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164th Infantry News: March 2003

164th Infantry Association

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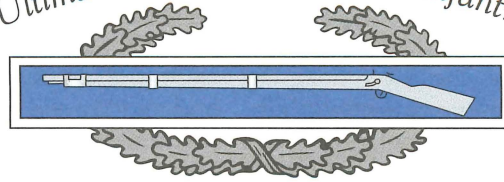
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

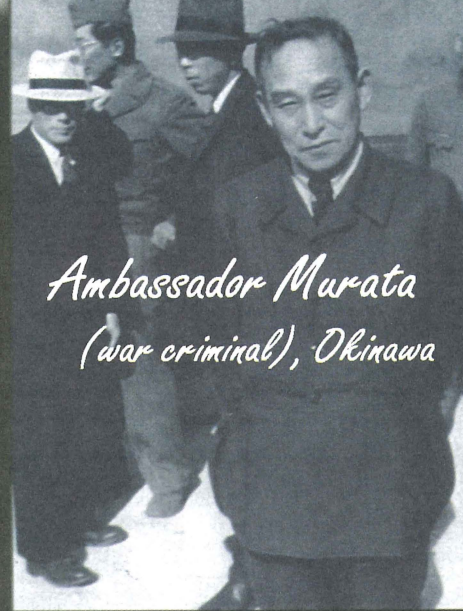
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March, 2003

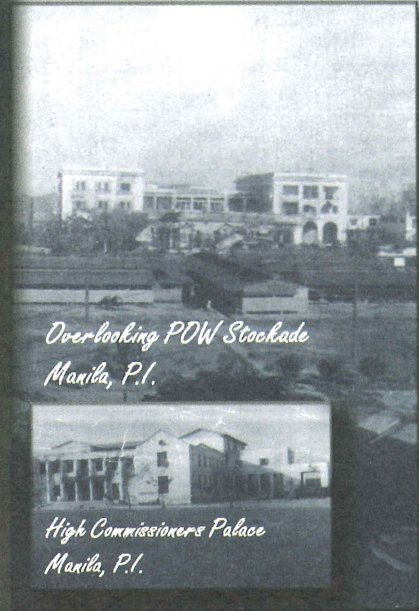
War Crimes On Trial



Murata and other Japanese witnesses, while we refueled and had chow on Okinawa



Ambassador Murata (war criminal), Okinawa

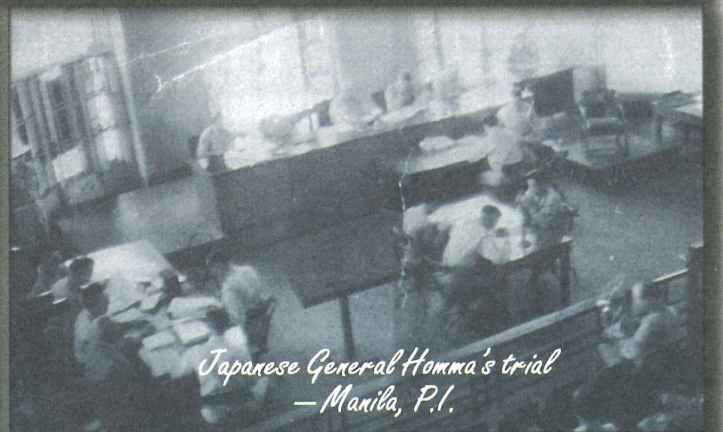


Over-looking POW Stockade Manila, P.I.

High Commissioners Palace Manila, P.I.



In Flight on MATS to war crime trials in Manila.



Japanese General Homma's trial - Manila, P.I.

A LONG COLD RIDE

February 1941 was a very cold month in North Dakota. Temperatures were well below zero most of the month. Of course the wind chill factor hadn't been formulated so there is no information on how really cold the temperature was. The 164th Infantry had been activated February 10th, 1941 spent time in local armories waiting for trains to transport the regiment to Camp Clairborne, LA for one year of training. Most of the troop trains left North Dakota on/or before February 20, 1941.

