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The 164th Infantry News

Vol. 41 · No.1

April, 2001

The Japanese Model 89 (1929) 50mm Heavy Grenade Discharger

Porn out of the need to bridge the gap in range between hand grenades and mortars, the grenade discharger evolved in the Imperial Japanese Army from a special purpose weapon of infantry assault and defense to an essential item of standard equipment with all Japanese ground forces.

Commonly called Juteki by the Japanese, this weapon officially was designated Hachikyu Shiki Jutekidarto, or 1189 Model Heavy Grenade Discharger, the term "heavy" being justified by the powerful 1-pound, 1.2-ounce high explosive shell it was designed to fire, although it also fired the standard Model 91 fragmentation grenade.

To the American Marines and soldiers who first encountered this weapon and others of its kind in combat they were known as "knee mortars," likely so named because they generally were fired from a kneeling position. Typically, the discharger's concave baseplate was pressed firmly into the surface of the ground by the firer's foot to support the heavy recoil of the fired shell, but unfortunately the term "knee mortar" suggested to some untutored captors of these weapons that they were to be fired with the baseplate resting against the knee or thigh. When a Marine fired one of these dischargers from his thigh and broke his upper leg bone, efforts were swiftly undertaken in the field to educate all combat troops in the safe and proper handling of these very useful weapons.

The Model 89 (1929) 50mm Heavy Grenade Discharger is a muzzle-loaded, high-angle-of-fire weapon which weighs 10-1/4 pounds and is 24 inches in overall length. Its design is compact and simple. The discharger has three major components: the rifled barrel, the supporting barrel pedestal with firing mechanism, and the base plate. Operation of the Model 89 was easy and straightforward, and with practice its user could deliver accurate fire registered quickly on target.

Encountered in all major battles in the Pacific War, the Model 89 Grenade Discharger was an uncomplicated, very portable, and highly efficient weapon operated easily by one man. It was carried in a cloth or leather case with a sling, and its one-piece construction allowed it to be brought into action very quickly. This grenade discharger had the advantage over most mortars in that it could be aimed and fired mechanically after a projectile had been placed in the barrel, projectile firing not being dependent upon dropping down the barrel against a stationary firing pin as with most mortars, where barrel fouling sometimes caused dangerous hangfires. Although an instantaneous fuze employed on the Model 89 high explosive shell restricted this shell's use to open areas, the Model 91 fragmentation grenade with its seven-second fuze made this discharger effective in a jungle or forest setting, with complete safety for the user from premature detonation of projectiles by



overhanging foliage. Smoke and signal shells, and an incendiary grenade, were special types of ammunition used with this versatile and effective weapon which won the respect of all who came to know it.—Edwin F. Libby

(Ed. Note: The Japanese Heavy Grenade Discharger launcher often referred to as a knee mortar (not when "Red" Cherry is in the area) was a very effective weapon as a soldier could run in launch a few grenades and move away from the site and disappear into the jungle. John Slingsby probable was wounded by such and attack at Paint Cruz. Also Lt. Col. Bob Hall and the 3 Burns were most likely wounded by the grenade attack on Montanikau Ridge at the same time Dr. Panettiere was KIA - November 1942)

Four Japanese grenade launchers used in battle against the 164th Infantry on Guadalcanal Oct, 13 1942 - March 1943. The Jap grenade launchers were shipped back to NDNG Hqds,



Fraine Barracks, Bismarck, ND. The weapons are on mantle over the fire place in he Generals House (a.k.a. Stone House) Camp Grafton, ND.

164TH LADY "TAPE-UP" PINUP GIRL

Jim: I met Arvid Thompson in 1939 when he was a civilian with no idea that he would eventually be selected to go into the Army in 1941, be assigned to F Company, 164th Infantry. The first time I saw Arvid was when he came to my mothers home St. Paul, Minnesota. The purpose of his visit was to install venetian blinds my mother had ordered for her home. He looked good to me and seemed to be a good candidate for future life. I had no idea how far in the future that life would be. We started dating but the progress was rather slow as Arvid, I learned, is very conservative and moves very slow in making decisions. When Arvid's call to the Army came in April, 1941, he reported to Fort Snelling, Minnesota for induction. Leaving Fort Snelling in May with a number of other young men, he boarded a troop train for the trip to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. Arvid was assigned to F Company, 164th Infantry to begin a summer of camping, walking in the swamps of Louisiana and learning the techniques of an Infantry man. I received many letters from him telling about what he and his friends were doing on their summer outing in Louisiana. I knew he couldn't get into much mischief as his salary was only \$21.00 a month but this did increase once he had completed basic training. I think his pay increased to \$30.00 a month. Not big financing for a proposal of marriage. received frequent letters from Arvid and one day mail came from South Carolina. Now what! I wondered what happened? He explained that F Company, 164th, after completing the big 1941 Maneuvers in Louisiana, had been ordered to participate in additional training in South Carolina. F Company eventually returned to the 164th Infantry in Camp Claiborne. December 7, 1941 changed many peoples lives. The 164th moved to the west coast, spent sometime in the Cow Palace and then was assigned to guarding railroad bridges and tunnels in Montana. I was concerned that the cowgirls in Montana might get their eyes on Arvid. After the war started an Arvid sailed off to the Pacific, I started working at the 3M Company in St. Paul Minnesota. I worked in the administrative offices but found out that I could make more money in the tape and abrasive department. The letters were slow in arriving from Arvid but he continued to write. One day a package arrived, when I opened it, it was a grass skirt for a hula hula dancer.





I wondered if he had taken it off of a native girl in the Fiji Islands. His letters assured me that he had bought it in Suva, Fiji. I tried it on, gave it a few shakes and thought Arvid is moving faster. I told my fellow employees about receiving the grass skirt from my boyfriend in the Fiji Islands. friends talked me into posing in the grass skirt as the 3M "Tape-Up" pinup girl. The picture was sent to all 3M men that were in the armed services, WWII. I received many very interesting letters from the circulation of the "Tape-Up" girl from the 3M Company. One very interesting letter arrived from a 3M service man stationed in Australia. Some consideration was given to it but in the final decision Arvid's letters won the day. In 1945, Arvid returned from WWII, Philippine Islands traveled back o Fort Snelling, Minnesota for an Honorable Discharge. Now Arvid decided to move faster. He called his long time patient sweetheart, Virginia Gardner, and said he was making arrangements to be married in the Chapel in Fort Snelling. By chance, Father Thomas Tracy, was stationed there as the Chaplin. Thompson, being a Lutheran and Virginia, a Catholic took some doing, but Father Tracy was able to smooth the transition from single to married bliss. Father Tracy prior to conducting the marriage ceremony said, "I can voucher for Arvid Thompson as I have known him for about 4 years in the 164th, I know nothing about you Virginia." Apparently it all worked out as Virginia and Arvid Thompson have been married since July 26, 1945 (55 years). Sir Transit Mundia Et Gloria. So goes the glory of the world. (Editor's note: The "Tape-Up" pinup girl of WWII is still a mature beautiful woman sans the grass skirt and the extra shakes. Virginia has been very active in the social affairs of the Twin Cities Chapter of the 164th Association. Arvid has a tolerant secret happy smile when reminded about the world wide competition he faced from the world wide distribution of the glamorous picture of the "Tape-Up" 3M gal.)



HELP NEEDED!

Father Tracy's niece Winifred M. Berntsen has enrolled as an Associate Life Member of the 164th Infantry Association. Ms. Berntsen has been very generous in donations to keeping the 164th news viable with two (2) donations of \$100 each in memory of her Uncle Father Tracy.

Winifred is assembling a history of Father Tracy's life prior to and the time he served as a chaplain in the 164th Infantry. To help complete the life story of Chaplain Tracy would you please forward to Berntsen pictures, news stories and nay personal experiences you shared with Father Tracy in WWII. Contact Winifred Berntsen, 664 Front Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota 55103-1414. Phone: 651-489-4525.

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; It is whether we provide enough for those who have little.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

A STRANGE INCIDENT

In a conversation with a reputable and very knowledgeable member of the l64th, a mention of an unusual incident that took place when the 164th was at Leyte, Philippines. About April 1945, in the Ormoc Corridor, 5 men accompanied by armed guards came into the Service Company area with orders that the 5 prisoners were to be fed and transported by truck to the stockade in Tackloban with a new set of armed guards to be provided for the trip to the stockade.

The 5 prisoners were a very glum and unhappy lot. One was a Jap prisoner of war, one was a Filipino native that had collaborated with the Japanese army, one was a US black soldier (US Army) that refused to fight the enemy on the front lines and the last was a 1st Lt. that had shot his Company Commander. Truly a mixed bag of human beings caught up in a war that sometimes cause people to do strange things.

The prisoners were fed and then placed in a 6×6 truck for the journey to the stockade to a fate known. The prisoners were placed in the back of the truck with their backs next to the cab. A rope was stretched across the middle of the box and 3 eighteen year old armed soldiers were ordered to shoot any prisoner that made a move to come across the rope or to make any escape attempts. The guards were reminded that any prisoner escaping would result in they (the guards would be court marshalled and serve time in prison. No one escaped.)

The Regimental logs were researched and the facts confirmed. If anyone has additional information please contact the editor.

