropped some supplies to the group and signaled that help was coming.

* Art Narum – Regimental Headquarters Company 164th Infantry.

JAPANESE PILOT'S ASHES SCATTERED AT BOMB SITE

Some of the ashes of the only Japanese pilot to drop a bomb on the U.S. mainland during World War II have been scattered at the spot where he made his 1942 bombing run.

Nobuo Fujita dropped the bomb outside Brookings, Ore., with the intention of starting a huge forest fire and diverting U.S. efforts to fight the war. But typical Oregon coastal rain and fog limited the bomb to a tiny easily

controlled blaze.

Fujita, who died last year at age 85, spent the final decades of his life serving as a symbol of peace.

"He was so very sorry. He had very, very deep regrets," said Ernie Bowers, a friend who met Fujita in 1990 when the former pilot visited Brookings.

Credit Grand Forks Herald Monday, October 12, 1998

THE TRAIL OF THE HAWK

By: Edward P. (Eddie) Burns
3rd Battalion - Communications

This is his story! One which had to be told. It is as I saw it through my own eyes, unvarnished and true. It is the incredible saga of the imperturbable late, great Lt. Colonel Robert Kerr "The Hawk" Hall from Jamestown, North Dakota, a legend in his own right in The 164th Infantry (North Dakota National Guard) of the Americal Division, the only Army officer or Army enlisted man on Guadalcanal to be awarded The Navy Cross for "Extraordinary Heroism and Leadership" while leading the third battalion into the hellhole which came to be known to the Japanese as "The Island of Green Death".

The old saying, "Tell it to the Marines" was reversed when the Marines told it to "The Hawk" in these words in the citation recommended by Marine Colonel Lewis "Chesty" Puller and approved by Admiral William (Bull) Halsey which reads in part:

"Through rain and over difficult and unfamiliar terrain, Colonel Hall moved his troops by night at forced march, then preceded his men, and made a personal reconnaissance under heavy enemy fire. When his battalion arrived it repulsed continued enemy attacks virtually annihilating a Japanese regiment".

Bob Hall's humble comment upon being awarded the nation's second highest medal for his magnificent conduct on that rainy, memorable night of October 24, 1942 was "There was a job to be done and we did it". Those words personify the unselfish loyalty and dedication of this great American. I hope that I can momentarily bring him to life for all of you in the manner in which he will always remain in my memory.

His nickname "The Hawk" fit his demeanor and appearance. He was tall and straight, with high cheekbones and a hawkish nose. He didn't walk, but rather glided like a panther stalking its prey. When he looked at you with those piercing eyes and talked to you through his thin, but firm, lips perennially holding a cigarette in the corner of his mouth, a fellow was ready to stand at attention with the shells dropping at his feet.

My role in this drama in real life started on a snowy, windswept day in my hometown of Fargo, North Dakota, when my two brothers and I along with the rest of The 164th Infantry boarded a troop train for Camp Clairborne, Louisiana on February 26, 1941 and ended on November 23, 1942 on a lonely coral ridge west of The Matanikau River on

Guadalcanal, when all three of us were blasted off the ridge by the same Jap mortar shell like fate in triplicate.

We were called green troops by Colonel Bryant E. Moore, a west pointer, who assumed command of the regiment shortly before leaving New Caledonia to reinforce the beleaguered marines in early October of 1942. If men led by battle-wise officers of World War 1 and thoroughly trained both in the states and in the mountainous jungles of New Caledonia for over a year and a half, were green troops, then it was true. However, he should have also informed the Japs that we were green troops, as they didn't agree with his observations. The

only thing green about the 164th Infantry was the battle dress. It was a case of those rough, tough hard hitting boys from North Dakota and elsewhere lunging into a difficult situation, to say the least, and proving their mettle.

