



10-2000

164th Infantry News: October 2000

164th Infantry Association

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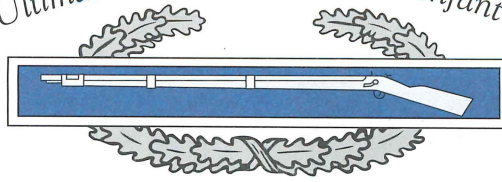
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 40 • No.3

October, 2000

FIRE FIGHT IN THE JUNGLES OF BOUGAINVILLE 1944



Above artwork painted by "Doug" Burtell. Burtell served in 164th Infantry, he came back to USA from the Philippines, 1945. The original painting is located in the Museum, Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, North Dakota.



Picture Credit: John Grindahl

164th Infantry WWII exhibit. G.I. Mess Kit with bullet holed Japanese artifact flag, field cap, canteen, helmet, and bayonet.

AN EXHIBIT

In the luncheon room was a display of WWII items related to 1930's, the 164th Regiment, North Dakota State Guard, Americal Division and Camp Claiborne. Plus many Japanese Military war souvenirs. The exhibit was put together by John Grindall, PO Box 5361, Fargo, North Dakota 58105. His phone number is 701-232-9329. John you are helping to preserve the history of the 164th Infantry. Thanks.

REUNION SCRAPBOOK



A game of cards between WWII 164th D Company buddies. (L-R) John B. Vaneedenburg (LM), Haskell, NJ; Vince "Swede" Clausen, St. Paul, MN; Supervisor Alvin Tollefsrud, President, 164th Association.



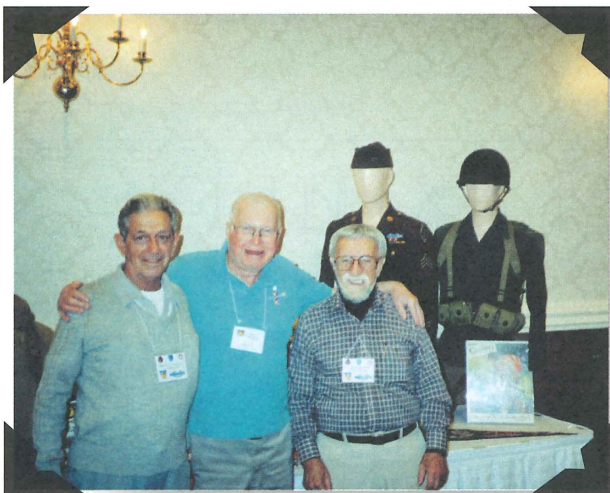
(L-R) Paul H. Longaberger, Sgt. Major, Hqd. 2 BN. Traveled from Williamstown WV to reunion in Fargo; Raymond C. Arneson, Boulder City, NV.



George Laughlin (F Company) and wife Maryln, Glendive, MT.



Treumann Lykken (C Company) Grand Forks, ND.



(L-R) Joe Castagneto, Lincoln, AL, handed Sec/Treas \$200 for the 164th Infantry News; Vince "Swede" Clausen, D Company, St. Paul, MN; Ernest F. Auero, D Company, Methuen, MA.

REUNION SCRAPBOOK



HAPPY FOURSOME

(L-R) "Doug" Burtell, Reg. Hqd., Recon. Platoon, Bowman, ND; Kenny McLaughlin, Reg. Hqd., 3 BN, Wire Section, Fargo, ND; Don Gronland, 36 years ND Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt., Fargo, ND; Wally Starkenburg, Hqd, 2 BN, Wire Communication, Long Beach, CA.



A happy Arvid Thompson (F Company) and Virginia at the reunion banquet. They are from St. Paul, MN.



President Al Tollefsrud opening the memorial services. Chaplin Ziegler seated behind the 41 lighted candles for those 164th men who have answered the Last Roll Call this past year.

WANTED

Any WWII Items related to the 1930's - WWII 164th Regiment, North Dakota State Guard, Americal Division & Camp Claiborn. Also any Japanese Military War Souvenirs would be welcomed.



John Grindahl

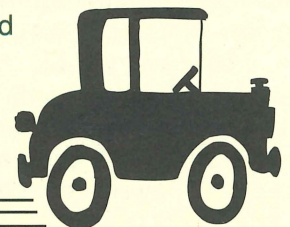
Box 5361, Fargo, ND 58105

701.232.9329

MOVING

Please promptly send in your change of address. A post office return of 164th Infantry News cost the Association about \$9.20. This about eliminates the \$10.00 annual dues.

Pseudo over head costs cutters, please note underlined information





Memorial Service

164th Infantry Association of the United States

September 23, 2000 Fargo, North Dakota

God's Golden Threads

By Rev. Dr. William Ziegler,
Chaplain, Lt. Col. 119th Fighter Wing, NDANG

I want to begin this morning by telling you what an honor it is to be invited to address your organization this morning. I appreciate deeply the invitation. I know of your long and distinguished history in the service of our State and our Country and my heart is warmed in being here.

I also bring greetings from Major General Keith Bjerke. I was with him yesterday at Camp Grafton. He is there for a senior leadership meeting. He wishes he could be with you all and told me to greet you on his behalf.

I want to tell a couple of stories this morning and then draw them together with some theological reflections.

I am a student of history, as most of us are, and I recently read David Hackett Fisher's book *Paul Revere's Ride*.¹ I recommend this book to you. I am always amazed how much they know about the events of April 19th, 1775, when General Gage's Regular Troops marched from Boston to Concord and Lexington, engaging in battle America's First Guardsmen beginning the Revolutionary War. One thing we don't know is who fired the first shot. That is lost in the mist of time. However, we do know that General Gage learned, the hard way, that farmers, shopkeepers, preachers too, could shoot rifles with deadly accuracy.

I don't know how many of you saw the new Mel Gibson film, *Patriot*, that came out this summer. It is a good film and I encourage you to go and see it. I like the part where the pastor of the local church becomes so angry at the British Regulars, he picks up his rifle and joins the

Militia commanded by Mel Gibson. Too often chaplains are overlooked when the histories are written. I liked the film because of this, and because it showed how mistaken the Regulars were in their belief that Guardsmen are cowards who can't shoot straight. We know they often call us the "raggedly blank blank Militia". Well, we may be raggedly, and we may be blank, blank, but as General Gage found out, and your own history attests, we can shoot straight, even in old age.

When Gage's Regulars discovered this they turned around and headed back down the Concord road to Boston. One Guardsman, seventy-eight year old Samuel Whittemore of Menotomy, Massachusetts, grabbed his musket, two pistols, and his old cavalry saber and took up residence behind a stone wall some 150 yards from the road. Here he waited patiently for the British. When they came into range he got off so many shots with such accuracy the Regulars couldn't ignore him. They sent two detachments to flank and root him out. As they got nearer to him he killed more with his musket and then his pistols. As he was reaching for his saber a British

infantryman shot him in the face.

After the battle, Samuel was found barely alive with fourteen bayonet wounds, or more in his body. Since churches also served as hospitals he was taken to the local congregational church in Medford where it was assumed he would "meet his maker". But old Samuel confounded all, including his physician, Dr. Cotton Tufts. He lived another eighteen years to the ripe old age of ninety-six. It may be apocryphal, but some say Samuel sired more children during those eighteen remaining years! It is a fact that a large part of Middlesex County are the progeny of Samuel Whittemore and "today are as tough and independent as the old rebel who stood alone against a British brigade".²

Today, some of you out there are as old, or older, than Samuel Whittemore when he picked up his musket in 1775. You see there is hope! Guardsmen are special. Symbolically, we are Samuel's progeny, tough and independent "raggedly". My former Catholic priest, Chaplain Major, Jerry Feltis, used to say that only two species could survive in North Dakota - prairie dogs and Germans from Russia. I would add Norwegians, Germans, and Sweds too. We are a tough people who have, with God's help survived the good and bad. I know that your stories about World War II and Guadalcanal stand Samuel proud. We do remember those who have gone before us.

In 1995 and again in 1996, my wife, son, and I were in London. When we go to London we stay at the British American Servicemen's Club. It is open to any British and American serviceman, and is a nice place to stay. In the basement is a pub. One evening I was "tasting the local water" as they say, when a British World War II vet came up to me. They can spot an American a mile away, some say it's our shoes, but I believe we look "American", difficult as that is to define. He introduced himself as "Command Sergeant-Major Washington". I introduced myself as "Colonel Ziegler". I then said, "We had a very famous person in our country who shared your name". He said, "Yes Sir! My ancestor, Sir! We have forgiven him, Sir!"

Forgiveness is a wonderful thing, and I am thankful that with God's help we have healed the wounds that once separated our two peoples. A good thing too, we really needed each other in World War II.

I have a friend who calls these connections to the past "golden threads". They are the threads that connect me to my chaplain ancestors, such as those who grabbed their muskets at Concord, or to your own Chaplain Tracy during World War II. Like Samuel Whittemore his shoes are very

large ones indeed, but in reaching to fill them we often transcend our self imposed limits. The golden threads also represent a gift of God, "helpers" who come to us when we need them most.

A year ago last March I had the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to Israel. Leaving on Northwest at 10:55 am had its challenges. Just before beginning our roll down the runway the pilot announced we were going to return to the terminal; there was a bad wheel. I was worried and disappointed since my schedule to get to Newark was tight. I didn't want to miss the *EIAI* plane to Israel, and the group I was suppose to join there. In fact, if I missed them I didn't know how I would ever find them again. So the stakes were high.

I checked myself onto the 12:55 flight and then waited, stewing in my anger. Soon a man sat down next to me. His name was Lee Domann, a United Methodist pastor who graduated from my alma mater in 1977. I did not know him, but as we visited something of my anger began to leave. Then, along came Captain Field McConnell, a former Happy Hooligan and my Northwest pilot for the 12:55 flight. As we visited more anger and worry drifted away. Finally, another Northwest pilot and former Hooligan, Tim Pettinger, came along and sat down next to me. With this "homecoming" it was impossible to be angry at all.

While landing in Minneapolis on the 12:55 flight Captain McConnell came on the plane's intercom and announced to all souls on board that, "My former military chaplain, Chaplain

Ziegler, is on board, on a pilgrimage to Israel. Northwest has made it difficult for him today and I want you all to pray he gets there." I don't think I've ever had a whole plane load of people praying for me before. It was a humbling and religious moment, to say the least.

Having had my schedule disrupted on Northwest, I hadn't eaten a thing all day. As I settled into my seat on *EIAI*, a woman soon sat next to me. Her name was Margaret, formerly from Russia and now an American citizen; a senior American citizen. She was traveling to Israel to see her son. After sharing small talk, she suddenly reflected, "You look hungry!" As she patted my cheek she opened her bag and offered me wonderful home-cooked pastries.

These are the golden threads that God provides in our lives. I know you have your own. You are one of those threads for me here today. When I was a child growing up in the fifties, I often had dreams of being a chaplain in the army, speaking to fellow soldiers. Well, if you over look the blue suit, some of it came true, and when I think about speaking to fellow soldiers, I look out over you and rest my case for God's golden threads.

Thank you for letting me be with you this day. Amen.

(Ed. note: Thank you for a very fine, enlightening and thoughtful presentation. You hit the right note.)

¹David Hackett Fischer, *Paul Revere's Ride* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994).

²*Ibid*, p. 257

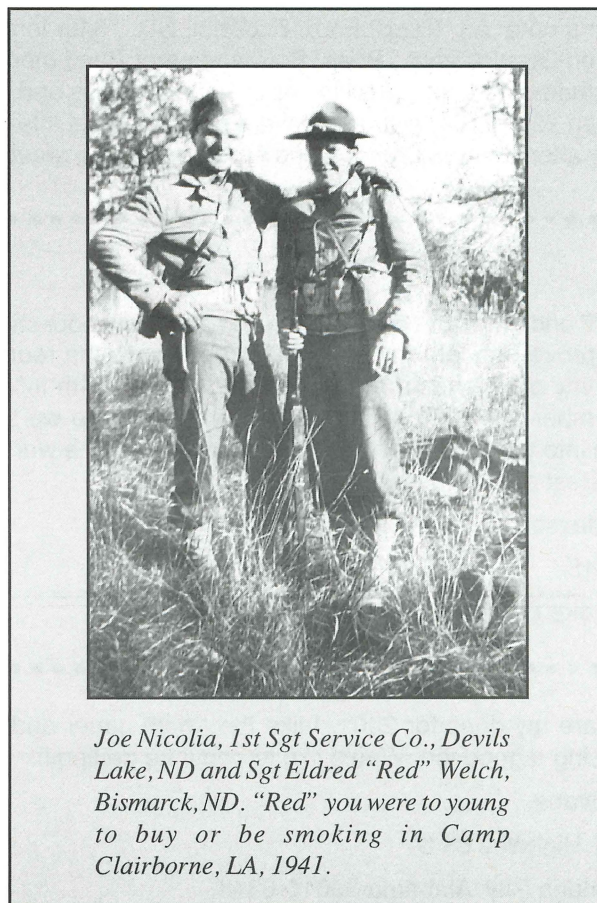
M1 RIFLE

Do you remember the serial number of the M1 Rifle (Garand) or 45 automatic pistol you carried on Guadalcanal in 1942? If you do, please forward the serial number, your rank, company, squad and platoon. There is a remote possibility that the M1/45 automatic you carried might be located and purchased by you or given to the 164th Association for a museum. Send information to Jim Fenelon, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111. Very interested in M1's used in the October 23-26, 1942 battle for Henderson Field.

