



8-1999

164th Infantry News: August 1999

164th Infantry Association

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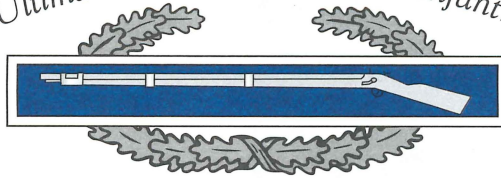
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 39 · No. 2

August 1, 1999

Return to Guadalcanal



Above are the crew members that returned the veterans to Guadalcanal : Maj. Carl Nordgren, Cpt. Tom Randall, Cpt. Tanya Poel, Maj. Larry Mathay, Tsg. Tony Andersen, Tsg. Ken Rogers, Ssg. Tom Paulus, Ssg. Donna Miller, Tsg. Paul Cain, Tsg. Dave Kidston.



Midway Island. The 164th group returning to Guadalcanal October 1992 was grounded overnight on this beautiful Island that was the key to the long sought after island in the Battle called Mirical at Midway when the Japanese air fleet plus carriers were defeated by U.S. Navy. Midway has an elevation of 12 feet above sea level. Photo credit printing by Pend Oreille Printers, Sandpoint, Idaho. 83864.



The veterans at Skyline Memorial: Alvin Tollefsrud, Jim Cecil, John Landowski, Chuck Walker, Norman Samson, Bob Carr, Harold Aarhus, Ray Conlon, George Christenson, Tony Beer, Jim Fenelon, Don Robinson (w/U.S. flag), Sgt. Brian Berg (w/trumpet), Art Anderson, David Vouza (son of local war hero Jacob Vouza), Dennis Ferk, Ray Patton (w/164 Inf. flag), Tony Hannel (w/ND flag), Ken Schauss, Ralph Gaugler, Bill Tillotson, Gail Landes, "Red" Cherrey, Ed Sinkbeil, Ray Sinkbeil, John Holt, Vern Tittsworth, Elmo Olson, and Bernie Wagner.



Above: This is Bloody Ridge looking towards Henderson Field about 1/2 mile or more. The jungle is to the right where the 164th Infantry decisively defeated the Japanese Sendai (2nd) Division, October 24-25, 1942. The structures that can be seen did not exist at the time of the battle.

Return to Guadalcanal

Below: View of Henderson Field taken from Grassy Knoll Observation Point. From here, the Japanese were able to aim their 105 mm howitzers known to the American forces as "Pistol Pete," and call down fire on the airfield. At least one howitzer was concealed in the Lungga Valley to the south. Fortunately, Japanese artillery was limited by the need to handcarry the shells from supply points west of what is now Honiara along the rugged Maruyama trail.- Editors Note: Houses did not exist in Oct.-Nov., 1942-'43.

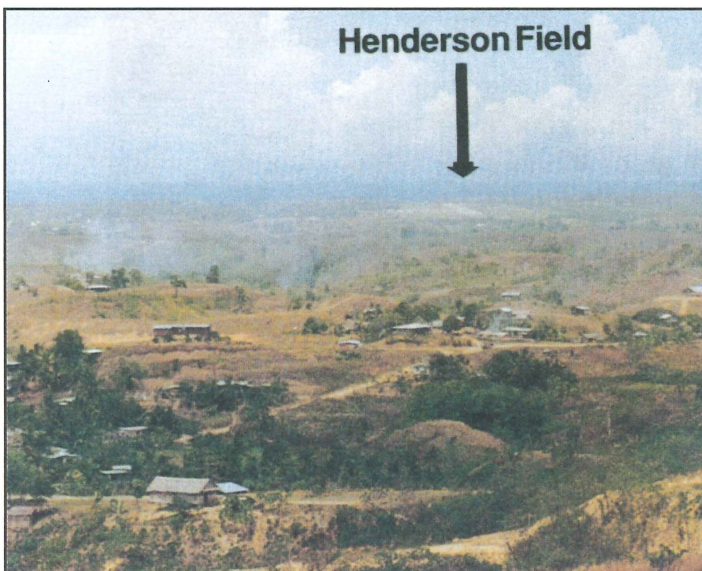


Photo by Lt. Col. Terry Robinson

Below: Jim Fenelon shakes hands with a Japanese WWII soldier, met at the Mendana Hotel, Guadalcanal. The Japanese veteran said that he had been one of those who began construction of the airstrip which became Henderson Field. Fenelon jokingly thanked him for having started the airfield so the Americans could take it over.



Photo by Maj. Shirley J. Olgeirson.



Photo by Lt. Col. Terry Robinson

Above: Gail Landes points out Henderson Field as Earl "Red" Cherrey marvels at the clear view of American positions from the Japanese observation point on Grassy Knoll. Behind them is Col. (ret.) Bill Buckingham (physician for the flight and active army Guadalcanal veteran) and a local guide.



To the Left: Mendana Hotel - Point Cruz, Guadalcanal. (L-R) Former enemy soldiers - a Japanese capt., a major in charge of Japanese Machine Gun Company Bn., Gail Landis, E. Company, Edgar A. Sinkbeil, 3rd Bn. Communications section. Editors Note: The Japanese major and capt. fought against the 164th on Mantanikau Ridge near Point Cruz. The Japanese had returned to Guadalcanal after 50 years to search for their fellow soldiers KIA.

"I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it."

— Harry S. Truman

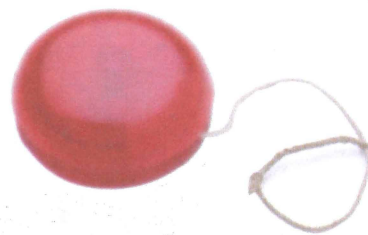
THE DARK NIGHT

AS NIGHT FELL ON GUADALCANAL, EVERYTHING CHANGED. THE JUNGLE, BY DAY EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN BLUE SKY AND GREEN EARTH, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A FOREBODING WORLD CLOAKED IN UTTER BLACKNESS, A PLACE TOO DARK, TOO MYSTERIOUS, AND THAT SEEMED INDESCRIBABLY EVIL AND POSSESSED. IT WAS ALSO A TRANSFORMING TIME FOR THE JAPANESE. ON GUADALCANAL, THE NIGHT BELONGED TO THE ENEMY, PICKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE DENSE FOLIAGE, VISUALLY PROBING THE BLACKNESS TO MAKE OUT A FOXHOLE, THEN RAISING UP IN A FRENZIED CHARGE, THE SCREECHING YELL OF "BANZAI!" SHATTERING THE STILL, NIGHT AIR. THOSE WHO EXPERIENCED THESE SUDDEN, FANATICAL ASSAULTS WOULD NEVER FORGET THEM, NOR THEIR TIME IN THIS HELLISH CORNER OF THE WORLD.

— L. Douglas Keeney, William S. Butler



Guadalcanal - October 1999, James M. Fenelon, Serr. Co., was designated to make the formal presentation of the 164th Infantry Association wreath on the Sir David Vouza grave, David Vouza, son.



Yo-yo is a Philippine word that means "come back." In the past, people in the Philippines hurled yo-yo's to ensnare animals with the twine. Today, yo-yos can be found everywhere and are one of the most popular toys in the world.



Guadalcanal 10/4/92. 164th fought up and down these steep ridges in October-Novovember 1942. The houses didn't exist in 1942. Once the ridges were captured the top was used by Service Company drivers using jeeps and trucks to transport ammunition, food and water to the troops. The roads were created by constant use. The wounded and dead were hauled over the same rough roads, all vehicles were subjected to mortar and artillery fire plus an occasional sniper.



View from Mount Austin 10/4/92, Guadalcanal. Henderson Field can be seen in upper left corner. Smoke from burning of jungle for development. Close scruting shows the dense, dark jugle and the ridges that were so difficult to climb.



Return to
Guadalcanal
see pg. 22 for more photos

Bloody Ridge, Guadalcanal, 10/4/92. Ray Sinkbiel with native children on the return trip to Guadalcanal. 164th engaged Japanese forces below and to right about 1/2 mile from Henderson Field, October 24-26, 1942.

“The free press is the mother of all our liberties and of our progress under liberty.” — Adali Stevenson

LETTERS



To The Editor :

Hi Fellows:

I sure enjoy the 164th Infantry news. It brings back some old memories.

Last issue they mentioned about Riley Morgan being killed. He and I were trying to find a machine gun that had wounded one of my men. I went up the hill and met Riley. I told him the Jap was over on our right and we'd try to go around and get him. I dashed down the hill and Riley was killed.

By the way, here is my dues for '99.

Charlie Adamsen

Co. C 1st Bat.

P.S. Riley was from Grafton, too.

.....
June 14, 1999

Dear Mr. Kemp:

I would like to purchase a 164th Regimental Flag as a gift for my father, Art "Peep" Ford, formerly of Enderlin, North Dakota, who served with the 164th on Guadalcanal. Enclosed is a check for \$20.00. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Ford

656 North Lake Dr.

Watertown, SD 57201

EDITOR'S NOTE - Ford was in the 164th Band and served in Medics on Guadalcanal.

.....
Dear Frank,

Best wishes to all Assn. members, especially those at the September Reunion.

I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoy the newsletter. A real pro piece of work. I read every one cover to cover. The interesting stories cause me to appreciate even more the leadership that guided our generation when we served during the fifties. It is an Honor to be a part of this fine organization.

Please register me as a life member. If my ticket wins, consider it a donation to the Assn.

Best wishes,

Bob Alvin

February 10, 1999

Dear Cousin Jim:

Good to hear from you, and sorry I couldn't talk to you when you called. My hearing is gone after too long beside a barking 155mm howitzer. I was a Section Chief on one thru Guadalcanal and halfway thru Bougainville, until I got busted and won a transfer back in to the cavalry, Recon Troop.