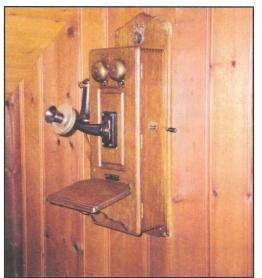


NORTH DAKOTA TROOPS were in the first U. S. army unit to relieve the marine garrison on Guadalcanal and this Associated Press photo shows three soldiers cleaning their rifles during a lull in the fighting on Grassy Knoll, west of Henderson field, where the army fought its opening skirmish with the Japanese. The men do not venture too far from a foxhole, in which the man at right is standing. Capt. Francis C. Rockey of Bismarck tells of how soldiers ducked into foxholes in a graphic story of North Dakotans receiving their baptism of fire on the Solomons' battlefront.

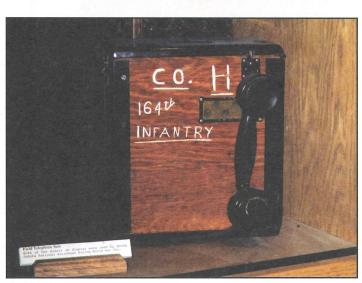
Below: Not a cell phone, most of us used, if one was lucky enough to have one in 1930 – early 1940's. This phone is in the General's Quarter Camp, Grafton, ND.

Upper Right: Field Phone, Company H 164th Infantry. H Company used this phone in Bougainville, Philippines, WWII. Located in museum, Camp Grafton.

Lower Right: Field Phone used in WWII by 164th, now at museum, Camp Grafton.









L-R

"Connie" Kamesh and "Al" Tellefsrud L Company, Hillsboro ND. They holding a picture of L Company 164th Infantry taken in Hillsboro, ND prior to departure for one year of training, Camp Claiborne, LA. The two "Old Soldiers" were sitting in the 164th Museum Hillsboro recalling the dark night, October 23, 1942, L Company and rest of the 3BN, 164th walked into the front line to plug the gap in the line opened by the attacking Japanese forces. The front line had been penetrated at the juncture of the 2nd BN, 164th and the 7th Marines, 1st Marines division. The 7th Marines were commanded by Colonel "Chesty" Puller.



Dear Jim,

We have one more name to add to "The Last Roll Call." Fred Jesse, a member of the 164th died on August 30, 2000. Fred lived in Fremont, California. Fred and I became acquainted when we were in Japan. I was a supply sergeant for E Company and her was the supply sergeant for the battalion. One memorable occasion was when Fred asked if I would like to take a jeep ride out into the Japanese countryside. I don't remember how he got the jeep but we took off into the hills northwest of Kokubunji into the Itsukaichi area. There were three of us in the jeep and as we were traveling along a lonely road, we passed a house with a man sitting on the front porch running a cleaning rod down the barrel of his rifle. We were unarmed. We traveled a little further up the road and met a construction crew and had to turn around and go back down the same road, passing the house again. We breathed a sigh of relief when we discovered the man and his firearm were no longer around. After the war we corresponded between California and Connecticut. My wife and I were able to meet with Fred and his wife, Gera, three different times in California and extended our friendship. The last time we got together we had a great time hiking the trails in Joshua Tree National Park. The friends one made during World War II will always be special. With best wished for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Emil I. Blomstrann Company E, 164th 32 Foxon Place New Britain, Conn 060532 860-225-7997

January 5, 2001

I would like to thank the staff who publishes the 164th Infantry Newsletter as I look forward to each issue. Don never talked much abouth his time in the service and for me each story and letter gives me some idea of what each of you endured. I also fee these letters and stories will be a meaningful testimonial for my children and grandchildren in this time of our nation's history. I want to thank all the 164th men who fought for our freedom. I'm proud to fly our flag in your honor and to those who are no longer with us.

Sincerely

Dolores E. Hoff 923 Bradley Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701-6516

\$50.00 in Don's memory \$10.00 newsletter fee

Gentlemen.

Received your letter today in regard to my 2001 membership card and some information on the cost of printing the news letter. Enclosed, therefore, is a check for \$30.00. Of this amount please use \$10.00 for the membership card and the remaining \$20.00 toward the cost of printing the newsletter. (I hope the printing of the newsletter never stops. I look forward to getting it each month.) I was with K Company from the start to the finish. I will soon be 83 years of age, legally blind and can't drive a car, read a newspaper, or write a letter. I have Muscular Degeneration in both eyes. recently received a machine from the V.A. that does allow me to write this letter. I can also now read a newspaper. This machine really is a help to me. I really miss the Annual Association meetings. My wife and I wish you a great new year. I will be awaiting the new membership card.

Thanks

Bernard Scheer 502 Jackson St. Hutchinson, MN 55350-9076

Hi Ben,

I have been talking quite frequently with John Geston, whose father was in Company C, 164th. John's father is deceased but he still keeps in touch with several of his dad's "old guard buddies". told him I was an associate member and received a regular newsletter and maybe he would be interested in doing the same. So here is a check for \$10 and his current address is on the check. I've also included a check for my life membership. Thanks for all you do. Sincerely, Allen Schuldt (Editor's note: Thanks, Mathew G. Geston was a 2nd Lt with C Company when the Regiment was Federalized 10 Feb, 1941) Dear Ben, Howdy, we hope the holidays were terrific! I received the December 164th news and enjoyed all the articles. Please pass my best to Jim Fenelon, he is doing a tremendous job! I have included \$50.00 to help the 164th news; although I spent the war in the ETO, two years with Company B, 110th Infantry, 28th Division, I still have great feelings for the 164th; was with them in 39-41 "Greatest Experience"! Do have a great 2001.

Sincerely

Lawrence "Red" Wittmer(LM) MSgt (Ret) A.F. Blair, OK 73526-9013

(Editor's note: I remember you from National Guard days and Camp Claiborne days. Drop me a line and tell me your story from 41 Camp Claiborne to Ret.A.F.)

\$50.00 in Memory of Don Hoff \$10.00 newsletter

100 1101101011011

Dolores E. Hoff 923

Bradley Ave Eau Claire, WI 54701-6516

(Editor's note: Don Hoff served in Regimental Hqdr. Company)

Hi,

Please sign me up for a life membership. At 80 years old, I think that's being optimistic.

Best wishes,

Charles D. Adamsen Co. Grafton, ND 133 Adamsen Drive Grafton, ND 58237

(Editor's note: You have a great spirit and a long road ahead. Good Health & Wealth)

Jan 3, 2001

Dear Jim,

Enclosed are my dues and \$10.00 to help cover the cost of the newsletter. You are doing a fine job and I enjoy it from cover to cover. Keep up the good work. We enjoyed the reunion last fall and are looking forward to next year

Sincerely,

Ray & Irene Arneson

1505 Irene Dr. Boulder City, NV 89005-3611

164th Infantry News Last Call

Dear Ben,

Maynard F. Holmes died 1-16-01 at Carson, WA. He had cancer of colon, hepatitis and cirrhosis of the liver. had a tumor operated on Sept. 01 and was sent home because cancer had spread through his body and nothing could be done. His friends came by to talk over old times and logging until the pain became too much. His wife Carlie often put his dog, Mickie, a very small chihuahua, up on his bed - she would be very quiet. On Jan 16 Mickie knew immediately when he quit breathing. Maynard fought 1 month without food and finally "went to work" at another landing.

So long from an old soldier and old tough logger.

Carlie Holmes PO Box 846 - 12 Callahan Rd Carson, WA 98610

Jan 2001

Ben,

Here are my dues. Heard form Herb W., he said you all had a good time in Honolulu. Wish I could have been there. We have gone through hell this last week with the biggest blizzard ice storm they have ever had in the south. We had no heat, power or water for five days. Boy, what life. Temperature had been in the low teens for over a week. is supposed to be in the 40's tomorrow. Boy, We need the heat, sun is out right now. Surely hope you can read this. As you know I am 88 years old and my fingers are stiff. Sure like the 164th news.

Leroy E. Smith E-7 309 Skyview Terrace Hot Springs, AR 71901-3832

Hi,

Check for life membership \$50.00. \$5.00 for 164th news. Glad to receive the 164th news

Mrs. Eleanore Fix 7308 Columbus Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55423-3318

(Ed. note. Eleanore Fix is the widow of Al (Shorty) Fix - Service Company - Devils Lake, ND)

Hi, I am sending in my dues for this year 2001 along with a I wish it could be more this month but I have a bit amount of bills this month. So have a happy new year to all my old buddies in the 164th especially the guys from HQ 2BN Motor Pool if any of them are left.

Best Regards

Victor Athias

266 Miller Ave Apt 2 Mill Valley, CA 94941

A small donation for the newsletter. Hope to see you next fall Anton Sturn 101 Clay St. Valleyjo, CA 94591-5503

Ben Kemp,

98133 782-2804

Check for \$50.00 enclosed; \$10.00 for 2001 dues and \$40.00 for newsletter. Robert Dodd 9183 Courthouse Blvd. Ct. Inver Grove Heights, NM 55077-4029

(Editor's note: Dodd is an associate member of the 164th. His father served in the Regimental HQS Company 1941-1945. Robert Dodd is writing a history of his father's service in the 164th and if anyone has any information or pictures about Bob Dodd Sr. he would appreciate hearing from you.)

Enclosed is my check for \$20. \$10 is for dues and \$10 for postage or whatever needs most. I certainly enjoy the paper. We sold our home this month and bought a condo. I sent you

my new address earlier.

Ron Davis Co. 11239 Greenwood Ave N #103 Seattle, WA

Here is a check for my life membership. Sorry, I can't send you more money, I am on a small income.