U.S. VETS TO RECEIVE KOREAN MEDAL

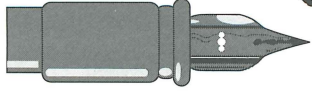
The pentagon has cleared the way for U.S. veterans of the Korean War to accept and wear a medal offered by the South Korean government as a tribute to their service and sacrifice. South Korea originally offered the medal in 1951 to all who fought under the United Nations banner, but U.S. law at that time prohibited members of the military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed the law in 1954. South Korea will offer the medal to veterans or to their surviving next of kin. The U.S. Air Force is in charge of distributing the medals.

Star Tribune, Friday, June 23, 2000



Joe Nicolia, 1st Sgt Service Co., Devils Lake, ND and Sgt Eldred "Red" Welch, Bismarck, ND. "Red" you were to young to buy or be smoking in Camp Clairborne, LA, 1941.

LETTERS



To The Editor :

June 30, 2000

Dear Mr. Kemp:

Enclosed is a check for \$100.00 on behalf of my father Arthur L. "Peep" Ford. Peep served with the 164th in Guadalcanal. Please apply this check to a life membership for him, and use the balance at your discretion.

Peep lives at the Jenkins Living Center in Watertown, South Dakota and would love to hear from any of his old comrades. He can be reached at this address. I will see that he receives the mail. Thanks for all your good work.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce M. Ford

1200 - 33rd St. SE/ Mickelson Dr.

Suite 306B

P.O. Box 370

Watertown, SD 57201-0370

E-mail: fordlaw@osioc.net

(Editor's note: Art "Peep" Ford, Enderlin, ND, 164th Infantry Band on Guadalcanal. "Peep" Ford and other Band member performed outstanding service as stretcher bearers and First Aid men. Many 164th wounded were given medical attention shortly after being wounded. Send Art "Peep" Ford a greeting.)

Wally,

I am 87 and am 100% combat disabled and in very poor shape. If I improve enough, my son would take me to the reunion. Greet my old friends for me. I enlisted in the 164th Infantry September 16, 1930 and was in 10 years before we were sworn into the Army of the USA and was in until the war was over. Best of luck for the reunion.

Ray Maxson

Box 415

Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0415

Here are my dues for 2001. I like the 164th paper and you are doing a good job. Would like to continue getting it.

T.R. Evans

13621 Highway 63 S

Alexandria City, Alabama 35010-6344

Dear Mr. Kemp,

Sadly my father, Oliver M. Settingsgard, peacefully passed away on June 6, 2000.

The 164th Infantry was very important to him and I guess I was born into it. (Daddy never saw me until I was about 3 1/2 years old - not to give away my age or anything!) Therefore, I am wondering whether we can maintain his membership by paying his dues and "newsletter" fee. When Mom was still mentally alert, we would have family arguments who got to read the newsletter first! Daddy never really talked about WWII except when we discussed the articles. I got to know him so much better and now the newsletter is my link to him. I am proud that my dad was a member of the 164th.

Sincerely,

Annmarie Settingsgard

3166 Lori Circle

Simi Valley, CA 93063

(Editor's note: Annmarie Settingsgard, you are welcome to remain as an Associate Member. Your father was my company commander on the Fiji Islands.)

Dear Mr. Johnson,

My father Rudson Bellinger, 387 North St, Dalton, MA 01226, will be unable to attend the reunion this year. He is not able to get around very well. My mother and him always looked forward to the yearly reunions and regrets he is unable to go this year.

Please note change in address. He is now living with me.

Sincerely,

Nancy Carr

(Thanks Nancy for caring for an old 164th guy.)

July 5, 2000

Dear Sirs:

I just received Tracy Kaldors dues card for 164th Infantry Association. This is to tell you that Tracy passed away on the 22nd of June. He enjoyed your newsletter very much and passed them on to his good friend, Wallace Olson who also served in the 164th. If it is possible I would like you to send any newsletters for Tracy until the end of his paid dues to address: Wallace Olson, 14322 Admiralty Way #9, Lynwood, WA 98037

Thank you

Phyllis Kaldor

400 Madrona Ave SE Apt 221

Salem, OR 97302-6616

Dear Waldemar,

Sorry can't attend. If I had one wish it would be to be able to be there. It was my privilege and lasting memory to serve in the 164th Headquarters Co. and meet such wonderful men and great soldiers, Don and Robert Hoff, Ed Brennan, Art Larsen, Odd Jacobson, Claude Funk, Hendrickson, Boostrom, Janus Acampora, Eugene Weidman, and the rest of the great guys. Don Hoff was first Sergeant and you couldn't find a greater guy. Have a great reunion and best of luck to all.

Miltan Olan
995 NE 170th St.
NMB, Fla. 33162

T-4 Milton Olan
Headquarters Co.
164th Infantry
Bougainville, Philippines, Cebu, Bohol

.....
Dear Sir:
This money is for a subscription to the 164th Infantry News. Whatever is left over is a donation to keep the news going. Thanks for all the work you put into doing this.

Mrs. Art Larson
Art Larson answered last roll call several years ago. Art was in Regimental Hqds. Co.

.....
Dear Wally,
Enclosed check \$30. \$10 for raffle tickets and \$20 for old Jim. I sure enjoy the 164th News. Due to sickness in the family and myself I will not be at the reunion.

As ever,
John A. Landowski
2260 S 29th St. #435
Grand Forks, ND 58201-5869

(Editor's note: Thank John. Yes, I am old, your donation to the news will keep it going.)

.....
Dear Wally:
Tell Ben we will be out of the country at the time of the reunion. Our daughter lives in Switzerland. If there is any other developments, I can send in one of the registration forms.
Thank you,
Tomy Clausen
420 14th St E
Williston, ND
58801-4453
P.S. The \$50 is for the bulletins that we get.

Dear Wally,

I will not be able to attend the reunion. Enclosed is a check for 3 tickets and the balance \$40 for 164th Newsletter subscription.

Howard W. Louter
14 Alaco Lane
Milford, NJ 08848-1905

.....
\$30 enclosed for raffle tickets. \$20 as a donation to keep the 164th Newsletter going.

Art Hanley
19453 E. Hickery Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98247

.....
Dear Sir,
I am sending \$10 for raffle tickets and \$10 for my dues for next year. I am sorry I cannot make the reunion but sure enjoy the 164th Newsletter that we get.

Yours,
Ervin Remers
1912 E Mount Vernon Ave.
Orange, CA 92867-7633
C Company 164th

.....
Wally,
\$20 check enclosed for raffle tickets and dues. Had colon cancer surgery a month ago.

William A. Pouizke
1301 31st Ave. SW #308
Minot, ND 58701

.....
Dear Waldemar Johnson:
Enclosed is \$15 for the newsletter. My dad really likes it. Here is \$10 for tickets. Keep up the good work.

Tim Kurtz

.....
July 29, 2000

Dear Ben:
Thanks for your prompt reply. Enclosed is a check for \$10.00. Please sign me up for the year. Will be looking forward to news from my old outfit. I was a member way back in 1945.

Sincerely
LeRoy Willard
PO Box 665
Georgetown, CO 80444
1-303-569-2291

July 26, 2000

Dear Bennet:

I was very pleased to receive your letter regarding membership in the 164th Infantry Association. You asked dates of service, unit and a check for \$10.00.

I enlisted on August 10, 1942 and was discharged on December 6, 1945. Sailed for the Pacific on Oct. 3, 1943, arrived in New Calendonia on Oct. 25, 1943 and was assigned to the 164th Headquarters Co. in Fiji about Nov. 1943. Left from Japan Nov. 17, 1945, arrived in Seattle on Nov. 25, 1945. Discharged from Ft. Monmouth Dec. 6, 1945.

I have been trying to locate buddies still around with sad results all gone but one John Juvinal, Hinsdale, Ill. But have talked to family in Fargo and here and there. If there are any still around from headquarters company that served with me I would love to contact them.

Please sign me up.

Sincerely,

Janus Acampora

24 Inverell Dr.

Toms River, NJ 08757-5944

.....

Dear Sir,

Here's wishing the 164th a successful and happy reunion. Doing well here in PA. Hope the same for you all in ND. Take care and God's blessing on all the 164th veterans and their families.

Andrew Trageser

Company E, 164th

1163 Fawn Grove Road

New Park, PA 17352

.....

Hello:

I would like to join the 164th Infantry Association. I am enclosing a check for \$10. I was in the 164th from early 1942 to late 1944, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji, Savo Islands, and Bougainville.

John Juvinal

820 N County Line Rd.

Hinsdale, IL 60521-3602

.....

I am not coming to the reunion. Enclosed is my check for \$20. \$10 for dues and \$10 for the raffle tickets. Harry Wiens, my deceased husband was so proud of the 164th and I want to continue my membership.

Jane H. Wiens

1240 Gibson Circle

Socorro, NM 87801

29 June 2000

Howdy,

I received notice of the 164th Reunion 22, 23, 24 September. I've wanted to attend one of these shindigs if for no other reason than to shake hands with Chuck Walker.

It's a far piece from the Monterey Bay to Fargo, ND, so regretfully am afraid I won't make it again this year.

Enclosed though are the ticket stubs for the drawing (\$10) and my renewal annual dues of \$10 for a total of twenty bucks.

Sincerely,

Zane E. Jacobs

2075 Mariposa St.

Seaside, CA 93955-3316

.....

August 7, 2000

Hi,

I have two reunions coming up, the 164th and my 50th college reunion in late October, but I cannot attend either event. I am the primary care taker for a neighbor, living alone, and I'm probably understating at least 90% responsibility for the duties in my own household.

So here is a check for the raffle. My niece and her husband lived in Fargo, actually Grand Forks, many years ago when he was part of the team working on our missile defense.

Stanley T. Gadomski

Company E, Machine Gun Section

13 Cree Dr.

Oxen Hill, MD 20754-1214

.....

Enclosed is my check for Harry's 164th dues and the raffle tickets. Do not have plans to attend the reunion. Harry does enjoy the 164th Infantry News!

Thanks

Harry and Joyce Burd

6018 E 34th St.

Tucson, AZ 85711-6904

.....

September 4, 2000

President Alvin Tolleferud,

Indeed I did forget to return my ticket stubs. I was out of town for 3 weeks, cat and house sitting for my son while he vacationed. It was beautiful in North Bend, WA. I wish to thank the members of the 164th Infantry for their kind expression of sympathy. Very nice card! I do miss J.A.F. Here's a \$20 check for 3 stubs, put the other \$10 in your postage fund.

Sincerely

Gertrude Fischback

360 S Lexington Pkwy #209

St. Paul, MN 55105-2864

August 8, 2000

Dear Jim,

Enclosed is a check for \$20, \$10 for the annual dues and an additional \$10 for the 164th Newsletter's future.

For those of us who weren't native to North Dakota (I was born in Pittsburgh, PA) we had a saying, "ND, that's all!" But this was not meant to be disrespectful. We knew we could depend on one another when things got tough.

Although I was a machine gunner, I carried a borrowed rifle (and a radio, at least, on the overnight trip towards a Japanese occupied village). This was a night without a moon, and if there were any stars out, you couldn't see them in the Bougainville jungle. Our patrol stumbled so much and so noisily in the pitch blackness, two New Guinea guides, decided to make phosphorescent necklaces out of decaying wood, fox fire and placed them on their bare backs to guide us. Captain Walker, an Aussie and as I remember, Emil (Bloomstrann?), were part of the 18 man raiding party.

On the way back the guides were adept in firing their bold action Springfield rifles and now we know their future would be in Papua, New Guinea, instead of the Solomons.

Best Regards,

Stanley T. Gadonski

Company E, 164th

13 Cree Drive

Oxon Hill, MD 20745

P.S. I have never seen anything in print about fox fire necklaces in WWII accounts. Also I just realized CLAIR TONGEN was present at the '99 reunion. One night he was my Sergeant who challenged me with, "Where are you going?" "Back with the others," I answered. I had been left all alone overlooking a nameless trail. I must say I hadn't panicked. I was carrying my machine gun and ammo box. But he got everyone back in their foxholes. I would have been pleased to meet him again at this year's reunion. Unfortunately, however, I am the primary care taker of an elderly neighbor, living alone, and my wife needs a lot of help too and Fargo is much too far away. Alas.

(Editor's note: Thanks for a very interesting account of your experience with the 164th Infantry. You referred to the fox fire necklace used by the Native guides is interesting and proves that any culture can improvise when there is a need. For your information the after battle reports and examination of the dead bodies of the Japanese KIA by the 164th Infantry October 23-26, 1942 battle on Guadalcanal revealed that some of the Japanese Officers and non coms used fox fire glowing wood and some type of fire fly that glowed in the dark. The night of the attack, October 23-26, it was so dark that it could almost be cut with a knife. The Japanese officers and non coms hung the glowing wood and bottles of glowing bugs/fire flies down their backs so the troops could follow them. Some of the officers doused themselves with some very pungent heavy smelling perfume so the troops could follow the smell. This added up to a very unusual odor after the Japanese KIA's lay in the hot jungle sun for a few hours.

Stanley Gadonski your accolade "North Dakota that's all!" is well taken as a compliment. Maybe the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce could use it as a state slogan. Thanks.)

6/26/00

Dear Wally,

I want to get off of the AWOL list. Please don't put me on K.P. for this if I come to the reunion! Enclosed is my check amount \$30. \$20 for raffle tickets and \$10 for annual dues. Wally if I do come to the reunion in Fargo, do I have to wear my "High Pockets Flood Pants"? Also I'm trying to locate an old army buddy. His name is Robert G. Schweinister. I served with him in 1951 and 1952 at Camp Rucker, Alabama. We both were in the 47th Viking Infantry Division, 164th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, Company K. He last lived at Oceanside, Oregon. Would very much appreciate if you could see that this got in your Great Newsletter. As you see I have moved from New Mexico to Oklahoma, my son and grandkids live here. "Thanks."

