



9-1999

## 164th Infantry News: September 1999

164th Infantry Association

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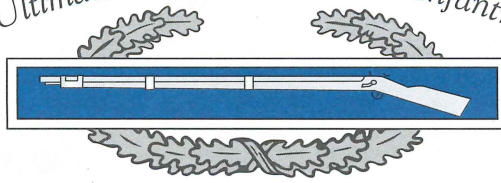
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



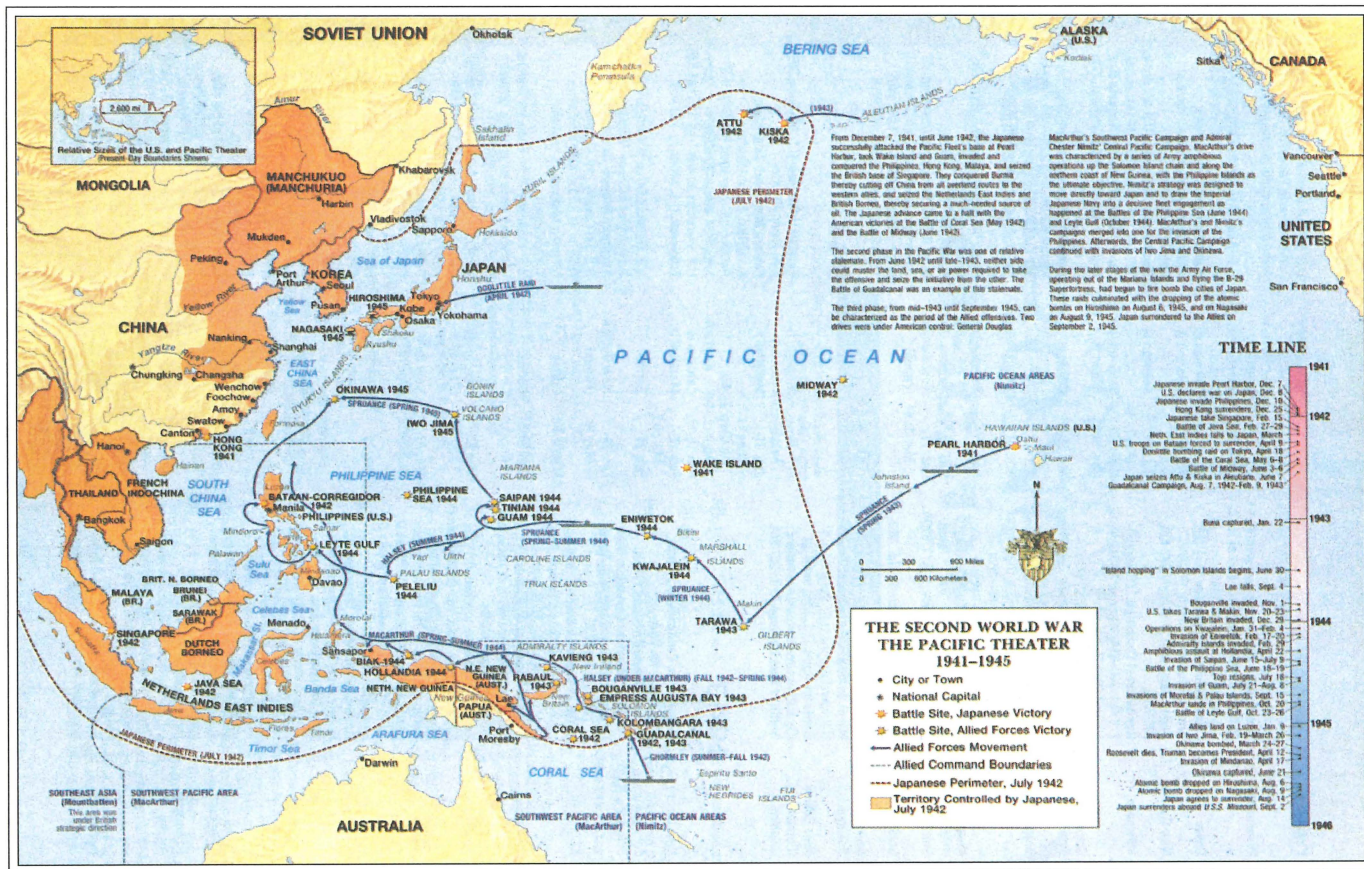
# THE 164<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 39 · No. 3

September 1, 1999

## World War II - The Pacific Theater

Map courtesy of the West Point Museum Collections, United States Military Academy



## World War II Commemorative Parade



*Camp Gilbert C. Grafton Aug. 1, 1992*

*Left - Willard Swift, WWII veteran and member of the 164th Infantry, finds this captured Japanese artillery piece an interesting display. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ron Biberdorf*



*Right - This WWII - 164ther still looks sharp in uniform he wore 50 years ago (1942). Photo by Maj. Shirley Olgeirson*

*Photo Essay Continued on Pg 2*



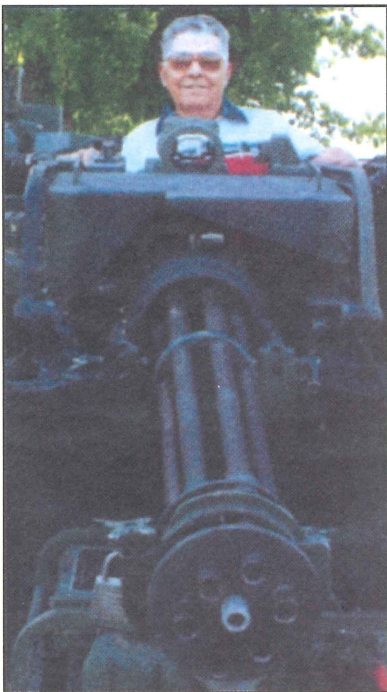
Above: This photo taken from a helicopter shows the Air National Guard columns to the left and Army National Guard units assembled across the rest of the Camp Grafton parade ground.  
 Photo by Capt. Fred R. Parks III



Photo Essay Continued from Pg 1  
 Top Left - Philip Engstrom and Walter Rivinius. Ben Glatt can be seen over Walter Rivinius left shoulder, members of 164th WWII. Rivinius and Engstrom were both wounded on Guadalcanal. Photo by Sgt. Tim Erhardt



Top Right- 164th Infantry Parade Staff, WWII Commemorative parade at Camp Grafton. (L-R) Col (Ret.) Ralph L. Gaugler, Lt. Col (Ret.) Bernard A. Wagner, Sergeant Major (Ret.) B.C. "Mick" McFerran, former Captain Earl L. "Red" Cherrey, and former Sergeant Thomas R. Slattman. Photo by Sgt. Tim Erhardt



Bottom Left - Walter Duchscher former 164th Infantry Regiment and Guadalcanal Veteran looks at an example of the Guards modern weaponry, the M167A1 Vulcan at the parade ground display. Photo by Sgt. Tim Erhardt

**The Eternal Shepherd**

By Gary Bousman

The night of January 12, 1943, was the longest night of my life. I was in a foxhole on the island of Guadalcanal. It was my first night on the front, and I did not sleep much. There were two reasons why I did not sleep. First, there was a lot of noise—sporadic gunfire, exploding grenades. And about every five minutes, we fired a shell into the enemy position on the next hill. This led to the second reason I could not sleep. I was afraid. But I was not supposed to be afraid. I was the battalion chaplain. What would the men around think if they knew that their spiritual leader was shaking in his boots?

In an effort to keep my fears under control, I started reciting poetry. I do not know a lot of poems by heart, but a few verses came to mind. I recited Henley's "Invictus" as follows:

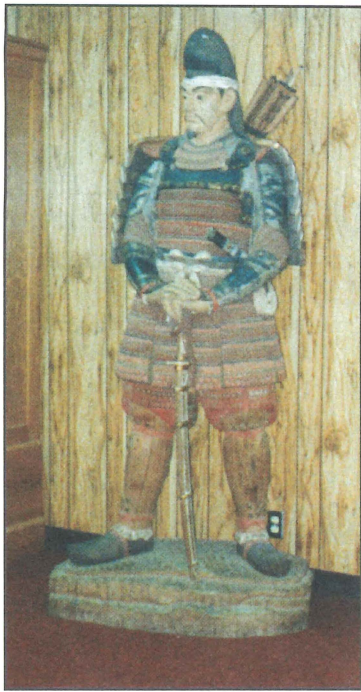
The rhythm of the verse did help but the theme did not. I was not the master of my fate. Fate had brought me to a place I did not want to be, and I was beginning to wonder whether I was captain of my soul.

Then I started reciting one of the most ancient of verses, The Twenty-Third Psalm. For the first time in my life, it was no longer an ancient poem written by someone living centuries ago. The author was my contemporary. He knew from experience what I was going through. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me" (Ps. 23:4 RSV). I am not saying that all my fears disappeared. But I was no longer alone; the eternal Shepherd restored my soul. ■

It matters not how strait the gate,  
 How charged with punishments the scroll,  
 I am the master of my fate:  
 I am the captain of my soul.