In 1940 the Howitzer/Anti-Tank Company, Devils Lake, ND have been redesignated as the Service Company. Among the many responsibilities of the Service Co. was all the regimental transportation, trucks, motorcycles, etc. Jeeps had not been invented at this date. Apparently plans were never made to move the military vehicles to Camp Clairborne, LA using the railroads. Perhaps it might have been the cost of gasoline. At that time gas cost 20 cents a gallon and State taxes included. The Service Company received orders to travel to Camp Clairborne via truck transport. Maybe this decision was based on the fact that the Service Co. personnel had little training in military truck convoys or long distance driving. Most of the men in the company probably had a drivers license but didn't own a truck or car and more than likely had never traveled or driven more than 200 miles on a road trip. Remember this was depression time and people didn't have much money for travel or truck/car ownership. A change in Company Commander occurred on February 10, 1941, Captain A.C. Timboe (Devils Lake, ND) was moved to Regimental Hdqts. Co., and promoted to the rank of Major. Wm. J. Smith, Captain (Bismarck, ND) assumed command of the Service Co. S.N. Ordal and Arthur P. Sherwin remained with the company as 1st Lieutenant's (Devils Lake, ND).

Now before the truck convoy could head south for the warmer climate of Louisiana a medical detail was assigned to the unit, to provide medical care if needed. No ambulance was assigned to the Medical Unit from Bottineau as the army had very few available for National Guard units. The 164th Medical Detachment was formed in Bottineau, ND, December 6th, 1940. Gerald Sanderson (Willow City, ND) in discussing the 164 Medical Detachment explained that the enlisted men had a very bare minimum of medical training. The training was basic first aid. The classes were conducted by H. Flannery, MD just out of Medical School. Flannery later developed into a first class Physician and did a great service for the wounded and of the 164th. After WWII Flannery had a very successful medical practice in St. Paul, MN.

Sanderson explained that at the morning roll call twelve men would be leaving by train for Devils Lake to be attached to the Service Co. as relief drivers for the truck convoy to Camp Clairborne, LA. The men arrived in Devils Lake set up their canvas cots in the Armory and went to bed early as they had no medical duties to perform. No need for a pro-station. At that time the medics had no knowledge about or how to set up and operate a PRO Station. Intensive training in that procedure was carried on in Camp Clairborne and other military camps close to temptations offered in Southern cities

near military bases. The assigned medics fell asleep but soon were awakened, handed a bolt action 1903 Springfield Rifle and told to walk guard duty outside the Armory and around the Armory trucks parked nearby. It was about 20 degrees below zero. In the two weeks training after being Federally activated the medics were never armed with or instructed in the use of an army rifle. They were to be trained as medics. But being the new boys in the Company the hard hearted 1st Sgt. gave them the chance to become seasoned while the Service Co. men went into the local pubs for refreshments and maybe a need to visit a PRO Station. Captain Schatz, MD (West Fargo, ND) was assigned as the Medical Officer along with Stewart "Stew" Marty, Walt Ormbert, L. Simek (all from Bottineau, ND) as first aid men. These assigned men traveled at the tail end of convoy in case of an emergency. All other medics were detailed as assistant truck drivers. There was no communication system, such as radios between the lead vehicle and the last truck which was a truck equipped as a wrecker to repair stalled vehicles. In late February the convoy, led by Capt. Smith, in a wooden paneled station wagon, started a four or five day trip to Louisiana. The temperature was 35 degrees below zero. The trucks had to be started every 15 or 20 minutes to keep the oil from freezing so that the trucks would be running in the morning. The men had been issued military clothing, wool long johns, OD wool uniforms, blue denim fatigue over that, a wool cap, long heavy wool overcoat, 2 buckle cloth overshoes. Many of the men when not driving wrapped themselves in GI wool blankets.