(Lebewohl)

LeRoy C. Decker

726 W. Cottonwood Ave.

Enid, OK 73701

Phone # (580) 242-7142

ATOMIC BOMB SAVED LIVES OF MANY GIs

This respond to a letter August 8, "Ordinary GI in Japan did not believe in Bomb."

I am an Air Force GI who fought in Bataan and was in the Bataan death march. After suffering through many years of difficult times as a POW, I ended up in Japan, on the island of Kyushu, Camp 17. We worked in a coal mine owned by a large Japanese company.

We were close to Nagasaki and saw the large mushroom cloud after the atomic blast. After three-and-a-half years of suffering, we all cheered during the bombing.

We were in tough shape, with every disease known to mankind. Only a small portion of POWs had survived, and if the war had gone on any longer, very few if any would have made it.

The atomic bomb was our survival. As the saying goes, "It's all in the eyes of the beholder."

B.M. Pothier

Harwich

9/7/00

To Wally Johnson,
Maynard want \$10 on tickets and \$30 to newsletter.
Thank you
Mrs. Maynard F. Holmer
P.O. Box 846
Carson, WA 98610-0846

8-10-00

Dear Wally,
Thank you for the information on the 164th Reunion. Kay and I would like to be there and planned on it. It's a perfect time of the year to drive through Montana and North Dakota and to see our friends from Co. H and others. Due to unforeseen circumstances we have decided not to do the reunion this year. I enclose \$20 for tickets and my dues and a prayer for all 164th reunion members including me.

Most sincerely,
Leonard A. Clemens

.....
Unable to attend the reunion. Have a good time. For me, hopefully next year. A great newsletter you all put out! Enclosed is check for dues, raffle, and a little extra for whatever.

Ken Keyes
354 Butler Ct
Marshall, MI 49068-2106

.....
Wally,
\$10 for the newspaper.
Alexander P. MacDonald (LM)
Major General, Retired
40156 Copperfield, Ct
Fargo, ND 58104

.....
7/1/00
Dear Wally,
I do not think I can make the 164th Reunion but am sending \$10 for the raffle tickets. I hope everyone has a good time. If there is anyone from B Company, 164th there I would like to hear from them.
Yours Truly
Nickolas Ostapchuk
582 Ramona St.
Rochester, NY 14615-3232

September 9, 2000

Mr. Wally Johnson,

I have enclosed three "raffle ticket stubs" for the 164th drawing plus my check for \$10. Hope "you-all" have a "Big Time" and we are sorry that we won't be able to attend!! Unfortunately, the V.A. had a different idea about their schedule and mine, so after many months they gave me an appointment. So it goes with "Old Soldiers". Have a good "Reunion", I send all my regards to the 164th!!

Sincerely,
Lawrence Wittmer
M/Sgt, A.F. Retired

Retired in 1966
26 years spc - Infantry -
Sig Corps and Air Force

.....

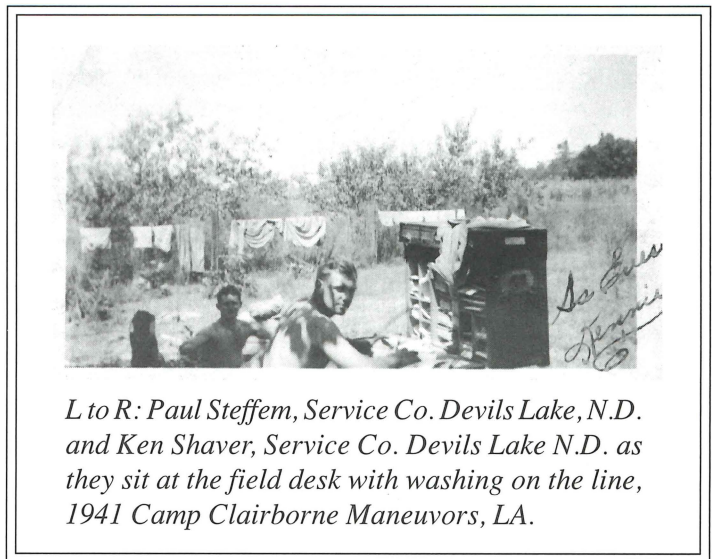
30 August 2000

Dear Wally,

Despite my noble intentions, advanced registration, etc., we won't be able to join you guys in Fargo this year. Please do NOT refund our registration money, rather, put me down for a \$100 contribution to the newsletter fund. Sorry to miss this formation, hopefully next year.

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

(Editor's note: Al Wiest, you will be missed at the reunion. Your decision to not ask for a refund of the \$100 registration fee and to place it in the 164th Infantry newsletter is very welcome from you, a Life Member of the Association. Thanks.)



L to R: Paul Steffem, Service Co. Devils Lake, N.D. and Ken Shaver, Service Co. Devils Lake N.D. as they sit at the field desk with washing on the line, 1941 Camp Clairborne Maneuvers, LA.

KOREAN CONFLICT AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES THAT FOUGHT IN THE KOREAN WAR

Credit Minneapolis Star Tribune

Twenty-two nations contributed personnel who fought or supported the United Nations Command.

Here's the roll call, according to the Korean War Almanac: United States, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Belgium, Luxembourg, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand and South Africa. Denmark, India, Italy, Norway and Sweden sent medical personnel.

The peak strength of United Nations ground forces in Korea stood at 932,539 personnel on July 31, 1953, including

590,911 from the Republic of Korea, 302,483 from the U.S. Army and Marines and 39,145 from other United Nations countries.

(Editor's note: 164th Infantry was recalled to Federal Service and trained in Camp Rucker, Alabama. Many men from the 164th Infantry were sent to Korea as replacements and participated in various actions against enemy forces. Your stories, pictures and personal experiences are needed to fill out the history of the 164th Infantry.)

CAMP RUCKER / KOREA

The 164th Infantry Regiment when reactivated after WWII became part of the 47th Infantry Division. The 47th Division was federalized during the Korean War and sent to train for combat in Camp Rucker, Alabama. A new experience for many of the younger members of the regiment being in the deep south and listening to a different drawl in the watering spots.

Many WWII former members of the 164th reenlisted in the 164th when it became part of the 47th Infantry Division often referred to as the Viking Division.

As the need for trained infantry soldiers were needed for Army ground units in Korea, many individuals in the 164th were sent as replacements to units in Korea.

In conjunction with the 164th Annual Reunion in Fargo, Orlyen (Owl) Stensgard organized a reunion of the Camp Rucker veterans at the American Legion Post in Fargo. With a few liquid refreshments, the group exchanged many experiences of Camp Rucker and Korea. Fourteen old friends attended the happy occasion. Many of the people attending are members of the 164th Infantry Association, those that are not presently members of the Association are invited to become members. Stories about their experiences were flying thick and fast. These stories should be preserved as part of the history of the 164th.

"Owl" Stensgard presented a picture of the 164th Regiment in training at Camp Rucker, Alabama. Stensgard explained that the Regimental picture will be placed in the North Dakota Military History Division in the Heritage Center, Bismarck, ND. Stensgard said all members present had a great time along with a telephone call from an old buddy, George Shiek from Florida. Shiek talked to all those present, what a phone bill. George and son Morkin and Orville Erickson were not able to attend because of illnesses. "Owl" said Vern (Pete) Hanson must have forgotten the date. Stensgard said the next reunion of the 164th Camp Rucker boys will be in Bismarck, 2001 to tie in with the 164th Association Reunion.

The Camp Rucker attendees: Celm Cossette, Louis Olson, Dennis Jacobsen, Orlyen "Owl" Stensgard, Howard Erickson,

Jim Lebor, all from Fargo, ND; Alden Gjeure, Moorehead, MN; Jack Ikel, Hawley, MN; Milt Kane, Bernie Wagner, Valley City, ND; Vern Fetch, Ben Kemp, Bismarck, ND; Reggie Verness, Grand Forks, ND; Earl "Red" Cherrey, Fairview, Montana.

THE INFANTRY DIVISION

Regarding the structure of the infantry during World War II: a division was comprised of three regiments. The Americal Division had the 132nd, the 164th and the 182nd. Each regiment had three battalions which each had three rifle companies, one heavy weapons company and one headquarters company. The heavy weapons companies were equipped with two 50 caliber machine guns and three 80 millimeter mortars as well as some rifles, carbines and sidearms.

The rifle companies rounded out at about 187 enlisted men. This takes into account the various people whose business is other than that of being a rifleman. There were four platoons to a company three rifle platoons and one weapons platoon. The weapons platoon had two 30 caliber machine guns and three 60 millimeter mortars.

A rifle platoon was made up of three squads. Each squad had 12 people when it was at full strength. A squad leader, a Staff Sergeant, had three stripes up, one down. The assistant squad leader was a three stripe Sergeant. Each squad also had a BAR man and he had an assistant, both men were PFCs with one stripe. In addition the squad also had a 1st and 2nd scout and they each were PFCs.

Filling out the squad were six riflemen all of whom were PVTs. Each platoon was headed up by a Tech Sergeant, three up, two down. The platoon sergeant had a second in command and he was a Staff Sergeant, his title being Platoon Guide. The First Sergeant, three up and three down with a diamond in the middle, had a company clerk, a corporal or T5. In addition to that, each platoon was headed by a 2nd Lieutenant or 1st Lieutenant. That is four Platoon Leaders, a Company Commander, usually a Captain with an assistant, generally a 1st Lieutenant, with the title of Executive Officer.

Warren Freeman

Americal Division Association

BOUGAINVILLE

Credit Americal Newsletter

The largest of the Solomon Islands is 127 miles long and 49 miles wide and is traversed lengthwise by a mountain range called the Emperor Range in the north and Crown Prince Range in the south. Good harbors are at Kieta, Buka Passage and Buin on the south end and on west coast there is a good anchorage in Empress Augusta Bay.

The Island was discovered by Louis de Bougainville in 1768 and came under the control of a German trading company in 1882 and was a German possession from 1889 to 1914. It was taken by the Australians in World War I and was included with New Guinea in a 1920 mandate.

The Japanese occupied Bougainville in 1942 and they developed harbors and airfields. It was bombed by Allied air forces in 1943 and landings were made by the 3rd Marine Division on November 1, 1943 on the beaches of Empress Augusta Bay. The 37th Infantry Division landed on November 8, 1943, to take up defenses on the left of the Marines. The Americal Division began landing on Christmas Day, December 25, 1943 and gradually relieved the Marines on the right sector of the perimeter. This perimeter basically extended inland as far as the Torokina River with the 132nd Infantry on the right flank extending to the Bay, the 182nd Infantry in the middle sector and the 164th Infantry on the left flank where they tied in with the right flank of units from the 37th Infantry Division.

A main line of defense was established and airfields were built for the purpose of bombing New Britain and other Japanese installations within range. Outposts, such as Hill 260, were established outside of the perimeter. Ambushes were set up outside of the perimeter and patrols were constantly active. The goal was to hold the perimeter and protect it against any Japanese assaults. This goal was accomplished at the cost of many casualties and much hardship.

Their mission completed, the Americal turned their duties over to units of the Australian Army in early 1945.

The war had bypassed Bougainville by now and the Japanese, after suffering many defeats, had moved back over the mountain range and settled down trying to raise food and stay alive while waiting for the ships that never came.

The Australian generals made an ill advised attempt to retake the entire island in 1945. The troops suffered many casualties and many questions were asked by the Australian government and the people. But, that is another story.

Following the war the island and surrounding islands gained their independence along with the island of New Guinea and this group of islands is now known as Papa, New Guinea.

Huge deposits of copper, and other metals, were found on Bougainville. A huge copper mine was established and Bougainville became the wealthiest part of the new found country. Some time in the mid 1980's terrorist brought the huge copper mine to a standstill and up until this time the island is in a turmoil -- basically it seems that Bougainville

wants independence from Papa, New Guinea.

Most books touch very lightly on the battle for Bougainville and only the soldiers, sailors and Marines that fought there really understand what it was like. Many costly battles were fought on Bougainville by the Americal men that were there. Constant deep penetration patrols into enemy territory was very stressful on the men. The patrols and battles were strategic battles. March 1999 was the 56th anniversary of the most costly battles.

(Editor's note: Please send in your stories, pictures and experiences on Bougainville. Not to much personal information or news stories available about Bougainville.)

SEES BOTH SIDES OF THE HIROSHIMA BOMBING

I can understand both sides of the letter you posted recently from E.M. Pothier of Harwich. We were being rotated home from the Pacific War after three and a half years of combat, beginning with Guadalcanal and ending in the Philippines.

We were appalled at the news which came over the PA system on our ship about the atom bombings. The announcer intoned that "nothing will fly in the air or swim in the seas near these sites of Hiroshima and Nagasaki..."

We could not imagine any country doing such a thing, and thought our troops were capable of conquering the remaining Japanese, as we had done through five campaigns.

Many years later when I corresponded with a Japanese who had fought against us on Cebu, he told me of his mother, who worked in the center of Nagasaki but had forgotten something that day, and returned home to the outskirts for it.

The bomb dropped and blew out all the windows in her house, he said, but she survived. The population of Japan, he remarked, had been geared to defend their homeland to the last person. He felt it was a benefit that the bombs ended it all with a minimum loss of life, comparably.

Bill McLaughlin

Marstons Mills

(Editor's note: Playing Poker and winning the pot with a pair is really being a gambler. A-Bomb history after WWII revealed the United States had only two bombs. Had Japanese Military hard liners that wanted to fight to the bitter end an invasion probably would have been made with great loss of life on both sides, because it required a year and a half to make another A-Bomb.)