Carlos N. Anaya 805 W. La Deney Dr. Ontario, CA 91762-1221 11

Dear Mr. Kemp,

A year ago my uncle, Knute (Art) Fosaaen of Jacksonville, Florida, gave me a one-year membership to the 164th Infantry Association. I have truly enjoyed receiving the 164th Newsletter and wish to continue receiving it. Enclosed is my check for \$25.00 for another 1-year membership (please use the other \$15 to help with your publishing costs). My father, Alvin Fosaaen, also served with the 164th Infantry and, was wounded in combat on Guadalcanal, I believe. He passed away in 1976. He never talked much about his personal wartime experiences but I do know he was very proud to have served withe 164th. If anyone has any information regarding my father I would appreciate hearing from them as I am putting together a collection of his memorabilia and would like to know the names of the places he fought at, where he was wounded at and so on.

My address is: 910 12th Ave. East, Dickinson, ND 58601.

My E-Mail address is:

My phone number is 701-227-0626.

I look forward to getting the next issue of the Newsletter and, I hope to attend the convention next year. Please correct my mailing address.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Brian Fosaaen

(Editor's note: Knute Fosaaen & Alvin (Al) Fosaaen served in HQs Company 2nd BN, 164th Infantry, Cando, ND. "Al" Fosaaen was pictured in a San Fransisco newspaper standing guard duty at Hunters point, 10 miles south of the Cow Place after the 164th was marched to the area to convince the strikers to go back to work building ships. The date was about Dec 18, 19, or 20, 1941. If any one was on that hike or has any information please send it to the editor. "Al" Fosaaen O.C.S. attended OCS on New Caledonia, was Commissioned a 2nd Lt. after the war. "Al" attended the University of ND under the G.I. Bill, graduated from law school and practiced law at Cando, ND. "Al" answered Last Roll Call sometime ago).

Dear 164th Infantry Association,

On behalf of the North Dakota Militia Foundation, thank you for your support of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. The Cemetery is dedicated to the men and women who served this state and nation with honor and distinction. Operation of this hallowed place is made possible through the generosity of people like you. The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Funk, through the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Foundation, is dedicated to the financial support of this honorable memorial. We greatly appreciate all the past support. Only through your contributions can this memorial be guaranteed perpetual care and forever make this an appropriate resting place. We hope that you will continue to support this worthy effort. Again, thankyou, your total contribution for 2000 was \$25.00.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Haugen Brigadier General, NDANG The Adjutant General

January 2001

Hi Jim,

Found my overdue notice about 164th dues in my rapid fire system, left shirt pocket. Make it a life membership that way I can have no problem remembering every year. Real organized. Hope all is well with you. Have a good year.

Bob Burns 8021 Old Pacific Hwy. Castle Rock, WA 98611-9629

Jan 10, 2001

Happy New Year to the 164th news team!

Here's my check for my dues for 2001. I really enjoy reading your news magazine. I see names in every issue that bring back old memories. Thanks for your great effort. I'm still trying to find a 164th patch. None in the catalog you sent. I've called surplus stores and our local National Guard all to no avail. Any other ideas will be appreciated!

Thanks again

Mrs. Arthur C. Larson 1100 Meadowbrook Lane Nampa, Idaho 83686

Feb 12, 2001

To Those Friends of My Father Who Fought With Him,

This letter is to inform you that William Mazzeo who was a member of the 164th passed away on December 17, 2000. Mention of his passing in your newsletter would be appreciated. Bill was survived by his 3 children: Mark Mazzeo, Chris Mazzeo, and Nancy Dewey.

Thank you,

Chris Mazzeo 1521 Alanton Dr. Virginia Beach, VA 23454 December 30,2000

December 28, 2000

Hi Ya Ben.

Merry Christmas. \$10.00 dues and \$10.00 for your newsletter! It's good. Still don't know when or if they are going to operate. See doctor Jan. 22nd.

Take Care.

Jim Lebus 1108 4th Ave S Fargo, ND 58103

Dear Ben,

Enclosed is a photograph of a group of buddies taken in front of the 164th Headquarters Company tent. I have attached the names of each of us in the picture. This was taken in Bougainville. You may know some of the Fargo guys like the Hoff Brothers and Hendrickson. With the help of my computer I was able to contact some of my buddies, John Juvinall. Anthony Daddario plus some wives and family of those who make the Last Roll Call. One wife I wish to thank is Bob Hoff's wife Donna who sent in his pictures in your December Issue. She had introduced me to the Association. I am proud to be a member to enjoy all the news of the 164th. So far I have contacted two more buddies, Milton Olan and Neil Tennyson, with whom I now correspond. Now that I am a member, I will dig and look for items that may be of interest to others. You all do a fine job getting the magazine out. I am enclosing a check for \$20.00 for my 2001 membership and whatever you may need the balance for.

Thanks for the Memories,

Janus Acampora 164HQ, Co. 24 Inverell Dr. Toms River, NJ 08757-5944

P.S. Do you have an E-mail address??

(Editor's note: No. No computer. Thanks for the picture and letter. If you have more pictures with identification please send them also and stories about your time with the 164th).

January 26, 2001

164th Secretary,

Knute asked me to send money for membership for is nephew and a friend also. Frankly, I don't know how much to send. Do you have application forms or how is this accomplished? Please let me know as soon as possible. Knute could not attend the last reunion because of very serious health problems. He was in a hospital and then a nursing home from July 30th until Oct 18th 2000! He is now at home and recovering nicely. He is regaining the use of his left side which was totally paralyzed.

Sincerely,

Dolores W. Fosaaen 9732 N MacArthur Ct. Jacksonville, FI 32246 1-904-646-3373

(Editor's note: Knute Fosaaen was in HQs. Co. 2nd BN, Cando, ND. Knute get well so you can attend the reunions. Haven't seen you for sometime).

Hi.

Enclosed is money for dues and \$20.00 for the news! Good reading again in last issue, as usual!

Keep it up,

Thomas J. Fischer 312 9th St. Moorhead, MN 58560-1911

P.S. I enlisted in Fargo, 1940, to avoid the draft! For one year! Who'd a thought 4´ years! I was lucky though. All I got was malaria and a bad case of athlete's foot!

Please remove Raymond D. Porter from your mailing list and news letter list. He now has alzheimers and doesn't read very much.

Mrs. Porter 3783 Route 216 East Springfield, PA 16411-9705

•••••••

Hi There,

We hope all is well back there in the " "There are three of us out here in Northern California that get together(HQDR 1st BN) Bert Coffey, Bill Packwoll, Bob Bradley. Regard Bert Coffey, 540 Qual Run Ct. Del Ray Oaks, CA 93940-5727

(Editor's note: Are your two buddies members of the 164th Association, if not, enlist them in the 164th Association)

Sir,

Enclosed is \$30 for dues for 2000 &2001 and extra for the news. I did not make reunion in Fargo but hope to get there this year. enjoy the 164 news and see names familiar to me from former reunions and talks with my husband over the years. The outfit was very important to Raymond and he had a really good time at his last one which was 1996.

Sincerely

Doris M. Stellon 15805 County #3 Drayton, ND 58225 Dec 27, 2000

Dear Jim,

Enclosed a check for \$20.00. Membership for 2001 and \$10.00 extra for 164th news. I enjoy reading it. Thanks for sending it,

William H. Dailey 1522 East Vineyard RD Hayesville, NC 28904 31

December 27, 2000

Dear Ben,

I'm sorry to be late paying the dues. I thought I had done so long ago. The December issue of the newsletter came yesterday so last night I read it from cover to cover. Very interesting, even if I only recognized a few names that my late husband, Forrest, used to mention. He was with Co G. Greeting to any one that remembers him.

Sincerely

Mildred Stimson 17476 458th Ave.
Watertown, SD 5701-7189
December 21, 2000

Dear Mr. Kemp,

A Blessed Holiday Season to all 164th members and family alike,

I am a late comer to the 164th having served with Co. during Korean War as well as 7th Reg. of 1st Calvary in Korea and Japan. Enclosed is my 2001 dues and a small cash donation,

Keep up the good work.

Owen C. Wallace P.O. Box 307 Fessenden, ND 58438-0307

To Jim Fenelon

I'm sending this to Bismarck, ND because I do not know your correct address. I received the enclosed article in my email. ferk@cybermesa.com. The article may be something you wish to use int he 164th Infantry news. I enjoy reading the newsletter. I have to read it in short sessions because of so many other jobs that take my time. The newsletter is always open and available so that I can read its articles between jobs that demand my time. Thank you for your effort to compile the 164th Infantry news. Back in the 1960's, I had the pleasure to prepare the newsletter after the Col. Brocopp could no longer continue as editor.

Sincerely

Dennis R. Ferk 111 Sol Y. Lomas Dr. Santa Fe, NM 87505-5748 Hi,

Merry Christmas from Don and Lorraine. Enclosed is a check for \$20.00. Ten for dues and for paper. You guys are doing a hell of a job, keep it up. Sorry to hear that Claiton Kinston and Jake Schaif made their last call. Hope to see you in Bismarck and bring Len and Kay Clemens with us.

As ever.