We supported the 3rd Bn of the 164th on Bohol when they called for Scouts to find Japanese so they wouldn't have to leave that Shangri La.

My 2nd rifle platoon reinforced was sent over and I took my scouting section out in the field for 10 days or so, living off the land and chasing the wily Japanese. We cornered them on a mountain and a force of 100 guerillas was sent out to reinforce our small section. At dawn we fixed bayonets and charged up the mountain in a line of skirmishers. At the crest we found smoldering campfires and spots where Japanese soldiers had watched our advance. Fortunately, they were discrete instead of valorous, and faded back into the almost impenetrable jungle. We swept over and down the hill and home, without firing a shot.

Shortly, I was promoted to Platoon Sgt. when ours was field commissioned. He was from the 164th regiment and joined them when it was the "Peep Troop" great guy from Minnesota, Morrie Lealos. He was my buddy, and the most fearless man I ever knew. We worried about him taking chances.

When I was rotated from Cebu in late '45, Lt. Lealos came to tell me that he had heard of a new group, the "Alamo Scouts" who went in 3 days before a landing, and checked out mines and defenses. He wanted us to join them. I told him I had been overseas 42 months and was going home. He laughed and shrugged. He had to stay, since they made him an officer. I never saw him again. He died about a dozen years ago.

My great grandfather, James McLaughlin came over from Galway, Ireland in the 1800's and enlisted in the 12th Mass. Light Artillery Vols in the Civil War. He was married already and lived in West Medway where my grandfather and father were born. I suspect he was looking for the \$600 bonus they gave enlistees then.

He died in 1900 at Togus, Maine VA Hospital. Since your great grandfather was born in Canada, it's possible they were of the same family. His mother and father were John and Lucy Watson McLaughlin of Galway according to a Civil War era history of Medway volunteers.

My daughter, Barbara who is a prof of English and literature at Milwaukee's Institute of Arts and Sciences, is teaching a course in Galway this May and will try to check out the relatives there.

Good to hear from you, buddy. I had been getting the newsletter from the 164th via Frank Weisgerber, who edited it for awhile, but I didn't get the issue you sent, so perhaps they dropped me.

Use anything you choose from the POSTS. I edited the ADVA newsletter for a dozen years back in the 70's and early 80's. I'd like to see yours too, if you put me on your mailing list. I've changed the address to yours for the POSTS, from the N. Dak. address.

Best regards,

Bill McLaughlin

Dear Mr. Kemp:

Thank you again for your invaluable assistance in making it possible for me to obtain the desk-set of the 164th Infantry flag. I know my friend James Parmeter will be delighted to receive it.

I enjoyed our conversation and hope to chat with you again. Please find my \$20.00 check enclosed. Good luck and good health.

Sincerely,
Collier McDermion
1792 - Sunnybrook Ave.
Buena Park, Calif. 90621

P.S. I'm very excited about the books - thank you!
EDITOR'S NOTE - Jim Parmeter was in the 164th Infantry Band



K COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP

5-4-99

Hi Ben,

Enclosed find a note received yesterday. Thought you would like to know. Inform Jim Fenelon also.

All of our scholarships awarded have been related to parents that have been connected with our own 164th. Two of the last scholarship recipients are members of the ND Guard Unit.

To date we have awarded 6 scholarships. Hope we can find a few extra bucks from anyone that wants to make a contribution. I have enclosed a thank you note from one of the K Company Scholarship recipients. Maybe it could be put in the 164th news

Sincerely,
Paul Ebetoft, Sr.

Dear Mr. Paul F. Ebeltoft, Sr.,

I was selected to receive the scholarship of the Company K - 164th Infantry of ND Nat'l Guard. I am from Lemmon, SD and I am majoring in English and writing and minoring in journalism. I am a member of the 129th MPAD Army Nat'l Guard unit in Bismarck, ND. Thank you again for your donation.

Sincerely,
Billie Jo Lorius



To Ben Kemp,

From Edwin J. Kjelstrom

Would like to get the 164th Regimental flags. Inclosed is \$20.00. Thank you.

Edwin J. Kjelstrom
124 9th St. SE
Rugby, ND 58368
P.S. Very fine paper, keep up the good work.

7 June, 1999

Jim,

A few lines to send along with the clipping from the World-Herald that mentioned your name with diary of McDonald. You of the 164th were not the only "Bastard" outfit on the Canal, we too of the 2nd Marines and I mean the 2nd Regiment of the 2nd Div. of which I was a member, so I am sending along a sheet that tells about our time in the landings. For a little history we were at sea, combat loaded and took the place of the 7th Reg., 1st Div. who were on Somoa or Fiji's. We also had the misfortune of having our Regimental Colonel and his exec., not land with us and when the transports were told to leave they went along, and went to the new Hebrides only to return after the fighting on Tulagi was all over. This wasn't bad enough they recommended each other for medals on the Canal and Vandergrift had them on his s— list. Which is turn put us on the same list, so we got split up on details and on any record of what we did. Now Stan Jersey, also a member of the GCV's, is putting together a book of our 2nd regiment. We of the Marines join all of you with being a mutual admiration of your outfit, even a rumor that you wanted to become Marines which we would have welcomed you. I along with seven others who were in my outfit get together each year so you see the glue of Guadalcanal holds all of us together. We come from Texas, Okla., Ill., Wyo., Minn., and Ill., along with two of us from Nebraska. Not only did our outfit land first we didn't get off till the 27th of Jan., '43., and even then they wouldn't let our 2nd Marine Div., General come on the island as he outranked Gen. Patch of the Army when he took over in Dec. '42. Our little group also keeps in phone contact all year long. Three of us have been up to the GCV museum in Kalamazoo together and at least one other on his own. I also try to send things to our Echoes editor which we stopped to see when we went to the museum, sure hope we can get some one to be editor when Ted quits. Guess this will be it for this time, and in case you'd rather call then write I'll send along my phone number, we are usually home nights should you want to call. There was a time when my brother and I were in the construction business that we came to Marshalltown as Lennox dealers. We had the Bennett Bros., Inc. from 1946 till 1976 when I went to work for the Postal service till I retired in 1975 as a rural carrier, act postmaster, clerk and whatever else they wanted me to do. I put in 2 years in the CCC's in '37-'39 then joined the Marines in 1940 and stayed till 1946.

For this time,
Best wishes
Dallas R. Bennett

EDITORS NOTE - Just before dawn on August 7, 1942, a company from the division's Second Regiment splashed ashore onto the gray-white beaches of Florida Island in the Solomons some 80 minutes before Guadalcanal was invaded. On August 8 a platoon of Second Division Marines met the enemy in the war's first American bayonet charge; and on that day the Division's Artillery fired the first offensive shells of the war.

"There is no security quite as comfortable and understanding as the kind you feel among old friends."

— Peter Bodo

March 23, 1999

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your card of sympathy in the death of my husband, Melvin Kjera.

Mel died on March 4, 1999 in Trinity Hospital, Minot, ND.

The thing he was most proud of was his membership in the 164th Infantry Association. It was a source of much pride and joy and the reunion each year with his 164th family were looked forward to even as his health declined.

He is buried in the beautiful Veteran's Cemetary of Mandan.

I will always keep up Mel's membership in the 164th Association.

Sincerely

Dorothy Kjera

Maxbass, ND

FROM CAPTURED JAPANESE DOCUMENTS

Forces that have attacked landing fields should endeavor to take planes, gasoline, etc., with as little damage as possible. Therefore, in order to prevent the planes from escaping, and so as to not start fires from the gasoline, they should merely damage the tires without damage to the plane.

FROM CAPTURED JAPANESE DOCUMENTS ON THE PROPER METHOD FOR INITIATING AN ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN FORCES

Taking advantage of the dusk, companies will advance through the jungle (creeping on all fours if necessary) to the line at the edge of the forest and immediately assault the enemy position.\

Credit - "This is Guadalcanal" by L. Douglas Keeney and Wm. S. Butler.

"If you aren't fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm."

— Vince Lombardi

First Nurse On Guadalcanal



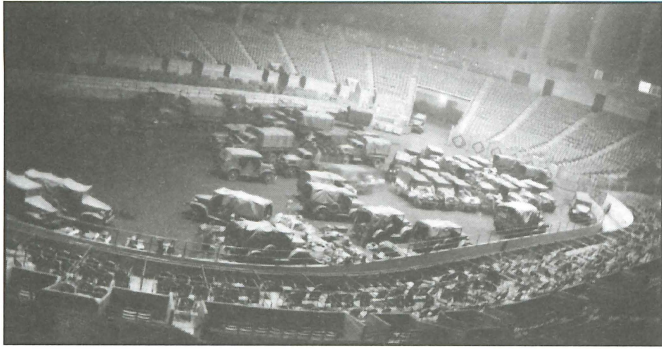
LIEUT. MAE OLSON of Little Falls, Minn., army nurse and a former airlines hostess, is the first American girl to land on Guadalcanal since the war began. She visited the island in an ambulance plane which took away wounded soldiers. She is shown here in training near Louisville, Ky.

Editor's Note: First Nurse on Guadalcanal. Lieut. Mae Olson of Little Falls, Minn., army nurse and a former airlines hostess, is the first American girl to land on Guadalcanal since the war began. She visited the island in an ambulance plane which took away wounded soldiers. She is shown here in training near Louisville, Ky. (Editor's note - In the early days of airline passenger service an airline stewardess had to be a Registered Nurse so it probably was no problem for Lieut. Mae Olson to enter the Army Nurse Corps.)