164TH LADY MEETING TWO PRESIDENTS

By Myrtle Sewall

Jim, my connection with the 164th Infantry commenced May 4, 1946 when I met my future husband, Willis Sewall on a blind date in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We married May 17, 1947.

My husband, Willie Sewall, was drafted into the military service April 28, 1941, Fort Snelling, Minnesota. From Fort Snelling along with several hundred other draftees, Willie was sent to Camp Clairborne, Louisiana. There he was assigned to G Company, completed basic training, participated in the big 1941 maneuvers and sailed off to WWII with the 164th Infantry. Prior to being drafted Willis served in the CCC's. This provided him with the skills to operate a typewriter and some ability to march. The ability to type provided Willie with the skills to perform administrative duties while in the CCC's.

Willis and I have been married 53 years with a family of two boys and one girl. It is our daughter, Jan Ellen, that I wish to talk about.

In 1956, when our daughter was born with multiple handicaps, there were few resources to turn to for guidance, reassurance and support. Then one day when Jan was about a year and a half, I received a call asking me to be a block worker soliciting funds for the Association for Retarded Children. My immediate reaction was, "I'll be a worker, but more important to me is how can I join." I am convinced that phone call was the answer to a prayer and opened up a whole new world for us.

After attending one meeting we knew this was a group we wanted to be a part of. Not only did we join but it didn't take long before we were involved. I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Minneapolis ARC and later to the Board of Minnesota ARC. The National ARC convention was in Minneapolis in 1959 at which time I was appointed Credentials Chairman for the national convention in San Francisco in 1961. In 1965, I was elected Vice President of the seven state North Central Region.

First meeting with a President

Being active in the ARC organization we attended many regional and national meetings. At a national meeting in the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C., Willie and I were working at the registration desk for ARC National Convention. President Kennedy was scheduled to address the meeting. Everyone present rushed to the front part of the meeting room hoping to shake President Kennedy's hand. Well the Secret Service brought Kennedy into the hotel through the kitchen, so when he came



Myrtle Sewall as she meets her second president, Lyndon Johnson at the White House 1967.

we were alone at the registration desk so we had the first opportunity to meet President Kennedy and shake his hand.

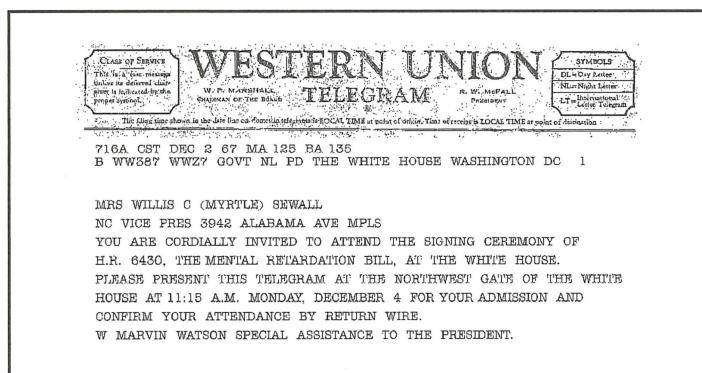
After Lyndon Johnson became President, he signed into law a disability law extending benefits to the retarded.

Second meeting with a President

On Saturday, December 2, 1967, I was doing my usual household chores when I received a call -- the caller stating it was the White House calling, inviting me to the White House to witness the signing of the Mental Retardation bill by President Lyndon Johnson on Monday, I would be attending. I had to give a "tentative" because, number one, I had to confirm that this was not a joke and after that make travel and other arrangements on short notice. A call to the president of the National ARC confirmed this was indeed legitimate. Within minutes after the White House phone call I received a Western Union telegram confirming details. Needless to say, mundane chores of dusting and vacuuming were set aside to make preparations to meet the President.

When we arrived at the Northwest Gate of the White House, we were cleared by security and ushered into the East Room. The Marine band was playing and many dignitaries were milling around -- among them Hubert Humphrey and Fritz Mondale. In a short while we were instructed to rise and the band started playing "Hail to the Chief" and the President and Mrs. Johnson entered. My memory of the details of the actual signing ceremony has diminished over the last 32 years. After the ceremony we were ushered into a reception area and one by one announced to the President when we were each photographed as we shook hands with President Johnson.

At that time a member of the National ARC advisory board was on the Federal Reserve Board. He graciously invited the NARC board members to have lunch with him in the Federal Reserve dining room and offered us the use of his limousine for the afternoon.



See continuation on page 16

GENERALLY SPEAKING

Cpl. Walter E. Ensminger

3rd BN Hqd. Detachment

Many G.I.'s went through an entire war without ever seeing a General, maybe not even sure that such an animal existed. Personally, I seemed to have an affinity for these star-spangled creatures. At least it seemed that way.

The first episode took place on the rifle range at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. I was working an ammo dump and believe me, I was as green as a new mown clover. I was the ultimate rookie with about 90 days on my service record. Suddenly, I was confronted by a bevy of 3 Generals and numerous underlings. Members of the group included the Chief of Staff George C. Marshall, Ground forces commander Whitey McNair and our 34th Division honcho, Russell P. Hartle. "Private," says Marshall, "Are you finding this 1917 and 18 ball ammo as good as the 1936 stuff?" Barely able to speak, I uttered, "They're close to the same, Sir." "As I suspected," said Marshall. I think I sent out additional laundry the next day.

My second encounter with stars occurred shortly after setting up Regimental Headquarters on New Caledonia. We were in a large tent busily engaged in paperwork when Master Sergeant "Bus" Dennis yelled, ATTENTION! I jumped to my feet only to see Major General Alexander M. Patch, the Island Commander, bearing down on me. (Later he gained fame commanding the Americal Division and then the 7th Army in the Southern France invasion) "What have you been instructed to do in the event of an air raid, soldier?" Shaking in my boots with nothing in the instruction department, I somehow came out with, "We've been drilled to take cover in the large ditch running behind the tent when an alarm is given, Sir." Patch seemed satisfied and soon departed. The minute he bade them farewell, Col. Sarles returned, pointed toward me and bellowed, "Make that man a sergeant." It never happened.

The third stellar encounter came on Guadalcanal. Jess Bandow, Ted Kurtz and I went to a sand spit jutting into the mouth of the Lunga River to scrub off some tropical sweat. Two old grey-haired gents were already there bathing. Jess broke out a bar of soap and we lathered up. The old guy yelled over and asked if we'd share the soap. We were finished and tossed it to them. We splashed around a while and the two strangers left. A few minutes later they pulled out of the trees in a jeep with a metal two-star flag. The occupants were

General Vandergrift, commander of the famed 1st Marine Division and a bird colonel. "You know," Jess said, "when he asked for the soap, I just about told him to kiss my Irish ass." That would have been right in character for Jess. So goes it when you're having fun.

Weeks later when we were resting and refitting in Fiji, I, once again came into contact with General "Sandy" Patch just before he left for 7th Army command. Joe McCrank, Kenny Freed and I were hiking back to Camp Samambula after fighting the beer wars at the McDonald Hotel bar in Suva. It was pitch dark along the Queen's Highway when a car drove alongside. A soldier got out and asked if we wanted a lift. Joe was ushered into the back seat and Kenny I climbed into the front. It was then that I noticed a metal flag on the hood bearing two stars. I was sure that the only 2-star on the island was my old friend, "Sandy" Patch. They asked us a lot of inane questions mainly to check out our morale. We told them the way it was but mostly too scared and nervous to say very much. After they let us off at camp, we thought of a lot of shouldas and couldas. So was it with me and Generals.

(Editor's note: Walt Ensminger (Manango, ND) in 1940 enlisted in 164th Infantry Medical Detachment, at that time the Medical Detachment was Headquartered in Edgely, ND. As a new medic with no training, Private Ensminger as a naive medic in the 1940 National Guard Maneuvers was assigned to the Howitzer Company - Anti-Tank (Devils Lake, ND) to provide medical aid if it was required. S.N. "Cod" Ordhal a 2nd Lt. was having a problem in bodily evacuation procedures. Medic Ensminger (no experience) provided Lt. Ordhal with two brown pills. Next AM the patient, 2nd Lt. Ordhal, remarked that two little brown pills really packed a tremendous force for bodily evacuation procedures. Medic Ensminger checked with an experienced M.D. and was advised that the 2nd Lt. had been over medicated and would very likely feel the after effects for several days. Fortune favored the untutored and inexperienced medic as he was transferred to the 3rd BN Hqds. Detachment. Thus probably saving many G.I.'s from being over medicated with two little brown pills.)

"ARISTOTLE MAINTAINED THAT WOMEN HAVE FEWER TEETH THAN MEN; ALTHOUGH HE WAS TWICE MARRIED, IT NEVER OCCURRED TO HIM TO VERIFY THIS STATEMENT BY EXAMINING HIS WIVES' MOUTHS."

— Bertrand Russell

(Editor's note: A very early male chauvinist, maybe he should have taken a drink of the HEMLOCK.)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WORLD WAR II 164TH MEDIC

On the fifth of November, 1942 the Second Battalion of the 164th Infantry was assigned the task of pursuing the Japanese troops outside of the perimeter guarding the Henderson Field area. As I was a member of the Second Battalion aid station, we brought up the rear of the columns thru the high kuni grass and jungle that was in the area. Sporadic gun fire marked the advancing troops ahead as we advanced as foot soldiers.

The first call for medical aid came when Lt. Agnew was wounded. Parker, Kenedy, and two bandmen went to assist the company aid man serving G. Company with the evacuation of several casualties resulting from that fire fight. Later second call was made when a communication man was ambushed behind the advancing line. Lystad took Mulligan, Holvik, and Holton as a litter squad to find the casualty by going back along the communication wire. By retracing our steps a couple hundred yards, we found the man with a leg wound. Cpl. Lystad continued to follow the wire alone in search of the vehicles that were supposed to bring up the rear echelon. Sgt. Jim Cecil and squad of infantrymen were searching for the sniper but could not find in the thick brush. They decided to return to E. Co. Holvik was returning to report to Capt. Yancey*. I was staying with the casualty hoping for transportation, and praying because our position was very vulnerable. The sniper opened fire at a very close range with his automatic weapon. He killed one man and wounded a second of Sgt. Cecil's men. We now had two men to protect and care for. As we were cut off from the rest of the troops, we decided to swing to the right to take advantage of cover before retreating towards the rear grassy areas. The sniper was estimated to be only twenty five or thirty yards away. When our tiny group reached the open grassy area we were sighted by the crew of a Bren*** gun carrier that had been sent out by Lystad. I was very surprised to find Maj. Schatz**

this far forward of his aid station group to receive our two patients. We spent the remaining hours at the regimental aid station for safety reasons. We returned to the Second Battalion aid on November 6. Koli Point drive lasted another week.

Sometime later Major Schatz** received a silver star for his efforts; Sgt. Jim Cecil received a bronze star; and somebody said "thanks for a good job" to the PFC's. I was thankful for the privilege of living another day. Actually I lived to fight the Japanese another 550 days before the Guadalcanal campaign, the Bougainville campaign, and the three Philippine campaigns were over in August, 1945.

And now in the year of May 2000, some 57 years later, when I had the occasion of reading Sgt. Cecil's name and address in his obituary I find he lived close by -- he in Bemidji, MN and myself in Detroit Lakes, MN -- So near and yet so far.

Edward F. Mulligan
Medical Detachment 2nd BN, 164th Infantry
1032 Rossman Ave.
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

*(Editors note: *Medical officer, ** George Schatz - medical officer, *** British gun carrier. Looked like a tank with top cut off. Very little protection as there was no top. Bren Gun Carrier driven by men from service company and rifle companies. Ed Mulligan all you had to do was read your 164th Infantry Association Directory sent to you and you could have easily located Jim Cecil in Bemidji, MN. Ed Mulligan when asked how he happened to be assigned to the Medics stated that when he was drafted into service at Fort Snelling, MN, he asked to placed in the Medics as he figured he could learn something that might be helpful when his one year of military service was completed.)*

NUMBER LESS UNIT WON HIGH HONORS

By NEA Service

The Americal Infantry Division is the only division in the United States Army which has no number.

The reason for this is that, when the war started, there was no Americal Division, and none was contemplated. But the exigencies of the war in the Pacific — particularly a lot of loose Japs on the rampage — impelled the high command to form the new division from a group heretofore known as Task Force 6814. Its name — derived from a combination of America and New Caledonia — was invented by a sergeant in its ranks.

Two months after the First Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal, the newly formed Americal went into action. For their action on this embattled island, elements of the division were rewarded by the Navy with its Presidential Unit Citation.

On Christmas day, 1943, the Americal went into the line on Bougainville. For nearly a year, the doughs fought the Japs there, and by the time they were relieved they had established the unit as a battle-wise, fighting jungle outfit.

Later in October, the Americal went into the Philippines. In less than five months, the various units of the Americal saw action on no less than 13 Philippine islands.

The men who had started out without a name and ended up without a number had done themselves proud.

One thing about growing old, it takes a long time.

— Anonymous

Dear Arvid Letter

December, 1992

Dear Arvid,

It is difficult to say when the tumor began growing inside of me, but it was in early March of this year that I was diagnosed as having Cancer. On the advice of my doctors I underwent Radiation Therapy hoping, at the very least, to arrest the growth. However, in the months that followed, I was to find out that the disease (much like my own children) had a mind of its own and that it would not be reasoned with by modern medicine. My high hopes of becoming cured slowly gave way to an entirely different world of oxygen tanks, loss of appetite and pain' until finally my physical decline has forced me to realize that there will be no cure for me and that I must resign myself to deal with my own inevitable death.

I believe in a God for I have seen too many things on this earth to believe otherwise and I do not fear death, though there are times that I become apprehensive over the pattern that it might manifest.