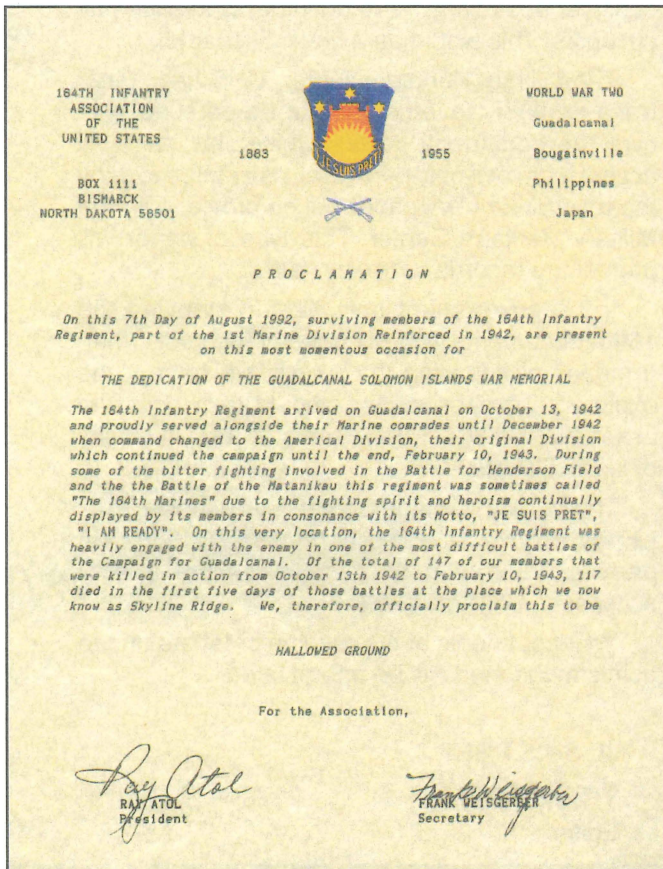
## Divine Wind

Teakwood statue of Japanese General Masahigo Kusunchi (born in 1200 A.D.). General Kusunchi is considered by the Japanese to be one of their most capable and famous military leaders. It was General Kusunchi who began the custom of committing suicide for failure in military missions. General Kusunchi was the idol of the Japanese "Kamakazi" pilots during World War II. This statue originally stood outside an officer's mess at a Japanese military school west of Tokyo. The 164th Infantry Regiment (part of



the North Dakota National Guard), which was one of the first American forces to take offensive action against the Japanese in the Pacific, claimed the statue as a "war souvenir" and had it shipped back to the United States. In 1947 the statue was presented to the State Historical Society of North Dakota where it was on display for many years in the Liberty Memorial Building on the State Capitol Grounds in Bismarck. In 1986 the "Divine Wind" statue was deaccessioned by the State Historical Society and was returned to the North Dakota National Guard.

*(Editor's note - Where is General Masashigo Kusunchi? Maybe it is time to locate the Teakwood statue of the General and ask the Japanese Government if they would like the antique wooden General to be returned to their historical archives and again become a part of Japanese history. Of course this can only be achieved if the Japanese cultural affairs (Government) is willing to accept General Kusunchi and pay his transportation back to Japan. It is presumed that the North Dakota National Guard and the members of the 164th Infantry Association will support the effort to return an important WWII trophy to its ancestral home. If you have any thoughts or comments on this please forward them to Jim Fenelon, Editor, 164th Infantry News.)*



### Proclamation...

Editor's note - This Proclamation was presented by General Flo at the 50th Anniversary ceremonies held on Guadalcanal, August, 1992. Flo was a 2nd Lt. with the Regiment and earned promotions and eventually left the military service as a one star general. Led the Flo Patrol 11/18/42 - 11/30/42 from Lunge Point to Beaufort Bay. A very dangerous and informative patrol.

## Bushido shaped Japanese society



Bushido, a code of conduct for Japan's samurai warriors, greatly influenced Japanese society, from its advent in the Kamakura period (1192-1333) into modern times. Bushido is akin to Europe's code of knightly chivalry. Bushido stressed battlefield skills and bravery first. But samurai were expected to be honest, virtuous and kind, setting examples for lower classes. Confucianism and Zen Buddhism influenced Bushido — samurai were expected to exemplify Confucian concepts of the perfect gentleman. Above all, it was a martial code. A samurai's loyalty was to his lord, even if it meant breaking the law or causing his parents to suffer. In the 19th century, Bushido became the basis for ethical training for all Japanese society, with the emperor commanding loyalty. Bushido helped shape Japan into a militaristic society, feeding the nationalism that led to Japanese expansionism.

— Gannett News Service

## 54th Annual Reunion

The annual reunion will soon be upon us. If you haven't made plans to attend call your old 164th friends and Korean pals and resolve to attend the reunion in Bismarck, North Dakota, Radisson Hotel. September 24,25,26, 1999. The committee has planned a good program and all attending will have a grand time.

By the time you receive this issue you will have the program, hotel and registration information in your hands plus a very important item that is a very strong supporting block in the success of the reunion, THE RAFFLE TICKETS. The members purchasing the raffle tickets even though they are unable to attend are still backing their WWII and Korean comrades.

The annual business meeting Saturday, September 25, will be your opportunity to present any resolutions involving the Association. If you have any resolutions or items for the agenda, send them to President Frank Weisgerber or to Ben Kemp, Secretary/Treasurer.

The Association has several active committees and if you wish to serve on a committee, let Frank or Ben know of your interest. The committees are Time and Place, Audit, Nominating and Membership.

The date October 13 has generally been held sacrosanct as that was the day in 1942 that the 164th landed on Guadalcanal and learned about war but on some occasions the reunion committee has been unable to reserve a hotel on or close to October 13, so we have had to make some adjustments and meet on a different date. Some members in the past have suggested the reunion date be moved to a time that might be more compatible with the North Dakota weather and also with the school schedules.

Well, most of us are into our grandfathering years and even great grandfathering years, it might just be the time to change the reunion date to an earlier time in the spring or summer. With a different date maybe the reunion could be held at a resort with golf facilities or other types of relaxing recreation. The change of date is important and

should be discussed by the Members and the Time and Place committees. If you gave any thoughts on this point, please contact Frank or Ben.

As reported to you the 164th Infantry records that were located at Fraire Barracks have been transferred to the Military Heritage Center, Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota. The center will preserve the documents and have them available for scholars doing research about the 164th Infantry. These documents are not all the WWII or Korean records involving the 164th Infantry. There are considerable documentations in the National Archives, Washington, D.C. and in government facilities in St. Louis, Missouri. These documents contain morning reports, before and after battle reports, maps, orders, lists of personnel, ships transporting the Regiment. Some documents have been lost or destroyed. In the near future, the government will consider destroying more documents to allegedly cut costs. This would be a criminal shame.

The Military Heritage Center, UND has stated if the Federal Government can be persuaded to give the documents to the University, they will accept them or if only permission is granted to copy the records archival paper will be provided by the Military Heritage Center. This type of paper will protect the records for many years.

If the government only permits copying the 164th documents and will not pay the costs, than a means of financing the project will have to be explored. The Association should take action to assemble the 164th documents at the University of North Dakota.

The Military Heritage Center in the Chester Fritz Library, UND received a gift of the George S. Patton papers, valued at \$1.4 million, from a very successful UND graduate.

Your comments at the reunion or letters on the points mentioned will be appreciated.

JE SUIS PRET  
Jim Fenelon  
Editor

*We have a beautiful door prize again this year; a WWII Jeep and a HUMVEE (Current Military Vehicle) mounted on an Oak Plaque. It has the reunion dates and location. The Plaque has four Flags, the American Flag, the State of ND Flag, the US Army Flag and the 164th Infantry Regiment Flag. The CIB along with the pins of the 164th Inf. Regt, the Americal Division; the 47th Division, the 34th Division and the 1st MSMC Division.*

*Tickets will cost \$5.00 for 3 tickets. We also have sweatshirts and posters from the "Thin Red Line" movie as door prizes. (these posters could some day become valuable in time).*

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

*For the ladies we have two hand painted bird houses as door prizes.*

Please Remember  
for Correction or Return of Address,  
to Please Include a  
9 Digit Zip Code!