VICE PRESIDENT

ALVIN TOLLESFRUD, Mayville, ND has been selected by the search committee and approved by the Executive Committee of the 164th Infantry Association to serve as Vice President of the Association to complete the term of office created with the demise of Walter T. Johnsen, December 8th, 1998. Tollefsrud served in L Company, 164th Infantry and was a member of the group that returned to Guadalcanal in October 1992.

1/2 CENTURY AGO (plus)



Left: December 15 or 16, 1942, Service Company, 164th Infantry, in the Cow Palace, South of San Francisco, California. The trucks were being serviced for the convoy via northern California over parts of Mount Shasta icy roads to Umatilla, Oregon.



Above: In Bivouac area, New Caledonia, 1942. Seated-(L-R) Sam Baglien, Lt. Col.; Earl R. Sarles, Colonel (Regimental Commander); Art Timboe, Major (S-3). Back row-(L-R) Raymond Zelvor, Major (S-4); William J. Smith, Capt. Service Co.; Vinnie McGurran, Capt. (Regimental Adj.)

Right: New Caledonia, 1942. 164th Infantry Regimental Headquarters staff housed in a hut built by natives. (L-R) Wilford "Bus" Dennis, M/Sgt.; Clifford Ottinger, S/Sgt.; John Kurtz, P.F.C.; Norman Wright, Cpl.; Walt Johnson, Cpl.



Above: Insignia of the 2nd Bn, 164th Infantry on Bougainville, 1943.



Above: Night entertainment after Japs were pushed off Guadalcanal, 1943.

Right: Guadalcanal, 1943. (L-R) Glen S. Elliot, Capt.; Gordon St. Claire, Cpl.; Sam Bagelien, Lt. Col. Elliot returned to the U.S. and was sent to E.T.O. Elliot was K.I.A. crossing the Rhine River, Germany.



Above: Guadalcanal, 1942. (L-R) Bob Carr, Sgt. B. Company; Edgar "Eggie" Schultz, A. Company; Dick Carr, Sgt., A. Company; Lew Hamrey, Sgt., A. Company. (Lew Hamrey was K.I.A. on a patrol).



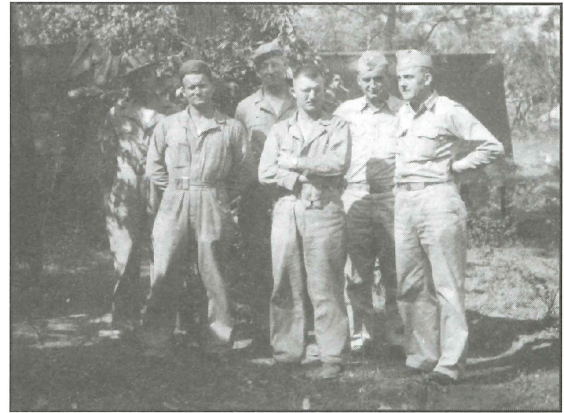
Photo credit Timboe collection.

Above: Rank has its privileges. New Caledonia, 1942. Note the paper holder built with two twigs for proper support, a tomato can for holder and a covered wooden throne.



Left: Art Timboe, Lt. Col. next to native women, Guadalcanal, 1943. Look close and you can see the young mother on the right providing sun shade for her baby by using a woven mat. No identification for other two soldiers.

Right: Guadalcanal, 1943. Front row-(L-R) Ray Maxson, Warrant Officer; H. Hall, Warrant Officer; John Erickson, Capt. Personnel Officer. Back row- William J. Smith, Major; Father Tracy, Capt.



Above: Golf caddies (barefooted), Hindus (East Indians) Suva, Fiji Country Club. If the golfer strayed off the fairway into the jungle vegetation, the caddie would make a search for the ball and generally announce that he could not find it after stumping the ball into the mud. Generally a few holes down the course the caddie would offer a ball for sale. Some golfers paid several times for the same ball.

Right: New Caledonia, 1942. Front row-(L-R) Sam Baglien, Lt. Col.; Eli Dobervich, T/Sgt. (S-3 section); Art Timboe, Major (S-3); Morton, Cpl. Back row-(L-R) Walt Johnsen, Cpl. (S-3); Earl R. Sarles, Colonel (164th Regimental Commander); S.N. "Cod" Ordhal, Major, (S-2); Farmer, Cpl. Regimental S-2 and S-3 sections.



Right: Womens Lib New Caledonia style, 1942. Kanaka native women bring home firewood for cooking.



Above: Americal Div. Artillery positions providing support to U.S. troops in the hills and ridges, Guadalcanal, January, 1943.

11/12 OCTOBER THE BATTLE OF CAPE ESPERANCE

At this time, two reinforcement actions were underway. The Imperial Japanese Navy was in the process of landing heavy artillery and fresh reinforcements onto Guadalcanal, just as the United States Navy approached with the 164th Infantry Regiment of the Army's Americal Division.

The Japanese quickly moved to interdict the Americans, just off the northern coast. But it was not easy. The American convoy escort included nine warships and the carrier USS Hornet. The Japanese first attacked Henderson Field, hoping to destroy the main American fighter force before engaging the ships. Japanese Zeroes and "Betty" long-range bombers attacked at high noon on 11 October. Fifty American fighters

took to the air and repelled them.

Meanwhile, at sea, the Americans were determined to get through. They had learned from the Savo battle that their warships must be prepared to engage the Japanese at any time, and particularly at night. At 2200 hours on 11 October, the first shots were fired. Two hours later, four new Japanese warships were sunk in Iron Bottom Sound. These clashes did not halt the Japanese off-loading of new artillery pieces, but it helped secure the landing of 2,850 American Army soldiers on 13 October.

Credit - "This is Guadalcanal" by L. Douglas Keeney and Wm. S. Butler.

24/26 OCTOBER THE BATTLE FOR HENDERSON FIELD

With both sides reinforced, the opening salvos of a major confrontation fell on 18 October. Using their new artillery, the Japanese began shelling Henderson Field. To the north, Imperial Army troops maneuvered into battle formations. These tactics, however, were merely a diversion to keep the Americans focused on the northern approaches. The Americans were unaware that the Japanese were hacking their way through the dense jungle around their southern flank.

The perimeter of Henderson Field was once again the battleground on 24 October. The Japanese attacked, and Lt. Col. Puller's men quickly turned toward the charge and opened fire. Japanese soldiers were held up by barbed wire, and their bodies were raked by machine gun and small-arms fire. By morning, 300 Japanese soldiers were dead. Sixty men successfully infiltrated the American lines, but they were eventually discovered and killed.

Later that day, fighter planes from Henderson Field took to the sky and attacked Imperial Navy ships as they moved

into position to shell again. The planes were met by a swarm of incoming Zeroes, and a massive dogfight ensued. On the ground, Puller understood what his vigorous aerial defense meant: he had yet to face a real ground assault.

Beginning at 2000 hours, Puller's men faced the most intense combat of the war. They held the line, but 86 Americans were killed. The Marines estimated the Japanese dead at 2,200.

Credit - "This is Guadalcanal" by L. Douglas Keeney and Wm. S. Butler.

(Editor's note - In the opening sentence the statement is made with both sides reinforced, this was the 164th Infantry. Some Marine authors have a mental block when it comes down to giving credit to the Regiments major part in the October 24-26, 1942 Battle of Henderson Field. The 1st Bn and 2nd Bn were on the perimeter defense line of the Field. The 2nd Bn was tied into the 7th Marines and sent troops to help plug the hole the Japs had punched in the 7th Marines lines. This battle to the Army became known as the Battle of Coffin Coroner. This was the name of John Stannard's book. Stannard became a General graduating from West Point. In the last paragraph the authors state Puller's men faced the most intense combat of the war. What did the authors think Lt. Col. Hall and the men of the 3rd Bn were facing when they walked in the dark of night and rain to stop the Japs.)

26 OCTOBER NAVY BATTLE OF SANTA CRUZ

The Imperial Navy planned to support the Battle of Henderson Field by blocking the sea lanes with their own aircraft carriers, thereby preventing U.S. warships from coming to the aid of the Marines on Guadalcanal. This plan, however, changed. Slowed by the dense jungle, the ground soldiers fell several days behind schedule. During this delay, the American aircraft carrier USS Enterprise arrived on the scene. A powerful American Navy was suddenly looming in the background. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Imperial forces, sensed the threat and seized an opportunity. Yamamoto ordered his navy to turn and attack.

Having learned their lessons from Midway, the Japanese launched their planes first. In a swirling beehive of fighters, torpedo bombers and attack bombers, the rival air fleets

engaged in an aerial fight that lasted for hours. The Japanese stayed on the offensive, and the air battles slowly moved over the U.S. carriers. Black puffs of anti-aircraft fire dotted the skies as the carrier USS Hornet became the focus of the bombers. Hit by two torpedoes, five bombs and at least two kamikaze strikes, the Hornet finally went down.

Low on fuel, Yamamoto ordered his fleet to retreat. The U.S. Navy lost two ships and suffered damage to eleven others. The Americans lost more than 80 airplanes, the Japanese 97. The fourth carrier battle of World War II was a defeat for the U.S. Navy. But there was one saving grace once again, an attack on Henderson Field had been blunted.

Credit - "This is Guadalcanal" by L. Douglas Keeney and Wm. S. Butler.

"Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die."

- Joe Louis

Pop Quiz

What is the average amount of Social Security benefit collected by a current retiree, and what is the maximum possible benefits?

The average retirement benefit is \$938 a month, or \$11,256 a year.

The maximum benefit, which would be paid to someone who had paid the maximum payroll tax during most of his or her working life and waited until age 65 to start drawing benefits, would be \$1,375 a month, or \$16,500 a year.