But further, in dealing with my own mortality, I found that I was pausing many times daily to reflect on my life and those around me.

In January of 1922, I was born into a world that I felt could have been more loving, a little more caring. I grew up during the Depression. I served in World War II. I met and married a wonderful woman with whom I had four children and I watched as these children grew to adulthood. I have worked with wood. I have planted roses and I have watched them grow. I have hunted. I have struggled to pay the bills and I have been blessed to see a day when there was no longer a worry as to where the next meal would come from. I became a Grandfather and then a Great Grandfather.

My life has been full. I have known love. I have known friendship. I have felt anger, I have felt happiness and I have known great sadness.

And now the time has come (while I am still able), for me to write these words to you, for in reflecting upon my life I found that there were many times that you were in my thoughts. And while I never had a brother, I have always felt that "Company F" satisfied that loss.

For those memories you gave to me...I thank you. For the friendship we shared...I thank you and for all that you have ever meant to me...I thank you.

Arvid, it was nice to have someone in the same company with the same last name. I enjoyed our times together. You have a very nice wife, please greet her for me.

Norman Thompson

(Editor's note: Norman Thompson and Arvid Thompson served together in Company F, 164th, WWII.)

MEETING TWO PRESIDENTS CONTINUED :

Second meeting with a President

By Myrtle Sewall

I don't remember too many details of our lunch that day, but I do remember the urge I had to tuck one of the napkins with the Federal Reserve seal in my purse, but I didn't want to embarrass my more sophisticated colleagues.

To say I was impressed by the events of those 72 hours in an understatement of the greatest proportion. As exciting as it was to be a part of all the pomp and ceremony -- it did not overshadow the excitement of knowing that the signing of the bill would open up a new world for people with mental retardation.

The years of activity and service we spent in ARC are a wonderful memory, but the amazing part of the whole "adventure" is that it was the result of a little one who was blind, could not speak, sit up, or grasp a toy. Our beloved daughter Jan Ellen answered that Last Roll Call April 13, 1966.

*We should think of ourselves as working at five levels –
at home to make a better family life, in the community, in
the state, across the nation and around the world.*

— Myrtle Sewall



*Ration break down (food) Camp Clairborne, LA,
1941 Maneuvers.*

*"I think, therefore I have an advantage over my
husband."*

— Susan Burns, Francisco, Ind.

THE NATIONAL GUARD IN WORLD WAR II

1940-41 Mobilization

Beginning in September of 1940 the first of 300,034 National Guard troops reported for active duty for "one year of training." This doubled the size of the U.S. Army, adding its infantry division, 80 separate regiments, and 29 Army Air Corps flying squadrons to the nation's active-duty forces. Along with the guard's mobilization, which put another million men into Army uniform.

In August 1941, Congress extended by one additional year the term of service for draftees and mobilized Guardsmen. Thus the entire National Guard was already on active duty when the United States entered World War II.

Nation Guard already overseas as war begins.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, California's 251st Coast Artillery had already been stationed in Hawaii for a year, like the Guardsman of Hawaii's of Hawaii's 298th Infantry Regiment. They took part in the defense of Oahu.

When Japanese troops invaded the Philippines three days later, U.S. troops there included the New Mexico's National Guard 200th Coast Artillery, and two tank battalions made up of National Guard units from various states. Half of these men died as prisoners of the Japanese.

Three other Guard artillery units were in mid-ocean as the war broke out. The 147th (South Dakota), the 148th (Idaho), and 2nd Battalion, 131st (Texas) were diverted from the Philippines to Australia, the first of thousands of U.S. troops to arrive "Down Under." The 131st was sent to Java where it surrendered with the Dutch garrison to the Japanese.

First to ship out; First to fight!!

North Dakota's 164th Infantry sent to reinforce the Marines on Guadalcanal on October 13, 1942 was the first U.S. Army regiment to fight offensively in World War II. They were soon joined by their sister infantry regiments in the newly formed Americal Division, the 132nd (Illinois) and 182nd (Massachusetts).

On New Guinea, the 32nd and 41st infantry Division became the first Army divisions to engage and defeat the Japanese, in late 1942 and early 1943.

The *34th Infantry Division was the first Army division to sail overseas. In North Africa, it became one of the first two U.S. infantry divisions to fight in the European theatre, and by the end of the war had spent more actual days in combat than any other U.S. Army division.

National Guard flying squadrons were also among the first to reach the combat zone. Three Observation Squadrons, the 111th (Texas), 122nd (La), and 154th (Ark.), arrived in North Africa in the Fall of 1942. In July 1944, Michigan's 107th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, which had flown pre-invasion missions over the Normandy beaches, became the first Army Air Corps unit to operate from the continent of Europe. World War II Campaigns National Guard Infantry Divisions-European Theater:

26th Infantry Division (Mass.), N. France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe.

28th Infantry Division (Pa.), Normandy, N. France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe.

29th Infantry Division (Va., Md., D.C.), Normandy*, France, Rhineland, Central Europe.

30th Infantry Division (N.C., S.C., Tenn.), Normandy, France, Rhineland, Central Europe, Ardennes-Alsace.

34th Infantry Division (N.D., S.D., Minn., Iowa), Tunisia*, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, N. Apennines, Po Valley.

35th Infantry Division (Ka., Mo., Neb.), Normandy, France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace.

36th Infantry Division (Tex.), Naples-Foggia*, Anzio, Rome-Arno, S. France*, Rhineland, Central Europe, Ardennes-Alsace.

44th Infantry Division (N.J., N.Y.), N. France, Rhineland, Central Europe, Ardennes-Alsace.

45th Infantry Division (Ariz., Colo., N.M., Okla.), Sicily*, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, S. France*, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe.

PACIFIC THEATER;

27th Infantry Division (N.Y.), Central Pacific, Western Pacific, Ryukyus.

31st Infantry Division (Fla., Ala., La., Miss.), New Guinea*, S. Philippines, Western Pacific.

32nd Infantry Division (Miss., Wisc.), New Guinea, S. Philippines, Luzon.

33rd Infantry Division (Ill.), New Guinea, Luzon.

37th Infantry Division (Oh.), Northern Solomons, Luzon*.

38th Infantry Division (Ind., Ken., W. Va.), New Guinea, S. Philippines, Luzon.

40th Infantry Division (Calif., Ut., Nev.), Bismarck, Archipelago, S. Philippines, Luzon*.

41st Infantry Division (Wash., Ore., Ida., Mont., Wyo.), New Guinea, Luzon, S. Philippines.

43rd Infantry Division (Conn., Mn., Vt., R.I.), Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, New Guinea, Luzon.

Americal Division (Organized May 1942, primarily of Ill., Mass., N.D., National Guard Units), Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Leyte, S. Philippines*.

(Asterisk denotes initial landing)

National Guard Observation Squadron

At least 29 National Guard Observations Squadrons were called to active duty during World War II. By 1945, six had become fighter or bomber units, but most remained in the observation, tactical reconnaissance, photo reconnaissance or liaison role. The units served in the European, China-Burma-India, Canal Zone, Pacific and Mediterranean Theaters, as well as in the U.S.A., then called the "Z.I.", the zone of the interior.

(Taken from Bravo--Veterans Outlook and Americal Newsletter)

*(Editor's note: *-the 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) was part of the 34th Infantry Division. The Regiment trained with and participated in the 1941 Maneuvers in Louisiana.)*

67th FIGHTER SQUAD

You may not know that at one time, at its inception the Americal Division had in addition to its many units, a full and complete fighter squadron. As a matter of fact, it was in combat at Guadalcanal when the attached special order No. 163 was written. It was the 67th Fighter Squadron under the command of Capt. Dale D. Brannon, on New Caledonia. He was on his way to Guadalcanal with the Squadron's Belle Airacobras and was attached to the First Marine Division fighting the Japanese there on the date of the enclosed special order.

For your information, the 67th Fighter Squadron is still in Japan (Okayama), and has been there since World War II.

Also, what might be interesting to some of your readers, the same Dale D. Brannon, shot down the first Japanese aircraft on Guadalcanal by the Army. The Marines had shot several down earlier. "DD" was flying an Airacobra named "Whistlin' Britches". The squadron had about 30 flying but as weeks went by and new aircraft arrived "WB" was the only one of this kind still flying. Of course, fighter planes only fly in pairs, but this crew kept "WB" in flying condition so she was used as a bomber, dropping 600 pound bombs on enemy ships and also dropping Life rafts to pilots down at sea. She had other names, such as "Our Friend" and "Old 66".

In August 1944, I brought "WB" back to the states aboard a "Baby Carrier" to take around the country on a Bond Selling Tour. A few days back in California I came down with the first of many bouts of malaria. That was the last I heard about this museum scheduled plane on its way to Wright Field, Ohio. Research reveals the "Whistlin' Britches" was "scrapped" in California.

Presently at the Air Museum in Kalamazoo, an exact replica of "Whistlin' Britches" has been added to this outstanding air museum, and is being credited with the original achievements of this aircraft. Mr. Robert Ellis, Director of the museum, has informed me that "WB" is being "located" at the museum in a Guadalcanal setting. This will give viewers a better understanding and appreciation of her remarkable war record.

Charles E. Allard
Americal Division Association

164TH INFANTRY

Do You Know This Man?

I am looking for anyone who served with JOHN LUCAS, my Grandfather. He recently passed away. He joined the 164th Infantry in late 1944 and saw action on Leyte and Cebu, winning a Bronze Star.

Please contact:

Gerald J. Ruglio
5330 S Mayfield
Chicago, IL 60638

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been an honor and privilege to have served as President of the 164th Infantry Association this past year. A special thanks to the reunion committee members; Milt Kane, Wally Johnson, Vonnie Kane, Donna Hoff (Donna couldn't attend the reunion as she had to fly to China to attend a relatives wedding); Edie Tuff, Clarice Nordhogen (Clarice was hospitalized a day before the reunion), and Ruby Henderson. Ruby your diligence in obtaining the number of prizes for the drawings was unbelievable. The many prizes kept the committee members running to deliver them to the lucky winners. The framed needle point of the 164th Regimental Crescent was beautiful. Ruby convey our thanks to your niece for her fine works. Thanks.

The news media coverage leading up to and at the reunion was very good. The Fargo Forum and TV Channel 6 interviewed several members at the hotel. The media attended the Memorial Service conducted by Chaplin Ziegler.

The playing of TAPS by Brian Berg was very touching. It reminded all of us of departed comrades. Brian Berg was the young bugler that accompanied the 27 individuals that returned to Guadalcanal in 1992.

Chaplin Ziegler, Lt. Col., North Dakota Air National Guard, provided a very fine religious address that touched all of us.

The dance music and entertainment provided by the 188th North Dakota Army Band was great. The music brought back memories of our youth. The beautiful strains and music of Isa Lae floated across the ballroom reminding many present of the restful time in the Fiji Islands after Guadalcanal.

My thanks to the committee and the opportunity to see so many of you at the reunion. Adeu, see you next year at the reunion in Bismarck, September, 2001.

JE SUIS PRET

Alvin Tollefsrud
President

164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS:

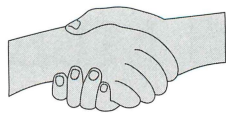
23 September 2000, Fargo, ND

Lawrence E. Boisen N10505 3 Forkds Rd
Post Falls, ID 83854

(K Company, like President Harry Truman, went to bed early and awoke a winner!)

Vince R. Powers 816 Nez Perce Dr
Hamilton, MT 59840-9010

Don L. Hoffman 702 12th Ave SE
Jamestown, ND 58401-4903



New Life Members

Ford Arthur L. 1 Jul 2000 Watertown, SD

New Members

Acampora, Janus 30 July 2000 Toms River, NJ
 Bjerke, Keith D. (MG)* 30 July 2000 Bismarck, ND
 Finn, Charles 13 Sept. 2000 Oak Forrest, IL
 Gjevre, Alden 14 July 2000 Moorhead, MN
 Homme, Donald L. 2 Aug. 2000 Westmount, IL
 Juvinall, John R. 19 Aug. 2000 Hin Sdale, IL
 Larson, Alys M.* 7 July 2000 Nampas, ID
 Olson, Wallace 27 July 2000 Lynwood, WA
 Willard, LeRoy 7 Aug. 2000 Georgetown, CO
 Berg, Brian C. ** 24 Sept. 2000 Fargo, ND

Associate Member

** Associate Member and a member of the 188th Army NG Band

Berg accompanied the 27 members of the 164th Infantry that returned to Guadalcanal in 1992. Berg was the Bugler that played taps for the ceremonies conducted on Guadalcanal 1992.

REPORT TO MEMBERS

Life Members	195
Associate Life Members	31
Members	350
Associate Members	67
Total	643

In the past year 41 members have answered the last roll call.

At the end of the year 24 members will be dropped from the membership rolls for failure to maintain current membership. These members have been notified by first class mail three times and their names posted in the last newsletter.

We have picked up 27 new members in the past year. Our membership was 644 at the end of 1999. With the new members we will have a net loss of 38 members.

Ben Kemp
Sec./Treas.

It's far easier to forgive an enemy after you've gotten even with him.

The following individuals have made contributions to the 164th Newsletter.