# 164<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

54<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
SEPTEMBER 24-25-26 1999

RADISSON INN

800 SOUTH 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA  
(701) 258-7700 (800) 333-3333

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: \$54 SINGLE \$64 DOUBLE

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

1 PM - 7 PM REGISTRATION  
3 PM - 5 PM SOCIAL (Cash Bar) Hors de Oeuvres - KEG (Dinner on your own)  
8 PM - 10 PM DANCE - MUSIC 188TH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BAND

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1999

7 AM - 8 AM BREAKFAST  
8 AM - 1200 REGISTRATION  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM MEMORIAL SERVICE - POSTING THE COLORS (WIVES AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME)  
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM ANNUAL MEETING  
12:00 MEN'S AND LADIES LUNCHEON  
1 PM FREE TIME (MOVIE OF GUADELCANAL) (Hors de Oeuvres - KEG)  
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM SOCIAL (CASH BAR)  
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM BANQUET  
7:30 PM ENTERTAINMENT, 188TH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHORUS  
8 PM - 11 PM DANCE, 188TH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BAND

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1999

7 AM - 10 AM BREAKFAST



## REGISTRATION

MAIL TO: BEN KEMP - 54TH ANNUAL REUNION  
P.O. BOX 1111  
BISMARCK, ND 58502-1111

Enclosed is my registration fee

Attendee \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Couple \$90.00 \_\_\_\_\_ RAFFLE TICKETS \$10.00 PER BOOK OF 3 TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_  
(If you wish to order more, please do so) (The raffle tickets are a key financial support for the annual reunion)

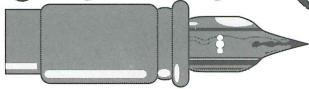
164<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENTAL FLAG. We have 40 flags remaining. They are 4" x 5" with the 164's battle streamers,  
they cost \$20.00 if they are to be mailed or \$18.00 at the reunion. \_\_\_\_\_

We have 164th Regimental Crest (Lapel Pin Type) Cost \$5.00. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT) (WIFE OR GUEST'S FIRST NAME)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE (9 DIGIT#))

# LETTERS



## To The Editor :

August 1, 1990

Dear Mr. Kemp,

Enclosed is my check for \$20.00. \$10.00 for the raffle tickets and \$10.00 dues for the year 2000.

My son, Bill and his wife Pattie and I will come to the Memorial Service on Saturday, September 25th. As I will be leaving Fargo for a few months. Please use this address to mail the membership card.

Edith Tuff  
c/o William Tuff  
526 2nd Street Court  
West Fargo, ND 58078

Thank you  
Edith Tuff  
(Mrs. John Tuff)

7-20-99

Greetings Frank and Associates,

Enclosed my check for total of \$65.00. Fifty for Life Membership, Ten for Cont'd Membership, and Five for 164th Lapal Pin Type.

Many thanks to you and your staff for such superior work. The 164th news publications have been top notch. We are very lucky to have people like you to carry on for all of us and we surely appreciate it all. I am a Life Time Member of the Americal Div. Assn. and I certainly want to do it now- I meant to do it earlier. Over 30 months ago I had a stroke so now very much chair bound at home. Thanks to my wife, Olga of 59 years of marriage we get along o.k. here in San Carlos.

I was very happy to read "The Trail of the Hawk" Eddie Burns did an outstanding write up. LTC R.K. Hall was one of a kind. Early in the war Co. K was at the Hermeston, Oregon, Ordance Depot prior to our going overseas.

Again many thanks to you and your top notch organization.

Yours truly

Tony  
Anthony A. Hannel  
LTC USA (Ret)  
1001 Rosewood, Ave.  
San Carlos, CA 94070

24 July 1999

Howdy,

I received the reunion letter the 19th. Thought about making the trip to my first reunion but decided not to attempt the drive or flight.

In 1994, I attended my 50th high school reunion and two people called me by my first name. I never knew them from Adam or Eve. This year their reunion committee sent me an invite to attend the 55th in September but I sent them a similar letter and their reunion in only two to three hours drive from my home.

Chuck Walker is the only member I once knew and I haven't seen Chuck since October 1945. We do exchange letters once in a while and he might not make this years gathering as he has something going on in Colorado about that same time. Am sure he will make it if he possibly can.

Enclosed is my 2000 renewal membership fee of ten bucks and the ten bucks for the 3 raffle tickets. Total of 20 bucks.

I see the 132nd Infantry Association folded their tent and disbanded. Our necrology list is increasing each year so the 164th won't have too many more years and it is unlikely I will ever make a meeting.

Wishing all you have a great time.

Sincerely

Zane E. Jacobs  
2075 Mariposa St.  
Seaside, CA 93955-3316

Hi Gang!

Sorry but I am not going to make it to the reunion this year due to health conditions.

Hope everyone has a great time and will try to make it next year.

In case my ticket should win apply it to the reunion costs.

As ever a Comrade

Lloyd Weber  
12122 STA99 St.  
N. Hollywood, CA 91605

July 30, 1999

Dear Sirs,

I am sending \$10.00 for the raffle tickets and \$10.00 for my dues for 2000.

I'm sorry I can't make the Reunion, but like to get the newsletter.

Yours

Erin Remmer

Dear Mr. Weisgerber,

Sorry, but will not be able to attend the Annual Reunion. I am 91 years of age and don't travel that far anymore. In addition to age other events prevent my traveling anywhere. My wife had an operation for a cancer under her tongue. The operation was successful but she couldn't gain her strength back and she passed away in April. You have my new address where I am now living with my daughter, Elaine and Husband Robert Jonietz.

Je Sus Pres,

Herman D. Wildermuth  
3342 Belle Rivera Dr.  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745-6113

*EDITOR'S NOTE - Our prayers are with you. Thanks for the \$100 memorial gift.*



July 27th, 1999

Dear Frank:

Appreciate getting all the info for the Reunion in September, but will not be able to attend. My health is okay, but when you have people scheduled to reduce the kitchen, one has to abide by their time schedule.

If everything is still okay in the year of 2000, and that will be the 55th Reunion-I might just make it.

Anyway, greet all the attendees, the ranks are certainly getting thinner and thinner.

Have enclosed my \$10.00 and the stubs for the usual drawing. Am enjoying the door prize from last year.

The best to you, Frank.

Sincerely,

John E. Gunderson  
8808 NW Lakeshore Ave.  
Vancouver, WA 98665-6526

*EDITOR'S NOTE - Great door prize contact Ben Kemp for chance on this years door prize.*



July 20, 1999

Dear Mr. Kemp,

I am unable to attend the Reunion but decided to purchase the three raffle tickets.

My husband Carl F. Forsberg was a sargent with the 164th and fought on Guadalcanal in World War II. My son James H. Forsberg retired recently as a Lt. Col. and fought two tours in Vietnam. So the military has been a big part of my life.

Yours truly,

Ruby M. Forsberg  
196 Portland Ave.  
Auburn, CA 95603

Wednesday the 21st.

Dear Jim,

First off, I want to thank you for sending all the info about Merrill's Marauders to me. But this guy Rinaldi had a lot of things mixed up about several engagements. We did not surprise the Japs in Walabum, we the Orange Column was the only one at the area. We dug in at night and at daybreak, the Japs opened up with their "big" artillery, but we were dug in good. Then the ground troops attacked and we were ready. I am not sure how many Japs were killed, but enough to make them withdraw to the South.

But the pictures were very good and I knew several of the people in them, one picture was in the Look Magazine, we were crossing a stream, troops and mules and troops were filling their canteens in that stream, we had "halozone" tablets to put in that water, and no one got sick from drinking foul water.

I am not sure if I will make the 164th reunion, because the Marauders are having their reunion at Laughlin, Nevada, the very Southern tip of Nevada, \$225.00 per couple, two nights in a very nice hotel and three meals. They even bake a cake with our insignia on it, they go all out to please us. And if one decides to come, a couple can get the same room for "\$17.00 a night!" The man that owns the casino he just "loves" Veterans. We have had our reunion down there for the past four years. Another Plus, if one wants some family to attend, they pay and have the same benefits.

I see by the info I got from Bismarck, they are going to show a tape, back to Guadalcanal in 92. Hope they do not mention that night in that at Midway! Yes, we did have a good time on that trip, will never forget it.

How long have you lived in Iowa? "Or is that your Summer Home?"

My wife, Marg, is losing her sight, deterring of the retina. And there is no cure. But she realizes it and says, what will be, will be. She can still gamble, slot machines, puts her money in and presses a button and if she wins, a rattle of coins. Her hearing is amazing, she can hear a pin drop in the hallways. She always says, I will be your ears, because you are hard of hearing, and you will be my eyes. Because I have very good sight. A wonderful wife, we will have 50 years in on the third of September. I kinda think we will have all our children home for the event.

Thanks again, Jim, for all the copying you have done and the color one too. Nice to have friends that always do things for me.

I guess this will do it for this time, we are both well, hope this finds you and yours the same.....hang in there.

As ever,

John Kent  
#1 2nd Street South  
Park East Apt. #5-304  
Fargo, ND 58103

*Editor's note - John Kent was one of the 164th Infantry men, while in Fiji, after Guadalcanal, volunteered for a special hazardous mission that turned into a 500 mile long wet walk with Merrill's Marauders in Burma. Kent was a member of the group that returned to Guadalcanal in 1992.*



July 20, 1999

Dear Frank:

Good to receive mail re: 54th Reunion. Circumstances at this time prevents us from attending the Reunion this year. We always enjoyed and have fond memories of past Reunions.

