



7-2001

## 164th Infantry News: July 2001

164th Infantry Association

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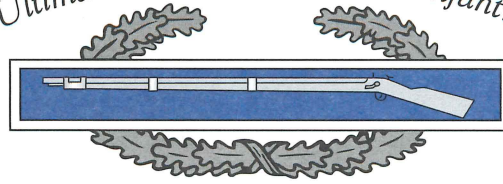
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



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

Vol. 41 • No.2

July, 2001

## “I Was 5 Years Old When I Joined the 164th...”

**M**Y Dad, Matt Geston, joined the National Guard while a sophomore in high school when his mother, Freda, signed for him in 1926 in Grafton, ND. She was a widow with three children, which helped her approve of Matt joining the Guards as he would be issued shoes, clothing and receive money. Many of Matt's classmates played basketball and football and also participated in the guards. They became close friends being together day and night playing ball or participating in guard drills. They prepared all year and looked forward to summer camp at Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, ND, and Camp Ripley, MN.

It was a cold day in February of '41, when Mom, Dad, and I went to the train depot in Grafton, ND. When we arrived many men and women were already there. "Mommy, why are all those women crying?" I asked. "Oh, the men are going on a long train ride," she answered. Well, as a four-year-old who had never been on a train, I thought that should be fun to go on a train ride. The men did have some fun on their train ride to Camp Clairborne, LA, playing cards and telling stories according to the pictures we have. There was much complaining and griping about the hot weather, swamps, and the humid weather during the big 1941 Louisiana maneuvers. In a very short time, the troops would be facing much more uncomfortable conditions in the steamy, smelly jungles of Guadalcanal.

After their six weeks basic training my father sent for Mom and me to come down. While the soldiers lived in tents row upon row like little cities, my Dad set out to find a place for Mom and I to stay. He was not very well received. "What is a 'Damn Yankee'?" I asked, when I heard the proprietor turn away my Dad. I had never heard that before. I learned to know that was not a compliment to our family. Another time my Dad went to the door, which was close enough to our parked car, so I could shout, "Doesn't she want any little boys either, Daddy?" She heard my question, which didn't



By John Geston

John Geston, Age 5, Holding 1903 bolt action springfield rifle in front of C Company Supply tent. Camp Claiborne, LA, 1941. The rifle is taller than John. The Supply Sgt. could not find shoes small enough for the little soldier.

please my father, but she gave us a place to stay. My mother retold that story several times in later years, how this lady felt sorry for our family, but that was only one of a few who took pity on those Northern soldiers. The Southern people were not happy with all these soldiers coming in trains by the droves to change their communities forever by overcrowding the schools, taxing the water system, spoiling the environment and upsetting the comforts of a community, etc!

My grandmother made me army clothing like my dad's. She was a seamstress and in the 40's moved to San Francisco where she got a job sewing navy signal flags. I learned to salute, say "Yes, Sir -- Yes, Ma'm" and I even called my Dad, Sir, because others did. One of our pictures is building the deck boards in the mud around Camp Clairborne. I also have pictures of

me walking those board walks saluting the men I knew. One comment that was over heard by several North Dakota soldiers came from a supposed West Point graduate who said, "What can those North Dakota plow boys do for us?" (Editor's Note: This remark probably was made by Byrant E. Moore - West Pointer - & Colonel when he took over command of the 164th Regiment in New Caledonia. I do not recall that there were any West Point Officers in 1941. 164th Infantry Regiment made it possible for Byrant E. Moore to be promoted to full Colonel to General and to Major General. (Moore died in Korea in a Helicopter crash.) That certainly caused a stir! That was an incentive for ND officers and men to work harder to beprepared for what lay ahead of them. That particular graduate ate his words and later apologized and complimented the North Dakota infantry for their fine efforts as military men.

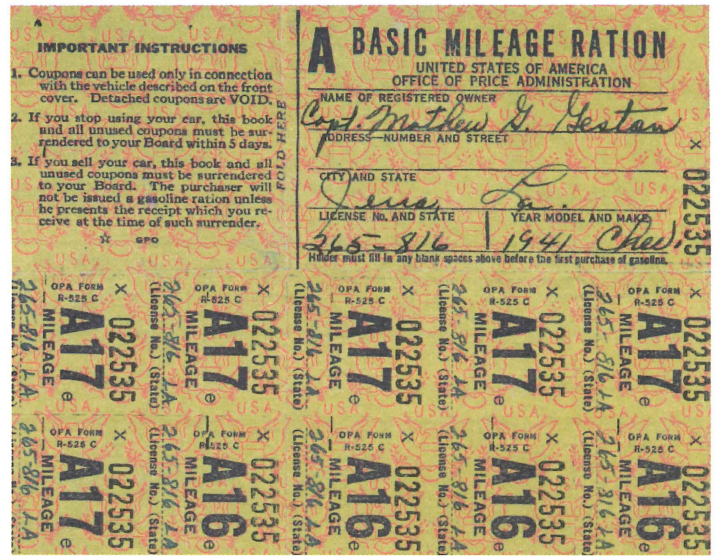
(Continued on page 2)

When the men shipped out, Mom, Lolly Adamsen, and I loaded the 1941 black Chevy coupe to go back to Grafton, ND. Fifty years later I saw Lolly in Grafton and she reminded me that I had sat in her lap from Louisiana all the way to North Dakota. That must have been some ride, but I don't remember much about it. Lolly's father-in-law gave my mom \$5.00 to help pay for the gas and Matt had given Nena \$40.00 for the trip back home. ( I still have several gas ration stamps with Matt's name on them).

Once we were back in Grafton, news from Dad came that they were being transferred to San Francisco where they guarded the south end of the golden Gate Bridge and were quartered at the Cow Palace. When they were shipped to Camp Pendleton, WA., my Mom and I were in the car again going to the West Coast to see Dad. Mom tells the story of the ice we encountered when she drove to Washington. It was a dangerous trip because of the road conditions, but she was anxious to see her husband. Who knew if there would be another time. She drove through Montana in a caravan, but it was tough. When we got to Spokane, a fellow suggested that she stop, but she insisted on getting a driver to get her to see her husband in Washington. Finally, she got a driver, to take us to Portland. Well, wouldn't you know, the icy roads were dry just a few miles out of Spokane, so the sailing was smooth.

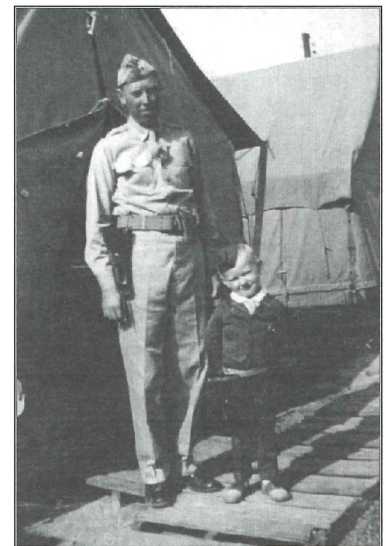
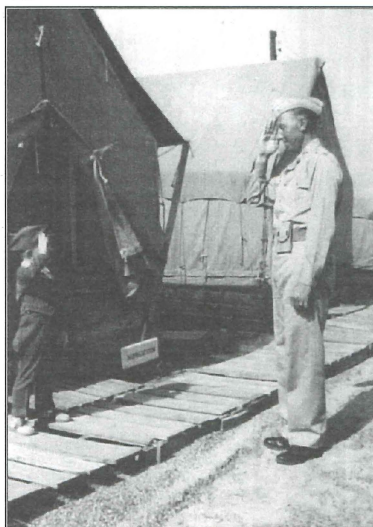
According to Nena's tape recording, Dad suggested that she and I plan to live close to her brother, Harold, who resided near Portland, Oregon. It was then that both parents decided that she and I should go back to our home in Grafton. One of my Dad's more touching comments is quoted by Mom on tape when he told her it was the only "Home" he had ever had, due to the fact that his mom had been widowed at a young age. Times were tough and he spent summers helping grandparents and relatives with farm work in the Garder and Mountain, North Dakota area.

Troops went overseas in March, 1942 on a luxury liner, the President Coolidge tourist steamer, to Australia for several days, then to new Caldonia, and finally joined the Marines at Guadalcanal. I have read books written about the encounters these men faced. Two Stories come to mind: An officer directed Lt. Geston to take his men to the top of a nearby hill. As we were told, Lt. Geston to take his men to the top of a nearby hill. As we were told, Lt. Geston told the officer he would not because the area was full of Japanese snipers. The Commanding officer is to have said, "Lieutenant, you know what I can do to you for disobeying an order!" Lt. Geston responded with, "Do whatever you have to do, Sir, but I will not order my men to move toward that hill." The second occasion happening as told to my mother by a company officer: Lt. Geston and a sergeant crawled to the line where the Japanese snipers had stopped their forward movement by cutting the communications line. These two went to fix the line. Lt. Geston was hit by Jap sniper! His arm shattered, Lt. Geston layed there until dark when it was safe for his Sergeant to get help. The Sergeant crawled back to report that they needed to get Lt. Geston. They used bayonets as splints to keep his arm stablized. Matt was shipped to a hospital somewhere on the Fiji Islands, where he was diagnosed as having contracted malaria. The information I heard was that he was there for 4-5 weeks before returning to the USA December 27, 1942. He returned to General Hospital, El Paso, TX. A quote from the Grafton newspaper: "One of Lt. Geston's biggest thrills of coming home to Grafton was to have his five-



Gas rationing stamps issued to Captain Mather G. Geston, Jeva, LA. The gas rationing coupons had to be presented before an individual could purchase gasoline for travel. I guess cost was about twenty cents a gallon, including federal and state tax. Somewhat different than the price today and there is no WW, just the flow of the alleged market machinations.

Below: 1st Lt. "Matt" M.D. Geston & John Geston - age 5, in front of his father's tent, Officer's row.

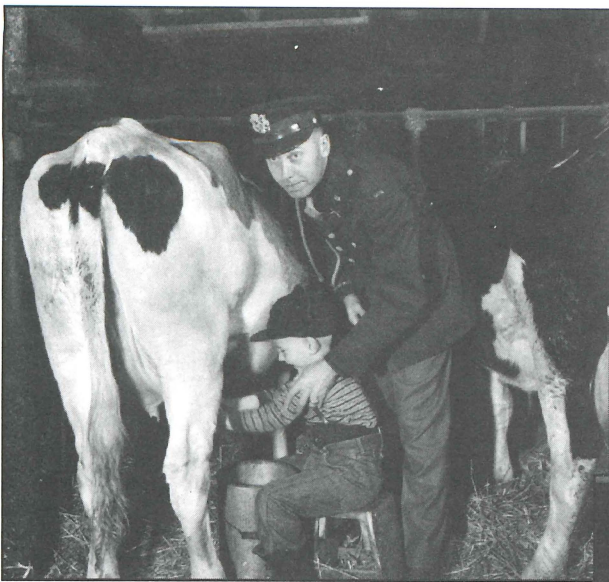


Above: "Reporting for duty SIR!" Camp Claiborne, LA - 1941. Officer Row.

year old son knew him despite his absence of two years." LIFE magazine sent a reporter to North Dakota to get Lt. Geston's story - he gave no story but did have his picture taken with me milking a cow on the farm where my mother and I had been residing with her family.

After recovering from the malaria and the shattered arm he returned to duty. A Grafton newspaper clipping reported: "Upon his return to duty, he was sent to Camp Wolters, (near Mineral Wells, TX.), where he was promoted to the rank of Captain. He served as the adjutant of the 58th training battalion.

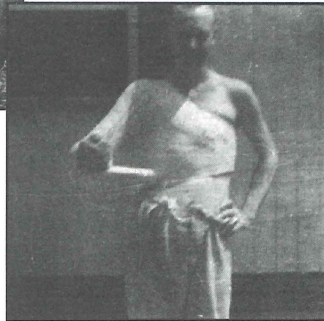
I do have some recollections of living in mineral Wells, TX., where I started first grade. We lived in one part of a duplex; Major Ralph Knott, (from New Rockford), I recall, right on US Hwy 281. On one occasion I did something naughty; my mother pointed to the highway in front of the house and said something to the affect - "If you misbehave again, you can hitch-hike back



*Lt. Geston supervising his son, John, in the art of milking a cow. Home on the farm in Grafton, ND.*

grade was in Mineral Wells, TX, second grade was Hattiesburg, MS, third grade was Jena, LA, and Little Rock, AR. The most memorable school was the "tarpaper shacks" built to accommodate the influx of "ARMY BRATS" as I vividly recall one of the teachers referring to us as. No doubt she was upset about having to teach in one of those "shacks". How hot was it ? ? **HOT!!** I recall the teacher taking us outside this one-room shack for reprieve from the extreme heat. Another recollection at this particular school is that before we went to the "shack", we marched into the main building auditorium where we said a prayer (aloud), the pledge and sang "The Star Spangled Banner", before marching to the . . . shack for classes. Playing marbles was a "must" for the boys at recess and lunch break. One marble game, "Pot", was digging a small hole and each player putting in the same number of marbles. We stood behind a line to lag

marbles into the hole. Whoever got in the pot, won all the marbles. When the bell rang, it was "Grabs", the person closest to the hole, rushed to get all the marbles. Did some fighting persue? - you bet it did!!