A mixed bag of 28 trucks, 1934 Chevrolets 1 1/2 ton, a few 4 wheel drive Dodges. No heaters. Many truck drivers in WWII soon discovered that military trucks were never equipped with heaters or air conditioning. Fifty-one men left Devils Lake, ND for their first of many truck convoys. The first stop was at Lakota, ND about 50 miles east of Devils Lake. The stop was made to allow the drivers to warm up in the local gas station and relive their kidneys. The advance party traveled into Grand Forks, ND (Hwy #2), made arrangements with a local restaurant to feed the men lunch. The first night stop was Fargo, ND (Hwy 81), seventy-eight miles south of Grand Forks. Reaching Fargo, the drivers put up their canvas cots in the N.G. Armory, placed guards patrolling the trucks to start them every 15-20 minutes to keep from freezing the oil. Temperature 20-30 degrees below zero. Leaving Fargo, ND the convoy crossed the Red River, moved through Moorhead, MN and started south on Hwy #75 followed it to about, Independence, MO then onto one highway that carried the convoy to Joplin, MO and then onto Hwy 71 to Alexandria, LA. The advance party made sleeping arrangements in Civic Center, the troops set up their own canvas cots. Civilian gas trucks would refuel the trucks at designated points. The men were fed in the restaurant but this would soon end as they arrived in Camp Clairborne and start chowing on GI food hominy grits, collard greens, and generally a poor grade of southern rations. The highways in 1941 were two-lane black topped roads that generally went through the main part of large/small cities. The merchants believed that this would allow travelers to stop and shop. The future interstate highways

changed this philosophy. The trucks were traveling maybe 40+ MPH, drivers were to keep about 75 feet between trucks. This worked well until entering a city than local police escort slowed the trucks down, closed the distance to about 10 feet. All city traffic was to stop and not attempt to go through the convoy when the traffic light turned green. This caused some problems. The facts are not clear about the incident on highway 75 that goes around Kansas City. Apparently the distance between trucks opened up, the light turned green and a farmer with a truck loaded with chickens and eggs decided to cross the highway. The oncoming Army Dodge 1 1/2 truck hit the truck scattering chicken feathers and eggs in all direction. No one was injured. The farmer was very PO'd and no doubt collected \$\$ from Uncle Sam. The Service Co. Mechanic removed the rear drive shaft and the truck rolled screeching on into Camp Clairborne. John Kirchofoner, Service Co. (Devils Lake, ND) was the driver that scattered chicken feathers and eggs all over the highway while going south for the winter. John is a L.M. of the Association in very poor health in a nursing home in St. Paul, MN.

Of the 51 enlisted men and five officers that participated in the Long Cold Drive about 10 are still living. After the 1941 Louisiana war games the Service Company ranks were brought up to full Company strength. New trucks, combat recon cars and sedan staff cars so the brass could be comfortable. After December 7, 1941 the Service Company convoyed from the Cow Palace, San Francisco, CA over the mountains to Umitilia, Oregon. That's a different story for a later date.

*Every cloud doesn't
mean a storm.*

Anonymous



1941-Lt. Stimpson, "G" Co. and 1st Lt. Al Wiest, "H" Co. demonstrating how to disarm an individual or maybe they were dancing.

Photo Credits: Gerald Sanderson



Photo Credit: Gerald Sanderson

"H" Co. 164th training with wooden 81MM mortars-Camp Clairborne-muddy sheets 1941.



Morrity - "G" Co. 60MM Mortar-1941.



Photo Credit: Gerald Sanderson

L-R: Capt. Flannery, MD-2nd BN Aid Station-1941 Louisiana maneuvers, Staff/Sgt. Jim Fenelon reporting to medics to have right hand dressed, twenty stitches from an altercation in Alexandria, LA, Aid men Mollet and McClure notice the training gas masks Mollet and McClure are wearing, McClure was killed (KIA) on Guadalcanal, 1941.



164th Infantry Association of the United States

Order Form

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You may fax orders to: (952) 401-0439 (24hrs/day)

QUESTIONS? Call 1-800-440-1571
 EMAIL: hostapparel@msn.com
 \$5.00 per item will go to 164th
 Infantry Newsletter.
 Price includes shipping and
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164th Infantry T-shirt/Cap Logo

The colorful insignia on the T-shirts. Caps cover the history of the 164th. starting at the left is the Americal Division, blue, with stars representing the Southern Cross. Americal Division formed in New Caledonia (a free French Island WWII), South Pacific, the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), the blue diamond patch 1st Marine Division Patch, authorized by General Vandegrift, lower left 47th Infantry Viking Division 164th Infantry regiment (Rifle) was part of the 47th (Viking Division). The 47th Division was federally activated for the Korean Conflict 1951-1953 Stationed in Camp Rucker, Alabama. Individual 164th soldiers were sent to the Korean Conflict as replacements; center, 164th Infantry Regimental Crest far right Red Bull, 34th Infantry Division, the 164th was part of the 34th Division until Dec. 7, 1941.