Enclosed check to cover raffle ticket, year 2000 dues and for one Regimental Flag.

Our best regards and affection to everyone attending the Reunion this year.

Continue your wonderful service to our beloved 164th Regiment.

Kind regards - Smile & Be Happy

Nick and Sandra Cascio  
38 Forte Ave.  
Medford, NY 11763-4431



I am unable to attend the reunion this year but hope to see everyone in Fargo next year.

Jerry Waldhouser  
247 Poplar St. W  
South St. Paul, MN 55075



Dear Ben,

Enclosing \$10.00 for 164th ticket.

Edward Gaik  
2055 N Newland Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60707-3335

P.S. Please say Hi to the boys of Company K.



August 9, 1999

Dear Frank,

I am enclosing check for the annual raffle tickets.

Due to health reasons, Virginia and I will not be attending the Reunion this fall.

We have always enjoyed the annual reunions that we have attended and especially the trip to Guadalcanal in 1992.

We hope to be able to attend the next years Reunion.

Have a good time.

Best regards,

Norman and Virginia Samson  
700 Barsby St.  
Vista, CA

Bob saw in the Americal Newsletter he gets that you would like names of chaplains who served in WWII. Enclosed are 2 copies of snapshots of a chapel built at Bougainville. The chaplain was William Buege, a Lutheran minister. Chaplin Buege is in both pictures.

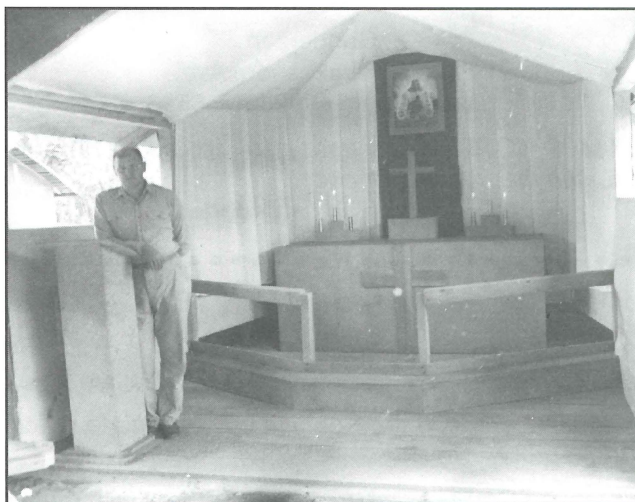
Sincerely,

Robert and Lorraine Radune  
308 Oak Street  
McArthur, OH 45651



Picture #1 - Lutheran Chapel on Bougainville in 1943/1944. Chaplin William Buege in center. No IDs for other soldiers.

Photo by Robert Radune



Picture #2 - Reverend William Buege, Lutheran minister in the Chapel built on Bougainville in 1943/1944.

Photo by Robert Radune

Dear Sirs,

I am Thurston Nelson's youngest son, Eric. We appreciate your recognition of my father. His tie to you gentlemen superseded everything but his family. God bless you all.

I would greatly appreciate if you would let me know the next time you meet in Fargo.

Sincerely,  
Eric Nelson



7-21-99

Dear Frank,

Yesterday I forgot to include ten dollars for the three raffle tickets. Recon you now have the other check for \$65.

Wish I could attend the annual reunion but my legs have just about given out so I stay at home while my wife Olga carries on without any outside help. These Norsk gals are durable - lucky for me. On our 45th anniversary visit to the Canal with Valor Tours. My wife Olga grabbed a shovel to help dedicate the Skyline Memorial Site.

The 50th anniversary with our group of 27 Vets was a Memorial event. Your committee chose me to carry the state flag at each site. You all have a great time at the Bismarck reunion.

Tony

P.S. I will be 85 in September.

Anthony A. Hannel  
Ltc USA (Ret)  
1001 Rosewood Ave.  
San Carlos, CA 94070-3837



8-3-99

Hi Ben:

Your darn right I'll be there to see all my good OLD Buddies. Tell them that I once again will take the 164th first place winner and be smiling as I spend it.

Always  
Hickey

P.S. Sorry fellows, but you know how it is.

Walter Hickey  
PO Box 373  
Hilliard, FL 32046-0373

Dear Frank:

Bismarck always does a beautiful job of hosting the 164th Reunion. I must send my regrets - but enclosed please find a check for the raffle tickets and one Regimental Lapel pin and to greet of those in attendance.

Sincerely  
Clarence O. Blecha, Co C  
4582 Belmont Rd.  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-7916



Dear Sir,

Enclosed are my dues and raffle tickets.

Sorry I can't attend the reunion. I would like so much to meet some of the members and visit your fine state. Distance does keep us apart.

Hope you have a very successful and enjoyable Reunion, my thoughts are with you all.

I really enjoy the newsletter. Always hoping I'll see some name that I recognize. Keep up the good work.

God Bless you and all the 164th Members.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Trageser, Co "E" 164th  
1163 Fawn Grove Rd.  
New Park, PA 17352



August 13, 1999

Would appreciate six more raffle tickets - don't know if we can make the Reunion!!

Lawrence C. Wittmer  
RR1 Box 34  
Blair, OK 73526-9013



Frank

Sorry we won't be able to make the reunion this year.

Hoist one for me.

Al Wiest, Colonel  
4924 Carole Dr. NE  
Olympia, WA 98516-2224  
H. Co. and M. Co.

---

*"Italians come to learn most generally in three ways - women, gambling and farming. My family chose the slowest one."  
- Pope John XXIII*

August 16, 1999

I received my 164th Infantry paper today, and was surprised by page 11. You have a picture of Marie and Rosemary Honson. My buddy "Joby" Schmidt and I use to play tennis with them at the Fiji Tennis Club.

We would take them home after the game, and their dad would sit on the porch until we left.

Ron Davis, Co "A"  
7418 28th NW  
Seattle, WA 98117-595

P.S. Am enclosing a picture of my "Little League" team from Fiji. Please return as it is one of my prize mementos. Ha!

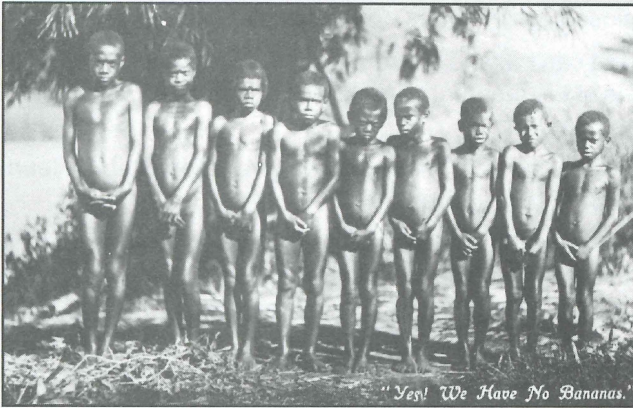


Photo by Walter Horne & Co. Ltd Suva, Fiji, March 6, 1943 by Ronald A. Davis, A Company, 164th.

*EDITOR'S NOTE - The father of Marie and Rosemary was a very smart man to sit on the porch and visit with you two guys.*

Ben

Mom and I will be there again, to keep you "old wardogs in line!" We tag along for the "Spirit" of Erwin A Ventsch, Company A!!

Warren Ventsch

*EDITORS NOTE - We old wardogs appreciate you.*

July 22, 1999

Regret that Clayton and I are unable to attend the Reunion. How we'd love to be there!!

Enclosing the raffle ticket stubs and a check. We'd also like to order one 164th Regimental flag and one lapel pin.

We send greetings to all our friends and comrades. We'll be there in thought and spirit!

Mary and Clayton Kingston  
201 Westwood Lane  
Union, WA 98592-9714

Here is a check for \$60.00 for Life Membership and \$10.00 for tickets if they are winners donate to the Association.

Thank you

James K. Link  
16235 9th Ave. NE  
Seattle, WA 98155

### To You My Dear



We'll not be gone for long, my dear  
as you may think it to be.  
We're thousands strong, and we're not wrong,  
we'll come back with victory.

We're far across the ocean blue  
To fight for what we own.  
To key the Stars and Stripes on high,  
As it has always flown.

We've always been a peaceful kind  
In this, our glorious land.  
We'll not let it down, it's up to us,  
To keep it as we've planned.

We'll tear the Japs and make them run,  
And perhaps the Germans too.  
They'll find it isn't so much fun,  
When we start going through.

As I write these words to you, my dear,  
I'm still sailing the ocean blue,  
And when we reach our port, my dear,  
I hope to hear from you.

Pvt. Herbert Glodue



August 8, 1999

Enclosed are 3 raffle tickets stubs - \$10.00 and Annual Membership due - \$10.00. Check enclosed for total \$20.00.