The place was Guadalcanal! The date was October 13, 1942, the time was high noon, and the majestic palm trees swaying peacefully in the background looked like a scene out of the movie "The Road to Zanzibar". The only difference being that the palm leaves as well as the coconuts had been blasted off by shellfire and the monkeys were either dead or had strategically retreated. Over 50 Jap bombers unceremoniously greeted us as we waded ashore. Corporal Foubert got his head blown off looking up at the planes rather than hitting the dirt. The boys from North Dakota got the message. THIS WAS FOR



Robert K. Hall Lt. Col. 3rd B. 164th Infantry

KEEPS!!!

The gallant marines had hung on to a few miles of the island. The Jap lines came right up to Henderson Field. We had only a little stretch of beach and beyond that was enemy territory. The marines had done one hell of a job, but the worst was yet to come.

The 164th Infantry from North Dakota reinforced, not relieved, the marines on Guadalcanal on October 13, 1942. The profound misunderstanding in then minds of the American public that the army walked in and the marines walked off the island that day, obviously created by Richard Tregaskis' book "Guadalcanal Diary" and the movie by the same name, should be indelibly erased. Our North Dakota regiment was the first army unit to take the offensive against the Japanese in the Stimmel were all killed. Woody Keeble, the big Sioux Indian

South Pacific. The Americal Division, which included the 164th Infantry, was the only army regiment in support of the marines. Guadalcanal was not the biggest battle of World War II. It was the beginning of the road back where we met and beat the Japs on their own chosen battleground.

Colonel Hall's perception of a tough situation immediately manifested itself after that first bombing raid. He got us off the beach and dug in where we were spread out. His calmness was reassuring. Thank God for those qualities. We were soon to really need them.

The worst naval shelling of American ground forces in the history of warfare is how the barrage we got from the Jap navy early the morning of October 14 was described by old hands at the game of life and death. The third battalion would have been clobbered had not "The Hawk" have gotten the troops in order the night before. The regiment lost Captain "Jug" Newgard and Warrant Officer Bernie Starckenberg that morning. If we actually had been green troops, we sure as hell weren't after the first 24 hours on the islands.

Third battalion was held in division reserve. Bombings were a daily affair. Pistol Pete would bang away at us from up in the hills to keep us on edge. "Washing Machine Charley" would fly around at night to keep us on edge. "Tokyo Rose" always had some nice things to say in comfort about our loved ones, hometowns and names of units, which were allegedly, top secret.

My brother Pete was operating the switchboard that early morning of October 24, 1942, when the call came through to move out. Colonel Hall was ordered to move our battalion up to support a marine battalion under attack by numerically superior forces. What a night it was to move out. It was raining cats and dogs. The only light came from an occasional flare or a burst of shellfire. Somehow we made it through that night, thanks to "The Hawk's" reconnaissance. We lost only a few men that night. "The dirty third battalion" was dug in and ready for the maniacal onslaught of the enemy that morning. It came to be known as "Coffin Corner". The three day battle was reminiscent of what the Battle of Gettysburg must have looked like. When the smoke cleared away there were over 2,700 dead Japs out in front of us and our casualties were light. The name of the late John Basilone, the first marine in World War II to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, came out of that prolonged battle. Marine Colonel "Chesty" Puller, a great hero himself, called us The 164th Marines. Colonel Hall's name became synonymous with victory.

There was no time to linger. Fight while the enemy is running. Seek out and destroy, was the battle cry. The second and third battalion of The 164th, along with the newly arrived 8th Marine Regiment, got the call to knock out a Jap regiment operating in the Koli Point area. Our first battalion had been doing a tremendous job in The Matanakau River sector, as had the second battalion.

Somehow the majority of the Japs slipped away in the jungles during the seek out and destroy mission. There were light casualties on both sides. The big casualties were from heat, thirst, hunger and just being damned good and tired during those hectic days in late October and early November

trying to catch up with a slippery enemy. It was then that Major George Shatz, our humorous regimental surgeon, won the Silver Star medal for "Gallantry In Action" doing far more than he had to do to save our boys. Names like Lt. Edgar Agnew, one of the fine leaders in the outfit, was to be remembered in the Koli Point push. The Jap machine gunners used him for target practice. My old friend Agnew refused to die and is alive today on guts alone.