Ask an expert Untouchable states

In a startling series of decisions, the U.S. Supreme Court has radically changed American government. For 212 years of American history, people have been able to sue state governments when a state violates federal laws and inflicts injuries. However, on Wednesday (June 23), the Supreme Court ruled that state governments generally cannot be sued in any court without their consent.

The result is that state governments can violate federal law with impunity and nowhere be held accountable. The decisions are the height of conservative judicial activism: The five most conservative justices — William H. Rehnquist, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas — invented new rights for state governments at the expense of individuals...

he cases have huge implications. A state laboratory could dump toxic wastes in violation of federal laws, and those who become ill would have no recourse against the state in any court. A state university could violate copyright laws by making copies of a book and selling it to students at a few dollars less than its usual price, profiting at the expense of the publisher and author. States could ignore patent laws, violating the rights of inventors and patent holders, and no court will be able to grant relief.

—Erwin Chemerinsky, a University of Southern California professor of law and political science, writing in the Los Angeles Times

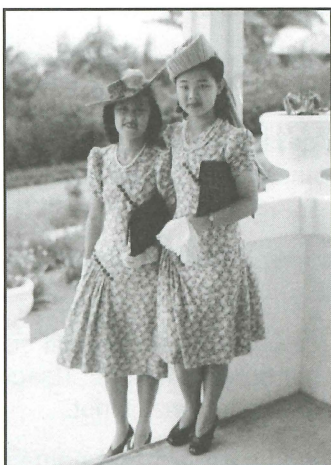


Photo credit, H. Pete McDonald.

These two beautiful Chinese girls lived in Suva, Fiji and worked in their father's restaurant, The Samabula Cafe, across from Camp Samabula. Memory only recalls one girl's name, Marie. Looks like they are dressed for church. The Samabula Cafe menu introduced the members of the 164th to steak with a fried egg on top and tara root cut and cooked as french fries. Good looking, bushy haired, barefooted waitresses served the steak and egg.

The Infantry

There is no worse place than where the Infantry is..or what it has to do. In broiling jungle, blistering desert, wind-blown sleet and snow, your enemy is just in front of you every day, and you hear him every night..you have to kill him every chance you get..as bone-weary as you are, mucked and hungry, you have to still have enough to keep him from getting his chance..his job is to kill you.

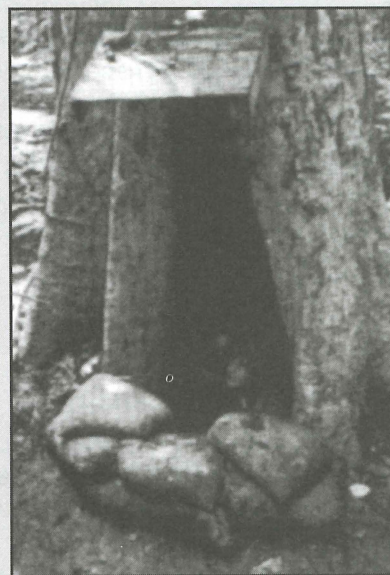
A war is not over until the
Infantry is done with it..
finished moving on foot more than than the other,
finished killing more than the other,
and when it is all done.
And the Infantryman is taken home again,
some of him will remain in that place..forever.

IN THE JUNGLE

Historians, novelists and filmmakers have all treated the Guadalcanal jungles as the third antagonist in the Solomons campaign. As any veteran will attest, it was more than just a dark, oppressive backdrop for military actions; it killed people on both sides, Malaria incapacitated more soldiers than bullets did.

It has been speculated that the American forces coped with the jungle's hazards better than the Japanese, and that environmental management gave them a decisive edge. Perhaps that is so. But no soldier felt that way about it at the time. For them, it was just one day in hell after another. And at night—that's when the enemy started fighting.

Credit - "This is Guadalcanal" by L. Douglas Keeney and Wm. S. Butler.



As the Japanese soldiers had before them, U.S. soldiers found the hallowed-out roots of hardwood trees a great place to hide when the mortar barrages started

The Battlefield Today

Guadalcanal has taken many modern steps forward since the Second World War, though it retains many of its past links. It is no longer the remote country it once was but has become a new, emerging nation that is enjoying self-rule.

The most noticeable political change since the war is that the seat of government has moved from Tulagi. It is now located in Honiara, the new capital city on Guadalcanal. Honiara stretches roughly from the Matanikau River west beyond Point Cruz, an area where some of the heaviest fighting occurred.

From the Fiji Islands, Guadalcanal is only a short aircraft flight to Henderson Airport (not the original, but very close to its site). After leaving the aircraft one of the first sights you see as you look west is Mount Austen. With its dominating height, it is not hard to determine why it played such a critical role in the campaign.

The primary area of interest to the historian will, of course, be the battlefields. When touring the battlefields, it is best to rent a four-wheel drive vehicle and hire a local guide. This saves time, money and a lot of frustration. The landing beaches, Alligator Creek, Henderson Field, and 'Bloody Ridge' are all in close proximity and can easily be seen in a day. Mount Austen and the Gifu, although farther away, make for a pleasant drive and tour. From Mount Austen, you get more of a Japanese perspective of the campaign. Some of the other battlefields, such as 'Gallop Horse' and the 'Seahorse', are some distance inland and require proper acclimatization and physical endurance to get to. They are best not tackled alone. An easy way to see them and other remote sites is by charter helicopter.

For the scuba diver, the offshore waters have a variety of ships and planes to dive on. The major warships are down in water too deep to dive safely, but the transports beached and sunk in the November battle are all accessible.

Other areas of interest are Tulagi, Gavutu and Tanambogo. These areas are not often visited and it is wise to coordinate travel and lodging beforehand. There is an abundance of historical wrecks in the area, and these are accessible only by small boat. Most notable is Kikutsuki, a Japanese destroyer sunk by pilots from Yorktown on 4 May 1942 during a raid made as part of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Later the 34th SeaBees raised the ship, utilizing it as a floating dry dock.

For more detailed information contact the Guadalcanal Tourist Authority, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Credit - "Guadalcanal 1942 The Marines Strike Back" by Joseph N. Muller

Chronology

3 May 1942: The 3rd Kure Special Naval Landing Force invades and captures Tulagi, the seat of British Government in the Solomon Islands. They also capture Gavutu, the headquarters for Lever Brothers.

4 May: American carrier planes from Yorktown and Enterprise make a raid on shipping in Tulagi Harbour, as part of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

8 May: Japanese forces are defeated in the Battle of the Coral Sea. The Japanese invasion forces bound for New Guinea are turned back.

3-4 June: The Americans achieve a strategic victory in the Battle of Midway Island.

8 June: General MacArthur suggests to General Marshall (Army Chief of Staff) that an offensive be taken with New Britain, New Ireland and New Guinea as the objective. MacArthur would be in command.

12 June: General Marshall meets with Admiral King (Chief of Naval Operations) and attempts to foster MacArthur's plan.

14 June: Advance elements of the US 1st Marine Division land in Wellington, New Zealand. They are not expected to see combat until after January. 25 June: Admiral King, after studying the Army plan, rejects it as too ambitious and suggests that the Solomon Islands and Santa Cruz Island be taken first, then New Britain, New Ireland and New Guinea. Admiral Nimitz would be in command.

26 June: General Marshall and Admiral King cannot come to agreement on an offensive plan. King, fearing delays, orders Admiral Nimitz to begin planning to retake the Solomon Islands. Nimitz alerts Vice Admiral Ghormley.

26 June: Admiral Ghormley calls General Vandegrift, the Commanding General of 1st Marine Division to Auckland to announce to him that his division will lead an amphibious assault in the Solomon Islands on 1 August.

29 June to 2 July: General Marshall and Admiral King continue to debate the strategic plan and its commander.

2 July: General Marshall and Admiral King reach an agreement and sign the 'Joint Directive for Offensive Operations in the Southwest Pacific Area Agreed on by the United States Chief of Staff'.

6 July: The Japanese send a survey party to Guadalcanal to select the site for an airfield on the north coast plain. A site is selected near Lunga Point and construction begins. Mid-August is the estimated completion date.

7 July: Vice Admiral Ghormley is selected to command the Guadalcanal-Tulagi amphibious invasion.

11 July: The remainder of the 1st Marine Division reinforced arrives in Wellington, New Zealand.

22 July: The amphibious force sails from New Zealand for the Solomons. The invasion date has been postponed to 7 August.

28-31 July: An amphibious rehearsal is conducted at Koro in a remote area of the Fiji Islands.

7 August: The amphibious force conducts an assault on Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Gavutu and surrounding islands. Tulagi and Gavutu are opposed landings; Guadalcanal is not.

8 August: The Japanese airfield is seized and named Henderson Field in honor of a Marine pilot killed at Midway.

9 August: The Battle for Savo Island. A Japanese naval force under Admiral Mikawa surprises an American naval force near Savo Island. The Americans lose four cruisers sunk and one damaged. The Japanese depart the area with damage to one destroyer. The overall result is that the American Navy departs area, leaving Marines on shore unsupported.

19 August: First Battle of the Matanikau. Battalion sized operation. One company proceeds west

along the coast to fix the Japanese at mouth of the river while a second company lands to the west to cut off retreating Japanese. A third company launches the main attack from jungle to the south.

21 August: Battle of the Tenaru. 900 Japanese under Colonel Ichiki attack 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, at 'Alligator Creek'. In the ensuing action, Colonel Ichiki and his troops are defeated.

24 August: Battle of the Eastern Solomons. A Japanese attempt to reinforce Guadalcanal and block American interdiction of their naval forces. It is not a decisive naval battle, but the Japanese are pulled back.

8 September: Tasimboko Raid. Raiders and Parachutists strike the rear party of the Kawaguchi Brigade, destroying the Japanese supplies. The Marine force narrowly averts destruction by the timely arrival of supply ships mistaken by the Japanese as a reinforcing invasion force.