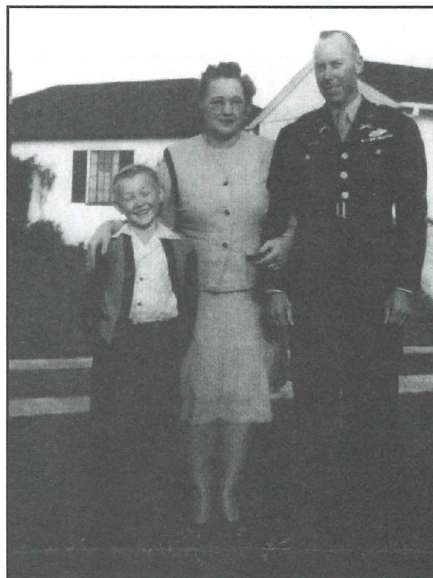
*Mathew Geston, Leutenant with cast on his right arm from a Jap snipers bullet in the battle for Mantanikau Ridge, Guadalcanal, November 1942.*

There were no black students in our schools because of segregation. Many of the students were army brats living in the community. It was not easy to get along with the local peers as we weren't accepted in their circle of friends.

In Little rock we couldn't find an apartment so we lived in a motel for a while. It happened to be Christmas and I remember my Dad gave me boxing gloves. I don't know whatever prompted my dad to buy them except for me to learn to fight to defend myself.



*Lt. Geston and members of C Company building a board walk in company area, Camp Claiborne, LA - 1941.*



*Captain "Matt" Geston, home on early Medical leave, Grafton, ND, - 1944, with his wife and son John. John has grown taller and not in uniform.*

to Oberon ( where her relative lived). We three kids were the best of friends and did every thing together. We lived close enough to walk to school - some days barefoot - because everyone was barefoot. Part of the way to school did not have a sidewalk so we walked in the dirt. We wore shirts to school, but we were allowed to take them off when it got so hot during the day as there was no air conditioning. My dad was gone early in the morning so he wasn't involved with my education, but I insisted that Mom come to school to visit with my first grade teacher Dixie Lee Smith, on whom I had a big crush!

As best as I can figure, I spent the first three grades of school in different cities in the South while Dad was in the armed forces. As I write this, I can picture four different school settings. First

had been associated with the service 20 years, so this would definitely be nice for military retirement. He didn't deliberate very long before turning down this promotion. It was time to go back to ND. I hated to leave the dog, Patsy. I was very sad when we left her behind.

What a surprise when Dad came to get me from Oberon School, in ND, because it was a little town and I didn't need someone to walk me home. We didn't go home but rather we

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

walked to the train depot. There in a crate was Patsy!!! She remembered me!! "Oh, Patsy, what are you doing here in cold ND?" I shouted as she shivered and wagged her tail. The couple in the duplex in Jena, LA. were being transferred overseas, so the dog would be in quarantine for many weeks. They just didn't want that for Patsy, so they shipped her 1400 miles in a crate to Oberon, ND, for us. She was a great pet and once again we were the best of buddies.

Years passed and Patsy was old and failing, Matt and Nena suggested I take Patsy to a vet in New Rockford. When I arrived at the vet's home, the doc said the best thing to do for her would be to "Put her to sleep." I held her while he gave her a shot. I placed her near me and we drove back to Oberon where I buried her.

We settled in Oberon, ND in late 1946, where my father and uncle went into the John Deere implement business. From this time on, Life centered around Oberon. At first we stayed out at Grampa Olson's farm until we bought a house in town. My mom's sister-in-law died in child birth so we took the three children. Our family structure changed considerably in a short time. Later, Uncle Oliver remarried and we were back to a family of three. An incident one night found my Mom, Dad and I at the supper table..I must have been a Freshman or Sophomore in high school, and my mother and I were in disagreement about an issue. Dad said narry a word until I "sassed" my mother! It was at that time that Matt said to me, "You may leave the table," in a subtle voice: I was stunned! That may be a subtle directive for some teenagers, but for my dad to say that to me - that short "ORDER" hurt me more than I can describe. It has stayed with me to this day. Another incident took place not too many years ago when I attended a noonday luncheon in Devils

Lake, ND. Interesting to me an individual from a small nearby town seated himself by me. We chatted and he began a story about how Matt had "chewed his butt"! It seems a group of men were socializing and this man began harassing a former soldier who had been injured while overseas. It was at that point that, "Matt chewed my butt like I'd never have believed," so said the man, a former soldier himself. All in all, Matt Geston was a mild-mannered individual so when he did let another know where he stood on an issue, we listened.

1960 Matt and Nena moved to Napa, CA, where my dad worked in the shipyards cleaning and restoring battle ships in moth balls. Mom went back to nursing, but began staying home when Dad did. I had finished college and began teaching school in Maddock, ND, in 1957.

They returned to North Dakota when Dad took ill. He spent three years in the St. Cloud, MN. Veterans Hospital and the Fargo Vets' Hospital where he died on October 11, 1972 at age sixty-three.

In brief I can only say that I learned a lot by being an "Army Brat" and I don't apologize for the "nickname" one iota! Yes, the military had an affect on my growing up, but I had a father who taught me to realize where I was and who I was - along with who my "fellow men" were. I learned to respect others regardless of rank - Thank you, Sir!

(Editor's Note: This story about John enlisting in the 164th at such a tender age, should top the many stories floating, about how young some one was when they joined the North Dakota National Guard. John Geston, thanks for your great story about your experience with the 164th WWII and pictures of your time in Camp Claiborne.)

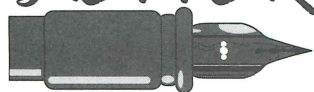
(Editor's Note: Company 164th Infantry arriving with the 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) Melbourne, Australia. The troops disembarked from the converted luxury liner, US President Coolidge. The US President Coolidge arrived in Melbourne, Australia April 8, 1942, after sailing from the Port of San Francisco, CA. The 164th Regiment was paraded down one of the main streets to assure citizens of Melbourne, that US troops had started flowing into the South Pacific to join in the fight against the threatening Japanese.)

### Fighting Men From Grafton, N. D., Land In Another Continent—Australia



<p><b>STEPPING OFF THE BOAT</b> into adventure no one can predict are a number of Uncle Sam's warriors from Grafton, Walsh county North Dakota.</p> <p>Among the boys identified—and there are others from Grafton, no doubt—are 1, Lieut. Earl Desautel; 2, Thomas Givens; 3, Harold Delvo; 4, Wesley Anderson; 5, Ralph Mohagen; 6, Joe Rozzum; 7, Rille R. Morgan, jr.; 8, Ted Carrier; 9, Lawrence Griffiths; 10, George Burns; and 11, Joe Allen Kennedy.</p>	<p>There are two distinct stories behind this picture.</p> <p>First, it appeared in the July 35 edition of Liberty magazine, accompanying an article by Morris Markey entitled How Soldiers Are Kept Well. Apparently the North Dakota boys looked so darn healthy Alfred C. Strasser, art editor of Liberty, thought it would be the perfect accompaniment to Markey's article.</p> <p>Grafton folks spotted their boys. The Fargo Forum wired Liberty for permission to use the picture,</p>	<p>naturally asked where it could get it.</p> <p>Liberty instructed International News Service to provide The Fargo Forum with the picture. It came through pronto.</p> <p>Meantime, The Forum asked Rille Morgan, publisher of the Walsh County Record at Grafton to identify the boys in the picture. Rille—and he must have called in help—sent the identifications.</p> <p>The Forum staff likewise was busy on its own accord. Floyd Henderson of Grafton, state com-</p>	<p>mander of the American Legion, He admitted he was positive o was (and is) in the Veterans hos- one. That was his son, Rille, jr. pital. He identified several of the No. 7, in the above picture.</p> <p>boys. Walker Knutson, also at the At all odds, everyone was in ac- hospital and principal of the Graf- cord—and you doubtlessly are ac- ton high school, helped on some The Grafton boys whether identi- more. Then Helmer Enarud, super- fied or not in this picture, wi- intendent of the Grafton schools, give a good accounting of them- dropped in and added his contribu- selves, come what may.</p> <p>tion. He was visiting Knutson This is the second time in recent and Henderson. weeks The Fargo Forum has pre- sented pictures of North Dakot</p> <p>All agreed there were boys in fighting men abroad. Earlier, Williston men landing i- the picture they knew but could not identify positively. The same word came from Rille Morgan, sr. Australia were portrayed.</p>
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# LETTERS



## To The Editor :

November 15, 2000

Jim Fenelon,

As far as I know we never met. I spent most of my time in the 164th in the 2nd Battalion, Hq Company and Company F. Near the end of the war, on Negros, I was assigned the command of A Company, which I held until the regiment was deactivated in Seattle, in December '45. In fact, I took over command of Company A due to Captain George Christensen receiving a sucking lung wound in an attack that morning. I later fought with the 2nd Infantry Division in 1950-51 in Korea and eventually retired in '66 from the Army. Enough about me.

Recently, in going through some old stuff I have, I discovered the enclosed photographs and thought you might like them for the 164th News. The picture with the 37mm AT gun was made in Figi. You probably remember that we occasionally moved out to defensive areas to protect Suva in case of Japanese attack on Viti Levu. I have no idea who took the picture. I can only assume the names attached are correct. They were written on the back of the original photo. The left figure is supposed to be me, but I don't think I was ever that young. Ha-ha. The date on the back of the picture is June 15, 1943. The names L to R are written - Lt. Isenberg, PFC Lowrie, Cpl. Parkos, Cpl. Kaplan, Cpl. Jennings and S/Sgt. Johnson.

The other picture of Mt. Bagana is also a mystery. I have no recollection of it, but I believe it is the best picture I have seen of that mountain. I'm not sure, but I believe the hill on the left of Mt. Bagana is the notorious Hill 250.

So, if you have any use for either of them, please feel free to do so.

Now, I have a request to make. I am enclosing a check for \$35. Please renew my membership for me and use the remainder - whatever it is, as a donation to the 164th News. If that is not enough, let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Believe me, I have enjoyed every copy of the 164th Infantry News, and I want to continue to do so.

George W. Isenberg, Lt. Col USA Retired  
4555 South Mission Road, Space 291  
Tucson, AZ 85746



May 9, 2001

Dear Vern,

Didn't know where to send this, but decided you were a "Good Bet!" Have sent \$10 for a 164th Directory - use the excess for whatever - sure hope enough members will partake. All the best to you and the 164th.

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

April 23, 2001

Dear Brother Jim,

We were saddened to learn of the death of our WWII comrade and friend, John Holt.

We attended the memorial service for him at the Church of the Incarnation in New York City on March 26. There was approximately seventy people attending the memorial service for John Holt.

Anyone desiring to contribute towards his memorial may send contribution to:

Rev. Donald Ousley, Pastor

The Church of the Incarnation

206 Madison Avenue & E. 35th Street

New York, NY 10016

Respectfully Yours,

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Cascio

38 Forte Avenue

Medford, NY 11763

P.S. John Holt was a volunteer repair worker for Church artifacts, etc.



May 9, 2001

Enclosed is my check for \$10 for my associate membership. Also enclosed is a color photo copy of pages from a comic book which I think was produced in 1944 or 1945, not sure of the date. This was among memorabilia from Herbert J. Mack, the "Mack" referred to in the story.

Don't know what the comic book was called, I got only these pages not the rest of it. Thought your members might get a kick out of seeing a "home-front" story about the 164th.

Hope you put it in the newsletter (in black & white), maybe it could be photo-reduced. Any copyright should have expired. (I'm not an attorney.) You'll probably go to jail for printing it, just chalk it up to the tribulations of an editor.

Sincerely,

Bob Barr

102 9th Avenue, NW

Mandan, ND 58554

April 5, 2001

Dear Sirs,

Will you please send me the 164th Infantry Newsletter? Lyle Mollet sent me December's issue which had my late husband's name in the "Last Roll Call." If at all possible, I'd like to get more of that issue to give to our children - we have eight. They would appreciate it so much and of course I would too.

The stories he used to tell of the South Pacific War Zone were, of course, like the ones in the newsletter. It did bring back a rush of memories of him. (Enclosed is my check for \$20.)

Sincerely,

Louise Shank  
3686 Smallwood Lane E.  
Indianapolis, IN 46214-4019

-May 30, 2001

Hello Ben,

Who shot the French farmer's cow on New Caledonia in 1942?? Col. Sarles was informed that Cpl. Ralph Rothrock was the guilty culprit and was going to accuse him of the dastardly act!

We knew Ralph did not shoot the cow, so we went to Lt. Col. Sam Bagbien for help to save Cpl. Rothrock strips! Lt. Col. Sam convinced Col. Sarles that Ralph was not the guilty culprit, so Col. Sarles dropped the charges!

To show our appreciation, we gave Col. Sarles enough steaks to feed him and his entire staff.

But, who shot the farmer's cow??

Yours,

Neil Tennyson  
18245 Osborne Street  
Northridge, CA 91325-2737  
Tel 818-886-7559

P.S. Enclosed you will find a check for 2002 dues. Hopet o see you in September.

*(Editor's Note: Neil Tennyson, a.k.a. "Slug." It was nice visiting with you on the phone. As an investigative editor, I told you I had to examine the heinous crime perpetrated in New Caledonia on a cow owned by a citizen of the Republic of France living on the Island of New Caledonia. Ralph Rothrock was contacted via phone shortly after my telephone conversation with you. He held firm about the demise of the cow, but the emerging evidence makes it clear that the perpetrator is still on the loose. It is very evident that someone has to pay for this reprehensible attack on the bovine herds of New Caledonia. The statute of limitations never runs on murder. This case could have far reaching international complications. Colonel Sarles, Lt. Sam Baglien and the Staff Officers could be tried as accessories after the fact / for receiving purloined beef / to be tried in absentia at the World Court, The Hague, Holland, along with the two remaining culprits still walking upright. Maybe a long and thorough questioning in separate rooms by the New Caledonia Gendarmerie. One of the suspects might plea bargain. For a reasonable fee plus expenses I would be willing to return to New Caledonia to plead for you and your liberty. It is unfortunate that attorneys, Harry Schelh, Tom Lynch and George Duis have answered the last roll call as they could be the dream team to hinder your long awesome walk to the French widow-maker Madame Guiltean. Other possible U.S. Government indictments, the illegal use of Army rife (M1) entrusted to you, the cost of the bullet. The indictment might be mitigated if only one bullet was used. Well, Tennyson and Rothrock good luck in this grave international matter. If other individuals that might have slain an innocent French cow will come forth and admit that several cows, sometimes called Slow Elk, were shot by being mistaken as a deer, the situation might be resolved in your favor. Anyhow, the beef / deer certainly tasted good!)*

Dear Ben,

Really appreciate your sending me the April edition. It's a great one, as usual and not only because of the picture of myself and my buddies in Headquarters Company. Best regards to all. The 164th Bulletin is the greatest. HOW GREAT IS IT? If I had Playboy and the 164th Bulletin, I would read the Bulletin first. Thanks again.