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

September 2, 2000

Dear Sir,

My grandfather, Edward Feininger, served as a Staff Sergeant in K. Company of the 164th Infantry Regiment. He was from Dickinson, North Dakota and died in 1964 or 1965. I would be very interested in finding out anything I can about his service and the history of the 164th. I would especially like to get in contact with anyone who knew my grandfather, and get a copy of a unit history and roster if available. Hopefully this information will help my father and I get to know him a little better in someway, and further appreciate what he and the other men sacrificed for our country. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chris Bremseth 1625 Bellona Avenue Apt. Timonium, MD 21093 chris.c.bremseth@db.com 410-308-3680



Membership Directory 164th Infantry Regiment Association

Many letters and telephone calls have been received from the members requesting the address and telephone numbers of members. Consideration is being given to publishing an updated directory for your convenience in contacting people you served with in the 164th Infantry. There will be a nominal cost to cover the cost of producing and mailing the directory. If there are too few orders for the directory to cover this project the project will be dropped.

164th Directory

Cost: \$4.00 Additional copies: \$3.00 ea. (Includes shipping & handling)

Yes, I want copies of the 164th directory. Enclosed is my check for \$ to cover the cost of production and mailing.

NAME (print) FIRST:	MIDDLE INT.:
LAST NAME:	D.O.B//
ADDRESS:	
CITY:ST.:	ZIP CODE:
DATES OF SERVICE:/T	O/
164 COMPANY(S) SERVED IN:	
AWARDS:	
RANK/GRADE:	
SPOUSE'S NAME:	
TELEPHONE NUMBER:()	
EMAIL:	
FAX NUMBER:()	
COMMENTS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	
SIGNATURE:	

Dear Jim:

The following is a little bit of what I remember about an incidence that Edward Mulligen wrote about in the October issue of the 164th news. We (Anti-Tank Co.) were fortunate or unfortunate enough to have two Bren gun carriers assigned to us, they were a tracked vehicle, open on the top and no armament on them. I assigned them to my two mechanics as I was sure they would be a high maintenance item, and I was right, they had a big V 8 engine in them and the steering mechanism left a lot to be desired, in fact Carl Mehl (mechanic) was driving his assigned carrier and ran into a coconut tree and was not wearing a helmet. We took Carl to the medics to get his head cuts treated in blue ointment, I believe. Oscar Gollnick the other mechanic was also a driver. The three of us went to Henderson Field one day and found somebody there in charge and got permission to salvage some guns from the wrecked aircrafts along side of the runway, we did salvage two twin 30 cal. machine guns and two 50 cal. guns from the planes, then went to where the C.B.'s were set up and asked them if they could help us get these guns mounted on the carrier's and they said right away and the next day they had mounted the twin 30's down in front beside the driver and had mounted the 50 caliber gun in the center in the back and two men could ride back there and fire it and feed ammunition. We immediately took them down to the ocean and test fired at anything that provided a target and come to the conclusion that it was a pretty good deal. The members of the Anti-Tank Co. were along on that march that Edward refers to out through the tall grass and we were along with our two Bren gun carriers, more or less riding shotgun and we were in the area where Edgar Agnew was wounded and some of our people helped to evacuate him and some others and then we continued on with the troops moving through the tall grass, we stayed off to the side an on a couple of occasions we heard firing form the tree lines and went over to investigate and dusted the trees & bushes with our machine guns, don't know if we got anybody but it did get quieter, had a pleasant experience on that day also, as a soldier come running along activity and in continuing our conversation I found out that his name was Leonard Pfeifer, a hell of a piano player, and my cousin from Zeeland, ND who I had not seen since we were teenage boys and would go to visit them and they had an old pump organ and as even a young teenager he could play just about anything you called out, I am sure that a lot of you heard and enjoyed his playing. That was one of the strange things that happen in war. Len has since died. There is just one puzzle in my mind about the guns we had on the Bren carriers, I don't remember how we solved the problem of the guns being fired electrically on the aircraft and we needed manuel triggers to fire them. ?????? See you in September.

Al Olenberger S/Sgt. Anti-Tank CO. 164th Infantry 4549 Candlewood Place #208 Rapid City, SD 57702 605-355-0175

(Editor's note: Reference to "Ed Mulligan" story, Vol. 40 No. 3, October 2000, A Day in the Life of a Medic. "Al" your reference to treating Carl Mehl's head injuries with blue ointment could be wrong. Generally blue ointment was used to treat a problem in a different hirsute part of the body and for an area infested with a scratching problem. Maybe a medic could forward some advise on other uses for blue ointment. Thanks for sharing the experience. The hike to Koli Point point in November 1942, war really a miserable operation planned by the W.P.A. boys - General Sebree and Colonel Moore.)

12/31/00

Jim,

The clock will be turning in the New Year in another 12 hours. Not much of a change for me.

Am enclosing that picture of Searles I promised you. I took it in 1938 by the barn at Camp Grafton. Of all the nags there, Searles picked the best!

I remember Ripley in '37, my first camp, with those old biplanes flying around, dropping sacks of flour. I even have a picture of one. Weren't we the best prepared for a war? All WWI junk!

Finally finished my writing on the 3-1/2 years overseas. So many things happened that I only glossed over the main salients.

Also enclosing a picture of John Gossett and myself, taken at one of the Williston reunions years ago. To me he was tops, a leader without peer. He supported his men 100% and never backed down. He got a raw deal from Mahony who was himself busted to Lt. Colonel in Korea. Don't know if MacConnell told you the story, but when he reported to a Division C.O. in Korea, the C.O. asked Mac if he hadn't commanded an Infantry Bn. in WW2. Mac said yes, and was sent to take over command of an outfit. The General had said, "The C.O. of this outfit is a drunkard, unfit to command troops."

When Mac arrived at the Bn. who should come out of the tent but Jiqqs Mahony. He was then a Lt. Col. He greeted Mac, saying, "What are you doing here?"

Mac replied, "I'm here to relieve a drunken Battalion Commander!" (So Mac got a bit of revenge!)

I was fortunate to have fine officers and Non-Coms. In addition the men of Easy were capable of anything that came up. As the days rolled by we got replacements from all over the U.S., even some from Mexico. (and they were also great!)

Have another couple of years playing commish. Garden and yardwork in the summer, do a little writing on history in the winter. Wish I had taken a more general course when in college, although engineering wasn't bad. Coming from a small town in Dakota sure didn't prepare me for that big,

mad world out there. I wasn't street smart as they say.

Best to you for the New Year.

Chuck.

The Supreme Court has ruled that there cannot be a nativity scene in Washington, D.C. this Christmas. This ruling was not based on religious reasons. They simply have not been able to find three wise men a virgin in the Nation's capitol. However, they had no problem finding enough asses to fill the stable.

17 Dec. 2000

Attn: Jim Fenelon

Dear Jim,

As a replacement I joined the 164th in Leyte assigned to "H" Co. M.G.'s and occaisoned to hear stories of the 164th's part in the Guadalcanal campaign.

It seems to me that History has ignored the part the 164th played in that battle and the public is not aware of how important a roll our regiment had in turning the course of the war in the Pacific.

Living in a Navy and Marine Corps town I began to read a series of Historical Novels written by W.E.B. GRIFFIN in which I found the enclosed. I am not sure if the dispatches depicted therein are actual or fictional, nevertheless Griffin is one man who does not neglect giving credit where credit is due.

I found this very interesting since nowhere could I find the information in the usual war chronicles. You may find it so also.

By the way, the new paper format is great, keep up the good work.

Howard Goddard 3699 Curlew St., San Diego, CA. 92103

Encl: Excerpt from book "CLOSE COMBAT" by W.E.B. GRIFFIN



FROM: COM GEN 1ST MAR DIV 2325 250CT42 SUBJECT: AFTER-ACTION REPORT TO: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, PACIFIC, PEARL HARBOR

INFO: SUPREME COMMANDER SWPOA, BRISBANE COMMANDANT, USMC, WASH, DC

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 0030, 250CT42, WITHOUT ARTILLERY OR MORTAR PREPARATION, JAPANESE FORCES, BELIEVED TO BE THE 29TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, ATTACKED POSITIONS TO THE LEFT CENTER OF 1ST BN, 7TH MARINES (LT COL LEWIS B. PULLER) EAST OF BLOODY RIDGE. THE ATTACK WAS CONTAINED BY 1/7, WITH SMALL ARMS AND MORTAR FIRE ASSISTANCE FROM 2ND BN, 164TH INFANTRY, US ARMY.

A regiment attacking a battalion. Three-to-one odds right by the book.... And they were "contained" by Puller's battalion. Chesty puller is one hell of a Marine.

2. 3RD BN, 164TH INF, USA, THEN IN REGIMENTAL RESERVE ONE (1) MILE EAST OF HENDERSON FIELD (LT COL ROBERT K. HALL, USA) WAS ORDERED TO

REINFORCE 1/7, IN ANTICIPATION OF CONTINUED, OR AUGMENTED JAPANESE ATTACK.

National guardsmen. Their enlisted men are older than the Marines—by at least five years. Which means they've probably had more training. But this is the first time they've been in combat.

3. BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN LT CC L PULLER AND LT COL HALL, TROOPS OF 3/164 USA WERE DISTRIBUTED IN SMALL DETACHMENTS TO UNITS OF 1/7 RATHER THAN TAKING THEIR OWN POSITION ON LINE. RAIN WAS FALLING HEAVILY AND VISIBILITY WAS POOR. IT WAS IN MANY CASES NECESSARY FOR MAIRINES TO LEAD USA INFANTRY INTO DEFENSE POSITIONS BY HOLDING THEIR HANDS. THE EMPLACEMENT OF USA TROOPS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY 0330 250CT42.