"The Hawk" performed as usual. I felt ashamed complaining of heat when here was a man of 47 years of age who made it look easy. How could we lose? We grenaded some fish in the driving rain pounding us on the beach. All Bob Hall said, while standing in a line of hungry G.I.'s waiting their turn for a half-done piece of fish was, "pass me a fish soldier".

After several days of rest it was move up again to meet some newly landed Japs west of the Matanakau River near Cape Esperance in what was to become one of the decisive battles leading to complete capitulation of the enemy on February 9, 1943. It was just pushing and moving up, with our communications section lugging wire, telephones and guns up and down the ravines. Our army and marine units were dug in along an irregular line of coral ridges with our lines far too spread out around the perimeter. Tremendous men like, Riley Morgan and Private Charles Stimmel were killed in this push. Both of them should have had "The Medal of Honor" rather than the Silver Star. The Japs were in front, behind, and above in the trees. If it means anything, our communication section of 13 or 14 men won seven Silver Stars and eight Purple Hearts during this terrible battle from November 18 to November 23, when mortars and machine guns almost obliterated us at point blank range.

"The Hawk" oftentimes asked me to accompany him on his forays up and down the lines. He never stooped when he walked. My God! This man must be invincible was my thought. His very presence up and down the lines was like a letter from home to every one of his boys, as he called them. Whether officers or enlisted men they were always just "my boys" to him.

When wounded had to be moved it became necessary to ask for volunteers to undergo the scorching return to first aid stations. My brother Bill, Ed Goff, John Hagen, Bob Chelgren, "Slim" Royston and I rigged up some raincoats as stretchers to lug fourteen seriously wounded men back to medical aid through blinding rain and murderous enemy fire. It was carry a few a couple of hundred yards and then slog our way back to keep moving other wounded. Seven lived and seven died but we got them back. We made it back to the lines on the morning of November 23, which was to be "The Burn Boys" last day on the lines and the last day of life for a lot of our men.

About "high noon" the Japs really zeroed in on us. A marine artillery spotter got hit over the ridge. My brother, Pete crawled out in full view of the enemy to bring him back. A marine next to me had his head blown off. Captain Pannatiere, our doctor, Lts. Albertson and Whitney, and Charlie

(continued on page 24)

(The Trail of the Hawk, continued)

who won the Distinguished Service Cross in Korea, had a piece of lead in his rear, which only made him more accurate with the B.A.R. "The Hawk" was still standing when the mortar blast hit Billy, Pete and myself at the same time. My jaw shattered, Pete had a couple of holes in his arm and shoulder, and Billy had a good chunk of his fanny shot away.

They flew us off of the island the next morning. I returned later but Pete and Bill had seen the last of the hellhole. The last time that our paths were to cross with "The Hawk" in this life was in a base hospital in The Fiji Islands. He had been wounded in late December and was going back to what was left of "his boys" to fight again. There were tears in the tired eyes of the old man that day. He gave us all a firm handshake with a little pat on the shoulder and walked out of our lives the way he walked in; straight and tall!

The war finally ended. Our North Dakota men who are still alive today have a reunion each year. We have tried to get him back from California many times as a guest of honor, but he has never returned. The rigor of two wars had taken their toll. The gliding walk was slow and those piercing eyes had dimmed.

He passed away at Costa Mesta, California on January 2, 1962.

There were many enlisted men and officers both in the 164th Infantry and in the marines that were outstanding. Everyone who was there was a hero in my books. It was just that Lt. Colonel Robert Kerr "The Hawk" Hall stood alone. There was no envy of him by subordinates or superiors. He was just Bob Hall who every one of "his boys" loved as a man. We would have followed him to hell and back and damn near did!