Milton Olan  
995 NE 170th Street  
NMB, FL 33162

P.S.A day doesn't go by without me thinking how lucky I was to serve with the wonderful North Dakota boys. A memory that will stay with me forever.

*(Editor's Note: Thanks for the great compliment. Playboy magazine is tough competition.)*

Hi Jim & Ben!

A note to advise you that John Holt of "H" Company passed away March 19 in Brooklyn, New York. John came to "H" Company on Fiji in 1943. He became company clerk and remained until the end of the WWII.

I wish to express my thanks for the very good job you fellows have been doing with the newsletter and the organization. Such dedication is greatly appreciated.

A small check to help keep the newsletter rolling.

Best Wishes to All,

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

*(Editor's note: Webber donated \$50 for the 164th News letter. Thanks.)*

\$20 donation for the Newsletter from Raymond Eisenzimmer - Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Ray P. Eisenzimmer  
P.O. Box 681  
Devils Lake, ND 58301-0681

*(Editor's Note: Thanks Ray.)*

June 10, 2001

Jim,

As I told you during our telephone conversation, I took my infantry replacement training at Camp Roberts, California, in late 1943. I took a 10-day delay en route to Fort Ord, California, my "port of embarkation." After about two weeks there we took a short trip by train to San Francisco and boarded a troopship. I don't remember the name of it.

After 20 days, we arrived in Hollandica, New Guinea. We remained on board ship the entire time as a convoy was formed. We received two meals a day. We slept in bunks in the hold or bottom of the ship. There were five or six bunks top to bottom with the bottom bunk about six inches off of the floor.

The weather en route was very hot. There were a lot of guys that succumbed to heat prostration during life boat drills. The library and boxing matches were about the only entertainment that we had. The usual rumors were rampant - our troopship was reported sunk - a Jap submarine was reported shadowing us. Really, we had no idea where we were going.

The convoy reached Tacloban, Leyte, ten days after we left Hollandica. We unloaded and marched across the beach to the 4th Replacement Depot. We left the depot five days later in deuce and a half trucks (convoy). The next night we arrived at a supply area to spend the night and draw weapons. In the morning we had some time to zero in our M-1s. Back on the trucks and arrived the next day in the Ormoc Valley - Abijou area to board a barge for the battalion area.

I am sending you a copy of the article that continues this journey. This was submitted to our local newspaper some years ago.

It was good talking to you.

William G. Kiker  
P.O. Box 5404  
Abilene, TX 79608  
915-692-5428



Dear Jim,

Enclosed please find a check for \$20 to cover expenses of the 164th news.

I am an associate life member, but I do so enjoy the paper. Hope this will help with expenses.

Thank you for past issues.

Sincerely,

Carmen Burgad  
Box 297  
Napoleon, ND 58561-0297

*(Editor's Note: Thanks for your contribution to keep the spirit of the 164th alive and the 164th News.)*

May 30, 2001

Dear Mr. Kemp,

You are doing an excellent job producing the "News." It is a well edited paper and I am most happy to receive it. I don't seem to have any up-to-date information on the September meeting at Bismarck.

I was with the 164th from 1928 until 1938, serving my first nine years with E Company and then a year with Regimental Headquarters at Fargo. I also served with the 109th Combat Engineers of South Dakota for one year.

I regret that I see little in your publication previous to our entry into WWII. It seems to me that the history of the 164th begins with the sailing of the Coolidge from San Francisco.

I correspond with a former officer of the Coolidge who took the 164th into the Pacific war. He has much to say about the crossing of the Pacific waters. I have a steady correspondence with officer Jacob A. Mikkeltorg, (Woodway, Washington) who writes me about 200 letters a year and I replying with about 100.

I am sending you a check in support of your publication, plus an additional amount for my 2002 dues. I have made contributions to the 164th Cemetery, but I have not supported the "News" as I should have.

Though at age 88+, I cannot forecast my future. I hope to attend the 164th meeting at Bismarck in September. I attended the meeting two years ago (for the first time) with my wife, and we enjoyed it very much. I will attempt to drive to Bismarck after spending a week in Williston with relative and friends.

I am looking forward to meeting you in Bismarck.

Don Jackson  
P.O. Box 808  
Bend, OR 97709

*(Editor's Note: Don Jackson, your support of the 164th Infantry news and the kind words are most inspiring. THANK YOU. If you have a 164th book that was prepared for the dedication of the 164th Infantry Monument, Mandan, North Dakota, look on page 10 and you will find a listing of the history of the 164th prior to WWII. From time to time pictures and stories about the 164th have been published in the News. If you or anyone else have any pictures/stories prior to 1941, please send them to the Editor, Jim Fenelon. If you have a copy of the book Citizen's Soldiers, you will find a very good history of the 164th along with the history of other units of the North Dakota National Guard. At the present time, I am developing a story about the various ships on which the 164th traveled to WWII on. The S.S. President Coolidge was the first ocean liner that most of us had ever seen or ridden on. Any information your friend, Ship's Officer Jacob A. Mikkeltorg, may have about the President Coolidge and the 164th crossing the equator while sailing to Melbourne, Australia, would really be appreciated. If Mikkeltorg has any pictures of Colonel Sarles when he played King Neptune when the 164th was initiated into the Court of Neptunus after crossing Equatorial Line, 180th Meridian, Wednesday, March 25, 1942, please send them to me. See you at the 164th Reunion - September 21, 22, and 23, 2001, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck, North Dakota.)*



## JOINING E COMPANY

From the 4th Replacement Depot in Tacloban, Leyte, the Philippine Islands, a bunch of scared, green, young infantry replacements boarded deuce and a half trucks for a trip across the breadth of the island. Two days later after a bone-jarring, wet ride, we boarded a barge on the other side of the island for a much shorter ride to an encampment on the beach behind which rose mountain after mountain. We had arrived at battalion headquarters of the 164th Regiment to which all of us had been assigned. The 164th Infantry Regiment was part of the Americal Division. Those of us in basic training in Camp Roberts, California, knew the Americal to be one of the premier infantry divisions of the South Pacific. We had been told that Americal units were involved in "mopping up" operations in this area (Ormoc, Palompan, Abijou). This time was early 1944.

The next morning with a couple of non-coms and carrying party, we set out for our individual assignments. Several of us were to be assigned to E Company, and the others to companies along the way. In the afternoon the going became very hard. All of us were covered with sweat in the 110 degree (or hotter) temperature.

One of our group was very heavy and having a difficult time climbing the hills. After falling several times, he declared that he could go no farther and for us to leave him there. The non-com that was leading us came back to talk to him. He told him that if we left him that he would not survive the night. He began to whimper and cry. Pvt. Kingery and myself decided that we would see that he got to his assigned unit. I took his M-1 rifle and bandolier of ammo, and Kingery took his web belt and pack, got him standing up and with each of us on either side of him got him back on the trail.

After a half mile later, we handed him off to the First Sgt. of the unit that he was assigned to. Others in our column made it to their assigned units, and finally it was just the seven or eight of us left that were assigned to E Company. The E Company CP was on a hill and was presided over by a 1st Sgt. giving someone hell about using Filipino carrying parties to carry their packs to the hill to our front and to which I eventually ended up on.

A short time later, the CO of E Company, Captain Walker, arrived and began to brief us. The first thing that I recall him saying was that if any of us were wounded every effort would be made to get to us. He told us of one of his NCOs that had just been wounded. Within a few minutes he was informed that the NCO had just died.

When we finally made it to the next hill where the rest of E Company was dug in, it was just before dusk. Since there was not time for me to dig in, I placed in a slit trench with a BAR man and another rifleman. I was told that we were covering the "flank side" of the hill. About that time, the Japs launched an attack on the forward slope of the hill. The attack was repulsed, but there were casualties.

I continued to observe the bottom of the side of the hill where we were located after the attack. The two guys with me correctly guessed that I was a "green," scared replacement

and not likely to fall asleep on guard. Soon they were totally "out." There was still some light and a moon when I noticed three figures moving along the bottom of the hill. I decided to go ahead and open fire. I took a sight picture of the lead figure. They were about 40 or 50 yards from our position (lead the figure just a tiny bit) and I opened fire. I then fast-fired a clip at the other two figures who had hit the ground. I could have possibly hit the lead man because I saw him kind of tumble. I saw no movement after that.

The firing woke up the BAR man and the other guy. A non-com slid down to our position and asked what we were shooting at. He told us to stay alert as there could be an attack on our side of the hill. He then told the BAR man to lay down some fire all along the bottom of the hill if there was movement.

The next morning I watched as three or four dead were being wrapped in their shelter halves to be carried down to battalion by the carrying party that was being assembled.

That was the first night - first day in combat . . . I was still scared, but no longer "green."

Bill Kiker

## A FRIEND

Many years ago when my sons were all in grammar and middle schools, one of them asked me if I ever got into fights while I was in the Army. He quickly qualified that by saying: "I don't mean like fighting Japs in World War II like you did, but fist fights like I have sometimes in school." I was tempted to say no, but then I remembered one particular "fight" that I was involved in that was non-World War II combat.

Joe Ramos is a typical Hispanic name, but this Joe Ramos was anything but typical. Joe Ramos was the toughest man that I have ever known. He stood about three inches shorter than lanky old me - weighed around 185 pounds and was built like the proverbial brick shipyard. To put it mildly he was short tempered, combative and everybody in the entire company was afraid of him - and that of course included me. He had fierce blackish-brown eyes, a hawk nose, black mustache and a birth mark that extended from the right side of his neck upward to just below his ear. This he was very sensitive about, and I was told that if you mentioned it to him you risked being "nailed" right there and then.

At this time I had no rank unless you called a Pfc rank. He was a Pfc in another squad, but we were both in the same section. Once while we were in a defensive position in "Jap country" on the island of Cebu I saw him put down one of his "brothers" who had acquired some cheap Filipino beer and was making enough noise to attract the wrong people. It took just one punch. The guy didn't move from his slit trench for eight hours.

After the island of Cebu became partially secured, we were sometimes allowed to go into Cebu City to use an ordnance facility that had set up showers and a laundry unit. We could shed our filthy fatigues and underwear, and step into the shower. After we had finished we could pick up exchange fatigue shirts and pants in our sizes that had been previously laundered. While there, some of the guys in our platoon

learned of a Seabee machine shop near the beach that was making knives for sale (illegally of course) from steel used in the repair of ships. These knives would be machined to razor sharpness. The blade was six inches long and the handle was shaped to fit your hand. There were also "knuckles" on the handle that you could slip your fingers through to help you grip the knife.

In the previous combat that we endured, we were subjected to the typical Jap tactic of infiltration. If a Jap got into your slit trench with you, the best weapon that you could have would be a sharp knife that you could hold on to. On one particular heavy infiltration night a couple of members of our platoon got pretty badly cut up by a Jap infiltrator because they could not hold on to the sorry, dull GI trench knife that we were all issued. After cutting both of the soldiers, the Jap jumped out of the slit trench, but was cut down by my sergeant with his "Thompson" sub machine gun.

When Joe Ramos heard about these knives, he wanted one in the worst way – I was somewhat interested, but I wanted a shower and a change of clothes first. At this point, Joe still did not like anyone. Since I was the only one in our platoon that received a pass to go to the showers, he reluctantly said that he would meet me at the Seabee shop after I finished at the showers. We both rode the deuce and a half truck into Cebu City.

After I had finished, I started down the beach toward the Seabee facility which was about 100 yards from the showers. There was some yelling and commotion that attracted my attention. There were several sailors and some guys from our platoon watching a fight. Believe it or not, Joe Ramos was fighting three sailors. Upon asking what prompted the fight, one of our guys said that a sailor had made a comment about Joe's birth mark. While Joe was occupied by the two sailors in front of him, the third sailor had worked his way around Joe and was about to grab him from behind and I assume, hold him while the other two pummeled him.

Why I did it I don't have a clue. Although I was not a fist-fight type of guy, I jumped into the fray and grabbed the sailor and pulled him off of Joe's back. Amazingly I held my own through a flurry of punches with the sailor - I even managed to land a few good ones. The sailor was pretty big and I begin to wonder if I had gotten into something that I couldn't handle. In the meantime, Joe "decked" one of the sailors and the other one decided that he didn't want to fight Joe. Joe then turned to my aid and hit my opponent so hard in the mid-section that I thought Joe's fist would emerge out the other side. The sailor collapsed into a doubled up, groaning, gasping blob on the ground. One of our guys yelled that a navy Shore Patrol was approaching, so we all high-tailed it to our Army truck.

Needless to say, Joe never got his combat knife, but I made a friend for life. After that day I was his buddy, his only friend and he was my protector. Later he might have saved my life in a particular fire fight during a re-con patrol. I won't go into the particulars, but his quick eyes and reflexes might have saved our entire section.

The last time that I was with Joe was shortly after he was

wounded in the arm and legs by mortar shell fragments. This was during our unit's last full scale attack to push the Japs into the sea - or into surrender. Joe's wounds could have been serious, but probably not fatal.

The last thing that he said to me before the medics placed him in the barge destined for the hospital ship was "Hermano - come and see me in San Antone." I have never been able to locate him there by telephone. There are a lot of Ramos' there. One of these days I will go to San Antone to one of the places he told me about and if it is still there, ask about a very special friend named Joe Ramos!