AMOUNT	NAME	ADDRESS
\$200.00	Joseph. Castagneto	Lincoln, AL
\$100.00	Col (Ret) Albert F. Wiest	Olympia, WA
\$ 50.00	AnnMarie Settingsard	Simi Valley, CA (In memory of her father Oliver M. Settingsard)
\$ 50.00	Arthur L. Ford	Watertown, SD
\$ 50.00	Tomy Clausen	Williston, ND
\$ 40.00	Howard Lauter	Milford, NJ
\$ 30.00	Alys M. Larson	Nampa, ID
\$ 30.00	John A. Landowski	Grand Forks, ND
\$ 30.00	Donald E. Hoppe	Santa Rosa, CA
\$ 30.00	Maynard F. Holmes	Carson, WA
\$ 20.00	Clarence Q Blecha	Grand Forks, ND
\$ 20.00	Arthur W. Hanley	Mt. Vernon, WA
\$ 20.00	LTC (RET) Wm. Zettler	Denver, CO
\$ 20.00	Raymond Sinkbeil	Medicine Lodge, KS
\$ 20.00	Fred R. Maier	La Crosse, WA
\$ 20.00	Dennis R Ferk	Santa Sfe, NM
\$15.00	Tim Kurtz	Devils Lake, ND
\$10.00	Benny J. Haman	Williston, ND
\$10.00	Charles Kretchum	West Newton, PA
\$10.00	Laila Burns Hedstrom	Hoffman, MN
\$10.00	Hiram O. Meadow	Atceison, KS
\$10.00	Leonard H. Drabus	Harvey, ND
\$10.00	Rudson B. Bellinger	Dalton, MA
\$10.00	Nicholas Cascio	Medford, NY
\$10.00	Charlotte J. Flexhaug	Williston, ND
\$10.00	Harold P. Arrhus	Concord, CA
\$10.00	James R. Beaton	Pelican Rapids, MN
\$10.00	A. P. Macdonald	Fargo, ND
\$10.00	Balzer Kurtz	Devils Lake, ND
\$10.00	Eiarrold Collins	Madison, MN
\$10.00	Paulette Wagn13:R	Havre, MT
\$10.00	Stanley T. Gadomski	Oxon Hill, MD
\$10.00	Lorraine Cecil	Bemidji, MN
\$10.00	Robert J. Alin	West Fargo, ND
\$10.00	Don Stevens	Watford City, ND
\$10.00	Walter Rivinius	Moorhead, MN
\$935.00		(June-September 2000), \$695.00 (May 2000), \$14,224.00 (April 2000), \$15,854.00 to date.

Ben Kemp
Sec./Treas.

(Editor's note: The names of the 36 members making the above contributions to the continuing operation of the 164th News will be added to names that have already donated to the 164th News. There are a total of 195 Life Members that have held a Life Membership 5 or more years leaving a balance of 54 Life Members that have held a Life Membership for less than five years. There are 31 Associate Members that have held a Life Membership 5 or more years, this leaves eight Associate Members carrying a Life Membership five or less years. Over 53% of the memberships responded to request for donations to continue the publication of the 164th News. The letters published in the news indicates very positive support. List of previous contributors listed in 164 News Vol. 1, April, 2000, page 14 and Vol. 2, June, 2000.

55TH BUSINESS MEETING

The 55th business meeting of the 164th Infantry Association was called to order by President Alvin Tollefsrud at 1000 hours, September 23rd, 2000.

Minutes of the 1999 business meeting were published in the December 1999 issue of the 164th Infantry News and were adopted by voice vote.

The following committees were appointed for the next reunion.

Time and Place Committee – select a place for 2002

Don Robinson, Chairman
Bernie Wagner, Member

Finance Committee –

Wally Johnson, Chairman
Milton Kane and Treumann Lykken, Members

Resolutions Committee –

Jim Fenelon, Chairman
Geo Laughlin and John Alme, Members

Nominating Committee –

Ralph Gaugler, Chairman
Jim Fenelon, Member

OLD BUSINESS

Milt Kane and Jim Fenelon reported on the Educational Scholarship Fund. Milt reported that the Scholarship Fund was a dream of the late Walter Johnsen, and it still needs some more time to put it all together. Milt reported that the name of the scholarship fund is now incorporated as a non profit educational organization with tax exempt status. The official name is the 164th Infantry Scholarship Foundation. Kane explained that the scholarship foundation was proceeding to make an application to the North Dakota charitable gambling law to get into the pipeline to receive funds. In the near future the membership along with the general public will be offered the opportunity to make contributions to the 164 Scholarship Foundation. Donations are tax deductible.

NEW BUSINESS

Ben Kemp, Sec/Treasure, gave a brief finance statement. We have one C.D. worth \$13,637.78. \$1,000.00 on loan to the Fargo Reunion and \$14,695.85 in the checking account, for a total of \$29,333.63.

On membership we have 643 members. 195 Life Members; 31 Associate Life Members; 350 Members and 67 Associate Members. In the past year 41 members have answered the Last Roll Call. At the end of this year 24 members will be dropped for failure to maintain current membership. (These members have been notified by first class mail three times

and their names listed in the last newsletter.) We have "enlisted" 27 new members in the past year, but will end with a net loss of 36 members.

A lively discussion was held as to the location of the reunion for the year 2002. Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, North Dakota vs Bismarck, North Dakota. More information will be forth coming in the December issue of the newsletter.

* One of the last actions President Alvin Tollefsrud undertook during the business meeting of the 164th Infantry Association Reunion in Fargo was to appoint a committee to look into the dues structure of the organization. Vern Fetch of Bismarck was appointed to chair the committee. Other members are Bernie Wagner, Don Robinson and Ben Kemp.

After its first meeting, the committee recommended that membership dues remain at \$10.00 per year and dues for life membership remain at \$50.00. Funds on hand are sufficient to meet operating costs for the next year to year and a half. After that time, if additional funds are required to maintain the 164th Infantry Newsletter, donations will be solicited.

The committee felt it would not be fair to increase annual dues or assess dues from life members with less than five years duration, without making a dues assessment to those life members over five years duration. Upon giving the report to President Tollefsrud, he instructed the committee to monitor funds of the organization as a standing committee, and to report its findings and recommendations again during the 2001 reunion in Bismarck.

* To refresh your memory about dues, reread Report to Members, page 18, Vol 40, No. 2, June 2000, 164th Infantry News.

It is reported that as of this date, approximately 1400 burials have been made in the Veterans Cemetery, located South of Mandan, ND.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Time & Place Committee: For the year 2002, the place will be Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, North Dakota or Bismarck, North Dakota. Time TBA at a later date.

Finance Committee: Wally Johnson reviewed the records and stated that they were in order.

Nominating Committee - Reported the following officers:

President VERN FETCH (Bismarck, ND)
Vice-President DON ROBINSON (Bismarck, ND)
Secretary/Treasurer BEN KEMP (Bismarck, ND)
Editor JAMES M. FENELON (Marshalltown, IA)

Resolutions Committee - Chairman Jim Fenelon; Geo Laughlin & John Alme, members.

55TH BUSINESS MEETING CONT.:

WHEREAS: The objectives of this Association are to perpetuate the comradeship developed in serving together in a common military unit, and to continue to foster devotion and loyalty to God, State and Nation.

AND WHEREAS:

Resolution #1 - The members assembled in the 55th Annual Reunion wish to commend President Alvin Tollefsrud and the members of the Reunion Committee for their devoted service in planning a pleasant and successful reunion.

Resolution #2 - To place the annual financial report in the next issue of the 164th Infantry News.

Resolution #3 - To list, if space is available, the 164th members attending the annual reunion.

All resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Motion by Bernie Wagner, second by Vincent R. Clousen (St. Paul, MN) to adjourn, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Kemp, Secretary/Treasure.

2 September 2000

164th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION'S FINICAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 1999 THRU AUGUST 2000

BANK BALANCE - 21 September 1999	\$ 4,062.13
BANK BALANCE - 18 August 2000	\$14,695.85
BANK C.D.	\$13,637.78
LOAN TO FARGO REUNION	\$ 1,000.00
CHECK BOOK BALANCE	\$14,695.85
NET WORTH	<u>\$29,333.63</u>

	RECEIVED	PAID
DEPOSITS (NOTE 1)	\$23,159.85	
BANK INTEREST (NOTE 2)	\$ 12.45	
OPERATION COST (NOTE 3)		\$ 1,490.00
FARGO REUNION (NOTE 4)		\$ 1,000.00
BANK SVC CHARGES (NOTE 5)		\$ 101.50
PETTY CASH FUND (NOTE 6)		\$ 300.00
OFFICE DEPOT (NOTE 7)		\$ 90.19
STATE OF ND (NOTE 8)		\$ 10.00
US POST OFFICE (NOTE 9)		\$ 526.00
PRINTING (NOTE 10)		\$ 150.00
PRINTING (NOTE 11)		\$ 8,850.91
TOTAL	\$23,172.32	\$12,518.61
FUNDS SPENT ON NEWSLETTER	\$ 8,470.40	
Average cost per Newsletter	\$ 2,823.47 (Quarterly)	
FUNDS SPENT ON POSTAGE	\$ 1,088.68	

" I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE REPORT IS TRUE AND CORRECT FOR FY 2000 ENDING 18 AUGUST 2000."

Ben Kemp
BENNETT KEMP
SEC/TREAS

AUDIT COMMITTEE APPROVED (X) YES () NO

BY *William F. Clousen* DATE 9-23-00
BY *Alvin Tollefsrud* DATE 9-23-00
BY *Bernie Wagner* DATE 9-23-00

PERSONNEL PRESENT AT 164TH INFANTRY REUNION AT FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 22-24 SEPTEMBER 2000

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

ELROY O. GREUEL CASSELTON, ND
RAYMOND J. SINKBEIL MEDICINE LODGE, KS
DOUGLAS P. BURTELL BOWMAN, ND
GORDON ST. CLAIRE DETROIT LAKES, MN
ORVAL VOLDEN ISLE, MN
JAMES R. BEATON PELICAN RAPIDS, MN

SERVICE COMPANY

LES G. WICHMANN MINNEAPOLIS, MN
DONALD I. HOMME WESTMOUNT, IL
KENNETH SHAVER EAST BETHEL, MN
GERALD (JIM) WALDHAUSER SOUTH ST. PAUL, MN
JAMES M. FENELON MARSHALLTOWN, IA
VERN FETCH BISMARCK, ND

BAND

RALPH H. OEHLKE KATHRYN, ND

MEDICS

GERALD (SANDY) SANDERSON WILLOW CITY, ND
EDWARD MULLIGAN DETROIT LAKES, MN

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

DALE DEMPSEY NORTH RIVERSIDE, IL
RALPH H. OEHLKE KATHRYN, ND
JOHN L. STRAUSS LISBON, ND
JULEAN LEE FARGO, ND
ARTHUR PEPPE FESSENDEN, ND
JOSEPH F. DEST HAMDEN, CT
ANTON C. (TONY) BEER MANDAN, ND
SIEPHEN A. CLEMISTRUCK ALBUQUERQUE, NM

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 1ST BATTALION

NORMAN SAMSON VISTA, CA
MARVIN MAUCH BENSON, MN
JOHN L. SAMSON CAVALIER, ND
RAY & LUELLA FARROW CAVALER, ND
ORVAL VOLDEN ISLE, MN
HILBRET (HIBBY) SWANSON MESA, AZ

COMPANY A

WALTER A. HICKEY HILLIARD, FL
PAUL E. DICKERSON CANTON, OH
JOSEPH A. CASTAGNETO LINCOLN, AL
CHARLES H. FINN OAK FOREST, IL
WE NDELL W. WICHMANN COCKEYSVILLE, MD

COMPANY B

HORACE F. NEARHOOD TOLEDO, OH
RAYMOND D. CONLON MINTO, ND
LES WICHMANN MINNEAPOLIS, MN
WILLIAM C. HANSON BULLHEAD CITY, AZ
GORDON C. STEINWEG MAPLE GROVE, MN
CHARLES (CHUCK) WALKER PEMBINA, ND
HAROLD P. AARHUS CONCORD, CA
WILLIAM J. EAGEN MOORHEAD, MN
DONALD L. WIERTZ DETROIT LAKES, MN
ALICE ROTT FARGO, ND
DOROTHY KJERA MAXBASS, ND

COMPANY C

TREUMANN LYKKEN GRAND FORKS, ND
MARVIN MAUCH BENSON, MN
MAURICE A. HANNUM POWELL, WY
CHARLES ADAMSEN GRAFTON, ND
JOHN G. HOLT FARGO, ND
CLARAENCE O. BLECHA GRAND FORKS, ND

COMPANY D

ERNEST F. AUFERO METHUEN, MA
VINCENT R. CLAUSON ST. PAUL, MN
ALBERT MARTIN KIEF, ND
HENRY A. VIOLETT LEEDS, ND
MELVIN GUTTERUD PARK RIVER, ND
WENDELL W. WICHMANN COCKEYSVILLE, MD
EDWIN J. KJELSTROM RUGBY, ND
CLEMENT FOX FELTON, MN
EDITH TUFF FARGO, ND

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 2ND BATTALION

RAYMOND F. SINKBEIL MEDICINE LODGE, KS
PAUL H. LONGABERGER WILLIAMSTOWN, WV
RAYMOND C. ARNESON BOULDER CITY, NV

COMPANY E

EMIL I. BLOMSTRANN NEW BRITAIN, CT
EARL (RED) CHERREY FAIRVIEW, MT
JOEL FEDJE HOOPLE, ND
CHARLOTTE FLEXHAUG WILLISTON, ND

PERSONNEL PRESENT AT 164TH INFANTRY REUNION AT FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 22-24 SEPTEMBER 2000

COMPANY E

MILDRED HELLER WILLISTON, ND
HILBERT SWANSON DICKINSON, ND
CHARLES H. WALKER PEMBINA, ND
LORRAINE F. CECIL BEMIDJI, MN

COMPANY F

JOHN N. ALME HEMET, CA
PHILIP ROY ENGSTROM MOORHEAD, MN
ARVID THOMPSON ST. PAUL, MN
GEORGE B. LAUGILLIN GLENDIVE, MT
WALTER RIVINIUS MOORHEAD, MN

COMPANY G

PETER H. GRANT STRUM, WI
DON ROBINSON BISMARCK, ND
ELMO O. OLSON FINLEY, ND
WARREN (TONY) GRIFFIN VALLEY CITY, ND
MILTON W. KANE FARGO, ND
WILLIAM P. WELANDER MT HOOD PARKDALE, OR

COMPANY H

LEONARD PFARR CIRCLE PINES, MN
HARROL D. COLLINS MADISON, MN
ROY D. OLSON ST. LOUIS PARK, MN
CHARLES H. WALKER PEMBINA, ND
JAMES A. JOHNSON FARGO, ND

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 3RD BATTALION

MERRITT OGREN EDGELEY, ND
MELVIN P. BORK MOORHEAD, MN
WILLIAM P. WELANDER MT HOOD PARKDALE, OR
KEN MCLAUGHLIN FARGO, ND

COMPANY I

NONE

COMPANY K

ORVILLE N. DODGE HELENA, MT
RALPH L. GAUGLER BISMARCK, ND

ANTON C. (TONY) BEER MANDAN, ND
HARRY DOLYNIUK THOMSON, GA
JOHN REVERS OMAHA, NE
LAWRENCE (BUD) BOISEN POST FALLS, ID
WILLIS G. CLARK DICKINSON, ND

COMPANY L

ALVIN TOLLEFSRUD MAYVILLE, ND

COMPANY M

JOHN B. VANEENDENBURG HASKELL, NJ

(Editor's note: 43 Association members from outside the state of North Dakota attended, 30 members living in North Dakota were present. Attendees were from California, Florida, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Mexico, Arizona, Kansas, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Nevada, Wisconsin, Iowa, Oregon, Idaho, Alabama, Georgia, and Massachusetts.)