12-14 September: The Battle of 'Broody Ridge'. The Japanese under Major General Kawaguchi initiate a three-pronged attack to retake Henderson Field. The attacks are disjointed and unsuccessful. The main attack is launched from the jungle south of a series of ridges south of Henderson Field; the two other attacks strike the Lunga Perimeter from the east and west.

23 September to 9 October: General Vandegrift initiates three operations to expand the Lunga Perimeter by attempting to push the Japanese from Matinkau; but the Japanese hold on the area proves too strong.

11 October: Battle of Cape Esperance. Mutual attempts to land reinforcements lead to a naval clash near Savo Island. The American Navy crosses the 'T' on the Japanese. The naval balance of power begins to shift toward the Americans.

23-26 October: Battle for Henderson Field. Major Japanese air-land-sea offensive. A three-pronged attack is planned, but attacks are not coordinated and are unsupported. The Japanese are defeated.

26 October: Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands. A Japanese victory by naval forces supporting the land operation.

12-13 November: First Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. An American cruiser force intercepts a Japanese battleship force. In the ensuing battle, Admirals Scott and Callaghan are killed, but the Japanese are turned back.

14-15 November: Second Naval Battle for Guadalcanal. American battleships turn back a Japanese naval force.

1-4 November: American western offensive. Elements of the 1st Marines cross the Matankau and push past Point Cruz.

2-3 November: American eastern offensive. Elements of the 7th Marines push the Japanese out of the Koli Point area.

5 November to 4 December: 2nd Raider Battalion ('Carlson's Raiders') conducts a historic patrol from Aola to Mount Austen.

30 November: Battle for Tassafaronga. A Japanese destroyer force dropping off supplies is driven away by American forces.

9 December: 1st Marine Division is relieved and sails from Guadalcanal.

15 December 1942 to 26 January 1943: The American Army engages in a bitter fight to drive the Japanese from the Mount Austen area.

13-17 January: The 2nd Marine Division launches an offensive that pushes the Japanese from the Point Cruz area.

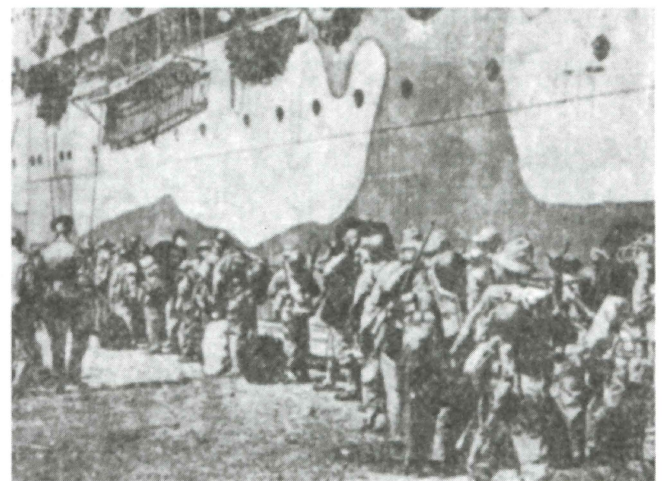
22-23 January: The westward push continues and the Japanese are driven out of Kokumbona area.

1-8 February: The Japanese withdraw from Doma Cove on destroyers.

9 February 1943: Guadalcanal is secured by the Americans.

Credit - "Guadalcanal 1942 The Marines Strike Back" by Joseph N. Muller

Help for U. S. Marines in Solomons

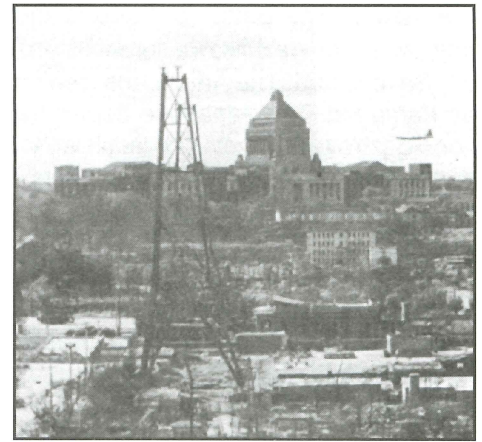


A U. S. army task force is shown boarding a transport leaving New Caledonia, in the Coral sea, to reinforce the U. S. marines fighting in the Solomon islands to the north.

(Editor's note - This is a censored copy of an AP photo sent to North Dakota papers showing 164th Infantry troops being loaded on USS McCauly troopship bound for Guadalcanal to reenforce the 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal 9 October, 1942.)



Above: Correspondent Gen. Nishino, who covered much of Guadalcanal campaign.



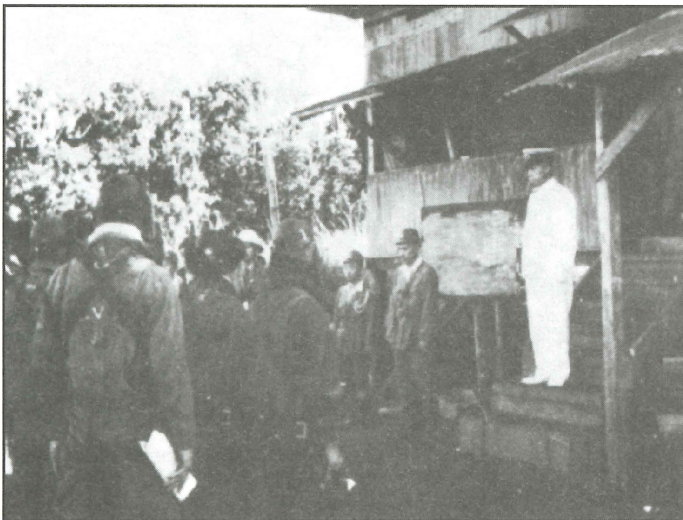
Right: Defenseless Tokyo. B-29 flies unmolested over Diet Building.



Above: Results of the first fire bombing of Tokyo – March 10, 1945. 140,000 died.



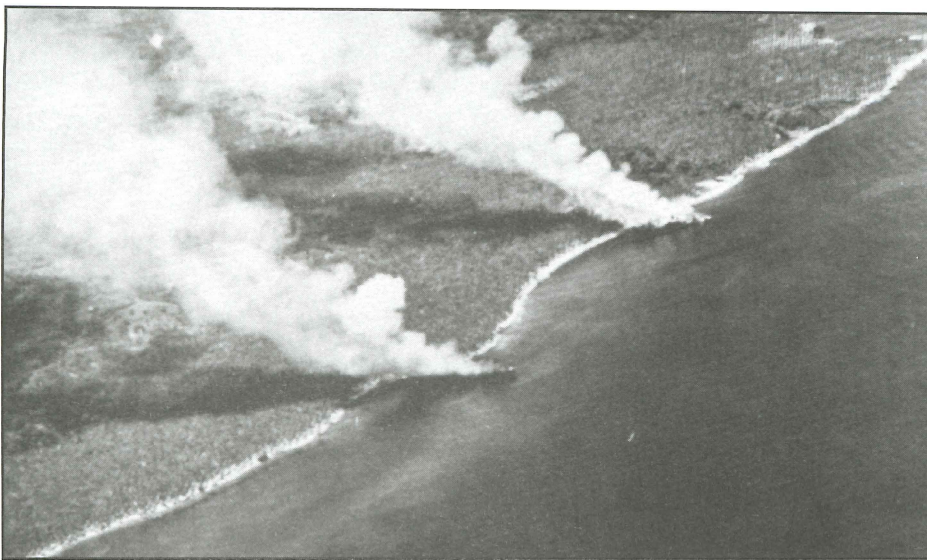
Left: Sunlight rarely penetrated through the dense growth to the surface of this road, one of Guadalcanal's very best "highways." (Marine Corps photo).



Above: Admiral Yamamoto, a few days before he was shot down by American fliers, addressing Japanese pilots about to bomb enemy bases on Guadalcanal. An army fighter pilot flying a P-38 fighter (Lightening) from Guadalcanal is credited with shooting down Yamamoto.

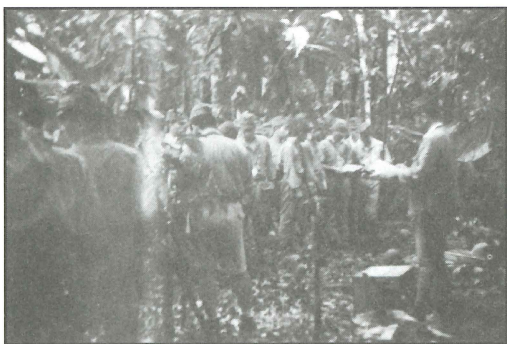


Above: Twenty-five thousand Japanese lost their lives on Guadalcanal, but 13,000 were saved in a secret withdrawal.

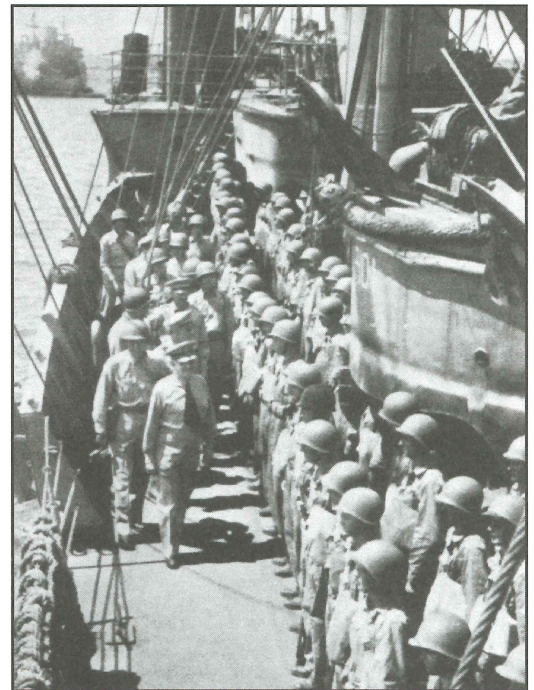


Left: Two beached Japanese transports burn on Guadalcanal's north coast following the bitter air and naval battle of Guadalcanal. (U.S. Navy photo)

Below: Admiral Ghormley, General Harmon, and General Patch inspect troops of the 164th Infantry loaded on a transport at Noumea ready for the trip to Guadalcanal.