Bill Kiker

*(Editor's Note: Thanks for sharing your WWII experiences. Would like to know more about your time in the Army of Occupation in Japan while with the 164th Infantry.)*

.....  
July 1, 2001

Dear Frank;

I will not be able to attend this years reunion.

Enclosed check for \$20.00 - dues plus raffle stubs.

Hope to see you next year.

Sincerely,

John Revers

"Co. K"

2814 S. 35th St.

Omaha, NE 68105

.....  
Sorry we can't attend "Chuck", had 2 strokes a week apart and now is in rehab. We moved last August. Please change the mailing address to:

Charles Krechun

905 Oakwood Ave.

State College, PA 16803

.....  
In the summer he runs a camp site along side the Stone Inn at Garrison, N.D. I ran into him in Garrison a week or so ago and he seemed interested in becoming part of the 164th organization. I believe the phone number for this camp site is 701-774-7400.

To simplify matters, if you want to mail an application form to me for membership, I will drop it off there the next time I go north fishing, which is fairly regular.

In Comradeship,

Victor H. Gibbins

E/164 48-52

Editor/Treasurer

C/29-L/35 Association

1306 Meredith Drive

Bismarck, N.D. 58501

Dear Ben,

Really appreciate your sending me the April edition. It's a great one, as usual and not only because of the picture of myself and my buddies in Headquarters Company. Best regards to all. The 164th Bulletin is the greatest. HOW GREAT IS IT? If I had Playboy and the 164th Bulletin, I would read the Bulletin first. Thanks again.

Milton Olan  
995 NE 170th Street  
NMB, FL 33162

P.S.A day doesn't go by without me thinking how lucky I was to serve with the wonderful North Dakota boys. A memory that will stay with me forever.

*(Editor's Note: Thanks for the great compliment. Playboy magazine is tough competition.)*

.....  
I am an older medic, even joined 164th at Bottineau, N.D., but now we are unable to travel, health reasons. Have been to the Radisson a number of times, a fine place to hold a reunion. So, have a good time. I am sure you will. I am an ex-medic, I was assigned to 2nd BN, 164th medics.

Sincerely  
WM. A. (Bill) Parker  
805 W. Chare Lane  
El Cajon, CA 92020-5707

*(Editor's Note: Bill! Sorry about the health problems. No doubt, you remember assisting in the health inspections conducted once a month and that involved the troops wearing raincoats plus shoes. You will be missed at the September reunion!)*

.....

Dear Frank;

Enclosed is \$20.00 for dues and raffle tickets for the 164th Reunion. I will send the registration at a later date.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Ferk  
111 Sol-Y-Lomas Drive  
Sonte, N.M. 87505

.....

June 20, 2001

Dear Sirs;

As of June 25th my new address will be:

Mavis A. Swapp  
Lincoln Park St., Apt.#1008  
Detroit Lakes, M.N. 56501

Sincerely,  
Mavis A. Swapp  
P.O. Box 612  
Detroit Lakes, MN 58502

June 18, 2001

Dear Ben Kemp;

I would like (1) updated directory if it is published. I didn't cut out the info in the 164th news, for I have kept about all that have been sent to me. I put the info on a sheet of paper

Hope you have a good summer. Enclosed \$5.00 to cover the publishing & postage if it's more let me know

First Name: Nicholas  
Last Name: Ostapchuk  
D.O.B.: 5-24-22  
Address: 582 Romona Street  
City: Rochester, NY  
Zip Code: 14615-3232  
Date of Service: April 15, 1943 – December 7, 1945  
Served in: 164th BCo  
Awards: 10-11-20, (29-2) 31-32-46-58-62  
Rank: 1st Sargent  
Spouses Name: Ann B. Ostapchuk  
Telephone Number: 716-254-1751

Yours Truly,  
Nicholas Ostapchuk  
Ser.#32836181  
582 Ramona St.  
Rochester, NY 14615-3232

.....

Vern;

Thank you for the letter. Glenn passed away May 30th after a long battle with heart failure and kidney problems. The 164th was always dear to his heart.

Thanks,  
Mrs. Mavis Fleck  
900 33rd Ave. SW Apt.#9  
Minot, ND 58701

.....

Attention: Mr. Ben Kemp

Enclosed find my \$50.00 check to take care of my AWOL status of all eternity.

Here is also the address of a fellow who was in A/164th Eng. at the time of the Cuban Crisis in 1962. This is his winter address:

Charlie Bold  
215 Marine View Place  
Orondo, WA 98843  
602-430-3833

June 25, 2001  
Frank Edie  
P.O. Box 1111  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

Howdy,  
Received the flyer about the September reunion in today's mail.

Enclosed is my check for 20 bucks. Ten for the 3 lotto tickets and ten for renewal of my annual fees.

As things stand now I am not planning to attend the reunion.

Sincerely,  
Zane E. Jacobs  
2075 Mariposa St.  
Seaside, CA 93955-3315

.....  
June 20, 2001

Ben;  
I'm almost sure I will not be able to attend the coming reunion. Vonni's cancer came back "Big Time" and it looks like we are in for a long haul - the doctor gave it a 50/50 chance but to date the turn around has not happened. So, it's kemo and more kemo and then hopefully recovery. But it's a long road this time. Will make it if we can.

Thought I best return the raffle tickets before I forget or we are in Mayo or some other place.

Milt

*(Editor's Note: Vonnie - Our prayers are with you. Hurry and get well so you and "Milt" can attend the next reunion. Thanks for the great job you did for the 164th at the reunion in Fargo last year.)*

.....  
Dear Jim,

I am unable to attend this reunion. I am now at home after 11 months in VA hospital, confined to a wheelchair.

Anton H. Hannel  
1001 Rosewood Ave.  
San Carlos, C.A. 94070-3837

*(Editor's Note: Hannel was a member of the group of 27-164th's that returned to Guadalcanal., October-1992, to memory of the landing of the 164th Infantry, October 13, 1942, to reinforce the beleaguered 1st Marine Division).*

.....  
Will not be able to attend, - health reasons.

Bruce L. Moore  
4141 Deep Creek Rd.  
Fremont, CA. 94555

Dear Vern;

I'm not able to come to the reunion. This \$50.00 check is for 2002 dues - \$10.00 raffle tickets - \$30.00 to help defray the cost of printing the newsletter. Have a great time at the reunion. Vern is there any way I could pay for a copy of all the 164th newsletters from the start to the present date? Please advise. I think there are a lot of us members that would like a full set of the news letters.

Thank you for your consideration, RE this request.

Don E. Hoppe  
6139 Melita Rd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

.....  
June 28, 2001

Dear Frank;

I am sending ten dollars for the book of (3) tickets for the raffle.

Sorry, I will not be at the reunion, as my grandson is getting married that week.

I was in B.Co. 164th and if there is anyone there from B.Co., I would like to hear from them.

Have a good time.  
Nicholas Ostapchuk

.....  
July 3, 2001

Mr. Ben Kemp  
Sec./Treas, 164th Inf. News

Dear Sir;

I sent a letter to the association a couple of days ago and applied for membership and a copy of the roster you are compiling. It is possible that that letter came to your attention. Here is my question.

Two days prior to the annual meeting on September 21, 22, & 23, we are planning a little get-together here at Harvey, that will be September 19th and 20th. As you will see by the roster that was with my letter - I will be contacting 82 comrades. My problem: the letters to Tony Beer at 505 9th Ave., Apt #7, Mandan, ND, always is returned to me. Do you, by chance, have a more current address? Also, Julian Narvestad is supposed to be at 4331 Blaisdell in Minneapolis, MN. - his letter's also come back. I'd sure like to get their right addresses, so I can invite them.

If you have any further information concerning the 164th Anti Tank Co. or the 164th Tank Co. of the 50's, I'd appreciate it. I'm kinda all alone with this thing.

Yours truly  
Russell W. Olson (20710328)  
June 26, 2001

June 26, 2001

Dear Mr. Kemp;

I am writing to request a copy of, "An Account of the 164th Infantry Regiment on Guadalcanal from October 7, 1942 through February 23, 1943, by Lt. Col. Samuel Baglien.

I am gathering information in lieu of preparing a documentary on my uncle, Father Thomas Tracy, who served with the 164th on Guadalcanal. Mr. Edward Mulligan recommended this log as a good accounting of the Guadalcanal campaign and suggested that I write to you to obtain a copy.

I have enclosed a check for \$25.00 to cover the cost and the mailing. If it is more, please let me know and I will reimburse the association; if less, the remainder is a donation. If the document is not available, please keep the check as a donation.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Your very truly,

Winifred M. Berntsen

664 Front Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55103-1414

*(Editor's Note: Winifred M Berntsen is the niece of Father Thomas Tracy, Chaplin, 164th Infantry. MS Berntsen is Associate of Life, member of the 164th Infantry Association. Your help in assembling information/your feelings regarding your memories of Father Tracy will be appreciated.)*

.....  
The 164th Infantry News

Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

Sec./Treas. or whomever:

I would like to become a member of the 164th Infantry Assn.

I joined the Harvey Anti Tank Unit on February 2, 1941. We shipped out on February 25th or 26th for Camp Claiborne. On November 12th I was the Sargent of the camp guard. In messing with a red tagged sawed off riot gun, I accidentally blew up my left hand. I was really down in the dumps, cuz we were talking about shipping back home. Then came Pearl harbor. I was still in the hospital my unit left and I was never re-united but served four more years in other specific duties. I have never lost track of the 164th Anti Tank and still serve as their Sec. and Treas.

I am enclosing my check for \$10.00 for subscription and membership. Also, another \$4.00 for the 164th directory that you are working on.

I am sending copies of the members of the 164th Anti Tank Co. of Harvey. These might help fill your directory.

Yours truly,

Russell W. Olson (ASN 20710328)

720 E 5th St.

Harvey, ND 58341

701-324-4147

June 25, 2001

Dear Buddy Vern;

Thank you for the information regarding the coming reunion of the 164th Infantry.

It would have been my pleasure to visit the area where many of the fellows lived and buddies like Don and Bob Hoff are no longer with us, would meet some of the family's of these great guys.

I will be 85 this September and don't travel far from home.

I am enclosing my check, #0180, for \$14.00. This is to cover \$10.00 for ticket stubs (enclosed) and \$4.00 for one membership directory. The information form is filled out and attached with awards information. I would appreciate if anyone sends me an E-mail, and I wish they would, to please indicate after, RE: 164th Inf. as I delete any address I do not know to avoid problems.

It was mentioned on the form, \$10.00 for 2001 membership. In my letter on page 8 of your April news, which ended that I enclosed my check for \$20.00 to cover this years dues and a \$10.00 donation they also were kind enough to put in a picture of me and my buddies on page 23, bottom right side.

I appreciate your taking care of this for me. If I neglected to answer any of the question, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Janus Acampora

24 Inverell Dr.

Toms River NJ 08757-5944

732-244-4255

.....  
June 23, 2001

Hello;

Hope all are well in your part of the world? We are getting along one day at a time.

Joyce has been on oxygen for the last year. So, to do much traveling is a problem, especially if you are going on a long, long trip. So, our trips are the short ones.

Tell all hello. We will be thinking of you and yours at the reunion.

The Best of Life to you,

Joyce and Dan Oster

9132 E Elman Ave.

Mesa, AZ 85208-2932

.....  
Sir;

Enclosed \$10.00 for raffle tickets and \$10.00 for 164th news letter.

Lloyd V. Lenderson

211 N. 40th Ave, #312

Yakuma, WA 98908

Please send the 164th Inf. News to:

Harold Hoff

813 1st St. N.

Check for subscription included.

Don't know when my subscription is due but am enclosing \$10.00 for mine also.

Donna Hoff

1342 N 3 St.

Fargo, ND 58102

.....  
If I win please put it back in the kitty.

Warren Brodie

5584 River Oks Dr.

Titusville, FL 32780

*(Editor's Note: Thanks for the contribution, if you win the drawing.)*  
.....

June 28, 2001

Dear Frank;

Best wishes in your ongoing work with the 164th Assn.

My thoughts and prayers are always with the greatest generation and all they did for America and the freedom we have today.

It has always been a priviledge to have known, and served in the Guard during the late 40's and 50's.

If these ticket numbers win please put the money in the 164th treasury.

Sincerely,

Bob Allen??

Oak Forest St.

West Fargo, ND 58078-2511

.....  
June 20, 2001

164th Reunion Committee:

We lost Raymond on February 28th, 2001. He had a long illness. He had strokes, then lung cancer - that was what finally took him. He was very proud of his time and friends he made, while serving his country. he was so very loved by us all.

Two of our children served in the U.S Army. John, in the Viet Nam Era, also Margaret. She is in the reserves yet. She is a Captain. She flew the Huey, and also the Black Hawk. She was Company Commander for 18 months. She too was very proud of her years in the service.

Ray and I had 5 sons and 3 daughters. We were very blessed in having him in our lives.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Griffin

426 4th St.

Wyndmere, ND 58081-4161

July 2, 2001

Dear Frank;

Check for registration and raffle tickets enclosed - Sorry to report I will be attending alone. My wife of almost 60 years passed away on May 1st this year. Pass this on to Ben or Vern, if you will please.

See you guys in September.

Regards,

Co. Al Wiest

4924 Carole Dr. NE

Olympia, WA 98516

*(Editor's Note: "Al", so sorry about your great loss. We will miss her at this reunion.)*

## Postage and Printing Costs UP, UP, UP...

*(Editor's Note: Costs of printing will be increasing again this year.)*

MANAGER, BUSINESS MAIL ENTRY  
DAKOTAS DISTRICT



June 2001

PERIODICAL PUBLISHERS

Subject: Modification of Domestic Postage Rates

The Governors of the Postal Service approved a modification of the postage rate schedule put into effect under protest on January 7 of this year. The modified rates will result in an overall average increase of 1.6 percent and will go into effect on July 1, 2001.