Ship To: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ St. _____ Zip: _____
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 Payment: (Circle one) Check Visa Mastercard Discover AMX
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Item Description	Size	Qty	Price Each	Price Extended
T-Shirts			\$15.00	
Hat "A" <i>Infantry Blue w/white front & logo in color</i>			\$12.00	
Hat "B" <i>All white & logo in color</i>			\$12.00	
Golf Shirts			\$19.50	
Sweatshirt			\$24.95	
			Order Total:	\$ _____

Add \$2.00 for XXL \$3.50 for XXXL

Many people save their copy of the 164th news for history, so if you want to make a copy of the order blank, please do so.

DISPLAY YOUR PART OF THE 164TH INFANTRY PROUDLY.



Photo credit Leonard Leingang

Above photos show the Cap, Tee Shirt and Sweat shirt available for order now.

\$5.00 per item will go to 164th Infantry Newsletter.

Apologies – Host Active Apparel forgot to put in address. The real problem was that the Telephone Company had fouled up the 1-800-440-1571 on a nationwide basis. The company is contemplating legal action for loss of orders for a one-year period. The 800 number is correct and so is the address. Sales have been fairly good in spite of the problem. So here is your last chance to place an order. Remember \$5.00 goes to help support the 164th News.

Jim Fenelon - Editor.

A few color bumper stickers (suitable for framing or a scrapbook still available). \$3.00 for 1 or 2 for \$5.00, includes postage and handling.
Ben Kemp S/T

WHEN THE WAR ENDED, A BOMB, ESCORT DUTY

When the war ended in the Pacific I was the Executive officer of the 603rd Medium Tank Company, First Cavalry Division. The 1st Cavalry Division was stationed in the small town of Saraiya in southern Luzon, Philippine Islands. The unit was under going intensive training for the invasion of Kyushu, Japan. The anticipated D day for Kyushu was late October or first of November 1945. The old Sherman tanks were in rough shape as they had come up the war trail from Australia. With the war in Europe over new equipment was arriving in huge amounts. The supplies and new tanks were needed for invading the Island of Kyushu, Japan would cost many lives and lots of military equipment. The training was intensified as D-day was coming closer.

We were aware of the B29 Bombers base in Tinian that were flying over us on a regular basis to bomb Japan. When we were told that an Atomic Bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima and later Nagasaki, it made no great impression on us as it was generally felt that we would have to invade and would take heavy casualties in the process. Little did we realize that dropping the two A-Bombs would change our lives forever and my assignment as an officer in the Army. The 603rd Medium Tank Company, 1st Cavalry Division was shipped to Japan as part of the U.S. Army of occupation. The division was stationed in a former Japanese Preparatory Academy in Asko, Japan, a suburb of Tokyo. At a later date this area was renamed Camp Drake and was a staging area for the U.S. troops headed for Korea.

The Assistant G1 of the Division called me and asked if I wanted to serve as an Escort Officer to take former Ambassador Murata, a charged War Criminal, and 8 former Japanese Army Officers to Manila to serve as defense witnesses at the War Crime Trial of former General Homma. General Homma was the Japanese General in command of the Philippine Island when World War II ended. Homma was charged with many activities committed by Japanese troops against the Philippine people, Allied and American P.O.W's.