His epitaph could not have been written in simpler nor truer words than those expressed in a favorite poem from which I quote:

"We loved him because he was human,
As human a man as you'll find.
Real to the core of his being,
Loyal and gentle and kind.

A real sort of fellow to turn to,
Honest and forthright and true.
Making this life of ours better,
Just for his passing through."

Bob Hall was truly human. He led us on "The Trail of The Hawk" making not only our lives, but the life of America better just for his passing through.

Finis

EDITOR'S NOTE: After WWII Eddie Burns attended and graduated from law school, he practiced law in Minot and Fargo, North Dakota. Burns passed away from this vale of tears several years ago.

164th Included in ND State History

Members of the 164th Infantry will want to order a copy of the Winter 1999 issue of *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains*, published by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. The lead article is "Never Raised to be a Soldier: John Hagen's Memoir of Service with the 164th Infantry, 1941-1943"(Part One), edited by Terry L. Shoptaugh. Hagen joined the Headquarters Company of the 164th in 1940, served in the third battalion communications section on Guadalcanal, and continued his military service as a pilot and officer in Italy. This two part article, illustrated with photographs from the North Dakota National Guard Historic Holding and Archives in Bismarck, is excerpted from twenty-two hours of audiotape that Hagen recorded in 1980.

To purchase a copy of *North Dakota History*, call the State Historical Society of North Dakota in Bismarck at 701-328-2666 or use e-mail at histsoc@state.nd.us. The cost is \$4.00 plus shipping and handling. The next issue, bearing part two of Hagen's memoir, will be out in early July. For more information, check the Society's web page at <http://www.state.nd.us>.

164TH REUNION DATES

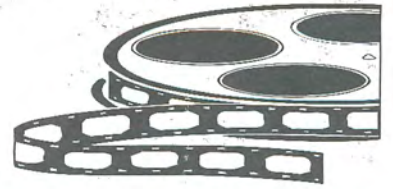
54th Annual Reunion
September 24/25/26, 1999
Radison Hotel — Bismarck, ND

President Frank Weisberber convened the reunion committee in the Bismarck VFW Post. The committee's tentative plans are Friday, September 24, registration and a dance. Saturday buffet breakfast, memorial service, business meeting, men's and women's luncheons. The annual banquet/dance will include a musical program presented by the National Guard. Sunday buffet breakfast. The 164th raffle tickets will be forwarded to you at a later date your participation in these activities really helps to finance the reunion activities. More information will be provided in a future 164th News.

55th Annual Reunion
Year 2000 — Last week in September
Holiday Inn — Fargo, ND



"Gil" Shirley from Bismarck and family (left to right) "Gil", Jill Joersy (daughter), Davey Joersy (son-in-law), D. Wick, my nephew – son of Glen and Lucy Wick. Glen was in Company A and an 164th Associate member until his death in 1998.



Happy People. Left to right. Russ Elvrum of Washburn, ND and Harry & Mary Vadnie of Bismarck, ND.



Minneapolis/St. Paul 164thers at media screening of "The Thin Red Line" an invitation was extended to all 164thers and 25th Infantry Division veterans. **Front Row:** Robert Hobot (grandson of Jim Fenelon), Fran Sommers (E Co. St. Paul), Willy Sewall (E Co. Minneapolis), Al Schuster of the 25th Infantry Division, Arvid Thompson (F Co. St. Paul). **Back Row:** Jim Fenelon and grandsons, Joe Hobot, Chris Erickson, Russ Swayer (Medics) and Roy Olson (H Co.).

164th Korean Vets. Six 164th Korean Vets held a mini reunion in Fargo, North Dakota in October 1998. The proud, smiling members of B Company are very welcome to join the 164th Association. Please recruit your fellow Korean Vets. "Owl" Stensgard, you are right, the Association needs you guys to carry on the 164th Association traditions, memories and history. So, send in names of Korean Vets. Thanks for the picture and your thoughts. Left to right: Don Morken, Geo Schiek, Dennis Larson, Jack Ikel, Orin "Owl" Stensgard and Ernie Crystal.