Left: Nishino took this photograph of General Kawaguchi briefing his officers before the attack on Henderson Field.



Below: Rear Admiral Raizo Tanaka, mastermind behind the Tokyo Express. He had the task of delivering to Guadalcanal the troops and supplies designated for the November Japanese attack.



Above: An average Guadalcanal "highway." The road leading inland from the mouth of the Matanikau River along its eastern bank.

Right: Five enemy tanks destroyed in the October battle at the Matanikau River lie useless and idle on the sand spit at the river's mouth. (Marine Corps photo)



Above: Troops of the 132nd Infantry move up toward Mount Austen through dense jungle during critical moments of the battle for the mountain.



*Above: The suicide that failed. Former Prime Minister Hideki Tojo shot himself in the chest, barely missing his heart, just before he was to be arrested.
Editors Note: Upon conviction Tojo was hanged.*

Right: Merle Farland, Methodist nurse on Vella Lavella, aided Coast-watchers in rescue of fallen U.S. bomber crew. She was later evacuated to Guadalcanal, where her presence started rumor that Amelia Earhart had been found alive.



MOVING

To Save association funds please mail in your change of address.

Each fold of the flag symbolizes national principle, tribute

Harry Spohn, Guest Columnist

Editor's Note - This column originally ran in the June 6 edition of The Telegraph and is being repeated by popular request and for the Fourth of July celebration.

This date is the 43rd anniversary of what is generally called D-day, the date the Allied Forces landed troops on the coast of France, and 11 months later the war in Europe came to an end.

The invasion cost many thousands of lives and, when bodies were returned to this sorrowing nation, there was a burial ceremony. Part of that ceremony was the folding of the American flag that draped the casket by the Guard of Honor that was present at these ceremonies. When the flag was folded it was presented to the family of the deceased veteran.

On June 14, we will celebrate Flag Day and pay tribute to the flag that represents all Americans in the family of nations. Following a long tradition, a brief ceremony honoring our Flag will take place on East Fourth.

In the past years, I have had the honor and privilege of being a part of the ceremonies. Last year a person came up to me after the ceremony and asked me if I knew the meaning of the folds of a flag that draped a casket. I had to respond in the negative.

But the question nagged at me and I made some inquiries. Five weeks ago, thanks to Robert A. Foster, of Greenville, Ohio, I can answer the question.

The premise is simple: the folds represent the same religious principles which our nation was originally founded on.

When completely folded the flag will be in a "cocked hat" shape, with the blue canton denoting honor, and the blue contains the stars which represent the States the veteran fought for when wearing a uniform of the country's military services.

The meaning of the folds are:

First fold — Symbol of life

Second fold — Belief in eternal life

Third fold — Honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of his/her life for the defense of our country

Fourth fold — Represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to God we turn to in times of peace, as in time of war, for divine guidance

Fifth fold — Represents our country; "...still our country, right or wrong."

Sixth fold — Where our hearts lie, account it is with our hearts we pledge our allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Seventh fold — Tribute to the Armed Forces of our country who protect our country and flag against enemies, within or

without the Republic.

Eighth fold — To honor the mother of the veteran.

Ninth fold — Honoring American womanhood through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion to the character of the men and women they have molded.

10th fold — Tribute to fathers, for they, too, have given their sons and daughters for the defense of the country.

11th fold — Glorifying the God of the Hebrews of the Old Testament of the Holy Bible.

12th fold — Glorifying the God of the New Testament, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded the blue canton and stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto: "In God We Trust." When properly folded and tucked it looks like a cocked hat, reminding us of soldiers who served under John Paul Jones.

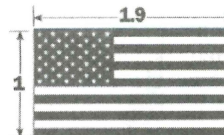
They, followed by comrades, shipmates, and airmen today, have preserved for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

I hope those readers who are interested will save this, especially families who already have a flag from a loved one's burial honors, and for the future for those who have earned the honor by serving their fellow citizens in our nation's Armed Forces.

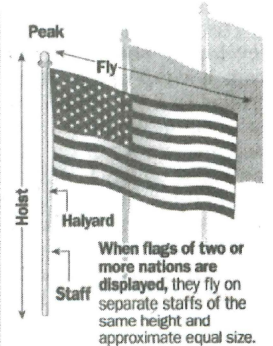
Showing Old Glory

A look at the current American flag:

The size of the flag is determined by the ratio:



Correct orientation when displayed against a wall. The union should be at the top and to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the union should be seen the same way by an observer in the street.



You may not have realized what you were getting into when you purchased your United States flag kit. Here are some examples of the proper way to care for Old Glory, from the U.S. Flag Code. None of these carries a penalty.

Do

- Fly the flag with the stars at the top, except to signal great distress or threat.
- Display your flag outdoors every day, from sunrise to sunset. Bring it in before dark unless it is illuminated.
- Take off your hat and put it or your right hand over your heart when the flag is carried past you in a parade. The same when raised or lowered.
- Retire your flag before it becomes ragged or faded. Burning is the proper method of disposal. Take old flags to your local American Legion or VFW for the proper ceremony.

Do not

- Hang the flag of another nation on the same pole as a U.S. flag. If you're displaying several national flags together, put them in an even line with no flag above the others.
- Allow the flag to touch the ground.
- Place anything on top of a flag.
- Write your name or any other logo or words on a flag.
- Use the flag to carry anything or to cover anything but a veteran's casket.
- Cut up a flag to make clothing, bedding or curtains.

Source: The American Legion

Star Tribune graphic

New Life Members



Rex Cook, 29 June 1999 - Dickinson, ND
Hq. & Hq. Co. 164th Infantry, Hettinger, ND 1950-51.
Shipped to Japan.

Del Kenitzer, 14 June 1999 - Baker, MT
Dr. Davis S. Marshall, 8 June 1999 - Pottsville, PA

New Members

Robert E. Boyd, 1 July 1999 - Soldiers Nursing Home
Sta. # Nursing Care, Box #199 - Orting, Washington 98360
Glynn Box, 28 May 1999 - Brigham City, UT

Clifford C. Martin, 4 June 1999 - Bismarck, ND
Allen J. Olson, 14 June 1999 - Elbridge, NY

AWOL

An all points bulletin (APB) has been issued to the MP's to locate and collect 1999 dues that are delinquent from the falling members. After this issue of the 164th Infantry News and pursuant to the By-laws of the 164th Infantry Association your membership in the Association will be dropped.

Armstrong, Donald M.	Seattle, WA
Armstrong, Leo	Harrisonville, MO
Brown, Alan E.	Porterville, CA
Bunce, James A.	Minneapolis, MN
Giallonardo, Orlando	Natick, MA
Gregory, John W.	Saint Louis, MO
Hallen, Melvin W.	Onalaska, WI
Hoppert, Glenn A.	Wahpeton, ND
Murphy, Joseph W.	Hanover, MA
Nitsche, Sam	Jud, ND
Reep, August J.	Camarillo, CA
Rhoads, Ruby	Glenburn, ND
Roth, Ajay	Westlake Village, CA
Schuld, Alvera	Dickinson, ND
Scothorne, Douglas Jr.	West Valley City, UT
Wiens, Harry	Scotts Valley, CA

If you know any of the AWOL personnel please contact them. Tell them the MP's are looking for them

Ben Kemp
Sec./Treas. 164th Association

CONGRATULATIONS

The 164th Infantry, 1992 Guadalcanal returnees will remember the excellent service Major Olgeirson provided for all of the travelers on that memorable trip. In June 1999, Major Olgeirson was advised to remove the Gold Oak Leaves as a new leaf was required because she had earned a well deserved promotion to Lt. Colonel. You might wish her well at P.O. Box 473, Bismarck, ND 58502-0473.

164TH REGIMENTAL FLAG

A limited supply of 164th Regimental Flags, with Battle Streamers, available for \$20, includes postage and handling. \$18 if you reserve and pick up at September 1999 Reunion. When this inventory is depleted no more will be ordered. Contact Ben Kemp.

BOOKS FOR SALE

"The Americal Generation" by Bill McLaughlin. This is 6"x9" paperback. Americal and shield are in blue. Rest of copy is in red on white background. Prepublication price \$17.50, later copies will cost \$19.50. Contact Bill McLaughlin, 155 River Ridge Drive, Marston Mills, MA, 02648.

HEADQUARTERS 164TH INFANTRY
APO 709

23 February 1943.

MEMORANDUM: To all Unit Commanders.

SUBJECT : Memorial Services.

In honor of those officers and enlisted men of the 164th Infantry who made the supreme sacrifice while on Guadalcanal this Regiment will hold memorial services at the Cemetery on February 25, 1943 at 8:00 o'clock A.M.