I started to read "The Thin Red Line" but gave up quickly. Should have been sited on Guadalcanal, mostly cursing, too little combat in first 100 pages although the latter part of the book might be better. Not in the same class as "From Here to Eternity." (Same author, Jones)

Stanley T. Gadomski  
COE 2nd BN Machine Gunner  
13 Cree Dr.  
Oxon Hill, MD 20745-1214

*EDITOR'S NOTE - The movie was a farce.*

*"There is no sin punished more implacably by nature than the sin of resistance to change."*

— Anne Spencer Morrow Lindborgh

8-4-99

Ben Kemp

164th Reunion

Sorry that we will be unable to make the Reunion this year. We had a previously scheduled trip.

My order for a flag, lapel pin and raffle tickets enclosed.

Have a good time

Hooky

Charles Bell  
"The Band"  
949-675-5657

We are having a meeting of the farwest chapter of the Americal Division at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas, October 17-October 20. We have notified 164th band members that they are especially welcome.

Chuck  
113 E Bay Ave.  
Newport Beach, CA 92661-1119

.....

7-24-99

Dear Sirs:

I'm writing for my husband, Bob Todd, to let you know he has not received the last quarterly paper. He really enjoys them a lot so I would appreciate if one could be sent.

As he is a resident of the Old Soldiers Home in Orting, WA, we will be unable to attend the reunion but believe me he will be thinking of all his 164th buddies..

Thank you,

Donna Todd  
9314 Canyon Rd. E. #64  
Puyallup, Washington 98371



*The Tokyo Express. Four Japanese destroyers return up the Slot after delivering reinforcements and supplies to Guadalcanal. Reporting these runs was an important part of the Coastwatchers' work and led to expanding the network to Vella Lavella and Choiseul.*

8-18-99

Sir:

Enclosed is \$10.00 check for my 1999 164th Infantry Association membership dues. I served in K Co of the 164th Infantry in WWII.

Bernard A. Scheer  
502 Jackson St.  
Hutchinson, MN 55350

.....

July 24, 1999

Ben Kemp:

Enclosed is \$50 for Life Membership plus \$10 for three Raffle Tickets.

Best wishes for the 54th Annual Reunion.

Robert O. Bradley  
984 20th St.  
Lakeport, CA 95453

.....

Dear Ben Kemp,

I just got notice yesterday of the death of former Anti tank man, Ernest Hauser in 9401 Salnce Lane Fairdale, KY 40188.

Ernest was a fine man of our Company and had been home for a couple reunions and he had told me that he wanted to make it to our next reunion in Harvey but I guess a bout with lung cancer done him in. Say I got your paper today and it is a masterpiece. I am going to take my copy to the local library, I am sure many people will like reading all the history in this edition.

So long and good luck and I hope to see you all in September.

John L. Strauss  
As of Oct. First,  
ND Veterans Home  
1400 Rose St.  
PO Box 673  
Lisbon, ND 58054-0673

.....

Hi Ben

I was hoping I would be able to make the reunion this year but my health not to good. Got a heart problem and my knees are getting bad.

So say hello to everyone for me.

As ever,

Ted Ouradnik  
7008 Lake Rd. Apt 119  
Woodbury, MN 55125

# “Blood & Guts” Patton Speech

*(General Patton did not know this speech was being recorded in shorthand by a technical sergeant that had been a court reporter before the war)*

“Men, this stuff some sources sling around about America wanting to stay out of the war and not wanting to fight is a lot of god damned baloney, America loves a winner. America will not tolerate a loser. Americans despise a coward, Americans play to win. That’s why America has never lost and will never lose a war, for the very thought of losing is hateful to an American.

You are not all going to die. Only two per cent of you, right here today, would be killed in a major battle. Death must not be feared. Death in time comes to all of us every man is scared in his first action. If he says he’s not, he’s a goddamn liar. Some men are cowards, yes, but they fight just the same, or get the hell slammed out of them. The real hero is the man who fights even thou he’s scared. Some get over their fright in a minute, under fire, others take an hour; for some it takes days, but the real man will never let the fear of death overpower his honor, his sense of duty to his country or his manhood.

All through your Army careers, you have been bitching about what you call “chickenshit drill”. That, like everything else in the Army, has a definite purpose. That purpose is instant obedience to order and to create and maintain constant alertness. ...A man must be alert at all times if he expects to stay alive. If not, some goddamn German son-of-a-bitch will sneak up behind him with a sock full of shit. There are four hundred neatly marked graves somewhere in Sicily, all because one man went to sleep on his job, but they are German graves, because we caught the bastards asleep. An army as a team, sleeps, fights and eats as a team. This individual hero stuff is a lot of goddamn horseshit. The bilious bastard who write that kind of stuff for the Saturday Evening Post don’t know any more about real fighting then they know about fu----).

Every man has his job to do, and must do it. What is every

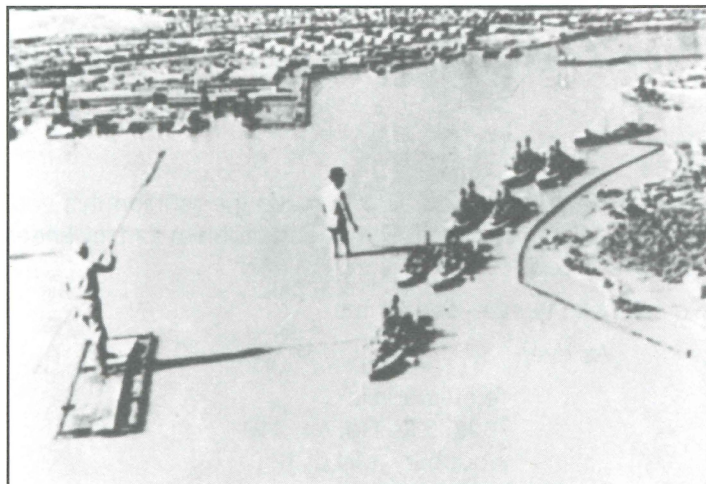
truck driver decided he didn’t like the whine of a shell overhead, turned yellow and jumped headlong into a ditch?.....Ordnance men supply and maintain the guns and vast machinery of this war to keep us rolling. Quartermasters bring up clothes and food, for where we’re going there isn’t a hell of a lot to steal. Every man on KP has a job to do, even the guy who boils the water to keep us from getting the GI shits.

Remember, men, you don’t know I’m here. No mention of me is to be made of me in any letters. The USA is supposed to be wondering what the hell happened to me. I’m not supposed to be commanding this Army. I’m not even supposed to be in England.

Let the first goddamn bastards to find out be the goddamn Germans. I want them to look up and howl, “Ach, it’s the GODDAMN THIRD ARMY AND THAT SON OF A BITCH PATTON AGAIN.” We want to get this thing over and get the hell out of here, and get at those purple-pissing Japanese. The shortest road home is through Berlin and Tokyo. We’ll win this war, but we’ll win it only by showing the enemy we have more guts than they have or ever will have. There’s one great thing that you men can say when it’s all over and you’re home once more. You can thank God that twenty years from now, when you’re sitting around the fireside with your grandson on you knee, and he asks what you did in the war, you won’t have to shift him to the other knee cough and say, “I shoveled shit in Louisiana.

*(THIS IS A PORTION OF THE SPEECH GEORGE “BLOOD AND GUTS” PATTON GAVE TO THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION PRIOR TO THEIR JUMP IN SICILY JULY 9, 1943.--Patton also said “I want you to remember that no son of a bitch ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other son of a bitch die for his country” ) Submitted by: Tom Graham 82nd. A.B.Div. WWII Sicily July 9, 1943.*

Below: For pre-strike planning, Japanese planners used this mock-up of the ships on Battleship Row



## OPERATION Z

The Japanese plan for the attack on Pearl Harbor was code-named “Operation Z.” It was interwoven and inseparable from the events leading up to the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Here are some highlights of those events which launched Operation Z:

December, 1940—Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto reveals Operation Z in discussions with his Chief of Staff.

January, 1941—U.S. Ambassador Joseph Grew reports a rumor that the Japanese are planning a surprise attack against Pearl Harbor.

August, 1941—The Japanese propose to make no advances beyond Indo-China if the United States will restore free trade with Japan, discontinue aid to China, and persuade China to recognize Japan’s authority in Indo-China.

September, 1941—The Japanese Imperial Conference decides war is necessary if the United States and Japan cannot come to agreements before October.

September, 1941—Spies in the Japanese

consulate in Honolulu are ordered to report on U.S. warships in Pearl Harbor.

November, 1941—A “final” Japanese proposal is presented in Washington.

November, 1941—A Japanese task force sails in secret from Takan Bay in the remote Kurile Islands.

December 1, 1941—The Japanese Privy Council authorizes an attack on Pearl Harbor.

December 2, 1941—The Japanese ambassador in Washington is ordered to destroy all codebooks.