Photo left:
From left to right. Elmo Olson, Alvin Tollefsrud and Ray Conlon. These 3 guys were with the group that revisited Guadalcanal in October 1993.

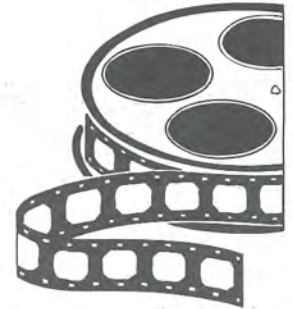


Photo right:
Bernie Wagner's daughter-in-law Joel points to Bernie in the 1942 Christmas photo (Guadalcanal) 164th News as family members share the moment



Photo left:
Viewing press kit provided by 20th Century Fox. From left to right: Elmo Olson, Alvin Tollefsrud and Ray Conlon. Standing: John Shaw and Gil Shirley.

BON VOYAGE

On relinquishing his command, General Vandegrift issued a divisional circular, which was also passed to all coast watchers; Army, Navy & Air Corps under his command. It read as follows:

In relinquishing command in the Cactus area, I hope that in some small measure I can convey to you my feeling of pride in your magnificent accomplishments and my thanks for the unbounded loyalty, limitless self-sacrifice, and high courage which have made these accomplishments possible.

To the soldiers and Marines who have faced the enemy in the fierceness of night combat, to the Cactus pilots, Army, Navy and Marine, whose unbelievable achievements have made the name "Guadalcanal" a synonym for death and disaster in the language of the enemy; to those who have labored and sweated within the lines at all manner of prodigious and vital tasks; to the men of the torpedo boat

command slashing at the enemy in night sortie; to our small band of devoted Allies who have contributed so vastly in proportion to their numbers; to the surface forces of the Navy associated with us in signal triumphs of their own, I say that at all times you have faced without flinching the worst that the enemy could do to us, and have thrown back the best he could send against us.

It may well be that this modest operation, begun four months ago today, has, through your efforts, been successful in thwarting the larger aims of our enemy in the Pacific. The fight for the Solomons is not yet over, but "tide what may," I know that you, as brave men and men of good will, will hold your heads high and prevail in the future as you have in the past.

/ s/ A. A. Vandegrift
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps.



Last Roll Call



*If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a hug, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things too I will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you sunshine of tomorrow.
Author unknown*



Andrew Weternik

COS COB, CT (20 Feb 1997)

John R. Treider

Hawley, MN (10 Sep 1997)

Leland Swensgard

St. Paul, MN (31 Jul 1998)

Homer Bjornson

Valley City, ND (13 Aug 1998)

Ralph Schnase

Minot, ND (13 Oct 1998)

John H. Tuff

Fargo, ND (09 Dec 1998)

CPT WWII

Arthur V. Allen

Eyota, MN (15 Dec 1998)

Walter T. Johnsen

Fargo, ND (18 Dec 1998)

WWII

Anthony P. Klemko

Harrisburg, PA (23 Dec 1998)

Frank Passa

Red Lake Falls, MN (12 Feb 1999)

(LM)

Ardell Engebretson

Mill City, OR (18 Feb 1999)

Svc Co. WWII

Melvin J. Kjera

Maxbass, ND (04 Mar 1999)

Donald F. Beaton

West Fargo, ND (06 Mar 1999)

Eli Dobervich

Devils Lake, ND (18 Mar 1999)

WWII

George E. Duis

20 Mar 1999

"M" Co. WWII

Albert Hirsch

Bismarck, ND (23 Mar 1999)

John Ziegler

Devils Lake, ND (31 Mar 1999)

Korean War

Rowland H. Bemis

Fargo, ND (02 Apr 1999)

Henry S. Anderson

Eagle Lake, MN (UNK)

Rev. Andrew Otani, 95.