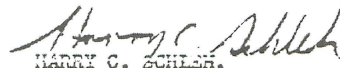
CEREMONY

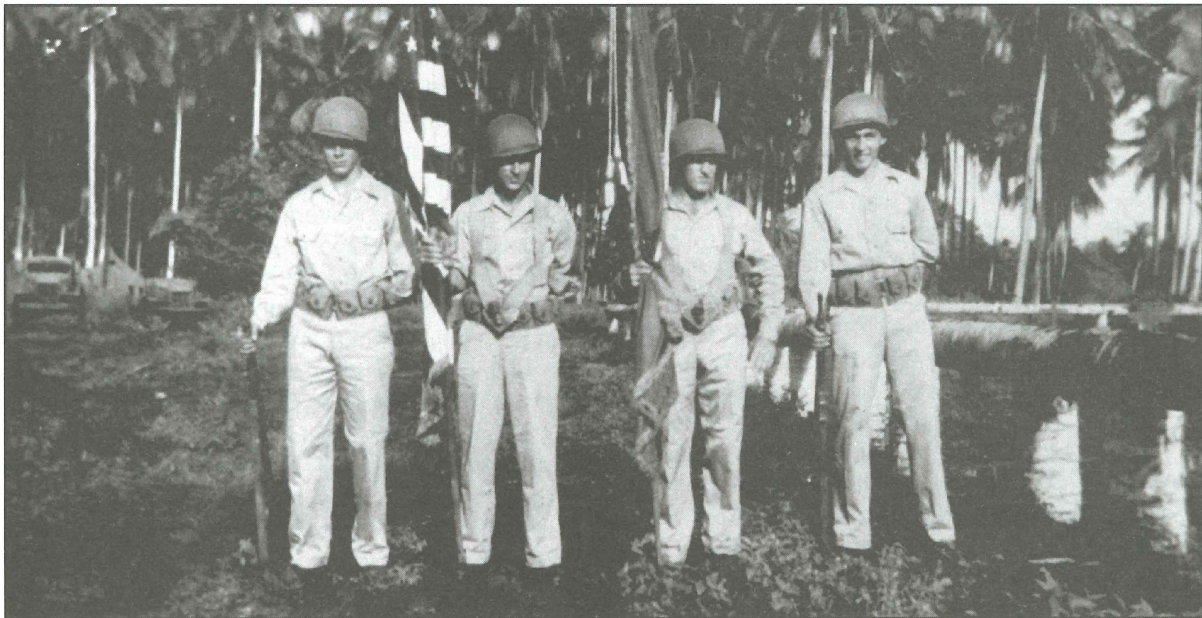
Troops assemble - - - - - (Representation from each unit)
Selection: Regimental March - 164th Infantry Band
Mass for the dead - - - - - Chaplain Tracy
Address - - - - - Chaplain Abbe
Salute to the dead - - - - - Co. A Firing Squad
Taps, re-echo - - - - - 164th Infantry Band
National Anthem - - - - - 164th Infantry Band
Recessional - - - - - 164th Infantry Band

By order of Colonel DALY:

B.L.N. J. NORTHBRIDGE,
Lt. Col. 164th Inf.
Executive Officer.

OFFICIAL:


HARRY C. SCHLEN,
1st Lt. 164th Inf.
Acting Adjutant.



COLOR GUARD — Members of the 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle), Americal Division Color Guard during World War II are, from left, Staff Sgt. James M. Fenelon (Devil's Lake, N.D.), Cpl. Leonard Betchel (Cavalier, N.D.), Staff Sgt. Clifford Ottinger (Jamestown, N.D.) and Cpl. Walter Ensminger (Manango, N.D.). The coconut log on the right was the railing which enclosed the cemetery on Guadalcanal. Marines, Army, U.S. Navy and Air Force soldiers killed in the battle of Guadalcanal were buried in this cemetery.

The United States Army on Guadalcanal

13 October 1942 - 9 February 1943

By Major Walter L. Stewart

Early in October, the Americal Division was ordered to reinforce the 1st Marine Division at Guadalcanal with a view to subsequently taking over their responsibilities. Pursuant to these instructions, the 164th Infantry landed at Guadalcanal on October 13th, 1942. They were subjected to aerial bombardment during the unloading and were shelled from the sea on their second night ashore. On October 25-26, they successfully defended a sector of the perimeter defense against a major attack by Japanese forces, and further contributed to the successful defense of Henderson Field by counter-attacking in the 7th Marine sector to restore the position after it had been penetrated by the Japanese assault.

On November 3rd, one battalion of the 164th Infantry was employed as a part of a Marine force operating offensively west of the Matanikau River. This offensive action was undertaken by General Vandegrift with a mission of driving Japanese forces west of Kokumbona and was predicated on the arrival of Army troops to increase his offensive strength.

During the night of November 2nd-3rd, a Japanese force estimated at 1500 landed without opposition near Koli Point and due to poor communications this was not reported until late on the afternoon of November 3rd. Upon receipt of this information, General Vandegrift organized a provisional brigade consisting of the 7th Marine Regiment and the 164th Infantry less one battalion and directed them to find, fix, and annihilate the Japanese in the vicinity of Koli Point. This operation was conducted generally during the period of November 5th to 11th and was relatively successful. The Japanese force was disorganized, their supplies destroyed and some 500 were killed in the engagement. The remainder moved south and west around Mt. Austen to rejoin the main force but were harassed enroute by Carlsons raider who reported the killing of some 500 additional enemy troops.

On November 11th, information was received of a major Japanese effort to retake Guadalcanal. General Vandegrift decided to withdraw all of his forces to a defensive position protecting Henderson Field bounded on the west by the Matanikau and on the east by the Tenaru. This decision resulted in giving up some 3000 yards of territory west of the Matanikau which had been gained with a considerable loss of life. On November 15th, when the full results of the American victory over the Japanese were known, General Vandegrift decided to dispose his forces for a continued offensive to the west as soon as additional army troops were received. (November 11-15 operation, 7 Japanese transports were sunk and 4 were destroyed after being beached, the estimated casualties in personnel being from 20 to 30 thousand.)

After proper reconnaissance, the commander of the west sector recommended and was authorized to secure the high ground west of the Matanikau with a view to establishing bridgeheads for further advance. The Matanikau River is an important terrain feature and a major military obstacle as the

high ground on both the east and west banks insures the security of bridges.

Pursuant to a general plan, the 2nd. Bn., 182nd Infantry was placed in position on November 18th on the left flank of the dominating terrain west of the Matanikau. On November 19th, the 1st Bn., 182nd Infantry covered by Co. B, 6th Marine moved across the Matanikau but were unable to reach their objectives due to enemy opposition. At 4:00 p.m. on November 19th, the Commanding General of the west sector issued an order directing the 182nd Infantry to attack at 6:00 a.m. November 20th and siege the objective which extended generally from Point Cruz on the right to Hill 66 on the left. The attack was made on schedule but met severe opposition and was unable to reach the objective. The strongest opposition as along the beach in the sector of the 1st Bn., 182nd Infantry. During the afternoon, the 164th Infantry was ordered to move into the line and assist in the attack at daylight November 21st. This operation was successfully conducted and Point Cruz was taken about noon, November 21st. However, enemy resistance was so stubborn that a further advance was impossible. Directly in front of the line established November 21st, there is a deep ravine which constituted a serious defensive obstacle and was strongly defended by the enemy. On November 22nd another attempt was made to push forward by having the 8th Marines relieve the 1st Bn, 182nd Infantry and one battalion, 164th Infantry, both of which organizations had suffered heavy casualties. This maneuver was successfully accomplished tactically but after severe fighting, a further advance was impossible. On November 24th, General Patch decided that the position then held, secured the bridgeheads over the Matanikau and in view of the considerable losses that were occurring, he decided to hold that line until the arrival of the remainder of his division. Consequently, from November 24th until January 10th, the line established on November 24th was held against a number of attacks by the Japanese. Enemy information was scanty during the period November 18-24 and it was not until about November 30th that captured documents revealed the fact that by a coincidence, the Japanese 2nd Division had been advancing east with the mission of securing the high ground east of the Matanikau and had ordered an attack to accomplish this mission at about the same hour and on the same day the the Americal Division had attacked for a similar purpose. In other words, the battle was a meeting engagement in which the American troops successfully secured their objective and held it against what we believe to have been superior forces.

The remainder of the Americal Division arrived early in December and General Patch directed that Mt. Austen, a terrain feature which dominates Henderson Field, be seized and held. On December 16th, an operation to accomplish this mission was initiated by the 132nd Infantry. Enemy resistance was stubborn to an unexpected degree. On

January 4th, Mt. Austen as cleansed of all enemy and secured. Meanwhile, the 225th Division arrived and a Corps attack was put in operation on January 10th. The general scheme of maneuver was an attack with divisions abreast, the 2nd Marine Division holding on the right (north) flank, that is along the beach and the 25th Division making the main attack by enveloping the enemy right (south) flank and driving the Japanese into the sea. The attack was launched on January 10th and after much stubborn fighting, the 27th Infantry of the 25th Division reached Kokumbona on January 25th, after inflicting severe casualties on the enemy. The 35th Infantry which had relieved the 132nd Infantry on Mt. Austen was not able to advance directly within their sector but succeeded in pocketing what was later found to be the OKA (124th Japanese) Regiment, seasoned with a splendid reputation for previous success, and after a two weeks siege or "pocketing," annihilated practically the entire regiment killing more than 1000 officers and men.