Here are a few highlights of the changes:

- The First-Class Mail single-piece first-ounce letter rate will remain 34 cents.
- The additional ounce rate for First-class Mail letters will increase from 21 cents to 23 cents each ounce.
- All First-class Mail card rates will increase by 1 cent each.
- Zoned advertising pound rate increases will range from 0.5 cent to 1.5 cents per pound.
- The non-advertising pound portion of the Periodicals rate will increase by 0.6 cents.
- Out-of-county piece rates will increase from 0.2 cent for carrier route saturation level to 0.8 cent for non-automation basic rate addressed pieces.
- In-County pound rates will increase by 0.2 cent.
- In-County rates for addressed pieces will increase by 0.1 cent with the exception of the basic and 3-digit automation rates, which will remain the same.

All publishers will need the new PS Form 3541, July 2001, which is included for your convenience. Publishers that are authorized Nonprofit or Classroom rates will use this form and calculate the 5% discounts on line 31a.

For complete modified rate information, such as rate table in printable and comma-delimited formats, printable modified postage statements, and more visit <http://www.usps.com/ratecase>.

Sincerely,

Karen Fredrickson

PO BOX 7570  
SIOUX FALLS SD 57117-7570  
605-333-2950  
Fax: 605-333-2777

# 164TH KOREAN VETS

South Korea offering war medal (again)

South Korean Defense Minister Seong Tae Cho announced his government is providing the Republic of Korea War Service Medal to American veterans of the war or their surviving next of kin.

The medal was originally offered by the ROK in 1951, but at the time U.S. law prohibited American military personnel from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. That law was changed in 1954, but by then most eligible service members had returned to the States.

To be eligible, a veteran must have served between June 25, 1950, and July 27, 1953, in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations in the waters, skies or territories of Korea.

To find out more about the medal, veterans can contact the Air Force Personnel Center at (800) 558-1404 or the Awards and Decorations Section at (210) 565-2432, or be writing to HQ AFPC/DPP-PRA, 550 C Street West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4714.

– The American Legion Magazine, August 2000

(Editor's Note: Any member of the 164th Infantry that was transferred from Camp Rucker, Alabama, to Korea, please make the request for the medal. When you receive it, please let Ben Kemp know as plans are to make a formal presentation at an annual reunion of the 164th. If you know of any 164th Korea veterans that are not members of the Association, contact them. Urge them to request the medal. Tell them they will be invited to a 164th reunion for a formal presentation.)



## “OLD MEN” of E Company

164th Infantry Regiment,  
Americal Division,  
Bougainville

Mid – 1944



“OLD MEN” of E Co., 164th Inf. Reg., Americal Div., Bougainville, mid-1944

Emil Irving Blomstrann  
32 Foxon Place  
New Britain, CT. 06053

“OLD MEN” of E Co., 164th Inf. Reg. Americal Div. This photograph of 46 of the 65 to 70 E Co. veterans of the Guadalcanal Campaign, was taken on Bougainville, in mid-1944 at the foot of our “Banyan Tree”. The rank, where known, is derived from Gen. Order No. 122, “Award of Infantry Badge,” dated 31 Aug. 1944. My memory of fifty-some years ago is far from faultless. There are three blanks, six doubtful attributions and probably several other errors. Would appreciate help.

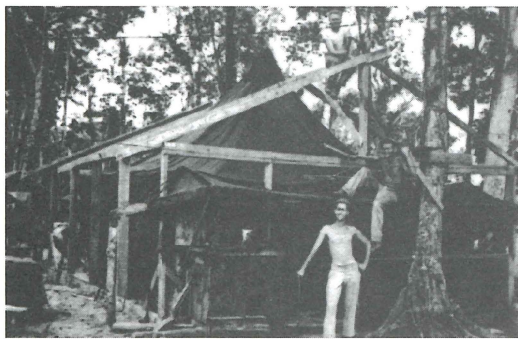
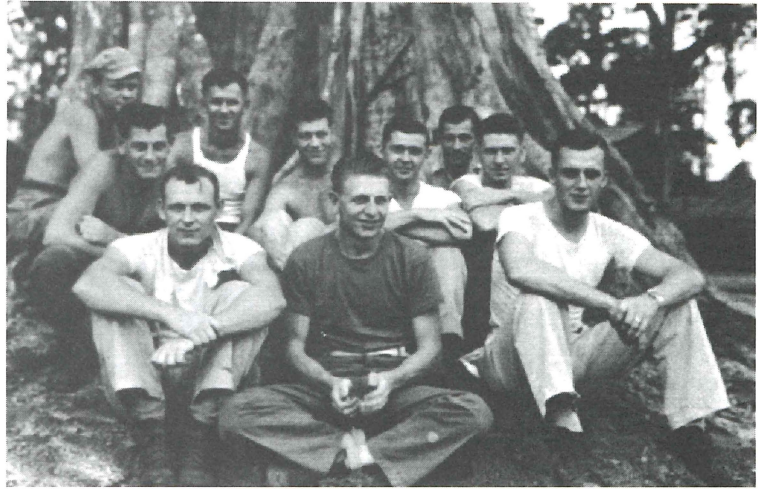
- |                                  |                       |                                 |                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Stetson, Raymond E.           | PFC                   | 34. Peterson, Marvin G.         | PFC               |
| 2. Ling, John L.                 | PFC                   | 25. Bernholt, Alvin A.          | PFC KIA           |
| 3. Christianson, Orrin C.        | S Sgt DOW Philippines | 26. Breding, Wilbur             | PFC               |
| 4. Lindvig, Gordon H.            | Sgt DOW Philippines   | 27. Slater, Fred G.             | PFC               |
| 5. Busch, Valentine              | Pvt                   | 28. McLaren, Francis R. (Irish) | Sgt KIA           |
| 6. Holgerson, Paul               | PFC LRC 5Nov49        | ? 29. Benish, Lewis B.          |                   |
| ? 7. Woods, James L.             | Sgt                   | 30. Purvis, Thomas              | LRC 18May80       |
| 8. Samle, Ervin M.               | T Sgt LRC 10Feb81     | 31. Busch, Michael (Mike)       | LRC 10Dec91       |
| 9.                               |                       | 32. Kerbush, Lester W.          | S Sgt             |
| 10. Hall, Raymond S.             | S Sgt                 | 33. Nelson, Gordon R.           | T 4               |
| 11. Melland, Merrill O.          | S Sgt LRC 22Jul86     | 34. Burgard, Joseph R.          | PFC               |
| 12. Gustafson, Clifford O. (Opp) |                       | ? 35.                           |                   |
| 13. Holm, Joseph A.              | PFC                   | 36. Jore, Gustav N.             | PFC LRC 1980      |
| 14. Jacobson, Donald E.          | S Sgt                 | 37. Beck, Emil                  | PFC               |
| 15. Cecil, Elmer J. (Jim)        | T Sgt                 | ? 38. Carrillo, Marcus R.       | Pvt               |
| 16. Weisz, Albert I.             | PFC                   | 39. Carson, Lloyd T. (Kit)      | PFC               |
| ? 17. Jorgenson, Clifton         | PFC                   | 40. Edwards, Lloyd E.           | S Sgt             |
| ? 18.                            |                       | 41. Wells, John C. (J.C.)       | S Sgt LRC 16Jun79 |
| 19. Lavezzo, Joseph (Giuseppe)   | PFC                   | 42. Cherrey, Earl L. (Red)      | Sgt               |
| 20. Wilder, Jerry                |                       | 43. Jeffrey, Robert E.          | T Sgt             |
| 21. Tongen, Clair E.             | S Sgt                 | 44. Harrisonson, Herman G.      | T 5               |
| 22. Covert, Ralph F.             | S Sgt                 | ? 45. Hucshy, John A.           |                   |
| 23. McDonald, William            |                       | 46. Chatterton, Lloyd F.        | T 4               |

\* DOW - Died of Wounds  
KIA - Killed in action  
LRC - Last Roll Call

“OLD MEN”  
of E Company

164th Infantry Regiment,  
Americal Division,  
Bouganville

Mid — 1944



*Supply tent  
rebuilding.  
Wells on the  
ground, Lauer  
above him,  
Bloomstrann on  
the ridge pole.*



*Rubber trees in officers  
area, E Company.*

*Wells in front of  
rebuilt supply  
tent.*



*Easy Co. “banyan” tree.*



*Lauer, Wells and PFC  
Emil I. Bloomstran.*

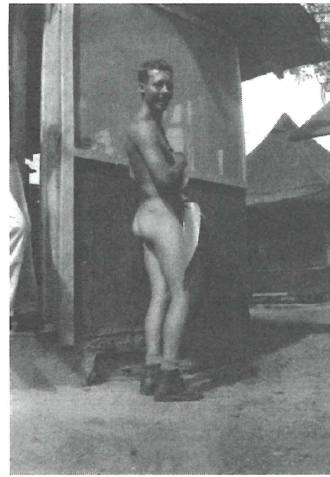


*Wells and 1st Sergeant Joel  
Fedje.*

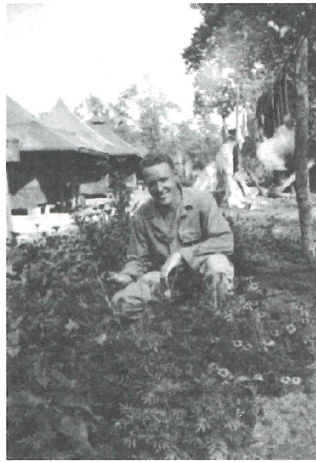




*Tec. 5 Joseph G. Lauer artificer, who dug the wounded Wells out of the dugout after the tent was hit.*



*Wells, schrapnel wound aquired 24th of March, 1944, when Jap artillery shell hit the supply tent.*



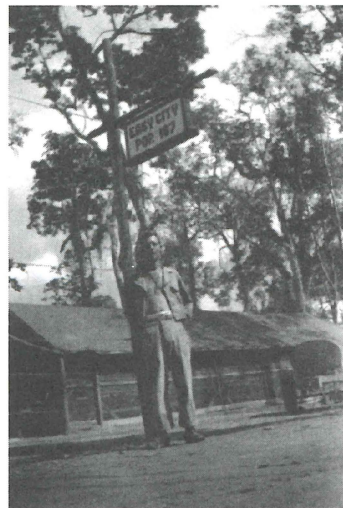
*E.I.B. among the flowers in Pfc. Ed Kauffman's garden.*



*Pfc. Emil I. Blomstrann on his cot in living quarters of supply tent.*



*St. Sgt. John C. Wells Supply Sergeant, Co. E.*



*St. Sgt. John C. Wells at the Easy Co. Sign.*



*164th, 2nd battalion chapel, Pfc. Carroll C. Coolidge, FCO.*



*Pvt. Henry Grillmiester in 2nd Battalion.*



*A new twelve holer being built for E Company.*



*Looking north in  
E Company*



*Easy Co. view I  
used to create my  
144 Christmas  
Card. – E.I.B.*



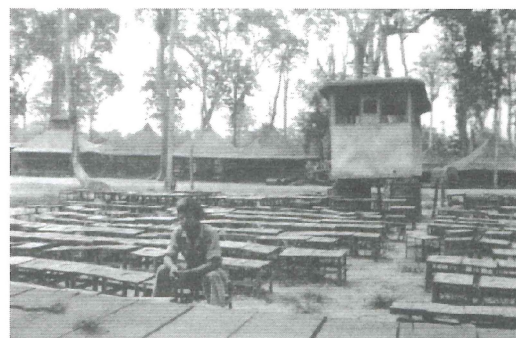
*Mess-kit rack, Wells.*



*Coolidge in the 2nd Battalion Theater.*



*Looking south in  
E Company*



*Coolidge in the  
2nd Battalion  
vegetable garden.*

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## *If You're Not from the Prairie*

If you're not from the prairie,  
you can't know my soul,  
You don't know our blizzards, you've not fought our cold.  
You can't know my mind, nor ever my heart,  
Unless deep within you, there's somehow a part....  
A part of these things that I've said that I know,  
The wind, sky and earth, the storms and the snow.  
Best say you have – and then we'll be one,  
For we will have shared that same blazing sun.

*– David Bouchard, born and raised in Saskatchewan,  
now lives in West Vancouver, British Columbia*

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*"God made man and then said: 'I can do better than that, and  
made woman.'"*

*– Adela Rogers St. Johns*

*(daughter of Earl Rogers, a famous West Coast defense attorney)*

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This will probably be the last newsletter before the Reunion in September, which means it will be my last newsletter as president of the 164th Infantry Association. And I really don't have a lot of news except to say that the Reunion Committee has been working hard to insure we have a



*The Prez Sez*

good time. You all should have received the reunion mailer and I hope you have returned your registration and checks to the reunion chairman, Frank Eide. and speaking of Frank, I want to publicly thank him for the hard work he is doing as general chairman. I am working for FEMA in Wahpeton, ND and the secretary Ben Kemp is working for FEMA in Fargo, so we really left things in Frank's and don Robinson's hands. If all goes well, I will take the credit.....if we have problems, we know who to blame. Thanks guys.

OK..... see you all at the reunion in Bismarck on September 21-23,2001.

## LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

AMERICAN NEWSLETTER

U.S. WEAPONS RESURFACE IN THE SOLOMONS  
(By the Associated Press)

Ngalibiu, Solomon Islands (AP)--The bullets were made for the carbines of U.S. Soldiers battling Japanese troops in the jungles and mountains of the malaria-ridden island of Guadalcanal--a pivotal battlefield during WW II.

Once buried ammunition dumps around the island, the shells have been dug up and pressed into service in a new conflict: the fighting between Isatabu militants who want to push the migrant Malaitans off Guadalcanal, the South Pacific nation's main island.