A LETTER HOME

*I helped a buddy die today
By 'helped' I mean I talked with him
until he passed away.
He lay there bleeding, cradled in my arms;
And while he bled, he said these things to me;
He guessed this was the end, so went the game,
You lived, you chanced, you died; It was the same
Some must be sacrificed for victory's sake,
But then he had a lone request to make,
He held the photo of a little boy;
Begrimed, the image with youthful joy,
"My brother's kid" he smiled with pride
Then winced, as pain traversed his wounded side,
He stirred to ease the sharpness of the pain
Asked for a drink, then he spoke again,
He wanted something, for the life he gave,
He asked those he loved, that they should save,
In years to come, when mem'ry dim must grow,
From Fates like this, save little tykes as Joe,
He did not ask for mourners, or marble shrine,
Nor tears, nor tomb, nor stricken likeness fine,
But one request he made before "twas time to go",
"Spare them of this, don't let them know".
I turned to cradle his wounded head,
Then looked again, he was already dead.*

Author Unknown

MOUNT BAGANA

At the upper end of the Solomon Islands, five-hundred miles east of New Guinea is the island of Bougainville. It is 3,500 square miles representing the largest single land mass in the group. It is approximately 125 miles long and ranges from 30 to 50 miles in width. The island is split by the Emperor and Crown Prince Range and is capped by two active volcanoes -- 10,000 foot Mount Balbi in the north and 6,600 foot Mount Bagana near Empress Augusta Bay.

Bougainville's narrow coastal plain is generally low and swampy. Practically all of the island's interior is covered with what is reputed to be the thickest and most impenetrable jungle in the Pacific. The annual rainfall exceeds a hundred inches and in many parts of the island brief torrential rainstorms are almost a daily occurrence the year round.

Before World War II the population of the island was estimated to include more than forty-six thousand extremely dark-skinned natives, plus about a hundred white missionaries and plantation managers and some Chinese. Most of the natives had already been converted to Christianity by Catholic and Protestant missionaries. Many small villages were spread throughout the island.

America Newsletter

(Editor's note: 164th Infantry conducted many patrols in and around Mount Bagana. The creeks and rivers flowing down from Mount Bagana were very hot as they were heated by the active volcano. In some of the very remote areas on Bougainville, the natives often barbecued their enemy's defeated in battle.)

JAP DIARY / OWNER / LT. OKAJIMID

Arrived November 1942

- Dec. 25th: Saniala and Vehieds died from illness that may be because they were unreasonably overworked.
- 26th: Asbha Kasua died also of illness. Malaria fever affected his mind and he acted peculiar after eating his supper, he died suddenly. This death increased the large total of those killed in action and decease to 13 men. This makes approximately the losses received in occupation of Hong Kong and Java. Even in the face of the enemy the mans mind was entirely occupied with thoughts of eating. We are waiting for Spring Spirit to come out, and we dream of the job of reducing Guadalcanal more over. The airfield is finished and friendly planes will come over in large numbers.
- 27th: Oka Junis died from illness. It was not that he lacked energy but he drenched by rains which came over regularly every afternoon in this life in the jungles.
- 28th: 1st Lt. Tomai died of wounds received the day before. Now without seeing the fall of Guadalcanal, in spirit sleeps eternally.
- 29th: Yamonsova Kyoieki died from wounds. Such weak soldiers with weak wills are no good for they die from a slight wound. His wound was trifling with hardly no bleeding. Now the casualties are 25 men.
- 30th: By the 15th of next month transportation of supplies and troops will be carried out and we shall gain air superiority after the 16th units from the rear will pass us and after preparatory bombardments by planes and artillery we will carry out a general attack. In two months all of Guadalcanal will return to our hands. Then the enemy will not be able to hold the Tulagi urea. I believe the decisive battle between Japan and the U.S. will end in complete victory on the bright morning of '43 and will be an everlasting light in military history.
- Jan. 1st: Two officers of the company died. One is ill and one is at the front. There is no one to be my rival as Co. commandee. I went to see the Sgt. Major and Senior Sgt. and had a long talk. I learned many things which I would not ordinarily have learned. Such as deficiency of training in interior guard duty and lack of education as Company Commander. There is much of this that I can not put in use.
- 2nd: As I was ill I stayed back. I am waiting for the battalion commander. Major Majaori and I am anxious to see which kind of a person he is.
- 3rd: I didn't feel good again today. I stayed back of Bn. Hqd. the total killed and dead are now 31.
- 4th: Supplies are gradually improving and we only have to wait to endure for 10 more days.
- 5th: In the evening the main force battalion arrived although it is called the main force it consists of only 57 men. The battalion must have taken a serious beating.
- 10th: Major Mishimura again drew men from the reserves. Units this afternoon. Although I have our commander of the unit force of the Company. There are only 10 men in all. It's really terrible to see the electric lights go on at the enemy air field.
- 11th: *By artillery fire three men were killed and 4 wounded. It is too much to receive naval bombardments. Also in 4 days 3 d# is expected to land.*
- 12th: Food situation is worse.
- 13th: Communications are off from the rest. Don't know what's going on.
- 14th: I have a very empty stomach, so I killed some ants and ate them. They were the best ants I have ever eaten. They tasted good.
- 15th: I feel weak today. I really don't know what's going on here. The enemy field artillery started firing at us.
- 16th: The 5th and 8th Company Commander were killed yesterday. The 8th Company retreated backwards.
- 17th: It is 10:00, we're on a special alert for the enemy seems very close. How special ants-----Died.
- Dec. 25th: Christmas. Enemy Artillery bombardments are terrible again.
- 26th: Cpl. Abe found some meat on enemy dead and divided among us.
- 27th: I went with Cpl. Abe to get some meat buried in cement to hide it. It had some maggots on it.
- 28th: Captured enemy rifles and ammunition. I have dysentery. Stopped eating meat. Health comes first.
- 29th: Ammunition and canned food captured from the enemy.
- 30th: Whiskey was brought up by Major for New Years.
- Jan. 1st: Gave Bonzai for Emperor and sang national anthem. It is surprising how many shells the enemy have.
- 2nd: I remained by the Company Commander for wondering along the coast. I'll have to be more careful. I was only doing it for the sake of the company.
- 3rd: I am waiting for planes to come over but none have come yet.
- 4th: Rations will be given to every three men.
- 5th: Sgt. Tokeys is missing. It is not possible for a man to desert.
- 6th: 10 days rations were landed. 25 enemy planes were shot down.
- 7th: The day for the enemy attack but all is quiet.
- 8th: I am out of ink so I had to write with pencil.
- 13th: The enemy artillery is shelling as usual.
- 14th: The men are dying one after the other. The Company roster has 20 men. I am very hungry. I wonder if a man feels when he is starving. Rice and rice cake and candy appeared in my dreams.
- 16th: I heard one of the enemy speaking over a loud speaker telling us to come in. What fools the enemy are. The Japanese will stick it out to the end. This position must be defended with our lives.

See continuation on next page

JAP DIARY / OWNER / LT. OKAJIMD

continued:

- 17th: According to the broadcast they are going to attack..
The enemy artillery is becoming fiercer and fiercer, the company area is riddled with bullets and craters.
- 18th: A messenger come about 0700. I became very angry I expressed the opinion of all the C.C. told us not to worry as everything would be alright.
- 19th: Artillery and enemy attack at 1300.
- 20th: Heard the 57th Commander had died. The 8th Machine gun Co. had to withdraw.

21st: I prepared my equipment to be moved out. Sorry to I leave this fox hole in which I have lived so long.

By Japanese Officer on Guadalcanal, 1942

(Editor's note: Part of diary taken from the (KIA) body of a Japanese soldier. Lt. Okajimd, Japanese Army, landed on Guadalcanal, November, 1942. January 21, 1943, Lt. Okajimd Travail ended in death in a battle by attacking units of the 164th Infantry. The part of the diary shown here was written in Japanese and translated by Army Intelligence.)

FIRST TO FIGHT

By Sgt. Charles Wilson

Wagers of the first Army offensive against the axis on any front and still out on the battle line as V-Day looms ahead, more jungle trekking than Dr. Livingston ever presumed possible, more climbing than an alpine guide does in a lifetime - that's the Americal.

The Americal really began when Task Force 6814 was hastily rounded up on the heels of Pearl Harbor from National Guard units in the east and Midwest and sent zig-zagging out of Brooklyn under the shadow of a couple of Navy blimps. First they thought they were going to Ireland, then when the ditch at Panama was put behind, the Philippines became the rumored goal. But after 40 days of non-stop con-voyaging it was the land of the Aussies that loomed on the western horizon for these pioneer SWP GI's of the dark days of early 1942. The Philippine Islands landfall had been merely put off for three years or many a deck-weary sea marathoner.

Melbourne's clean streets and billets at Ballarat and Camp Darley, Bacchus Marsh were seen only briefly but during those few days quarts of fresh milk and steaks off china plates were poured down many gullets which haven't had the same repeated for going on four years now. The beer lines at the Aussie canteens were long during the short evenings and those who had anything left to exchange for pounds and pence at the suffocating exchange clerk's desk gorged themselves with rich Aussie chocolate which puts the U.S. brand to shame, ginger beer and sent cablegrams.

Meanwhile, the Japs were menacing the "Treasure Island of the Pacific" just turned anti-Vichy even though everything around seemed going Axis. The Japs wanted "New Caledonia's rich chrome and iron deposits. So that was where to go next, leaving really modern civilization behind for a great while to come.

Jap menaces seem long ago and far away now, but Noumea harbor was entered with everyone wondering whether the Japs had already taken over. Instructions had been given to be ready to make a beachhead. But evidently the Nips hadn't gotten through.

Instead, 6814 was scattered the length and breadth of the 180-mile long island, until each doughfoot thought he was responsible for 10 square miles of cocoa-nut grove or coffee plantation himself, with a native village or two thrown in.

Over the radio in remote Toucho, Hienghene, Voh, and other exotically named hut pools riflemen, scouts, BAR men heard news which seemed to have Hitler and Co. taking over the world. Then came the battle of the Coral Sea and next 6814 became the nucleus of a newly activated division which was to go to Guadalcanal, the first move in the drive which was eventually to start the Axis toward the canvas for the long count.

When the call came for a name for the new outfit, a Signal Corps

sergeant from Grove Hill, Mass. combined Americans and New Caledonians and came up with "Americal" and Americal it became.

Oct. 13, 1942 was the day of the first unit 164th Infantry Regiment, of the Americal landed on the "Canal" to aid the hard-pressed Marines on Henderson Field, to be followed by the remainder of the Division under Maj. Gen. Patch, now of the Seventh Army.

Mt. Austin or Grassy Knoll," Kokumbono, Tulagi, Cape Esperance are now part of the not so flowery memory lane of the Americal's charter members. After the island was secured in Feb. 1943, the Americal made ready to sail south once more, this time to Viti Levu, Fiji, where more jungle and hill scaling combat training, how to say "bula Varaka," drink cava, and dance the tra-la-la were quickly assimilated.

But, as in 1942-43, the holidays of 1943-44 were spent in combat back in the Solomons on volcanic, shuddering Bougainville. Although around Hill 260, beneath its giant banyan tree, one company lost 83% of its men, the Japs in the final count lost 30 for every dead Yank on the Island. The continuous patrolling for the better part of a year across dense undergrowth and slippery hillside, fording express train rapids, ferreting out a handful of Nips here, a score there, was worse than any pitched battle. One company, CO'd by one of its former privates, caught a company of Japs at breakfast, moved into their positions and wiped them out as they returned to occupy them.

When the Americal left for the Philippines it was especially satisfied about one thing -- it had wiped out the Jap Sixth Division, responsible for the notorious rape of Nanking.

It's been a long three years, but just as the Japs swept south in the distant era when New Caledonia lay open to the Samurai sword, the Yanks are now sweeping north. And speaking from the depths of their experience in the deep Pacific below and above the equator, members of the Americal feel somehow that the effects of the sweep north are going to a little more permanent.