I was directed to select an armed non-commissioned officer to accompany me as a guard for the Japanese Ambassador Murota. Accompanied by Sgt. Hardy we proceeded to the Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan. Prior to taking over custody of Ambassador Murata we were given detailed instructions to prevent Murata from committing suicide. One of the major points was the use of the safety razor and blade. I was told to carry this razor and blade. Each morning I would insert the blade in the razor let Murata shave with me standing guard on one side and Sgt. Hardy on the other side. Soon as Murata finished shaving and shook the water off the razor I would retrieve the razor and blade. After signing for the prisoner we proceeded to the Atsugi Airport for a plane ride to Manila with a fueling stop at Okinawa. At the airport other Japanese defense witnesses joined us. These were witnesses that were being called to testify in the trial of General Homma. The defense witnesses consisted of six former Japanese Generals and one Lieutenant Colonel joined us. One General failed to show and I was told later that he had committed suicide that morning. Our plane was a C-54 operated by

MATS, the Military Air Transport System. After our very young pilot and co-pilot got on, they revved up the motors and then cut them back and called for Ground Maintenance personnel. The ground personnel checked things out and said everything was all right and left the plane. The crew again revved up the engines, and again cut them back and said something about the Tachometer again and again called for Ground Maintenance. After several of these episodes and a lot of elapsed time, I asked the Ground Mechanic what was wrong with the plane and he said "not a damned thing, this is the first time that this crew has been to Tokyo and they want to spend the night taking in the sights". Shortly after that the plane was grounded.

I was directed to the Provost Marshals Office; but found that the Jail was not yet completed, as they had no door. So I took them all to the transient personnel facilities and bunked them all down including Mr. Murata. I was tired and I knew that Sgt. Hardy had to be just as tired and I didn't think much of taking turns of guarding Mr. Murata through the night. I placed Sgt. Hardy in a bunk on one side of him and I on the other side. I used his bag with the razor as a pillow and Sgt. Hardy unloaded his gun and used the gun holster as a pillow. I slept well and awoke to Mr. Murata calling me by name. This was really a strange feeling having the prisoner call me by name to wake me up so we could travel on to his trial. If Murata had wanted to escape or cause us any injury he really had a good opportunity to do so.

After we enplaned in the morning, our obviously hung-over crew arrived and we took off for our fueling stop at Okinawa. There was a lot of corrugated steel scattered around Okinawa as a result of the September Typhoon.

Continued on pg 6

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

Ladies and Gentlemen, PLEASE, Notify us when you change your mailing address. On the last Newsletter twenty-seven (27) Newsletters returned because of address Changes. THIS COST THE ASSOCIATION IN AN EXCESS OF \$150.00. That is a waste Of the Association's funds. It only takes a few moments for you to send me a change of address, and only costs you 37 cents. PLEASE, when you move, get a change of address form from Your post office and send it to us.

Thanks
Ben Kemp
Secretary/Treasurer

THE CLASS OF '42 MARINES IN WWII

BY FORMER U.S. MARINE TUCKER GIBLIN

This history book recounts the events of Regimental Weapons Company, 7th Marines, of the First Marine Division throughout WWII. Major Joseph E. Buckley (1898-1961) commanded, and is a central figure along with Tucker Giblin, Buckley was a famous former master gunnery sergeant, and Marine gunner during the 1930's, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1947 with Navy Cross and Bronze Star after 31 years of service Tucker Giblin was a 17-year-old enlistee who served in the Marine Corps for three years, 31 months of which were in the Pacific Theater. He was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart at Peleliu. The forward is by Kenneth G. Haynes, a Wpns-7th corpsman who retired as a Rear Admiral in the line. This yarn covers the gamut from October battles at

Bloody Ridge where the magnificent 3/164 of the Americal Division made the difference, along with "Chesty" Puller's Marines, in saving Bloody Ridge at Guadalcanal, then liberty at Australia, on to New Guinea, Cape Gloucester, Bloody Peleliu, and Okinawa. A manuscript reader for Kent State University Press reported on The Class of '42 Marines in WWII.

(Ed. Note: Very interesting book and certainly gives due credit to the 164th Infantry. So often people are not aware of the fact that the 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) played a crucial roll in the battle for Guadalcanal. Tucker Giblin retired from N.W.A. as a pilot. No doubt he piloted many the N.W.A. planes many of us rode on business/vacation trips).