When violence erupted last week, the Malaitans quickly gained an edge, stealing machine guns and other weaponry from an armory. So their foes, the Isatabus, retreated into the jungles and foraged for weaponry left behind by American GI's.

Isatabu rebel leader Andrew Tee said his troops have no need to buy more ammunition from outside the Solomon Islands. "We get our arms from the American rubbish, what they left," said Tee, wearing a maroon beret and a thick green combat belt with a U.S. Army supply pouch and canteen hanging from it.

The crisis began last week when the Malaitans seized the capital of Honiara, prompted the resignation Wednesday of the Prime Minister, who agreed to let a 12-member committee of government and opposition leaders negotiate peace with the warring islanders.

The Solomon Islands are rich in American war history. U.S. forces won a six month battle against the Japanese, the first major offensive in the Pacific. The victory began the island-hopping campaign that brought the Allied forces to Japan's doorstep.

The island group, slightly smaller than Maryland, is also home to Iron Bottom Sound, the underwater graveyard of more than 40 U.S. and Japanese warships.

Remnants of the war can be seen at Isatabu roadblocks outside Honiara, bandoleers made from strips of rubber cut from tire inner tubes.

"Sure they still fire. They're from the United States," said one fighter, biting into a boiled potato and wearing a loin cloth made from tree bark fibers. Fearful they might be identified, the rebels would not give their names or allow photographs.

The Isatabus say they have plenty of other American weapons, including rifles and machine guns, though they would not display U.S. ammunition dumps or other World War II vintage weapons they claim to have.

Most of the rebels at the roadblock in a clearing of coconut trees carried homemade single shot rifles with hand carved stocks and pipes fashioned into gun barrels. A spring snaps a pin that fires the 6mm bullets.

The guns are no match for the M-16 machine guns wielded by the Malaitans rebels, who with about 500 fighters control the capital, a small strip of shops and modest A-frame homes on stilts, sandwiched on one side by the South Pacific and a lushly vegetated small mountain on the other.

One long road runs through Honiara and the Malaitans have it sealed off with roadblocks on the east and west ends. Men in camouflage cargo pants, floppy Australian military sun hats and bandoleers of M-16 bullets stop the occasional car that dares to cross rebel lines.

Many of the Malaitans came to Guadalcanal with U.S. troops who used them to carry supplies. Thousands more followed and settled in squatter villages or bought land from the Isatabus, whom they say are lazy and waste good farm land. The Isatabus complain the Malaitans are arrogant and too aggressive and should move back to their homeland.

Isatabus have been kicking the Malaitans off land in Guadalcanal and about 20,000 were forced to return to Malaita in the past 18 months. Malaitans then took up arms against a government they said was ignoring their plight.

But with Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu's resignation Wednesday the crisis may be ending. The move was applauded by Malaitan leader Andrew Nori, who predicted a smooth transition of power.

Nori said his forces will turn in their weapons if all parties agree to a peace deal and complaints of evicted malaitans are addressed. "The laying down of arms certainly will be on the agenda," he said.

But Tee, the Isatabu leader, was disappointed to hear Ulufa'alu had caved in and resigned. However, the fighter said his forces were ready to continue honoring a cease-fire, which ends Saturday.

If they fight, we fight. If they sit down, we sit down," he said.

(Taken from the Guadalcanal Echoes)



## The North Dakota Humanities Council

PO BOX 2191  
Bismarck, ND  
58502-2191

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Fax: 701-223-8724—Email: [council@nd-humanities.org](mailto:council@nd-humanities.org)—On the Internet at [www.nd-humanities.org](http://www.nd-humanities.org)

July 13, 2001

Tom Trembath, Chair

PO Box 750  
Cavalier, ND  
58220-0750  
(701) 255-5000

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Chair-Elect  
Grand Forks

Ellen J. Baumgartner  
Dickinson

Claudia Berg  
Bismarck

Carol Cashman  
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Office Manager

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Speakers Bureau  
Coordinator

D. Jerome Twiston  
Senior Consultant  
Fessenden

Dear Member of *The 164th Infantry Association* —

Editor Jim Fenelon stopped in the other day with a request we were happy to grant. He wanted you to have a copy of the enclosed publication of the North Dakota Humanities Council, *The Home Front in North Dakota During World War II*. So do we. It has summary of the incredible sacrifice of the 164th on page 9 and a good deal of information about the war years back home in North Dakota.

We're a nonprofit organization, funded with an annual award from the National Endowment for the Humanities and with contributions. The enclosed publication was part of an annual series the Council does with the North Dakota National Guard and several other partners.

If you like what you see, you might consider a gift to the Council, eligible as a tax deduction to a nonprofit organization. You may send your donation to

NDHC  
PO Box 2191  
Bismarck, ND 58502-2191

We also invite you to let your national congressional delegation know that you appreciate the work we are doing.

We commend to you the efforts of Jim Fenelon, who is doing so much to record the personal histories of the men and women who served during World War II.

If you have questions, give us a call toll-free at 1-800-338-6543.

Most Cordially yours,

Everett C Albers  
Executive Director

# 'If This Country Was in Trouble, I Would Jump in There to Beat Hell'

January 13, 1999

COLUMBUS, Ohio "No chance in this world."

I had asked Paul Tibbets what he thought the chances were that a mission like the one he commanded - the mission to assemble a secret military unit, fly an atomic bomb halfway around the world and drop the bomb on an unsuspecting city in enemy territory - could be pulled off today.

"There's no chance a secret like that could be kept today," Tibbets said. "It would get out - it would get out in the name of freedom of information. The reason we were able to do it is that the mission was considered a matter of life-or-death secrecy. It wouldn't work in today's world."

By flying the Enola Gay to Hiroshima with the atomic bomb in the belly of the plane, Tibbets and his crew were able to end World War II - and in the process, to carry out the single most violent act in the history of mankind. I asked him what he thought would have become of him and he and his crew failed.

"If I had failed?" he said. "I would have been court-martialed and in prison. Nobody knew I existed - no one knew our unit existed."

That's the amazing thing, that Tibbets could assemble the 1,800-man military unit that prepared for the Hiroshima mission, could train the unit on the desolate Utah salt flats, could move the unit to Tinian Island in the Pacific Ocean and then climb into the plane and, with his 11 crewmen, fly to Hiroshima and drop the atomic bomb - the word of the project never leaked out.

He may be exaggerating a little when he says he would have been court-martialed and imprisoned for failure - but the truth is even more chilling. Before Tibbets and the Enola Gay crew took off for Hiroshima in that predawn blackness of August 1, 1945, flight surgeon, Don Young, handed Tibbets a small cardboard box containing 12 cyanide capsules - one for each member of the flight team, should they have had to make an emergency landing and found themselves on the verge of being captured.

But they didn't fail, and they weren't captured, and within days of the Hiroshima bombing a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, and World War II ended. Today Tibbets, at age 83, can go for lunch to a Bob Evans restaurant in central Ohio, and the people in the restaurant will walk past his booth without giving him a glance, as if failing to even consider that a man like him could possibly have any connection with their lives.

"I get called 'old man' all the time," he said. "It's true, I suppose. Physically, I've slowed down quite a bit."

If, by ending the war, he helped to save freedom for the country whose uniform he wore, it is a country that today he sometimes begins to feel he doesn't even recognize.

"It's really not the same country, in many ways," Tibbets said. "Talk to a bunch of kids in school - try to teach them something. There are times that you get the impression that

they don't like to pay attention to anyone or anything but themselves. I know I sound like an old person when I say this, but there is a certain price to be paid - a certain peril - that comes with the lack of being raised in a disciplined environment."

As his generation - the World War II generation - leaves us, Tibbets has come to a realization: "I cannot communicate with people who are less than 60 years old. It's as if all of us in this country know the same words, but we don't use the words the same way. We speak different languages."

Sometimes, when we will meet someone new, the person will say, "Tibbets. Tibbets. I know that name - you did something."

And if the person persists, and presses him on it, he will answer: "I was in World War II and I got some notoriety."

There are times when he actually begins to half-believe that he and his contemporaries may have more in common with the Japanese soldiers, fliers and sailors they fought against than with some of the Americans who live in this nation whose freedom the World War II generation preserved.

"Those of us on the American side were over there risking our butts to meet the obligations that were set forth by the leaders of our country," Tibbets said. "The other side was doing the same thing. There's a certain common thread there."

He doesn't think there will ever be another day like that August morning when he and his crew dropped the atomic bomb. "No one can afford to do it," he said. And the very nature of global politics, and global conflict, has changed.

His life is growing short. But not long ago, down in Texas, he climbed into a preserved and restored B-29 just like the Enola Gay, and he took it up for a spin. Sitting next to him at the controls was his grandson: Captain Paul W. Tibbets IV, of the United States Air Force, a mission commander of a B-2 Stealth bomber.

It's the younger Tibbets who would be called upon to help the United States win some future war. But Paul Tibbets - the man who flew the Enola Gay to Hiroshima - said that if someone could turn back the clock that rules his body, he would be first in line to fight one more time for his country.

"If you could fix me up so that I could do the same things in an airplane now that I could do in 1945?" he said. "If you could do that, and this country was in trouble, I would jump in there to beat hell."

- Chicago Tribune Columnist, Bob Greene

*"Lots who started kindergarten at a certain elementary school came home the first day with a special note for mom, from the teacher which read, in part: 'If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he says happens at home.'"*

*- Harry G. Otis*

# A Look Back ...

Photos supplied from the U.S. Army Archives



*Soldiers of the 3rd Bn., 164th New Caledonia, 7/31/42*



*Soldiers of the 164th Inf. 2nd Br Americal Div., digging in , Philippine Islands, 5/45.*



*Troops of the 164th Infantry Regiment, Americal Div. pass a truck made into an armored truck by the Japs, Dumaguite, Negros Island, PI, 4/29/45*



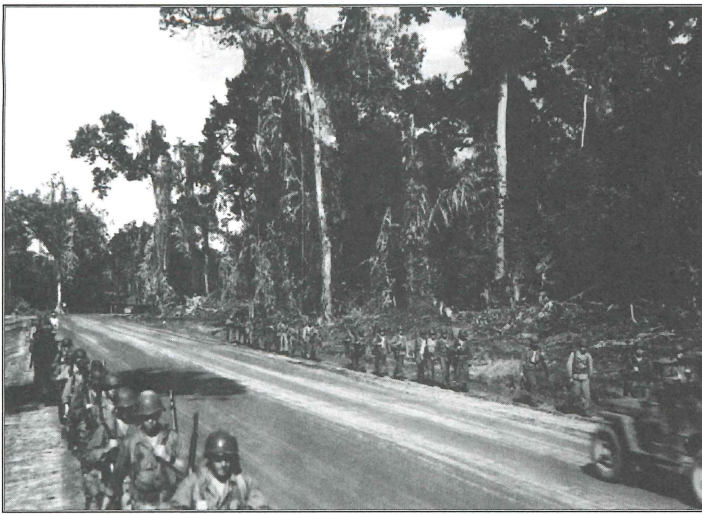
*164th Infantry of the Americal Div. marching toward the front lines to relieve the 101st marines, this is in the Torokina Area, Bougainville, 12/26/43.*



*The Americal Div. front line positions on Bougainville, Mt. Bagana in distance is an active volcano, 3/44.*



*First troops of the 3rd Bn., 132nd Inf., Americal Div. crawl ashore under Japanese fire, on Cebu Island, PI, 3/26/45.*



2836 Troops of the 164th Infantry regiment Americal Div., disembark from LCI's 977, 976, 960, at Negros Island, PI 4/25/45.



Americal infantrymen of the Americal Div., on Bougainville prepare to storm off banyan tree in back ground on hill "260", 3/44.

ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS  
1886-1952  
Memorial Project  
2000-2001  
Columbus, NE 68601-2614

April 9, 2001

Adjutant General  
Fraine Barracks  
PO Box 5511  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5511

Dear Adjutant General,

Hello, our names are Kari Jo Greenlee and Bethany Potter. We are students at Columbus High School in Columbus, Nebraska. We are working on a memorial for Mr. Andrew Jackson Higgins. Mr. Higgins built a boat that helped us win World War II. The Boats enabled us to take soldiers up to the shore and then retreat without having to turn the boats around. Without him we would have had to change the whole strategy of the war. Andrew Higgins was born here in Columbus, Nebraska and that's why we are building a memorial in honor of him.

We would like to put one of each state flag around the memorial. We would greatly appreciate it if you sent us a 3' x 5' flag of your state. Please send your flag to Columbus High School at the address below. We will display them on Veterans/Memorial Days and Columbus Days. We will handle the perpetual care of the flags. We would appreciate a letter of support to be displayed in the Andrew Jackson Higgins room in the museum.

Thank you for your time and consideration and helping us out so much!

Bethany Potter Kari Jo Greenlee

*(Editor's Note: Ben Kemp, S/T arranged to with Adjutant General Haugen to provide a North Dakota State Flag and directed that a letter be prepared on 164th Infantry Association letterhead be written by a member of the association that was provided transportation to Guadalcanal shores October 13, 1942. This task has been completed the project has contributed a replica of The Higgind boat, which will be in pool of water heading for enemy shores.)*

Fort Polk Military Museum  
P.O. Box 3916  
Fort Polk, Louisiana 71459-0916

AFZX-GT-HHA

15 May 2001

SUBJECT: Distinctive Insignia

The Fort Polk Military Museum staff is in the process of building a new museum exhibit that will be themed "Fighting Infantry Regiments of World War II." In support of this new exhibit, we would like to display as many of the metal distinctive insignias for each infantry regiment as we can obtain. The reason for writing to you is, in the Adjutant General's Listing of Active World War II Veterans Associations, I noticed that you represent the 164th Infantry Regiment Association. This brings me as to why I have written to you, at your next Association meeting, would you pass on the above information to the Membership and ask if one of your members would be so kind as to donate one of his meat distinctive insignias to this museum facility? This way, the 164th Infantry Regiment would have a representative insignia in our new exhibit. If possible, we would like an insignia that was made and worn during World War II, or shortly after. These insignias usually had a pin or screw back fastener to them. I have attached an illustration of the insignia in question to the bottom of this letter. Any assistance you can give to this museum on the above matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

David S. Bingham  
Museum Curator

UNIVERSITY OF **UND** NORTH DAKOTA

University of North Dakota  
Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections  
Chester Fritz Library  
P.O. Box 9000  
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202-9000  
(701) 777-4625

The 164th Infantry News  
P.O. Box 1111  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

The Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at the University of North Dakota continues to solicit additions to its 164th Infantry Association Records. The Department is particularly interested in documenting the activities of the 164 and its soldiers during the Second World War. Examples of the type of documents already donated include wartime letters, S1, S2 and S3 journals, obituaries of deceased members, issues of the 164th Infantry News, scrapbooks and photographs.