I wonder how that happened. Was it the force of Chesty Puller's personality that made this army battalion commander in effect give up his command? Or was he actually wise enough to know that was the thing to do under the circumstances, and to hell with personal dignity and the honor of the Army? I wonder if Chesty would do the same thing if the boot were on the other foot?

4. ALL AVAILABLE 105-MM HOWITZERS OF 11TH MARINES MAINTAINED FIRE UPON ATTACK AREA THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD, AUGMENTED BY 37-MM CANNON OF HEAVY WEAPONS COMPANY, 164TH INF USA. FIRING PRIMARILY CANISTER. M COMPANY 7TH MARINES EXPENDED APPROXIMATELY 1,200 ROUNDS 81-MM MORTAR AMMUNITION DURING THE NIGHT.

God, that's a lot of 81mm mortar ammo! Even more when you think that somebody had to carry it from the dump after the on-site Supply was exhausted.

5. USA 37-MM CANNISTER FIRE ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE IN CONTAINING SERIES OF JAPANESE ATTACKS DURING PERIOD 0100-0700 250CT42.

Well, that's Vandegrift giving credit where, it's due. That's six hours of 37mm cannon fire. I wonder how many rounds?

6. AT APPROXIMATELY 0700 250CT42, JAPANESE ATTACKS DIMINISHED IN INTENSITY. GREATEST PENETRATION OF US LINES WAS APPROXIMATELY 150 YARD SALIENT IN LINES OF COMBINED 1/7 AND 3rd BN 164 USA, AND SALIENT WAS REDUCED BY APPROXIMATELY 0830.

The best the Japs could do with a regiment in six hours was

make a 150-yard dent in our lines; and then they couldn't hold it! But what did that cost us?

7. AT APPROXIMATELY 0830 250CT42, 3/164 USA BEGAN TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN LINES TO LEFT OF 1/7, ESTABLISHMENT CONTINUING THROUGHOUT MORNING.

Well, the Army battalion commander got command of his battalion back. Did he demand it? Or did Vandegrift decide that it was the best thing to do, tactically? If that's the case, Vandegrift must think the Army commander knows what he's doing. Otherwise, he would have kept the soldiers under Puller's command.

8. HEAVY JAPANESE ARTILLERY FIRE, PROBABLY 150-MM COMMENCED AT 0800 250CT42 ON BOTH US LINES AND HENDERSON FIELD. FIRE WAS AT TEN MINUTE INTERVALS AND CONTINUED UNTIL 1100 1 250CT42.

Their big guns. We have nothing to counter them. Our 155mm's sailed off with the Navy the day we landed. Goddamn the Navy!

9. HEAVY RAIN RENDERED FIGHTER STRIP NUMBER ONE INOPERABLE, AND RAIN PLUS DAMAGE FROM JAPANESE HEAVY ARTILLERY RENDERED HENDERSON FIELD RUNWAYS INOPERABLE DURING MORNING. LIMITED US AIR ACTIVITY AFTER 1345.

Well, at least Pick wasn't there!

10. INTENSITY OF JAPANESE AIR ACTIVITY DURING AFTERNOON 250CT42 SUGGESTED BY ROUGH NOTES OF LT COL L.C. MERILLAT, FOLLOWING: 1423—CONDITION RED.16 JAP BOMBERS AT 20000 FT, FIVE M I LES

1430—INTENSE BOMBING OF KUKUM BEACH 1434—1 BOMBER SHOT DOWN, REMAINDER LEAVING

1435—1 BOMBER HAS PORT MOTOR SHOT OUT

1436—2 ZERO SHOT DOWN OVER HENDERSON

1442—ANOTHER JAP FORMATION APPROACHING

1451—1 ZERO SHOT DOWN

1456—HENDERSON STRAFED BY THREE ZEROS

1502—NINE ZEKES BOMB HENDERSON AIRCRAFT GRAVEYARD

1507—HENDERSON STRAFED BY SIX ZEROS

1516—CONDITION GREEN

Thank god, Pick wasn't there. I wonder where he is.

11. AT APPROXIMATELY 2000 250CT42, LIGHT (105-MM AND SMALLER) JAPANESE ARTILLERY BARRAGE COMMENCED ON NOW SEPARATE

POSITIONS OF 1/7 AND 3/164 USA AND CONTINUED INTERMITTENTLY UNTIL 2100.

The standard artillery "softening up" barrage. How the hell did the japanese move that much ammunition over that terrain? The most one man can carry is one 105mm shell at a time. For that matter, how did they get their cannon in position?

12. AT 2100 250CT42 SMALL JAPANESE ATTACKS, IN STRENGTH OF 30 TO 200, UNDER MACHINEGUN COVER COMMENCED PRIMARILY AGAINST 3/164 USA

AND CONTINUED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 2400. 37-MM CANNON OF WEAPONS COMPANY, 7TH MARINES KILLED AT LEAST 250 OF THE ENEMY WITH CANISTER AT CLOSE RANGE. NO SIGNIFICANT PENETRATION OF US LINES OCCURRED.

Jesus, you have to give the Japs credit for tenacity! They kept attacking for three hours! Did they know they were attacking soldiers and not Marines? Sure, they did. They have good scouts, too. They knew what they were doing. And the Army fooled them. It cost the Japs 256-men to learn that this wasn't the Philippines; that if they haven't been starved and they have aummunition to fight with, American soldier, American National Guardsmen, are not a pushover.

13. AT APPROXIMATELY 0300 260CT42, JAPANESE STRUCK IN FORCE AT LINES OF 2ND BN 7TH MARINES (LT COL HANNEKAN) WITH MAJOR EFFORT AT F COMPANY 2/7TH, WHICH WAS FORCED TO TEMPORARILY WITHDRAW AT 0500.

"Temporarily withdraw" is a euphemism. Maybe it wasn't a retreat, but Fox company certainly got pushed out of their positions.

14. A COUNTER ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED UNDER EXEC OFF 2/7TH (MAJ O.M. CONELY). TROOPS. CONSISTED OF RADIOMEN, MESSMEN, BANDSMEN, WHO WERE JOINED BY ELEMENTS OF COMPANY G AND 2 PLATOONS OF COMPANY C, 1/5TH MARINES. AMONG PARTICIPANTS WAS PLATOON SERGEANT MITCHELL PAIGE, USMC, WHO IS BEING RECOMMENDED FOR MEDAL OF HONOR FOR VALOR IN ACTION DESCRIBED IN 13 ABOVE.

Conely apparently rounded up everybody who could hold a Rifle—cooks and hornplayers and stragglers and the lost—and sounded charge.

I wonder what the sergeant actually did to get his name in this? The British call that sort of thing "mentioned in despatches" We don't normally do it. Sergeant Paige must be one incredible Marine! 15. BY APPROXIMATELY 0600 THE SITUATION WAS WELL IN HAND, WITH ALL POSITIONS LOST IN US HANDS. APPROXIMATELY 300 JAPANESE BODIES WERE FOUND IN AREA OF F COMPANY 2/7TH.

Jesus, what amounted to less than a company of Marines-dragged up on the battlefield and just told to go out and fight killed 300 Japs!

16. BY APPROXIMATELY 0800, SIGNIFICANT JAPANESE ACTIVITY HAD CEASED.

17. JAPANESE LOSSES ARE ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED (2200) KIA.

Sonofabitch! Twenty-two hundred dead. Six companies . . . a battalion and a half . . . dead! but what did it cost us? Here it is:

18. US LOSSES: USMC AND USA ESTIMATED TOTAL

105 KIA, 242 WIA, 7 MIA AS FOLLOWS:

- A. FIELD GRADE OFFICER KIA FOUR (4)
- B. FIELD GRADE OFFICER WIA THREE (3)
- C. COMPANY GRADE OFFICER KIA TWELVE (12)
- D. COMPANY GRADE OFFICER WIA SIXTEEN (16)
- E. ENLISTED KIA EIGHTY-NINE (89)
- F. ENLISTED WIA TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN (215)
- G. MISSING IN ACTION: SEVEN (7)
- H. HENDERSON FIELD IS OPERABLE; FIGHTER STRIP MINIMALLY SO.

VANDEGRIFT MAJ GEN USMC COMMANDING

GOD'S NOT INCLINED TO HOLD A GRUDGE

When my grandson, Jason, was about four years old, he and his mother were on their way to church.

Jason was complaining that he'd rather not go. His mother told him he should really learn about God because, after all, it was God who made him. After some quiet thought Jason, in all sincerity, said "Well, if I don't learn about God will he take me apart?"

Kathleen Hartsock, Bloomington

188th ARMY BAND RECORDS CD

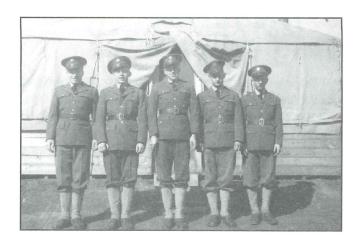
The CD composed of 22 song, plus bugle calls is entitled "America's, Music." Selections traverse a spectrum of genres. Performances are by the concert band, male chorus, Dixieland combo and jazz band. The country-rock ensemble "Roughcut" is included as well as Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bill Franke singing "I Am the Guard" along with solos by other I88th members.

If you enjoy army music performed by a top flight army band, you will have a very pleasant relaxing time when you contact SFC MitchellOlson, 3920 31st Street N, Suite A, Fargo, ND 58102-6206, telephone number (70I) 239-7I93 or fax (70I) 239-7II5 and request a CD of the I88th Army Band music. No cost to you. Many of you will recall it is the 188th Army Band that provides the beautiful music and entertainment at the I64th Annual Reunions.