December 7, 1941—At 5:30 a.m., Hawaii time, Washington is alerted to the possibility of attack and warns the Pacific Fleet, a warning which did not arrive in time.

December 7, 1941—At 3:45 a.m., Hawaii time, the USS Condor sights a periscope and makes an alert signal to the destroyer USS Ward.

December 7, 1941—The Japanese unleash a surprise attack on the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor.

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.

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

*continued on pg 17*

## HG. XIV CORPS

### CACTUS

*G-2 Section*

*February 12, 1943*

### *-- A Brief Summary of the Battle for Guadalcanal --*

On August 7, 1942 the 1st Marine Division reinforced by the 2nd Regiment of the 2nd Marine Division stormed and took Tulagi, Gavutu and the area of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal. The resistance they met at this time was from the Japanese Navy and Marine Units. Most of the resistance occurred on Tulagi and Gavutu which was the Headquarters for these units. On Guadalcanal there were mostly labor units engaged in the construction of Henderson Field. Many of these were Koreans.

The first Japanese Unit to land on Guadalcanal, after occupation by U.S. forces, was the Ichiki Detachment. This detachment, about 1500 strong, consisted of a reinforced 2nd Battalion of the 28th Regiment of the 7th Division under the direction of Colonel Ichiki Kiyono. This was later reinforced by the Regimental Artillery. On August 21st the detachment, without waiting for the Regimental Artillery, attacked the U.S. positions in the vicinity of the Tenaru River. They were repulsed with heavy losses, approximately 900 of the detachment being killed.

Around the last of August and the first part of September, their regimental Artillery arrived, landing near Koli Point. At about the same time the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 124th Infantry Regiment of the 18th Division together with their Regimental Artillery and Rapid Fire Units landed at Taivu Point. This unit combined with the remnants of the Ichiki Unit to form the KAWAGUCHI DETACHMENT under Major General KAWAGUCHI. (Major General KAWAGUCHI was formerly the commanding General of the 35th Division, or Commanding General of the Infantry forces of the Division.) This unit, about 5000 strong, moved to a point south of Henderson Field and on the night of September 12th and 13th, attacked in the vicinity of Edson's Ridge. This was known as the Battle of Bloody Ridge. The Japanese Units forced our forces back and penetrated deep into our lines, nearly obtaining their objective but the Marines rallied and pushed them back with heavy losses. The 1st Battalion of the OKA Unit (124th Infantry Regiment) was almost exterminated and only about 70 men of the Ichiki Unit survived this struggle.

Following this defeat the Japanese Units pushed on to the west where they joined the units of the 124th Infantry Regiment which had landed near KOKUMBONA. The trip required between ten days and two weeks. The units had been so confident of victory that they only carried three days provisions into the battle. Thinking they could live off the land, they started out for the west coast without obtaining further provisions. They soon found out that it was impossible to live off the land and their retreat soon became a fight against

*continued on pg 14*

sickness and starvation. All their artillery pieces had to be buried along the trail and it has been estimated that from one-third to one-half of the force died from sickness and starvation along the way. The artillery units never became active units again.

After joining the 2nd Battalion on the west coast, they rested up in the beach area until they received reinforcement. These arrived around the first part of October together with elements of the 2nd Division under Lt. Gen. Maruyama and Major General Ito. A portion of the Headquarters of the 17th Army, commanded by Lt. Gen. Hyakutake, (the main headquarters is still located at Shortland) arrived on October 10th. Lt. Gen. Hyakutake, arrived at the same time but soon returned to Shortland leaving Lt. Gen. Maruyama in charge of operations on Guadalcanal. By the 18th of October, the entire 2nd Division was on Guadalcanal. The 29th Infantry Regiment, a portion of the 16th Infantry Regiment (probably two battalions) and the reinforced OKA unit was formed into the AOBA Detachment under Major General KAWAGUCHI. This detachment worked its way around to a point south of the airport and east of Edson's Ridge. They attacked our perimeter on October 25th and 26th. The 29th Regiment attacked on the 25th. They were allowed to penetrate our lines and then were mowed down by machine gun fire. According to prisoner reports only around 300 of the regiment survived the attack. On the 26th, the 16th Regiment led the attack and were supported by the OKA Unit. The 16th received heavy losses and the OKA Unit also suffered, but not as heavily as the 16th. This was the first major encounter in which U.S. Army forces were engaged as the 164th Infantry Regiment and 2nd Battalion of the 7th Marine Regiment repulsed this attack.

\*See Editor's note

On October 23rd and 24th a large Japanese force, supported by ten tanks, attacked along the coast road in the vicinity of the Matanikau River. This force was probably the 4th Infantry Regiment plus one battalion of the 16th. Information obtained from prisoners indicated that the attacks at Matanikau and south perimeter were supposed to occur simultaneously. However, due to inability of the southern force to reach their position in time, or some other mix-up, the attack on the perimeter was three days late. The attack at the Matanikau was repulsed by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 5th Marine Regiment with destruction of all the tanks and over 2000 Japs killed.

In late October, Japanese units were landed to the east of Henderson Field near Koli Point. Because of the U.S. forces advancing to the east, on November 5th, as far as Koli Point and at the same time to the west as far as Point Cruz, news of a large Japanese force approaching Guadalcanal on November 12th and 13th necessitated the withdrawal of the Western lines back to the Matanikau. The forces opposing our advance to the west are supposed to be elements of the 4th, 16th and 29th Infantry Regiments. Those opposing the advance to the east were probably one battalion of the 16th Infantry Regiment or one battalion of the 4th Infantry Regiment.

Around the 8th of November, the 228th Infantry Regiment of the 38th Division landed in the Kokumbona area together with the Headquarters of the 38th Division under the command of Lt. Gen. Sano Tadayoshi and Maj. Gen. Ito Takeo. The OKA Unit (124th Infantry Regiment) was attached to the 228th Infantry Regiment to form the Ito Detachment which proceeded around the middle of November to the vicinity of Mt. Austen, where they took up positions. The OKA Unit held the center of the line, the 2nd Battalion of the 228th Inf. Reg. held the right wing, lying between Hills 27 and 31, while the 3rd Bn. held the left wing in the vicinity of Miharishi Dai (The Sea Horse). The regimental Headquarters and the 1st Battalion Headquarters were located on the west side of Sakai Dai (The Horse) and the 1st Battalion covered the area between the 3rd Battalion position on the south and the 2nd Division position on the north. Their instructions were to hold their positions at all costs until such a time as fresh troops could be brought in. This was the approximated position of the various units at the time of the U.S. drive which started on December 26th with a drive on Mt. Austen area by the 132nd Infantry Regiment. of the Americal Division. The drive was extended to the entire southwestern front by Jan. 10th with the Americal Division, 25th Division and 147th Regiment of the 37th Division participating from the Army. They were assisted by the 2nd Marine Division and Naval and Air Units which bombed and shelled the enemy positions. The drive spoken of is the one which started on December 26th and got going in earnest around January 10th. Due to encirclement movements, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 228th Infantry Regiment and the main portion of the OKA Unit were encircled and cut off from their supplies shortly after January 10th. Further movements separated the 2nd Battalion of the 228th Inf. Reg., the OKA Unit and the 3rd Battalion of the 228th Infantry Regiment into three separate pockets. The Oka Unit Headquarters together with Colonel Oka moved out of the area between January 7th and 10th. They proceeded to the 228th Regimental Headquarters at Sakai Dai and there sent word back to the troops to disband and move to the coastal area as best they could. The 2nd Battalion of the 228th under Major Inagaki elected to fight it out and were annihilated around the 25th or 26th of January. Members of the Oka Unit attempted to breakthrough the U.S. lines but were repulsed and most of them killed. Scattered members managed to infiltrate through the lines and reach the coast area and have been identified in that area since. Most of the 3rd Battalion of the 228th Infantry Regiment was exterminated in the pocket between Hills 43 and 53. The 228th Regimental Headquarters together with elements of the 1st Battalion, probably reached the coastal area. With the mopping up of the Mt. Austen, Miharashi Dai and Sakai Dai areas the Japanese forces were confined to the coastal area between Kamimbo and Kokumbona. On Feb. 1st the 132nd Infantry landed at Lavaro to the southwest of the Japanese positions. From then on the Japanese forces were pocketed in their beach positions.

On November 14th, a large convoy containing eleven transports and cargo vessels approached Guadalcanal. It was attacked by U.S. air forces and only four of the vessels reached shore, three of these were destroyed the following morning. Apparently most of these vessels were bringing

supplies but it is known that two battalions of the 229th Infantry Regiment and two battalions of the 230th Infantry Regiment were aboard. (One battalion of the 229th Infantry Regiment is known to be in the vicinity of Wickham Harbor. One battalion of the 230th Infantry Regiment was reported by prisoners to have been left at Munda.) Of these it is estimated that not more than three companies of the 230th and two companies of the 229th were able to land. It is known that a unit of about 130 men from the 230th were sent to the vicinity of Mt. Austen to reinforce the rear line of the Oka Unit. The balance of the 230th and the remains of the 229th were left in the coastal area to assist the remnants of the 2nd Division. Some of the units from the 230th escaped from Mt. Austen and returned to the beach area.