(Reprinted by request from THE AMERICAL, Sunday, April 8, 1945.)

-- THIS COPY CAN BE MAILED HOME --

(Editor's note: Many individuals writing about Task Force 6814 are Easterner "dudes" and are not aware of or forget that the 164th Infantry Regiment was a part of Task Force 6814 and sailed from San Francisco, California on the President Coolidge to Melbourne, Australia. The 164th did not enjoy the luxuries mentioned. The 164th loaded onto 3 Dutch ships under the Dutch flag and sailed to the port in Numea, New Caledonia. The names of the Dutch ships were the S.S. "Maetsuyker", S.S. "Van Heutez" and S.S. "Cremer". A future news story is the writing, so if you have any stories or pictures you wish to share, send them to the editor, Jim Fenelon.)

RUNNING, SKY AND SCUBA DIVING

164TH LADY

My connection with the 164th Infantry started when I married Robert A. Kjonaas 23 May 1948. Bob served in D Company, 164th Infantry WWII.

In December 1941, my brother and I were attending Bismarck High School, I was a freshman, my brother was a year ahead of me. My parents believing that the war would require my brother to enter military service wanted us to graduate together so I stepped up my studies and graduated from Bismarck High School in 1944 with my brother. Very soon after graduation my brother entered service and after basic training fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Europe.

With all the young men off to fight in WWII, my mother and I went to Seattle to work in the shipyards. My mother worked in the assembly line and I was an office worker. I recall wearing wooden shoes because leather was rationed for civilians. The wooden shoes caused a lot of blisters.

Finding decent living quarters while working in the shipyards was very difficult. Landlords many times didn't keep the apartment rooms clean. My mother and I moved several times because the places being unclean and some had bed bugs.

Upon returning to Bismarck, I entered college and took a general course. This was the time when everyone was very patriotic. People seemed very close with everyone, doing their bit for the war effortfully sending "home" things to the troops, writing letters to the "boys", or working their jobs to keep the "homefront front" going for them when they would return. Some did, some didn't return.

I accepted a job with the Organized Reserve Corps (ORC). This is where I met my future husband, Bob Kjonaas, a S/ Sgt., a seasoned veteran having served with D Company, 164th Infantry WWII.

My husband attended the University of North Dakota after WWII and went back on duty as 2nd Lt. on a competitive tour of duty in the Army. He was awarded a Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) on Guadalcanal and a second CIB for combat service in Korea. My husband was wounded three times in Korea. As the Korean War continued on I returned to Bismarck to stay with my parents. I received a Western Union message from the war department, the messenger handed me the telegram saying, "We are instructed to tell you before you open it, that it is a death message." I went absolutely cold, then I went to my mother and we opened the telegram. It said WOUNDED, not dead. I was so relieved, I ran out of my house to my friends yelling, "Good news - Bob is wounded!!! - isn't that great!!! My friends thought I'd finally lost it for sure, but my reaction was that Bob was NOT dead and I was so relieved, knowing



Donna Kjonaas sky diving at Middelton Neighbor Festival, 1996.

that he would be in the hospital and then hopefully be sent home. It didn't happen that way but he did come home eventually. My husband answered the Last Roll Call 28 May 1997.

To keep myself occupied and healthy I started running in 1980. The first marathon I entered was in Grand Forks, ND, 26.2 miles. Well I was hooked and entered marathons in 1986, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 1998. Ran in the Sports Classic (formerly Senior Olympics) representing ND at Baton Rouge, La., 1993; San Antonio, Tx., 1995; and Tucson, Az., 1995. I have finished every race marathon I entered. One of the more challenging events is the run/shoot biathalon and the run/swim biathalon. These events take concentrated training and a firm determination to finish the event. So far I have been successful in finishing every race entered. Among my trophies and countless ribbons, I won a \$1,200.00 Grandfather's clock.

Most proud moment was when I finished my first marathon and received a standing ovation at the awards ceremony. A very high point in my running career was to carry the 1996 Olympic torch as it crossed North Dakota. This was a great honor.

Among the bad moments in my marathon training, tripping 4 times on uneven sidewalks, knocking myself out. The worst moment was slipping on a pile of snow at a uncleared crosswalk. A car ran a stop sign and I slid under the rear of the car. I know the driver saw me and heard me hit the car, but never stopped. I often wonder if the memory bothers her as much as it does me. How can someone not stop to see if help is needed.

See continuation on page 26

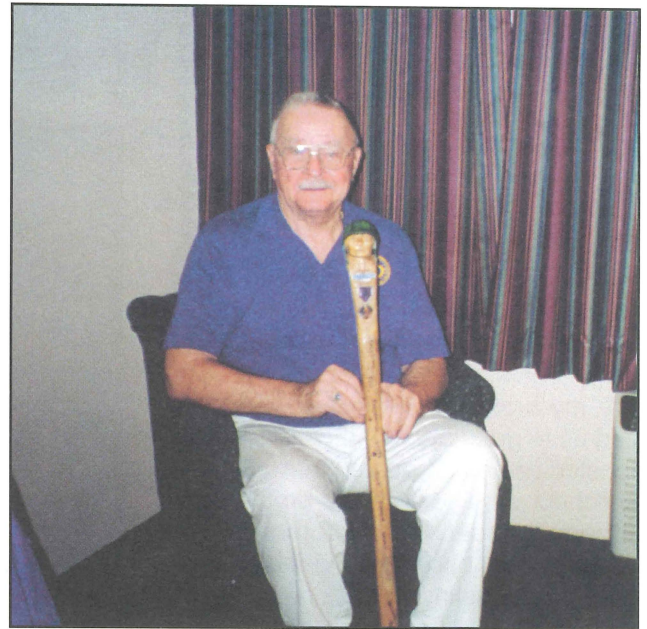
IN MEMORY OF MY TWIN BROTHER

Horace F. Nearhood flew to the Fargo reunion from Ohio to meet old friends from B Company. Horace and his twin brother were drafted together, completed basic training and sailed to New Caledonia, were processed, shipped to the Fiji Islands and joined the 164th Infantry as replacements. The twins had been trained as infantrymen, each carrying a BAR. Upon arriving in Fiji, the brothers were assigned to the same infantry company, B Company. They sailed with B Company, 164th Infantry arriving on Bougainville Christmas Day, 1943.

The father of the Nearhood twins had a sense of humor as he named one Horace Forest Nearhood and the other twin Forest Horace Nearhood adding to the general confusion. Horace F. was wounded in the right shoulder on Leyte, February 1945, his twin brother Forest H. was wounded in the right arm, May, 1945 and spent 2 years in the hospital. The twin brothers were each awarded the Purple Heart for their wounds, Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) and other Campaign ribbons.

Horace F. has to use a walking stick. He enjoys and is skilled in wood carving. Horace put his skill to work and carved the needed walking stick out of a 2 x 4 piece of wood. The head of the stick is a helmeted American soldier. It's inset with replicas of the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart and the crests of both the 164th and Americal Division. Etched into it are the names of all the islands he saw; New Caledonia, Fiji, Bougainville, Leyte, Biak, Johnson, and Hawaii. Battle stars are etched under Bougainville and Leyte, where Nearhood earned the Purple Heart.

At the annual meeting, Horace presented the hand crafted walking stick to the 164th Infantry Association in memory of his deceased twin brother, Forest Horace Nearhood and Mel Kjer, B Co., Max Bass, N.D. (deceased). Nearhood was a BAR man in Platoon Sgt. Mel Kjera's platoon. The platoon was making an attack over a ridge near a town named Valencia, Leyte, Philippines. As the



Horace is seated here with the hand carved cane, which he donated to the 164th in memory of his twin brother Forest and Platoon Sgt. Mel Kjera.

platoon went over the ridge they drew heavy enemy fire and were ordered to pull back and wait for supporting artillery and mortar fire. Nearhood was to follow the withdrawal by giving covering fire with his BAR. Nearhood was hit by enemy fire, he called for help and Sgt. Mel Kjera came back over the ridge and carried him to a fox hole. For this action Sgt. Kjera was awarded the SILVER STAR. Nearhood said that he was hit in the left arm at about 4:00 pm (1600 hours). The medics arrived on the scene, patched him up and Nearhood was carried out the next morning. A beautiful tribute to his deceased twin brother, and to a loyal, brave and dedicated Platoon Sgt. Mel Kjera. The decorated walking stick will be placed in the museum with other 164th WWII artifacts.

Horace F. Nearhood is the Ohio state commander of Military Order of the Purple Heart. (LM-164th, 1981)

164TH LADY

continued:

My sky diving training was completed with my first jump 18 August 1995. Hutchinson, Mn. The certificate of sky diving achievement reads: Presented to Donna Kjonaas falling for a mile and reaching speeds towards the earth in excess of 120 miles an hour, this fledging flyer did willfully and energetically leap from an airplane. Sky diving is thrilling and provides one a high moment of anticipation until the chute opens floating down to a safe landing.

Scuba diving is very interesting once you can control your time underwater. After I became confident in scuba diving in 1998, I explored the Great Barrier Reef off Australia. This scenery is unbelievable.

My son Richard coached me in marathon procedures and ran with

me giving me support and encouragement when I needed it.

I am very grateful to the National Guard of ND who have helped me and other retired families in so many ways. They uphold the tradition that the military does take care of their own.

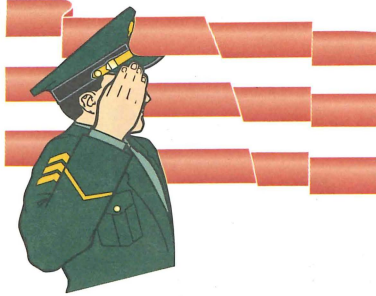
Donna Kjonaas
Associate Member
164th Infantry Association

Donna Kjonaas lighting Olympic Torch, 1996, for run across ND.





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

Geo E. Aljets

Carrington, ND
WWII

Norbert P. Ault

Cavalier ND

Kermit Axvig

Concord, CA
WWII

Robert D. Baker

Devils Lake, ND
WWII

Leo J. Beauclair

Bismarck, ND

Lyle W. Bethke

Kulm, ND
WWII

Lewis A. Borsheim

Fargo, ND
WWII

Paul M. Bossoletti

Grand Forks, ND
WWII

Robert M. Carter

Valley City, ND

Dr. George Christensen

Minot, ND
WWII

Jack C. Crull

Lubbock, TX
WWII

Harley Dalbey

Fordville, ND
WWII

Clifford Dasher

Taylor, MA

Mike Demianew

Salinas, CA
WWII

John A. Fischback

St. Paul, MN
WWII

Everitt Forde

Minneapolis, MN
WWII

William W. Freeman

Simpsonville, SC

James G. Gilbertson

Minneapolis, MN

Walter F. Happip

Williston, ND

Owen Heller

Williston, ND
WWII

Melvin Heyne

Fargo, ND
Korean War

Elmo N. Hloffernan

Missoula, MT
WWII

Tracy O. Kaldor

Salem, OR

Martin Kloster

Clark, SD

Arthur S. Kraft

Flasher, ND
WWII

Howard R. Kunze

Valley City, ND
Korean War

Clifford Martin

Bismarck, ND
WWII

Forest H. Nearhood

William L. Nelker

Eau Claire, WI

Theodore Ophaug

McVille, ND
WWII

James Parmeter

Westminster, CA
WWII

Raymond J. Patton

Bismarck, ND
WWII

Vance Preszler

Bismarck, ND
Korean War

Robert M. Price

Williston, ND

Robert K Radune

Mcarthur OH

Russell Rapp

Cleveland, ND
WWII

Earnest Rodgers

Springfield, MN

Oliver M. Settingsgard

Simi Valley, CA
WWII

Morris Smith

Hillsboro, ND

Donald K. Van Slyke

Shoreview, MN

Vernon Voss

Springfield, MO
WWII

*Say a prayer for all
our comrades and wives
for good health and
some extra time as they
have earned it.*

*Many of the 164th
members are having
very serious health
problems. Throw in an
extra
prayer for
your old
buddies
and
their
wonderful
companions.*



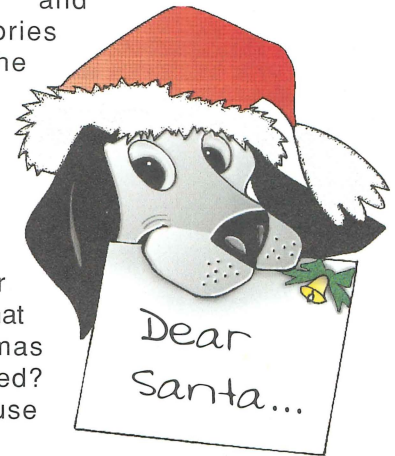


FANCY WHEELS

Don't be surprised if you are visited by newly elected President Vern Fetch on his Gold Wing Honda. The Gold Wing Honda weighs in at 850 pounds (needs to be strong to carry Vern), will cruise at approximately 140 MPH, holds 6 gallons of gas and averages 45 M.P.H. Fetch lives in Bismarck, ND, enjoys cruising the highways at the authorized speed limit??? Vern has been enjoying his free wheeling hobby for 19 years and participates in the annual two wheeler rally in Sturgis, SD. Vern Fetch (Colonel Retired) is a retiree from the North Dakota National Guard having first served in U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

CHRISTMAS 1943

Need your pictures, news stories and personal stories relating to the 164th landing on Bougainville on Christmas Day. What were your reactions to seeing an active volcano for the first time? What type of Christmas meal was served? Did Santa Clause visit you?



Some so called open minds should be closed for repairs.



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

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"The Ultimate Weapon" by: Charles N. Hunter
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) • West Point • Merrills Marauders