When you get the feeling that the whole world can see you but no one is watching, you have come to the grasslands of North America.

Dan O'Brian, In the Center of the Nation



Left: (L-R) Photo credit "Connie" Kamesch, Jack Beck, Earle "Killer" Borshiem, Eugene Hunking. Class # Uniforms in front of 5 man tent Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. Earle Borshiem nicknamed "Killer" for eliminating 40 or more Japanese soldiers firing his MI from off hand position, Guadalcanal, 1942.



Is it Soup Yet???



Left: (L-R) Ackward Squad, also suffering from over indulgence in strong H2O?? lined up for close order drill in the hot Louisiana sun. Front row: Julian (Jeep) Jore, Darn, Bredon Jore. Back row: "Onokey" Thompson, Rudy Iverson. Really "Sad Sacks"



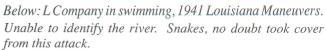
Above: (L-R) Conrad Kamesh Osmand - KIA, November 1942 - Kohl Point. L Company Street, Camp Claiborne, February/March 1941. Photo credit Kamesh.



Above: Reviewing OCS candidate on Parade. (L-R) C. Emerson Murray, Major General; Adj. General ND, Colonel Frank Richards; Commanding Officer 164th Infantry Regiment, 47th Division, Raymond Bohn; Asst. A.G. Vern Fetch, Lt. Col., ND OCS Commendant.



Above: L Company, Camp Grafton, ND circa 1939-1940 (L-R) Vigil Lane, Carl Rutter, Vioz Zimmermanm, Whitey (KIA Korea), Hagen, ?, Mickelson, "Little Nip" Arneson.





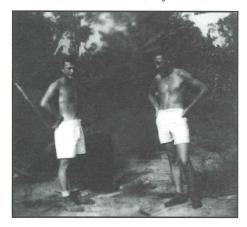
Left: L Company after "Coffin Coroner" Battle, Guadalcanal resting in rear area doing some cooking, some chow or brewing some strong drink of some type.



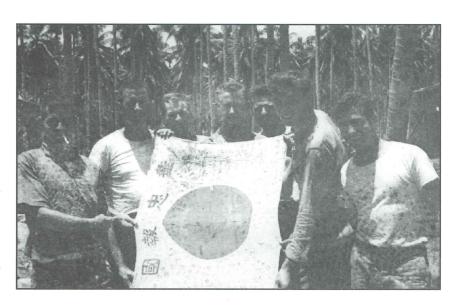
Below: (L-R) Washing clothes on Bougainville, L Company, Robert Parschas and Alvin P. Tollefsrud.



Above: Tillem Thompson, Vigil Lane (KIA Guadalcanal), Lloyd Merghal in front of 5 man tent, Camp Claiborne, LA 1941.



Right: L Company. Jap flag taken in "Coffin Coroner" Battle, October 23-26, 1942 near Henderson Field, Guadalcanal.



IF YOU'RE NOT FROM THE PRAIRIE

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know the sun,

You can't know the sun.

Diamonds that bounce off crisp winter snow,

Warm waters in dugouts and lakes that we know.

The sun is our friend from when we are young.

A child of the prairie is part of the sun.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know the sun.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know the wind,

You can't know the wind.

Our cold winds of winter cut right to the core,

Hot summer wind devils can blow down the door.

As children we know when we play any game,

The wind will be there, yet we play just the same.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know the wind.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know the sky,

You can't know the sky.

The bold prairie sky is clear, bright and blue,

Though sometimes cloud messages give us a clue.

Monstrous grey mushrooms can hint of a storm,

Or painted pink feathers say goodbye to the warm.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know the sky.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know what's flat.

You've never seen flat.

When travellers pass through across our great plain,

They all view our home, they all say the same:

"It's simple and flat!" They've not learned to see,

The particular beauty that's now part of me.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know what's flat .

If you're not from the prairie,

You've not heard the grass,

You've never heard grass.

In strong summer winds, the grains and grass bend

And sway to a dance that seems never to end.

It whispers its secrets - they tell of this land

And the rhythm of life played by nature's own hand.

If you're not from the prairie,

You've never heard grass.

So you're not from the prairie,

And yet you know snow.

You think you know snow?

Blizzards bring danger, as legends have told,

In deep drifts we roughhouse, ignoring the cold.

At times we look out at great seas of white,

So bright is the sun that we squeeze our eyes tight.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know snow.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know our trees,

You can't know our trees.

The trees that we know have taken so long.

To live through our seasors, to grow tall and strong.

They're loved and they're treasured, we watched as they grew,

We knew they were special - the prairie has few.

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know our trees.

Still, you're not from the prairie,

And yet you know cold....

You say you've been cold?

Of all those memories we share when we're old.

None are more clear than that hard bitter cold

You'll not find among us a soul who can say:

"I've conquered the wind on a cold winter's day."

If you're not from the prairie,

You don't know the cold,

You've never been cold'

Continued next issue 164th News

Credit: David Bouchard. Bouchard born and raised in Saskatchewan, now lives in West Vancouver, British Columbia.

Hello, and since Easter is just around the corner, Happy Easter to all. Spring is here and my Goldwing (motorcycle) will be coming out of winter storage soon. Margaret and I will be doing our weekly dinner rides and hope you will be doing those summer things you enjoy also. For those of you with internet capability, I ran The Prez Sez

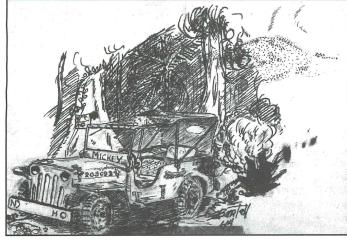
across an interesting web site (www.americal.org) that has information about the Americal Division. It talks about unit lineage, campaigns, and has a very good locator section that you may find interesting. For those without a computer, most public libraries have them available and the librarians are happy to show you how to use the internet. It is really quite simple, give it a try.

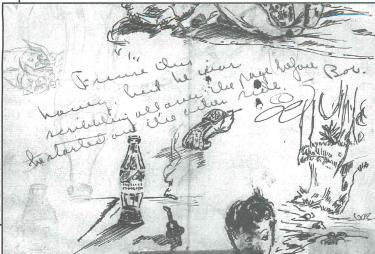
Another reminder...... the 164th Infantry Association reunion will be at the Radisson Inn, Bismarck, ND September 21-23, 2001. The committee is hard at work and you will receive the Convention Mailing within the next month. If you would like to make your room reservations now, the number at the Radisson is (701) 222-4694. Rates are \$57.00 - \$67.00, and specify that you are a member of the 164th Infantry Association.

Take care and enjoy the summer...... Vern Fetch

What kind of people do they think we are? Is it possible they do not realize that we shall never cease to persevere against them - until they have been taught a lesson which they and the world will never forget.

Winston Churchill, on the Japanese 1942





Dear Mr. Fenelon,

When I talked to you on the phone a few months ago about the family project I'm doing on my father, I told you that I had recently driven out to Bowman, North Dakota to talk to Doug Burtell, and mentioned that I had brought along a drawing of a Jeep that "Burt" had done for my dad. He got a great kick out of seeing it again. You showed some interest in it for the 164 News, and I agreed to send you a copy. I may be slow, but I'm as good as my word. I'm enclosing a copy of both the front and the back of the drawing, which was done on a postcard-sized piece of paper. I'm also enclosing a very faded copy of a photo of my dad sitting on the fender of (probably) the same Jeep. I have other copies of the drawing, but I would definitely like the photo back, and have enclosed a SASE for that purpose.

What I can tell you about the drawing is this. My dad was in Headquarters Company, and did recon patrols, along with Butt, on Guadalcanal and initially on Bougainville, but then started to drive Jeep for one of the officers (I'm not sure who). Burt did the drawing there, and obviously was quite an artist even back then. My dad sent the drawing home to his girlfriend, who always went by the nickname Mickey, presumably to show her the Jeep that he'd named after her. His scrawled note says "? this honey, but he was scribbling all over the page before he started out the other side. - Bob." About a year and a half after this drawing Mickey became his wife, and five years after that, my mother. My father died in 1975, and my mother, still "Mickey" to everyone, died just last year.

I enjoyed talking to you on the phone when you were up here in the Twin Cities. In doing this family project I've become quite interested in the history of the 164th, and would love to see your book, or whatever part of it you've completed. I am an editor by trade, and if I could be of any help to you with it, it would be my privilege. When I finally complete the booklet I'm preparing for my family, I'll send you a copy if you'd like to see it. It's meant to present what I know about my father's personal experience, which is limited, but then tied in with the story of the 164th in general and its place in the larger scheme of the war. What I'd like to preserve for my family is how family history and world history crossed for a brief moment, and what a monumental effort that Dad was a small part of.



Bob Dodd: Regimental Hqds 164th Inf. assigned as a driver for an officer, Bougainville, 1943. Dodd had his sweetheart's name "Mickey" painted on the jeep he drove. Dodd returned safely to Fargo and married his sweetheart. Dodd answered Last Roll Call several years ago.

Do you think it would be worth my while to show up at the Reunion on September 23? I don't know if family members of deceased veterans commonly go, or whether there is a means of contacting members who might have insights on my father or his unit. If I thought I could learn more, I'd definitely consider the trip. Anyway, use the drawing and photo any way you wish, or not, but do please return the photo. And thanks again for the help you've given me so far.