All material donated to the Department is preserved so that future generations will not forget the sacrifices made by those who served during the war. All records and papers are welcome. For those with access to the Internet, the inventory to the collection is available on the World Wide Web at this location:

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library/Collections/164inf.html>

New material is added to the 164th Infantry Association records on a regular basis. Any questions related to the donation of material can be addressed to:

Curt Hanson  
Assistant Archivist  
Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections  
Chester Fritz Library  
University of North Dakota  
P.O. Box 9000  
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202-9000  
(701) 777-4625  
E-mail: [Curtis\\_Hanson@mail.und.nodak.edu](mailto:Curtis_Hanson@mail.und.nodak.edu)

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Curt Hanson

*(Editor's Note: Before you make a decision to discard any WWII documents, news stories, letters written home and or received by you in WWII, please consider donating them to the Special Collections at the University of N.D. and request that the documents be placed in the 164th Infantry section. WWII pictures are awesome, don't write on the back of the pictures use a separate sheet and tape to the picture. Identification of names, date is very important as we advance to the Last Roll Call our memories tend to fade. Your role in WWII is very important.)*

*I suppose it happens to us all, if we live long enough. That we will no longer have the capacity to enlarge our heart. That we will no longer be able to admit another person into the castle of our loneliness. That we are no longer able to be a little in love. For myself, and with the grace of God, I would like to die before this happens. To be in love is to quicken the soul. When you can no longer quicken the soul, when given and taken affection is only for memory, is there any compelling reason for going on?*

— Charles McCable  
San Fransico Chronicle

# 164th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION REUNION

September 21, 22 and 23rd, 2001

Radisson Inn 800 3rd Street South  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504

Hotel Reservations: 1-800-333-3333

Rates: \$57.00 single, \$67.00 (2-4 person occupancy) plus tax

Friday, September 21

2:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.	Registration
5:30 P.M.	Hospitality Suite open - Dinner on your own
7:30 P.M.	Social Hour & Hors D'oeuvres
8:00 P.M.	Dance

Saturday, September 22

7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.	Breakfast Buffet
8:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON	Registration
9:00 A.M.	Memorial Service
	Business Meeting immediately following
	Memorial Service
12:00 NOON	Mens & Ladies Luncheon
2:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.	Free Time
5:30 P.M.	Social Hour
6:30 P.M.	Banquet
	Pictures after Banquet (on your own)
	(Unit Designation Plaques will be available)
9:00 P.M.	Drawing

Sunday, September 23

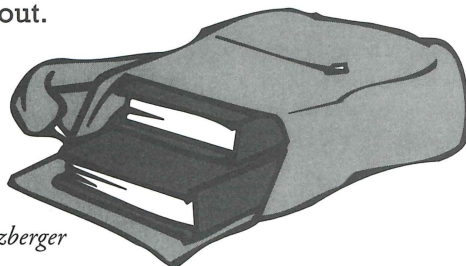
7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Sunday Brunch

September 21-23, 2001, we will be assembling in Bismarck, North Dakota, for an attack on old WWII memories, honoring our fallen comrades KIA and renewing long time friendships. We have lost many friends over the past 55 years that we have been meeting. These friendships were welded together in the abattoir of war. This is a bond established more than half a century ago few people understand unless they have experienced combat.

Now many will not be able to attend due to health problems, but you will participate in the reunion by forwarding the 164th raffle tickets. The raffle is a giant step in helping to defray costs of the annual reunion.

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**"Teachers: Jokes, Quotes and Anecdotes"**  
I believe in an open mind, but not so open, that  
your brains fall out.



— Arthur Hays Sulzberger

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**Q** How many U.S. veterans of World War I and II are still living, and what is the address for making a donation to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.?

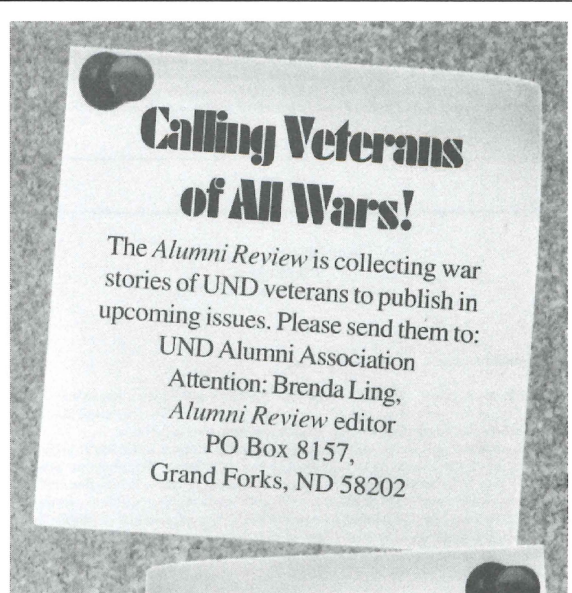
**A** There were about 3,000 World War I and about 5 million World War II veterans living in the United States as of Sept. 30, 2000, the latest figures available, said the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Checks can be sent to World War II Memorial,  
Box 96766, Washington, D.C. 20090-6766.

Donations also can be made online at <http://wwiimemorial.com>.

*Credit: Minneapolis Star Tribune*

*(Editor's note: Many Infantry Regiments and Division Associations have forwarded large donations to have their Regimental Crest places on the honor roll list for WWII. If 164th Infantry Association members are interested in having the 164 Infantry Regimental Crest and history in the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. make your checks payable to WWII Memorial, and forward to Ben Kemp, Sec./Treas. and your check will be forwarded to the WWII Memorial, Washington, D.C. along with all donations from 164th Association members. Any donation is tax deductible donation when the contribution names, WWII Memorial Washington, D.C. Members forwarding a donation will be published in the 164th Infantry News.)*



**Calling Veterans  
of All Wars!**

The *Alumni Review* is collecting war stories of UND veterans to publish in upcoming issues. Please send them to:

UND Alumni Association  
Attention: Brenda Ling,  
Alumni Review editor  
PO Box 8157,  
Grand Forks, ND 58202

*(Editors Note: Many of the 164th Infantry returned home to ND and used the GI Bill to start and complete their education. Please contact UND with your military information.)*

North Dakota  
Veterans Cemetary  
**Memorial Day Ceremony**  
May 28, 2001

A Tribute to Korean War and  
Desert Storm Veterans

**50th Anniversary of the Korean War**

Congress has authorized the Department of Defense to organize the United States' 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Veterans and their families know "A grateful Nation Remembers" their service and sacrafices 50 years ago. The Commemoration began June 25, 2000-the 50th Anniversary if the outbreak of the war, and officially closes November 11, 2003.

The mission is to thank and honor Korean War Veterans, their families and those who served on the home front for their service and sacrafice 50 years ago.

**10th Anniversary of Desert Storm**

The United States had more than 500,000 troops in the Persian Gulf...of which 148 were killed in action, 458 were wounded, 121 killed in non-hostile actions and 11 were female combat deaths.

For those who served in the Persian Gulf we extend a grateful thank you for your service.

*"Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of the United States Central Command, this morning at 0300, we launched Operation DESERT STORM, an offensive campaign that will enforce the United Nation's resolutions that Iraq must cease its rape and pillage of its weaker neighbor and withdraw its forces from Kuwait. My confidence in you is total. Our cause it just! Now you must be the thunder and lightning of Desert Storm. May God be with you, your loved ones at home, and our country."*

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, USA Commander-in-Cheif U.S. Central Command, in a message to the command, 16 January 1991

*Editor's Note: The 164th Infantry Regiment(Rifle) WWII is located in the North Dakota Veterans Cemetary, Mandan, N.D. The 164th Infantry Memorial was designed by Walter Johnsen, A member of the 164 "Doug Burtell" provided the artwork. Burtall is an artist in residence, Bowman, N.D.*

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## PATRIOTISM DAY

Patriotism Day will be sponsored by the American Legion Post # 157 and Veteran of Foreign Wars Post # 3817 of East Grand Forks, Minnesota. The Program on Thursday, August 16, 2001 includes a re: dedication of the Veteran's Memorial at 5:30 p.m. and a parade at 6:30 p.m.

These events will be held in the parking lot near Sherlock Park, which is near the downtown buisness district.

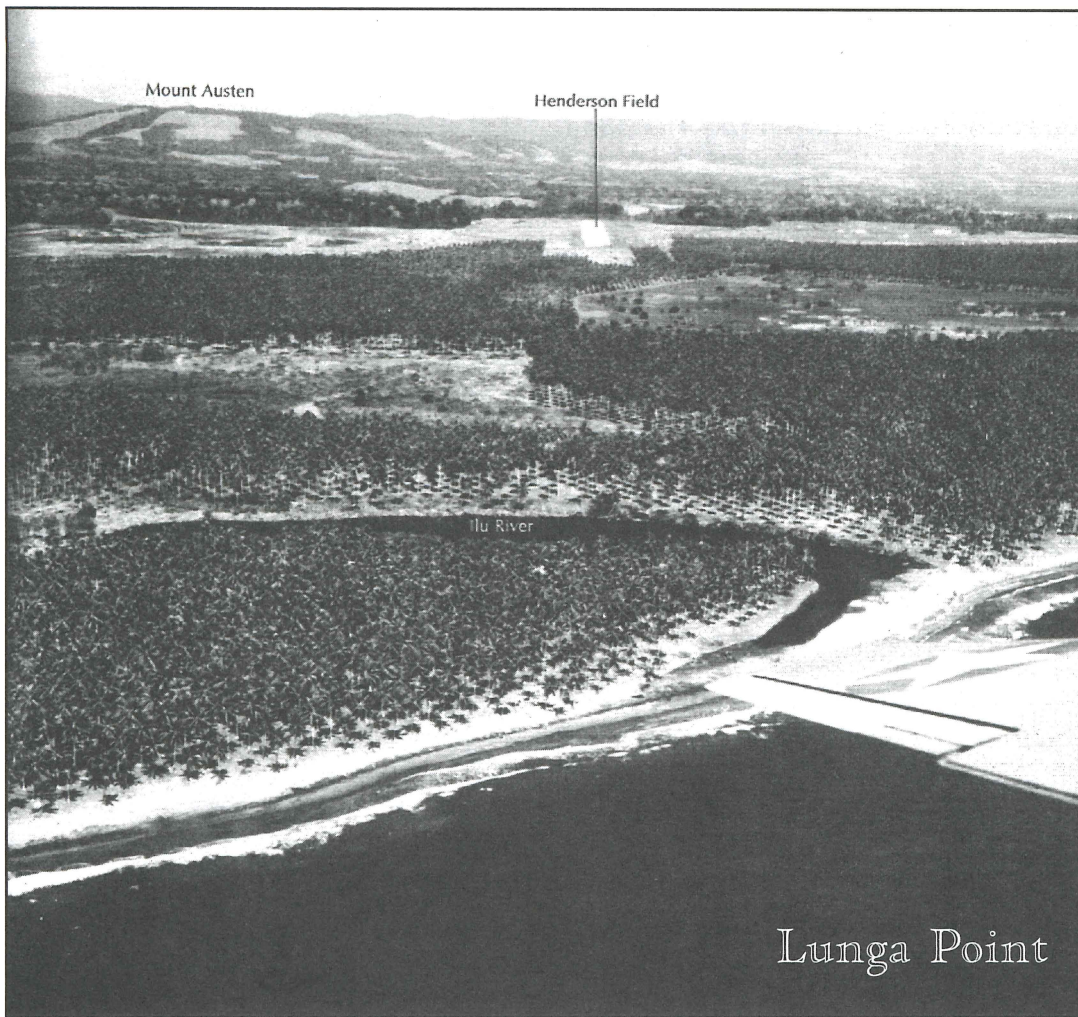
Charles Lindberg, the sole survivor of the first flag raising on Iwo Jima has been invited to take part in the dedication.

Congressman Collin Peterson will also appear on the program. Patriotism Drive will be the new name of the street adjacent to the memorial.

The memorial and adjacent area will have twenty-five flags, which depict different messages of patriotism and American history.

Veterans of the 164th Infantry, 188th Feild Artillery and Iwo Jima Marines are to be special guests at these events.





October 13, 1942, the 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) landed at Lunga Point, Kokum Beach to reinforce the 1st Marine Division. This photo presents a good view of the terrain the regiment had to engage the Japanese forces. There were many groves of tall coconut trees in the area shown in the photo.

Lunga Point

Remember what your pay was during WWII or the Korean War. Prior to WWII a guardsman was paid \$1.00 for a two (2) hour drill. When you were called up the pay was \$21.00 per month for three months and then \$30.00 per month. During the Korean War a private was paid about \$68.00 per month. Effective 1 January 2001 a sample of the military pay is listed below. Quarters and subsistence pay is non-taxable.

Guard pay is based on one weekend drill per month or 16 hours.