Following the defeat of November 14th the Japanese brought in small numbers of replacements at night on destroyers, the last arriving on January 14th, a unit of approximately 700 replacements for the 230th Infantry Regiment. Aside from replacements no new units were landed on Guadalcanal after November 14th. On the night of February 7th all remaining troops were evacuated from Guadalcanal. A portion were probably evacuated by the "Tokyo Express" of Feb. 1-2. While the largest specific losses suffered by the Japanese forces occurred on the instances mentioned above, it must be remembered that a large number were killed in patrol and local area skirmishes and artillery shellings which were constantly going on. Also it is known that the Japanese were short of rations and medicines from October on and had numerous deaths from sickness and starvation.

Aside from the above mentioned Infantry Combat Units, numerous Artillery, Communication, Transport, and Hospital Units were brought to Guadalcanal by Japanese forces.

Of the Artillery Units, aside from the Regimental Artillery Units of the Oka and Ichiki Detachments, which were used in the battle of Edson's Ridge and later buried along the trail, the only Artillery Unit which set up their position in the hills was a portion of the 10th Independent Mountain Artillery Unit consisting of four model 42, 77mm guns. One of these was buried on the way and the other three were set up on the crest of a hill to the southwest of hill 43. These were captured on January 14th. These batteries were not used much and most of the unit died from sickness and starvation. The balance of the artillery units including the 969th Heavy Field Artillery (12 16-cm guns), the 4th Independent Field Artillery (?), the 38th Field Artillery Unit, and the 39th Independent Ant-Aircraft Unit all remained in the coast area.

Of the engineer units on the island, the 2nd Division Engineer Battalion, the 38th Division Engineer Unit and the 15th Independent Engineer Unit have been identified.

Of the hospital units, the 1st Field Hospital, 2nd Field Hospital, 3rd Field Hospital, 4th Field Hospital and the 167th Line of Communications Hospital have been identified. There is also indication that a small Navel hospital was also here.

Of communication units, the 17th Army Communication Unit, the 5142 Independent Communications Unit and the 88th Independent Communications unit have been identified.

There were two wireless stations, the 34th Permanent Wireless Unit located at Kokumbona and an unidentified unit

located at Kamimbo.

From the above data, a rough estimate of the strength of the Japanese forces landed on Guadalcanal, or attempted to be landed on Guadalcanal can be made.

Ichiki Detachment	1,500
124th Inf. Reg. (OKA) Reinforced	4,500
* Entire 2nd Div.	13,500
* Entire 228th Reg., 38th Div.	3,332
Two Bns., 229th Reg., 38th Div.	2,300
Two Bns., 230th Reg., 38th Div.	2,300
* Divisional Artillery, 2nd Div.	2,732
10th Independent Mt. Art.	1,000
Other Art. Units (Approx.)	1,000
Engineer Units	1,200
Transport Units	1,000
Medical Units	750
4 Field Hospitals (Inc. in 2nd Div. Est.)	
Medical Detachments	500
Communications Units	600
Replacements	<u>1,500</u>
TOTAL	42,664

The figures for the strength of Units marked with an asterisk \* are taken from the table of organization inasmuch as it was definitely established that these Units were here in full strength. The estimate of strength of all other units was made from information obtained from prisoners and captured documents. It is estimated that not more than 1500 to 2000 men were evacuated off Guadalcanal. This leaves a total of between 39,000 to 40,000 men lost by the Japanese in their attempt to hold Guadalcanal.

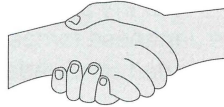
JOHN A. BURDEN,  
Captain, M.C.,  
Language Section.

*EDITOR'S NOTE - source of information Art Timboe (Colonel) papers. \* If the Japanese forces had been able to coordinate all their planned attacks on the perimeter defense line surrounding Henderson Field thru October 24-25, 1942 Coffin Coroner battle may have ended in a different way. Appears that the jungle and extremely rugged terrain and the angels were on our side.*

**Oh Lord... Help me to be  
careful of the toes I step on  
today, as they may be  
connected to the ass that I  
may have to kiss  
tomorrow.**



## New Life Members



**Robert J. Alin**, 26 July, 1999 - West Fargo, ND  
**Robert O. Bradley**, 30 July, 1999 - Lakeport, CA  
\* **Carmen Burgad**, 24 August, 99 - Napoleon, ND  
**Robert Cruse**, 26 July, 1999 - Devils Lake, ND  
\* **Deloras K. Foss**, 25 August, 1999 - Crookson, MN  
**Eldroy O. Greuel**, 24 August, 1999 - Casselton, ND  
\* **Benny J. Haman**, 4 August, 1999 - Williston, ND  
**Authur W. Hanley**, 30 August, 1999 - Mount Vernon, WA  
**Anton A. Hannel**, 26 July, 1999 - San Carlos, CA  
**Maurice A. Hannum**, 27 August, 1999 - Powell, WY

\* **Laila Burns Hedstrom**, 8 August, 1999 - Hoffman, MN  
**Albert C. Kleinhuizen**, 22 August, 1999 - Battle Creek, MI  
**James Klink**, 21 August, 1999 - Shoreline, Wa  
**Howard Lauter**, 26 July, 1999 - Milford, NJ  
**Jerry Longmuir**, 3 August, 1999 - Menoken, ND  
\* **Alice Rott**, 31 July, 1999 - Fargo, ND  
**Richard E. Stowell**, 27 July, 1999 - Denver, CO  
\* **Jean A. Van Tassel**, 31 August, 1999 - Lewiston, ID  
\* **Warren Ventsch**, 10 August, 1999 - Valley City, ND  
\* Associated Member

## New Members

\* **Dan Hobot**, 1 September, 1999 - Brooklyn Park, MN  
Dan is the grandson of James M. Fenelon our editor

\* **Jane Hanson Wiens**, 29 April, 1999 - Pensacola, FA  
\*Associated Member

1883



1955

### 164th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

3 September 1999

SUBJECT: Membership, Newsletter and Funds

TO: **FRANK WEISGERBER**, President  
**ALVIN TOLLEFSRUD**, Vice President  
**JAMES M. FENELON**, Editor

As of 1 September 1999 we have a total membership of 626.

Life Members	190
Members	357
Associated Life Members	19
Associated Members	60

Monies fro the life members have, in most cases been spent a long time ago. Our income comes from "Members" and "Associated Members" Which totals 417. Dues are \$10.00 per year, so we have an income of \$4,170.00.

The cost of the last newsletter was: (average)

Printing cost	\$3,229.60
Postage	\$ 135.42
Typing Cost	\$ 125.00
TOTAL COST	\$3,490.02


Average cost per newsletter is \$5.16

We cashed in on CD in the amount of \$7,000.00 to help pay for the last newsletter. We have one more CD in the amount of \$10,725.00 plus this years interest. Qw have two more news letters to publish this year. (This is a requirement to get a reduced postage rate - 4 letters a year). At this rate we will be out of business by the reunion in Fargo, year 2000.

OPTIONS: One option is that we print only two newsletter per year, we will spend more on postage but save a lot on printing cost.

I think this matter should be addressed at the business meeting and also printed in the next newsletter.

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but we must address this NOW as we have other costs beside the newsletter.

  
BEN KEMP  
SEC/TREAS

## Memorial Gifts

In memory of George Duis \$50.00  
M. Company, 164th Infantry  
Gloria Duis, Fargo, North Dakota

\$100 memorial gift from  
Herman D. Willerdmuth in memory of his wife  
3242 Belle River Drive  
Hacienda Heights, California 91745-6113

## 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.

*continued from pg 13*

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.

## ONLY THE "ENEMY MOVED" AT NIGHT

Avid attention was always given to the jungle front. There was no smoking, no talking, and most of all no above ground movement. No one left the foxhole to defecate. Only one's eyes were above the foxhole edge. Firing at a Japanese ruse gave away ones' position. One prevented this at all cost. The Guadalcanal full moon was a blessing. The light was bright enough to distinguish movement. Any unusual movement seen in the bright moonlight had a grenade thrown at it.

Facing the enemy from a foxhole night after night, across a small strip of jungle measuring 15 to 20 yards was a true test of the emotional makeup of any fighting man. His prior combat experience, his military training, his emotional stability, as well as his preparation for each specific enemy encounter, all influenced his reactions.

At night, odors filtered down the defense line. One became especially aware of one's own body odor, as well as that of his "buddy." It was distinguishable from the enemy's odor, so entirely different from the living Americans. The body odors of the living were mixed with the stench of the decaying dead, both Japanese and American; an odor never to be forgotten.