Sincerely,

Robert Dodd 9183 E. Courthouse Blvd. Ct. Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 phone: (651) 457-2547 email: robert.dodd@westgroup.com

(Ed. note: Bob Dodd, relatives/friends of the 164th are welcome at all reunions. Anyone that might have served in the same company with Bob Dodd in the 164th, please contact Robert Dodd. Robert you are certainly honoring your father by collecting and preserving his life history.)

A SOUTH SEA CRUISE

Tom Lynch Tells Of Convoy Trip Letter Mailed in Mid-April Arrived Here Recently For Mrs. Porter State's Attorney Tom Lynch of LaMoure county, now a corporal in U.S. armed forces, in a letter to Mrs. A.G. Porter of LaMoure, vividly describes life of soldiers being convoyed to "somewhere" in the vast Pacific ocean. Passages from the letter follow: To begin with I don't know where I am. I can only guess and the guess is somewhere in the Southwest Pacific apparently headed for Australia. The don'ts on letter writing are many - the do's are few. I can tell you that we crossed the equator but I can add no descriptive details. I can tell you what country or continent we land on, but we haven't landed yet and I am not to surmise where we will be at any given time. I can't mention when or from where we embarked nor on what ship. We have been at sea many, many days and blackout comes every night between 5:45 and 6:22 p.m. So our nights are long and days are short. We are riding on a large prominent passenger liner with other ships in the convoy. I can't mention the names, but they are all very prominent ships. I am in a stateroom with 11 others. We have a bathroom and private wash basins. Some of the boys are down in 3rd class and very crowded. There are a few thousand on board and we are supposed to be the prize convoy thus far. Land in Sight One morning we awoke to find land in sight. We heard many names and still I don't know for sure what land it was. Getting the right dope on this trip is harder than finding a Com-Harriet street car off Tahiti. The land turned out to be and island - a mountainous island with deep gorges and high peaks. In the early dawn, mist hung in the gorges and in the inlets and caves and heavy gray clouds were wrapped around the high peaks, giving the land a Dracula eeriness. As the sun melted away the mist and the clouds untangled themselves we saw a pattern of green - a beautiful matted green on the slopes, but the cliffs rose sheer and bare, sometimes hundreds of feet above the waters edge. We hung in a little cove, refueling from an oil tanker we met there. With field glasses we could see human beings walking on a huge lip of shale that hung out from one of the cliffs. It might have been a lepers isle, as some said, or it might have been a colony of some government. I think I know the names but I am not permitted to put it down on paper. The ships were puny things against the background of this isle. Always one ship stood guard by cruising back and forth on the horizon and tow planes from the cruiser circled overhead. Sub Sighted - Only Rumor It was rumored that a sub was sighted here and that one plane dropped a depth bomb - just a rumor. That is our only land so far. There were two small islands near our large one, but we did not get close enough for descriptive detail. Our day - out of bed between 6 and 7, breakfast is staggered from 8 to 10; we eat at 9:10, eggs, potatoes, meat, breakfast food, bread and butter, coffee and apple or orange. Generally speaking the food is good. Dinner at 5:10, (two meals a day) one or two meats, potatoes, two vegetables, salad, dessert, coffee or ice tea, apple. Blackout shortly after dinner. Between times we play cards, talk, sleep or read, band plays and we have amateur programs. Time goes fairly fast, but we are restless from the

monotony and all are anxious to destroy the yellow dogs in a hurry. Lose One Day Today we passed the International date line and so missed Thursday this week. Nearly every morning the clock is moved back 1/2 hour or so. Today it was moved ahead a whole day. It was Thursday when we awoke and Friday after breakfast. Canteens are out of cigarettes and candy - boys are out of money and if the voyage lasts much longer will be out of humor. So far thought the trip has been remarkably free from arguments. The outside brass and color of the ship has been covered with battleship grey. Its sundeck sprinkled with 50 caliber machine guns. Fore and aft are 3 in. guns and 37 m.m. anti-tank guns. Its lounges, play rooms, smoking rooms are crowded with bunks tiered 4 high and close together. Today it is a compact, speedy and well protected troop ship destined to make many trips before the battle is ended. Recently we hit rough weather. It rained and the ocean pitched unruly. It was not a great storm, but enough to wet the outside decks with salty spray and to blacken out all but the nearest of the other ships, and one walked with the uncertainty of a drunken man as the ship dipped and rose and rolled in long strokes against the waves. May Send Log of Trip I am keeping the regimental log of the trip and when it is completed I may send a copy to the Chronicle if I am permitted. Regards to all. Have to get the letter in the mail today so it can be censored, but I don't know when it will actually be mailed. Several days later. We are now docked in Australia. I can't name the port. Men are broke. Cigarettes are gone and pay day not in sight. are still on the boat and I understand we will not stay here - that we have several days of voyaging left. Fifty percent of the company had passes today. We go to town with from to \$1.50 a piece and have a good time. It is interesting to talk to these people - the missing H's, the provincialism, etc. There was no crowd here to cheer us. Nothing like the Heland Show. The dock is closed to civilians except those who work on the dock. All traffic from and to the dock is military. We hiked each day along the waterfront. Little kids came and asked us for American Souvenirs and autographs. Girls smile shyly and old men and women wave. It is all quite interesting. I could write a book but I better quit. I can't do much describing anyway. No Sign of "Jappies" I may not get time to send a letter back (from mail service angle) so let the good people know I am O.K. Not a sign of the little Jappies on the long trip over. April 12. Pulled out to sea again in three small ships. We live down in the hatches, sleep in hammocks and it is very crowded. Understand we are going north. April 19. Arrived small island off Australia coast in Tropic of Capricorn. Censor is here, mail must go., Tom Lynch The LaMoure Chronicle LaMoure, ND

Brains, like hearts, go where they are appreciated. Robert S. McNamara, former U.S. Secretary of Defense

1941 Camp Claiborne, La

(photos from "Al" Nordhaugen collection B Co., 164th Infantry)

1941 Camp Claiborne
- "Mickey" Fritz.





1941 Camp Claiborne, La – B Company (Left to Right) Sgt. "Doug" Thompson, P.F.C. Art Jones, Sgt. "Al" Aranda in front of a 5 man tent.



The Company B, 164th Infantry – Circa 1946
An old Company B banner, autographed by many of the men who left Fargo in February 1941, was inspected Wednesday night by a group of former company members. The banner was used by the first group of Company B men who chartered a round trip bus from Camp Claiborne to Fargo on furlough while training in Louisiana. Front row left to right: Lester Wichmann, Peter Benzmiller, Alvin Nordhaugen, William Hanson, Joseph Jordan and Ray Conlon. In back row at the left is Gordon Lamont and at the right, Harold Bellenger. (Fargo Forum Photo - photo credit-Roy Conlon)



April/May 1941 Draftees arriving from Fort Snelling, men assigned to B Company. Draftees wearing wool clothing in the hot, hot, Louisiana sun. Some of the wool unifirms dated back to WWI

*Editor's Note: The 164th Infantry, 34th Division was granted 10 Day furloughs in the summer of 1941. It was very long trip to Fargo, ND from Camp Claiborne in Alexandria, Louisiana. Not too many airlines were leaving from Camp Clairborne for Fargo, also the cost of the tickets was very high compared to the pay the soldiers were earning. The boys pooled their funds and chartered a bus. The drivers took turns driving around the clock to reach Fargo. The bus drivers were provided provided much hospitality in some of their homes in Fargo. The trip home, in 1941, was to be the last return home until 1945. The banners generally appeared at B Company reunions, the spirits gurgled in the glasses filled with ice; the conversation brought back memories of the bus ride and of WWII.



(Left to Right)
"Al" Nordhaugen, Bill Burns.

Bill Burns usually found it very difficult to be on the line every morning for roll due to over indulgence of spirits into the late hours of the night. Someone came up with the idea of chaining Bill to his bunk and carrying out into the hot sun for roll call. Ray Conlin carefully put the chain around Burnsí neck, and tied it to the bunk. The rest of the tent mates moved Burns and his bunk into the hot sun in the company street. Somehow Burns finally got the message to be up for roll call.



Above: Anti - Tank Company, Camp Claiborne, La ñ 1941 on the rifle range. (Left to Right) 2nd Lt. "Chuck" Walker, Lt. "Tony" Beer, Sgt. McLaughling, 2nd Lt. Eliot.

All the non commissioned officers were put on KP duty for 2 plus days for spreading the rumor that Colonel Sarles had entertained a red - haired lady at dinner in his quarters just a few days before his dark -haired (brunet) wife arrived to join him in Camp Claiborne. Colonel Sarles learned about the alleged rumor coming out of B Company. Apparently a Sergeant

in B Company started the rumor. When the non-commissioned of ficers were questioned, no one would admit starting the rumor, nor would anyone point to the guilty party. For the conspiracy of silence, all non-



commissioned officers were placed on KP duty for two or more days. No one talked, but in the future B Company non-coms was very careful about latrine rumors.