The advance west from Kokumbona was pushed vigorously with the 147th Infantry as the spearhead until the Bonegi River had been crossed. The Japanese made a strong defensive effort on the Bonegi but from that point on, their resistance was sporadic and much weaker than at any previous time in the fight. After crossing the Bonegi, the 161st Infantry took up the advance which in effect had become a pursuit, and a battalion of the 132 Infantry was landed on the

south-western end of the island near Verahue with a mission of advancing against the Japanese rear. From this point on, every effort was made to pursue vigorously and with all possible speed until a junction of the two forces was accomplished at the Tonabbo River on February 9th thus putting an end to all Japanese organized resistance on Guadalcanal. During the period February 1-7 desperate efforts were made by the Japanese to evacuate as much of their force as possible. It is believed that some 2000 troops were evacuated most of which had at no time taken an active part in the fightings. During the period November 18th to February 9th, it is conservatively estimated that more than 8000 Japanese were killed and considerable quantities of supplies and equipment captured (G-2 and G-3 can give you accurate figures on casualties, equipment captured, and the Japanese forces which took part in the fighting). Subsequent to February 9th, some 100 Japanese stragglers have been captured and an undetermined additional number (perhaps 100) have been killed. The only Japanese who gave evidence of malnutrition and illnesses were those who were isolated from their supplies by the offensive action of American troops and those found in hospital areas. Considerable quantities of food, medicine, and ammunition were captured and the killed and captured were mostly in good health and physically capable of continuing the fight with the exception of those referred to above.

Stalin's rule was ruthless



Josef Stalin ruled the Soviet Union from 1929 to 1953 by means of terror and dictatorship so absolute that the term "Stalinism" was coined to describe it. Stalin gave up studying for the priesthood to join Lenin's 1917 revolution against the czar. Rising to power after Lenin's death, Stalin perfected a police state with total control over the lives and thoughts of citizens. Dissidents were exiled, executed or sent to labor camps. Millions died of starvation, forced labor, executions or exposure as Stalin sought total control over agriculture, industry and every aspect of life. He staged "show trials," in which opponents were persuaded to confess to imaginary crimes, supposedly because it would be good for the state. Three years after he died, Stalin was denounced by the Communist Party.

— Gannett News Service

(Editor's note - Stalin fought Hitler and his crew and supported the Allies in WWII. In coming to power as the dictator of Russia, Stalin was one bad dude. The middle class farmers in Russia, known as Kulaks were considered by the communists as having excessive wealth. The Kulaks refused to join the collective farms in the late 1920's and early 1930's so Stalin liquidated the Kulaks as a class. It is estimated that 5 million farmers were killed.)

**"NO MAN IS WORTH HIS SALT WHO
IS NOT READY AT ALL TIMES
TO RISK HIS BODY, TO RISK HIS
WELL BEING, AND TO RISK HIS LIFE
IN A GREAT CAUSE."**

— THEODORE ROOSEVELT

— ✚ —

*"Here's to the
roses and lilies in
bloom, you in my
arms and I in your
room, a door that is
locked, a key that is
lost, a bird and a
bottle and a bed badly
tossed, and a night
that is 50 years
long... Cheers!" -*

*—Herb Caen,
San Francisco Chronicle*



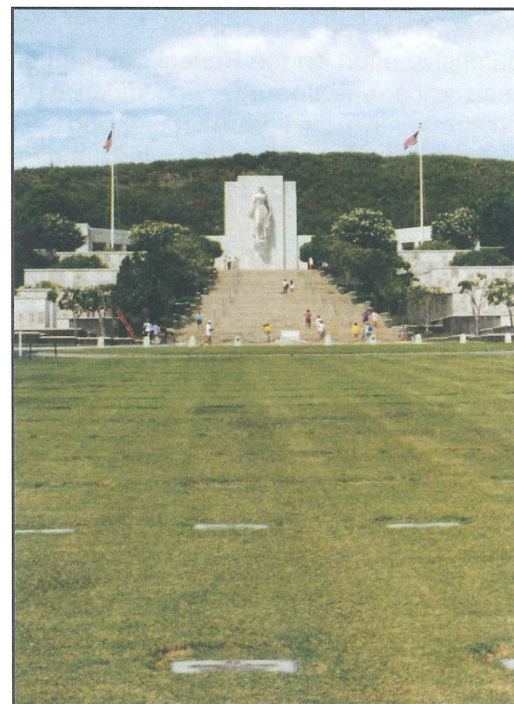
Return to Guadalcanal Continued:



Above: Guadalcanal 10/4/92. North Dakota Flag and S/Sgt. Anderson (Anti-Tank), in front of granite panel. Anderson fit into his WWII summer uniform.



Above: 10/4/92, Guadalcanal, Skyline Drive, Matanikau Ridge. 164th Infantry Flag with Batta Streamers being held against a granite panel of the National Monument. The 164th Infantry engaged Japanese forces on this ridge.



Right: October 1992. Punch Bowl National Cemetery, Honolulu, Hawaii. Many 164th Infantry KIA Guadalcanal are buried in this National Cemetery.

Below: 1992 Guadalcanal US Ambassador.



Below: Guadalcanal 10/4/92. 164th Infantry Plaque placed in the museum.

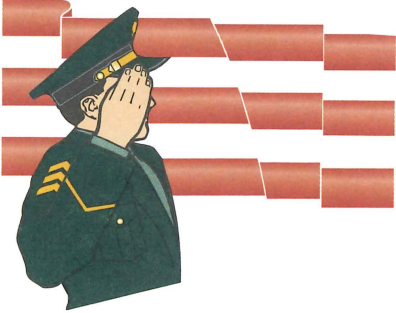




Last Roll Call



*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*



Louis G. Figone

15 April 1999
F Company

Howard Boltz

Scottsdale, AZ (15 April 1997)
Medics
Formerly from Bottineau, ND

Leo J. McGuire

Waverly, NE (4 January 1999)
F Company

Kenneth A. Swartz (LM)

Grand Forks, ND (Date of death unknown)

Thurston Nelson

3 May 1999
L Company

Thurston Nelson joined L Company 164th Infantry and soon became a young, squad leader, moved up to a platoon leader and along with other members of the 3rd Battalion filled the breach at Coffin Coroner when the Japanese forces with frenzied Banzi charges had penetrated the nexus between the 2nd Battalion 164th and the 7th Marines. This action was most timely as it stopped the Japanese Sendai Division from capturing Henderson Field, October, 1942. Service in Korea and Vietnam added 2 stars to the Combat Infantry Badge Nelson was awarded for combat action in L company 164th Infantry, October 24-26, 1942, defense of

Henderson Field, Guadalcañal. This is a rare honor. In speaking about the killing zone, Nelson stated "it was a vile space like some hideous ulcer that should never be glorified into something it never was nor will ever be." Nelson retired from the service as a Lt. Col. after he completed his Vietnam tour. He completed his Master's degree entitled "Rehabilitation of Standing Rock Sioux." The Standing Rock Sioux made him an Honorary Member of the Sioux Tribe for his untiring work for them on and off the reservation. Thurston thanks for a job well done.

The Memoir of John Hagen

The memoir of John Hagen, who joined the 164th Infantry in 1940 in Fargo and served in the third battalion communications section on Guadalcanal, is continued in the Spring 1999 issue of North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains. The lead article of this issue is "Never Raised to Be a Soldier: John Hagen's Memoir of Service with the 164th Infantry, 1941-1943" (Part Two), edited by Terry L. Shoptaugh. The article is illustrated with photographs from the North Dakota National Guard Historic Holding and Archives in Bismarck and is excerpted from twenty-two hours of audiotape that Hagen recorded in 1990.

To purchase a copy of North Dakota History, call the State Historical Society of North Dakota in Bismarck at 701-328-1666 or use e-mail at histsoc@state.nd.us. The cost is \$4 plus shipping and handling. For more information, check the Society's web page at <http://www.state.nd.us>.

Copies can be purchased at the Reunion Registration desk at the Radisson Hotel, Bismarck, September 24-25, 1999.

OBITUARIES

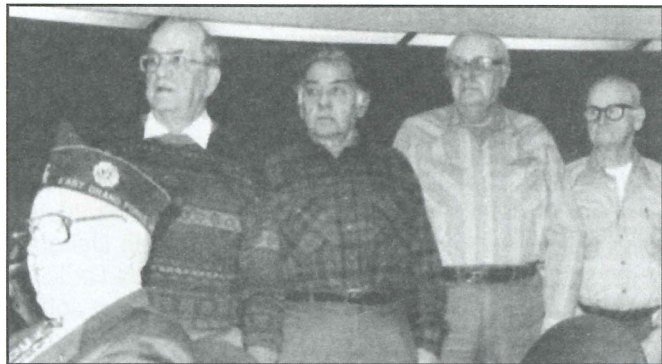
An obituary is generally the last public notice of an individuals existence on earth. Therefore it should be prepared carefully covering all the facts. Among the more important facts is the military service of the deceased such as the identification of the military unit Regiment, Company Unit, Division 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.

**"I don't like to commit myself about heaven and hell - you see, I have friends in both places."
— Mark Twain**



Louis Yearke presented the history book of the 164th Infantry to Glenn Trembath, city council representative to the Campbell Library Board.



Four members of the 164th Association presenting the 164th Infantry Memorial Dedication Book to the Campbell Library, East Grand Forks, MN. (L-R) Louis Yearke, Joe Horski, John Landowski and Ed Kemble.

5 THE FARGO FORUM
Monday Eve., April 23, 1945

MacArthur Hails Americal

Eighth Army Headquarters, Leyte, April 22—(Delayed)—(P)—Swift thrusts of Eighth army troops in the Visayas islands, central Philippines, today won personal commendation from Gen. MacArthur, commander-in-chief of Pacific ground forces.

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, commander of the Eighth, extended his commendation as well, praising all officers and men, including the Americal, 40th and 41st divisions for "courage and speed."

Gen. MacArthur said:

"This is a model of what a light but aggressive command can accomplish in rapid exploitation."

Eichelberger, who led his men through 34 landings in the Philippines since the first of the year, expressed "sincere gratification at the courage, speed and determination displayed on every hand in this series of rapid fire landings."

"The enemy was given no respite and has lost his identity as an organized force. His destruction is inevitable."



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

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