## PRIORITIES OF THE FOXHOLE SOLDIER

The bearded, emaciated, physically tired soldier became weakened by the emotional and physical stress of combat (see Fig. 8G and 8K). His priorities were simply for survival. First, if wounded, he requested

medical aid. Then he requested water, and then ammunition especially hand grenades, last if ever, food. The tired, haggard infantryman continued to fight perhaps for his survival, but more than likely for the respect and faith he had for his "buddy" soldiers.

The dreaded night was hell for the foxhole soldier. However, as the rising sun brightened the jungle floor, life took on a new meaning. Silent prayers and thanks were given to God for granting the foxhole soldier survival during the night, and most of all for a new day and a new lease on life.

## THE CYCLE OF SURVIVAL

Tired as the soldier was, he gathered his physical and emotional strength to leave his foxhole security to meet the daytime duties required of him, be what they may. These duties included patrols, assault on the enemy, or to clean out enemy night infiltrators. The cycle of survival then repeated itself; again the soldier prayed silently to God thanking him for granting his buddies and himself survival throughout another long, long night.

One infantryman of "G" Company settled between two recently killed Japanese; he survived the night by chewing tobacco. He would spit some out on the dead Japanese to his left and then spit on the dead Japanese to his right. This permitted him to stay awake all night long.

Another infantryman thought he saw Japanese movement at night. Lt. Quast asked him to fix his bayonet and use it. Within an hour after sunset one heard the sound of his cold steel bayonet striking against solid rock.

## SHADOWS OF LONELY CROSSES

Some of the battalion dead were buried below the battalion aid station on Hill 27. Small crude crosses marked their graves. The shadows cast by the crosses gave most men a lonely feeling, knowing that the fallen soldier will never see home again, a home thousands of miles away from the lonely jungle.

On 9 January 1943 Cpl. Robertson recorded in his diary, "Ma; Butler told us we leave the hill in the morning. Our job here was done. The sun slowly goes down and I see shadows cast by crosses, marking the graves of our dead, just a little above me. The crosses are pitifully crude, but the best we could do. They won't come back—they're so alone here in the jungle—so far from home. My eyes fill with tears at the thought. I'm not ashamed to cry."

The fire-fight at Hill 27 continued until 10 January when the Second Battalion was finally and completely relieved. On 10 January the switch was completed with the Second Battalion 35th Infantry.

# Return Trip To Guadalcanal, October, 1992

Right: Stop in Anchorage, Alaska and a pleasant meal. (L-R) - Bill Tillotson, General McDonald, Ralph Gaugler, Tony Beer, "Bernie" Wagner, and Elmo Olson.



Left: Elmo Olson, a native shopkeeper and "Bernie Wagner. Honorary, Guadalcanal, October 1992.

Right: Elmo Olson, G. Company, Finley, North Dakota in front of Mendana Hotel, Point Cruz, Guadalcanal, October, 1992. A very sever battle was fought in this area by the 164th Infantry in 1942. The Capitol City, Honorary, Guadalcanal is now located in this spot and has about 30,000 population. No city in 1942.



R&R - Stop over at Midway Island on way to Guadalcanal, October, 1992 on was (L-R) Don Robinson, Elmo Olson, Jim Fenelon, Ralph Gaugler. Elmo Olson had an unusual checkbook full of cash and he spent some of it on liquids at the very long bar in the recreation facility on Midway.

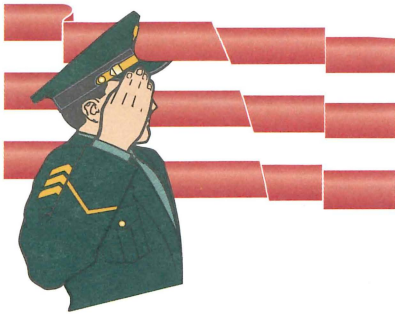
"When I sell liquor,  
it's called bootlegging;  
when my patrons serve  
it on silver trays  
on Lake Shore Drive,  
it's called hospitality."  
— Al Capone



# Last Roll Call



*Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near...  
 And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear  
 All of my love around you soft and clear.  
 And then, when you must come this way alone,  
 I'll greet you with a smile and "Welcome Home."  
 Author unknown*



## Professor Cecil

Jim Cecil (ASN 20711003) joined E Company, 164th Infantry, Williston, ND, May 1939 and served with the 164th Infantry Regiment in the WWII battles of Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, Philippines. Cecil was in the Coffin Coroner battle (October 24-26, 1942) that stopped the last major Japanese land attack to recapture Henderson Field. In the Koli Point operation Sgt. Cecil was commended for outstanding action against the enemy forces. Cecil as a member of a volunteer patrol checking communication lines with his aggressive action with hand grenades and rifle (M-1) assisted in the elimination of two enemy machine-gun positions. Sgt. Cecil displayed unusual initiative and personal courage in directing the rapid evacuation of the wounded from the field of action. Before returning to the U.S. Cecil received the Bronze Star, with Oak Leaf Cluster, Asiatic Theater Ribbon with three combat stars, an American Defense Ribbon, WWII Victory Medal, a Naval Presidential Unit Citation and an Army Presidential Unit Ribbon and the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB).

Cecil was discharged May 1945 and utilized the G.I. Bill by enrolling at the University of North Dakota and received a Bachelors Degree in 1949. He taught in public schools in North Dakota and Minnesota including Arnegard, ND; St. John's; ND, Twin Valley and Crookston, MN.

In 1965 Cecil became Assistant Professor of political science at Bemidji State University retiring in 1991 as professor of political science and department chairman. He had been active in Inter Faculty Organization, faculty senate, American Political Science Association and numerous campus committees. He also participated in several research projects including the Micro City project on small cities and studies on the economic impact of the Mississippi River and on housing in northern Minnesota.

He served in several community organizations in the Bemidji area, including the Bemidji City Charter Commission, planning commission, police commission and the 164th Infantry Association. A political activist, he served several terms as associate chairman of the Beltrami county Democrat Farm Labor (DFL), where he served on numerous fund raising and campaign committees from the local to the national level.

In 1981 Cecil returned to Australia to pursue studies in the Australian Parliament system of government in Canberra, Sidney and Melbourne. The course of studies involved meeting with various Australian government officials and comparing the Australian forum of government with the U.S. Federal and State governments. He made a second trip to Australia for a conference on Federalism.

Cecil your professional career touched and inspired many young people in advancing their educational goals. Cecil was a member of the group of 27 former 164thers that revisited the Guadalcanal battle fields October 1992.

Honorary casket bearers were Clayton Braaten, Steve Engel, James Fenelon, Raymone Karhu, John McCarthy, Richard deNiord, Marvin Norden, Frank Saccoman and Ralph Zachman.

Casket bearers were Richard Beitzel, Red Cherrey, Ken Erie, Charles Joseph, Arthur Lee, Michael Meuers, Henry Rossiter and Clifford Stadem.

Interment was at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. Casket bearers at Ft. Snelling, Earl "Red" Cherrey, Jim Fenelon, Francis Sommers, Bob Gehrman, E.J. Kavonius and Norman Cherrey.

## Gerald J. Ward

May 24 1999  
 Company M

Gerald J. Ward and some helpful friends in M Company on Guadalcanal used a great amount of vanilla and other materials from the Mess supplies to brew some relaxing beverages. As the story unfolded apparently several #10 cans of peaches were spirited away to a secret site to ferment into a potable beverage. Unfortunately a Japanese bombing raid hit the factory and destroyed their dreams of a happy occasion. Some of the participants in the affair were "Swede" Swenson, Bill Batchelor and Cass Kuntz.

## Lucas Alex

Watford City, ND (8 April 1999)

## William L. Love

Rugby, ND (31 July 1999)

## Clarence H. Tompkins

Grand Rapids, MI (19 July 1999)

## Ernest Hauser

Fairdale, KY (Date of death unknown)

## Harry Wiens

Scottsdale, AZ (6 March 1998)

## 164th MEDICS MEET

On June 20, 1999 ten members of the 164th met in Fargo, North Dakota. Generally the medics have a greater number of the medical unit in attendance. Time is thinning the ranks and some members have health problems making it difficult to travel. The medics really carried out their duties on the battlefield with courage and skill. Many wounded or sick 164th'ers can thank the medics for their help. Of course there is one familiar sound, a shrill whistle and a raucous call from the 1st Sgt. fall out with rain coats and shoes. That sound we all remember.

The medics have a good eye for beauty as six wives attended and tended to keep the medics on their best behavior.



Above: - Front Row (L-R) - Art Ojalla, Ed Muligan, Lyle Mollet, Ben Kosanne, Carl Garbe.  
Back Row (L-R) - Ken Lystad, Gerald Sanderson, Ray Sawyer, Leland Simek, Orin Delak.

Right: - Beautiful Wives. Front Row (L-R) - Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Lystad, Mrs. Garbe.  
Back Row (L-R) - Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Delak, Mrs. Simek.



## THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

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