Many of you will remember Rev. Otani as he was the interpreter for Yasuo Obi, the Japanese soldier that attended the 164th Reunion in Minneapolis on October 13, 1963.

Otani was born into a Buddhist family in Fukui, Japan, lived in Hawaii, studied at the Episcopal Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill and came to Minneapolis from Seattle in 1954. Rev. Otani traveled across North Dakota and served as an interpreter for Yasuo Obi at the luncheons and dinners arranged by members of the 164th in Fargo, Valley City, Dickinson, Bismarck and Grand Forks. Otani would not accept an honorarium for his services he explained it was his duty as an American citizen and a minister to help heal the terrible schism created by Japan's attack on the United States.

Yauso Obi was the invited guest of the Minneapolis members of the 164th Infantry reunion committee, Jim Fenelon and "Louie" Borshiem traveled with Yasuo Obi and Rev. Otani in the tour across North Dakota. Borshiem convinced a Fargo Cadillac Car Dealer to loan him a new Cadillac so we traveled in high style.

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.

Also in preparation be sure to list the company unit and regiment.

(“Orchids in the Mud” continued from page 18)

Centipedes and scorpions were everywhere. Fear of these insects was always present. Jungle darkness made the wet shivering soldier strain in using his senses of hearing and sight. Any advance clue such as the sharp snap of a breaking twig or the sound of suppressed breathing may forewarn him of the banzai charge.

White cockatoos usually gave the best warning; they kicked up a great fuss when movement occurred. Their warning notes had prepared many a soldier for the Japanese night infiltration. The Japanese knew this and would slowly edge and infiltrate their way towards the foxholes. Tin cans with stones within were tied to barbed wire. The stones rattled when the can was accidentally moved by enemy or by night prowling animals.

Shadows were carefully evaluated for faint movement that gave sufficient clues or short warnings of the banzai attack or of Japanese infiltration. Sgt. Robert C. Muehrcke remembers several nights in a Guadalcanal foxhole where large rats would crawl to the very edge of the foxhole and peer down at the tired and haggard infantryman, perhaps out of pity for him.

THE BANZAI ATTACK

When the man on guard detected a questionable situation such as movement to his front; he'd awaken his “buddy.” Flares were requested to light up the front; they would show up the enemy such as a brief flash from a Samurai sword or the reflected shine from a Japanese’s wet helmet. The dreaded and frantic-like onslaught of a banzai attack always sent chills down one’s spine. Remembrance of the chanting, and the final loud Japanese yells brings back shivers to some and produces nightmares for others.

KEEP THE ENEMY AT THE BARBED WIRE

No soldier anticipates hand-to-hand fighting. They preferred to use automatic weapons, hand grenades, mortar or artillery fire to pile the Japanese bodies on, or across, the barbed wire right up to the gun muzzles, but not beyond. To do this, one must first detect the Japanese attack. There usually was a split second or two to respond. The “buddy” is awakened, then starts the pitching of hand grenades. The “five-second” grenade was used. The pin was pulled; the handle released for a count of two; the grenade was pitched to explode three seconds later. Thus no grenade could be returned by the enemy.

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

TAKE TIME

*The past is gone; the future has not yet come;
The present is all we have. We cannot change the past, nor can we
draw upon the future, but we can use the present. So, let us touch the
philosopher’s stone, for it is the foundation of successful living:
Take time to look – it is the price of success.
Take time to think – it is the source of power.
Take time to play – it is the secret of perennial youth.
Take time to read – it is the source of wisdom.
Take time to be friendly – it is the way to happiness.
Take time to laugh – it is the music of the soul*



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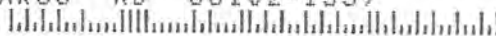
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