GRADE	WEEKEND DRILL	BASE PAY	QUARTERS	SUBSISTENCE	MONTHLY PAY	ANNUAL PAY
PVT E-1	\$138.04	\$964.80	\$410.70	\$247.07	\$1,622.57	\$19,470.84
PVT E-2	\$155.98	\$1,169.10	\$410.70	\$267.53	\$1,847.33	\$22,167.96
PFC E-3	\$161.96	\$1,307.10	\$431.10	\$267.53	\$2,005.73	\$24,068.76
CPL E-4	\$200.08	\$1,500.60	\$462.60	\$267.53	\$2,230.73	\$26,768.76
			Over 3 years of service			
SGT E-5	\$226.80	\$1,701.00	\$532.80	\$267.53	\$2,501.33	\$30,015.96
			Over 4 years of service			
SSG E-6	\$283.04	\$2,122.80	\$592.50	\$267.53	\$2,982.83	\$35,793.96
			Over 10 years of service			
SFC E-7	\$337.28	\$2,529.60	\$641.10	\$267.53	\$3,438.23	\$41,258.76
			Over 14 years of service			
1/SGT E-8	\$418.40	\$3,138.00	\$690.60	\$267.53	\$4,096.13	\$49,153.56
			Over 20 years of service			
SGME E-9	\$541.44	\$4,060.80	\$748.80	\$267.53	\$5,077.13	\$60,925.56
			Over 26 years of service			
WO-1	\$402.48	\$3,018.60	\$568.80	\$160.42	\$3,747.82	\$44,973.84
			Over 20 years of service			
CW5	\$682.68	\$5,120.10	\$851.10	\$160.42	\$6,131.62	\$73,579.44
			Over 26 years of service			
2/LT O-1	\$335.04	\$2,512.80	\$653.70	\$160.42	\$3,326.92	\$39,923.04
			Over 4 years of service			
CPT O-3	\$511.96	\$3,839.70	\$729.30	\$160.42	\$4,729.42	\$56,753.04
			Over 8 years of service			
MAJO-4	\$617.24	\$4,629.30	\$881.70	\$160.42	\$5,671.42	\$68,057.04
			Over 12 years of service			
LTC O-5	\$751.60	\$5,637.00	\$1,000.50	\$160.42	\$6,797.42	\$81,575.04
			Over 18 years of service			
COL O-6	\$882.32	\$6,617.40	\$1,037.70	\$160.42	\$7,815.53	\$93,786.36
			Over 20 years of service			

Ben Kemp, Secretary/Treasurer  
*(Editor's Note: If the time clock could be turned back, many of us would be heading for the National Guard enlistment Headquarters.)*

## CAN YOU HELP?

William (Bill) Kiker, wants to contact anyone in E Company 164th in early 1944.

Address:

Bill Kiker

1326 Albany Creekplace 3

Abilene, TX 79605

Phone 915-692-3164 or 5428

wkiker@camalott.com

B Company 164th Infantry:

Did you know my father, Ed Goff Jr.? He served in B Company, 164th Infantry during WWII. I would like to hear from you and if you have any pictures of him in service, please let me know.

Kathy Olson nae Goff

15141 52nd Street SE

Leonard, ND 58052

Phone 701-645-2355

*If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.*

– Ronald Regan on government's approach to the economy

Q When were Social Security benefits first taxed? Who was president at the time? (Jan Oliver, Crystal, MN)

A President Ronald Regan signed the law that opened the door to Social Security benefit taxation, and the Clinton administration widened it.

Social Security benefit taxation was greatly expanded in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, signed into law by President Bill Clinton. Beginning in 1994, half of an individual's Social Security benefits would be taxable if he or she had income of between \$25,000 and \$33,999. At \$34,000 or more, 85 percent of the benefits would be taxable at ordinary rates. For couples, half the benefit would be taxable between provisional income levels of \$32,000-\$43,999, and 85 percent would be taxable above \$44,000.

– Minneapolis Star Tribune

*(Editor's Note: There is enough blame for both Presidents. If the present occupant at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C., wants to give a tax break, eliminate this tax.)*

Taxation of Social Security benefits began the year following enactment of the Social Security Amendments of 1983, according to Pete Sepp, spokesman for the National Taxpayers Union. This legislation was a package of provisions designed to forestall the insolvency of the system. In addition to the increasing payroll taxes, raising the retirement age and raising the number of people subject to payroll taxes, the bill stipulated that Social Security benefits were taxable.

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

This will be your last opportunity to order a 164th Infantry Association Directory and be listed in the Directory. Some Associate Members have written or called asking if they are eligible to be listed in the directory. to answer any concerns, All members will be listed if your dues are paid. this means all: Life Members (LM), Members (RM), Associate Life Members (ALM), Associate Members (AM), and Honorary Members (HM).

All you have to do is order the number of directories you want, fill the information on the order blank, enclose \$4.00 for one directory, \$3.00 for each additional directory.

The price includes mailing / handling. If the orders are inadequate to cover costs your money will be refunded. You may leave out any information you do not want published.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME : (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last Name

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

DATES OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

164TH COMPANIES SERVED IN: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: Life Member (LM) \_\_\_\_\_ Member (RM) \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member (AM) \_\_\_\_\_

AWARDS: \_\_\_\_\_  
This is optional, if you don't care to list them, leave blank.

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

RANK at time of discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or additional information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send me: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ of Directories Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## New Members

Louis M. Shank  
Indianapolis, ID  
Husband; W. James, Deceased, Medic, WWII

Ken Schur  
Detroit Lakes, MN  
Joined Co. K in Jan. 1954

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

\$110.00	Donald H. Jackson	Bend, OR
\$100.00	Wallace J. Starkenberg	Long Beach, CA
\$100.00	Eric F. Engbrecht	Hobbs, MN
\$100.00	Alba Clancy (Assoc. Member) (Widow of Elias Clancy - Servic. Co.)	Buffalo, ND
\$ 93.00	H.D. Wildermuth (Herman gives one dollar for each year he is young.)	Hacienda Heights, CA
\$ 40.00	Jerry Longmur	Menoken, ND
\$ 30.00	Donald E. Hoppe	Santa Rosa, CA
\$ 24.00	James Curran	Worcester, MA
\$ 20.00	Carmen J Bugar	Napoleon, ND
\$ 20.00	Ray Eisensimmer	Devils Lake, ND
\$ 20.00	Chester Sawyer	Amesburg, MA
\$ 20.00	Raymond Sinkbeil	Medicine Lodge, KS
\$ 15.00	Elmer Eilers	Paris, TX
\$ 14.00	Ronald A. Davis	Seattle, WA
\$ 10.00	Louise M. Shank	Indianapolis, IN
\$ 10.00	Geo Shiek	Summerfield, FL
\$ 10.00	Arthur W. Hanley	Mt. Vernon, WA
\$ 10.00	Lloyd Anderson	Yakima, WA
\$ 10.00	Neil A. tennyson	Northridge, CA
\$ 10.00	Lawrence "Red" Wittmer	Blair, OK
\$ 5.00	Ted Ouradnik	St. Paul, MN

## Membership Status

164th Infantry Association Membership has  
Dropped Below 600

We have	195	Life Members
	300	Members
	43	Associate Members
Total	596	Members

10 Members Answered the Last Roll Call in the past three months.

25 Members were dropped for failure to maintain their dues.

2 New Members joined the Association

## REUNION

The registration for the 164th Infantry Reunion in Bismarck, ND, September 21, 22, & 23 are coming in every day. The reunion Committee requests that you forward your registration promptly, as this will help in making final plans for luncheons, breakfast buffets and the annual banquet. The \$50.00 registration fee includes - a dance Friday night, breakfast buffet on Saturday and Sunday a combined mens / womens luncheon, plus the annual banquet with splendid dance music furnished by the 188th Army Band. Don't forget to send in your 164th raffle tickets. Call or request additional tickets from Chairman Frank Eide, P.O. Box 1111, Bismarck, ND, 701-255-7900. See you at the REUNION.

## NEED YOUR HELP

To tell your story about your time in the 164th from 1941-1945, please send in any items about yourself or buddies:

- 1) Training
- 2) Guard duty on West Coast / railroads, Cow Palace, New Caledonia, etc.
- 3) Holidays while in service
  - a) Thanksgiving
  - b) Christmas - how many and where you were 1941-1945
- 4) Need some information from the 164th Korean Vets
- 5) Pictures
  - a) need to identify people, etc., dates, location, put all on a separate sheet of paper - do not write on picture

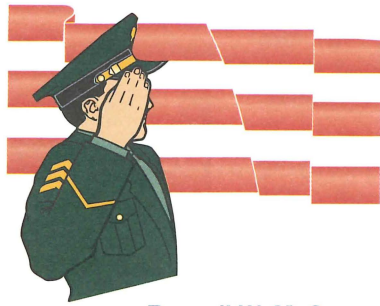
**THAT'S ONE KIND**  
One Sunday morning, I asked my forth-grade Sunday school class if anyone knew what salvation was. One boy raised his hand and said "I'm not real sure, but I think they have an army."

Kate Hunter- Elk River , Minn





# Last Roll Call



*They will come back.  
Come back again.  
As long as the red Earth rolls.  
He never wasted a leaf or a tree.  
Do you think He would squander souls?  
- Rudyard Kipling*

**Laverne Greenace**  
Company K WWII  
Aprill 2001  
Fremount, CA

**Leonard F. Krestschmar**  
Medic WWII  
7 April 2001  
Minot, ND

**James Aipperspach**  
Company H WWII  
20 May 2001  
Jamestown, ND

**James A. Johnson**  
WWII  
June 2001

**Russell W. McCrea**  
WWII  
11 June 2001  
Jamestown, ND  
F Company, WWII  
volunteered  
and served in Merrill's  
Marauders  
- India & Burma

**Orval Volden**  
WWE  
30 April 2001  
Fargo, ND

**Ellsworth Tracy**  
Medic Company C WWII  
September 2000

**Raymond A. Griffin**  
Company C WWII  
28 February 2001  
Wahpeton, ND

**Glenn Fleck**  
Company D WWII  
Minot, ND

**Fred Jesse**  
30 August 2000

*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.*

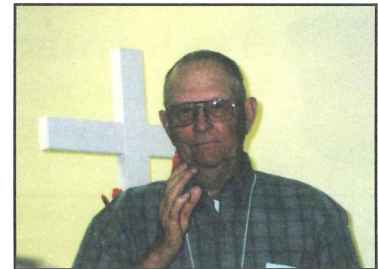
## — G Company 164th Reunion, Valley City, N.D. —

*Front Row L to R:  
Elmo Olson, Finley,  
ND "Gibby" G ??,  
Pete Grant, Strum,  
WI., Don Robinson,  
Bismarck, ND*



*Back Row L to R:  
Tony Wielander,  
"Sandy" Sanerslon,  
Willow City, ND, "Sandy" was a 164th medic attached to G.  
Company, "Gernie" Wagner, Valley City, ND*

*"Tony" Griffin  
apparently  
blessing the G  
Company reunion.  
This blessing might  
be need for past  
transgressions but  
maybe not required  
for recent alleged  
activities. "Tony" you look good giving the blessings.*



*Wives of G Company members at the reunion.*



*L to R: G Company  
Reunion "Grabby"  
G???, Tony Griffin,  
"Sandy" Sanderson,  
164th Medic in  
a relaxing mode.  
Approximately 47  
former G Company  
members plus 20 wives*

*attended the reunion. Many of the 47 former G Company attendees were from the Korean War.*

*Credit Don Robinson for photos & the meager information.*

# A Cold Walk

The ice and snow crackled February 20th, 2001, as it did 60 years ago when B Company, 164th Infantry marched from the National Guard Armory to board trains for a long ride to Camp Claiborne, LA, for a southern winter vacation walking in swamps, fighting mosquitos, snakes and "chiggers" of Louisiana. You will remember that "chiggers" were a little red mite that found your leg under the canvass leggings, bored into one's legs, having a painful red mark that very often became painfully infected. After WWII many members of B Company returned home to Fargo area. Those men generally held a social gathering once a month at someone's home and relaxed over strong beverages. At one of these usual gatherings, it was decided to repeat the February 20th, 1941 walk from the (See Vol. 40 - No. 4, - December 2000 - Page 15) armory to the trains headed south in memory of the start of their big adventure, - WWII. The walk was to be made every ten years in memory of comrades that didn't come back home from WWII. The pennant denoting, NDNG Company B would be carried on the hikes. Ray Conlon was given the responsibility for caring for the B Company Pennant. Conlon has been faithful to his duty and carried them out every 10 years. The ranks of B Company have thinned by answering the Last Roll, several health problems and by moving to other parts of the US. The pennant carried by Conlon was made by Mr. Nordhaugen, mother of "Al" Nordhaugen, a member of B Company when on parade but a Chicken \_ \_ \_ t - Battalion Commander would not let it be used. The pennant accompanied B Company through WWII. Conlon vows he will make the walk

every ten years and when he can no longer carry out his duty he will have it placed in the Special Collections, with other 164th Infantry WWII artifacts, at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND.

Accompanying Conlon on the remembrance walk is Walter Rivinius, C Company from Grafton, ND. Rivinius and other members of C Company had boarded the Louisiana bound train in Grafton, ND. Rivinius stated that the temperature in Grafton was probably colder as it is closer to the North Pole.



Credit: Fargo Forum / Sarah Coomber

*(Editor's Note: You WWII guys are to be commended for the remembering of our fallen comrades, Ray Conlon a was member of the 27 that revisited Guadalcanal, October 1992.)*

**"Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving worldly evidence of the fact."**

- George Eliot, novelist



## THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Post Office Box 1111  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-1111

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Bismarck, ND  
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Bismarck, ND  
Editor ..... Jim Fenelon: (641) 752-9621  
Marshalltown, IA

164th Infantry News

**POSTMASTER:** Address changes should be sent to 164th Infantry Association, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111.

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