To Editor Jim:

While being a member of Co C 164th Infantry Regiment in Alabama, 1951, shown is a 6'2", 17 Rattles, 1 1/2 inch fang, rattlesnake. While resting from a field problem Vinnie Falco, Conn. and I decided to lay down and use a log for a head rest. I shook the log collected the leaves on one side of the log for bedding, a few minutes later he said something smells, like skunk cabbage. I ignored him. A few minutes later Ligget of Louisiana came walking by caring for his rifle, it was manditory at that time, good training they said. He put on his bayonet and you can see the end result. He scared the "HELL" out of us as he raised the snake between us. He skinned the snake and made a beautiful belt out of it. In the photo is Tony Carrea of Ohio, myself holding the snake, Kirby of Washington, and unknown. I would like to publicly thank the officers and cadre of Co. C 164th for the training I received in Alabama which became beneficial and invaluable to me and others while being in combat in Korea.

Bernard "KRIS" Krisko





Tokyo Rose

D'Aquino, Iva Toguri born July 4, 1916, Los Angeles

née Ikuko Toguri, byname Tokyo RoseJapanese-American broadcaster from Japan to U.S. troops during World War II, who, after the war, was convicted of treason and served six years in a U.S. prison. She was later pardoned by President Gerald R. Ford.

Iva Toguri grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in 1941. Her aunt's illness in July 1941 sent Toguri, a U.S. citizen, to Japan, where she was stranded when Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese and the United States entered World War II. She was considered an enemy alien in Japan. In November 1943 she began radio announcing for "Zero Hour," an English-language propaganda program beamed at U.S. troops. Toguri, now married to Felipe d'Aguino, was one of 13 women announcers, all native speakers of American English, who were collectively known as Tokyo Rose. When the war ended, Iva Toguri d'Aquino was interviewed by American journalists and was subsequently indicted, charged with treason for giving aid and comfort to the enemy in time of war. When she returned to the United States in 1947, an outcry arose, demanding her trial, which began on July 5, 1949. On September 29 she was found guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in a federal penitentiary and a fine of \$10,000. She served six years and was released in 1956, her sentence having been reduced for good

Later, mitigating information came to light. In Tokyo, she had refused to become a Japanese citizen. Eventually, she found a job

at Radio Tokyo. There she met an Australian and an American who were prisoners of war. These men had been ordered to write English-language broadcast material to demoralize Allied servicemen. Secretly, they were attempting to subvert the entire operation. Iva d'Aquino was recruited to announce for them and made her first broadcast in November 1943. Much later, President Ford became convinced that she had been wrongly accused and convicted, and in January 1977 he pardoned her.

Taken from the Encyclopedia Brittanica

(Ed. Note: A short wave radio came into the possession of the 164th by subtle trading. Many of the Tokyo Rose broadcasts were heard by the 164th on the Guadalcanal and other islands. Also short wave broadcasts could be heard eminating from San Fransisco,

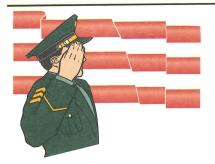
CA. The troops were not supposed to listen to the Tokyo Rose broadcasts. One broadcast by Tokyo Rose made the statement the troops in the *Mantanikou Ridge Battle had lost the battle and were escaping in rafts.)*





Last Roll Call





The woods are lovely dark and deep. He has kept his promises, and earned his sleep.

Je t'aime 164ther

(Editor's note: Justin Trudeau (Canada) eulogy to his father Perrire Trudeau. From the poem "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening", author Robert Frost.)

Frank Weisgerber (Lm)

WWII And Korean War 19 January 2001 Bismarck, North Dakota

Russell R. Landgren

WWII Company K 13 November 2000 Roseville, Minnesota

Maynard F. Holmes

16 January 2001 Carson, Washington

William Mazzeo (LM)

17 December 2000 Williamsburg, Virgina

Edward Hockholter

WWII 10 November 2000 South Dakota

John R. Holt

WWII Co H 19 March 2001 Brooklyn, NY 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.



Donations to North Dakota Veterans Foundation

from Lt. Col. Shirley Olgierson in memory of:

- * George Christenson, I64th Infantry, WWII A gift of \$25.00.
- * Art Anderson, 164th Infantry, WWII A gift of \$25.00.
- * Vern Titisworth, 164th Infantry, WWII

Walter T. Johnsen, 164th Infantry, WWII – A gift of \$25.00. *W.T. Johnsen, A.I.A., was the architect thatdesigned the 164th Infantry Memorial in the Veteran Cemetery in Mandan, ND.*

Gary E. Olgierson, U.S. Army - A gift of \$75.00.

George Peterson, I88th Field Artillery – A gift of 150.00.

Adam Jundt – A gift of \$25.00.

* Leading returnees to Guadalcanal, October 1992. Major Shirley Olgeirson provided an outstanding service to the 27 former 164thers that returned to Guadalcanal October, 1992, 50 years after the 164th landed on Guadalcanal October 13, 1942. Thanks for your generous contributions to the Verterans Cemetery.

DEATH WARRANT FOR THE ADMIRAL

It was a temptation too powerful to resist. U.S. Navy code breakers intercept Japanese radio traffic placing Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, mastermind of the Pearl Harbor attack, within range of American P-38s stationed in Guadalcanal. Knowing that with one stroke he could eliminate Japan's finest military tactician, Admiral Chester Nimitz also knew he might reveal the war's most closely guarded secret: that U.S. cryptologists had broken the Japanese code. On April 16, 1943, with President Roosevelt's assent, 16 P-38s intercepted Yamamoto's bomber and shot it down over Bougainville, killing all aboard. UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS: THE KOREA ERA The Americal Division, or, alternately, the 23rd Infantry Division, was activated on three different occasions. While many know of the existence of the division in WWII and Vietnam, very few are familiar with the activation during the Korean War. Elements of the division were activated in 1954-1956 and stationed in the Caribbean theater. Their mission was to safeguard the Panama Canal and to garrison American installations in the region. They

also conducted jungle training in Panama. Americal soldiers were not assigned to combat forces in Korea during the hostilities. Credit Americal Newsletter



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

\$130.00 JAMES R. McLAUGHLIN, FARGO, ND \$110.00 LORRAINE F. CECIL BEMIDJE, MN

\$100.00 WINIIFRED M. BERNTSEN ST. PAUL, MN

Winifred is the niece of Father Tracy "The Foxhole Padre" of the 164th Infantry

\$100.00 TED N. STECKLE TUSTIN, CA

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In memory of her Husband Don Hoff

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The following individuals are AWOL. They have failed to keep their Membership dues current. Dues were due on 1 January 2001. This will be the last newsletter issued to these individuals. If membership dues are not paid by the end of this year, members will be dropped from the rolls as per Current by-laws. Ben Kemp — Secretary Treasurer

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Weiss, Walter W. Po Box 84 Neche, ND 58265-0084

Well, Robert Po Box 536 Elgin, ND 58533-0536

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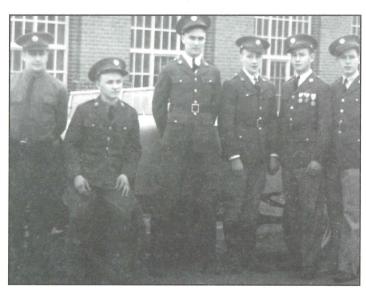
Wildermuth, Herman D. 3342 Belle River Dr Hacinda Heights, CA 91745-6113

^{*} associate member

Old Guard

Old Guard. Picture taken in 1938, waiting to head for the barn or big auditorium. Note the guardsman in a relaxed mode, wearing 1918 wool wrap leggings. A few civilians right side of picture. Major Sarles was very tall and carried some extra pounds so the horse had to be strong to carry the Major to the parade field for Governor's Day at Camp Grafton. Sarles had a good eye for beautiful women and lively horse flesh. He selected the best horse in the stable. Sarles was eventually promoted to the rank of full colonel and took the 164th to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, west coast area guarding railroads, bridges, tunnels and then to Melbourne, Australia, and New Caledonia. Bryant Moore (WPA) replaced Colonel Sarles in New Caledonia. Photo credit "Chuck" Walker.





Old Guard. 1937, Armory, Williston, ND. (L-R) Walter Hapriys, ?, Vern Lange, Don B. Young, Wes Sloulen (KIA, Guadalcanal), ?. The dudes from E Company wearing white shirts are really dressed for a night on the town. Photo credit "Hibby" Swanson.



April 1941. Selectees arriving from Fort Snelling, Minnesota still wearing the old heavy woolen, ill fitting uniforms issued to them at the induction center. The picture was taken on a hot day in Camp Claiborne Service Co. area.



John Gosset, "Chuck" Walker at a 164th Reunion in Williston, ND. In writing about John Gosset, Walker said "A leader without peer. He supported his men 100% and never backed down." Gosset served in H Company for a short time.



(L-R) 4th Row: Joe Rosiak, James Hendrickson. 3rd Row: Tony Daddario, Bob Hoff, Don Hoff. 2nd Row: Claude Funk, Ed Brennan, Gene Weidman. Bottom, 1st Row: Gordon Bostrom, Milton Olan, Janus Acampora, Iggie Pisciotta. 1st Sgt., Don Hoff; Radio Sgt., James Hendrickson. 164th Infantry Headquarters Co. Americal Division taken in Bougainville.

23



Bring your hometown HERO Home!!

These are a few of the WWII posters, urging civilians to support the war effort. Those who expect to reap the blessings of liberty must undergo the fatigues of supporting it.

Thomas Paine

USPS 699-800

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The 164th Infantry News

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2000-01 Association Officers are:
PresidentVern Fetch: (701) 222–1384

Bismarck, ND

Marshalltown, IA

164th Infantry News

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EDITH TUFF *
315 30TH AVE N APT 9
FARGO ND 58102-1538

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