... WHEN THE WAR ENDED, A BOMB, ESCORT DUTY CONTINUED

As far as I knew Mr. Murata was the only one that could speak English. I talked to him at length. He has spent considerable time in the U.S. and had served at one time as a Counsel in Seattle. I never could figure out how and Ambassador to a Country that was under the control of the Military could commit atrocities, and I was relieved to find in later years that he was never actually indicated and was freed.

That morning when we left Tokyo it was about 10 degrees above zero, when we left the plane at Manila, it was like stepping into a furnace. We were not prepared for it and as soon as the Provost Marshal signed for my contingent, we ducked out of sight and replaced our woolen uniform with summer dress.

I was surprised and a little mortified to find that the Military Police not only took Mr. Murata as a prisoner, they also took the Japanese Officers as prisoners. They were pretty much in uniform as they were up against what I was up against when I was discharged and was unable to buy a suit and other clothing as our Textile Industry was converting to peacetime apparel and could not keep up with the demands of millions of service personnel returning to civilian life. In the Philippines, only Japanese were in prisons. I visited them on several occasions, and although I didn't have an Interpreter, they seemed to appreciate my calling on them.

I visited with Mr. Murata on several occasions and was allowed to accompany him and a guard on an evening walk.

I was quartered with the Military Police Officers at the former High Commissioners Residence on Manila Bay. General Homma's trial was in this building. Adjacent to the Residence was a POW Compound and there were three trials going on there in tents serving as Court Rooms. These were mostly trials of lesser ranked Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers.

I was assigned to a corner on the second floor. U.S. Forces with building-to-building street fighting captured Manila. Artillery was fired point blank, sighting down the gun barrel. One wall in my room had a hole in the wall, about the circumference of a 155mm shell, and the opposite wall was almost non-existent as a result of the shell exploding. I

sometimes walked in my sleep, and I was never very comfortable in that room. I put my cot against the good wall, placed my bag against my cot where I would have to crawl over it, and tucked in my mosquito netting very carefully; hoping that if I got up in my sleep, I would wake up before I stepped out of the non-existent window.

One night I woke up, evidently the result of a large explosion, to find that the sky and bay area was lit up. In the morning we were told that a small Navy Yard Tanker with a crew of 10 Filipino's had blown up with the loss of all lives.

I had considerable spare time and spent a lot of it in the balcony in the Courtroom. The Prosecution and the Defense were U.S. Officers. The Defense Interpreter was Japanese while the Prosecution's was Australian. The trial was generally low key with no heated exchanges between the parties contrary to what the MP officers said about the General Yamashita trial that just preceded the Homma trial.

The Prosecution evidently tried to show that the incidence of rape was general throughout the area commanded by General Homma and that he should be held responsible for the conduct of his Army. Some 80 cases, many were particularly brutal. Since they came from throughout the Islands where there are a number of different languages and many dialects, it usually required a change in Interpreters for each case.

The Prosecution tried to show that General Homma had witnessed the Death March by the use of Japanese Officers who successfully evaded giving a definite answer to any question, and to several former POW's whose testimony was very weak.

General Homma was charged with continuing to shell the Island of Corregidor after General Wainwright had flown the flag of surrender, resulting in many needless casualties. It was brought out that prior to flying the flag of surrender, General Wainwright had radioed to all local Commanders in the Philippines', relinquishing command of all the Philippines with exception of the fortified island group, mainly Corregidor, Fort Drum, and Caribou Island. Homma insisted on the surrender of the entire Philippines and eventually Wainwright

radioed all the Commanders and again assumed command and then surrendered all of the Philippines. This pretty well eliminated the chance of organized resistance at local levels. If I had been a member of the Tribunal, I don't think that I could have convicted Homma.

The Prosecution charged Homma with failure to provide Quinine and other medicine to the American and Philippine prisoners. The Japanese claimed that they were in such short supply that they couldn't take care of their own. The Prosecution went on to show that they captured enough of these supplies to adequately treat all. In the process they presented Quartermaster Sergeant who had transported this and other war material out of Manila prior to the surrender. When he was asked for and gave the dates, the Defense asked the Sergeant: Wasn't this after General McArthur declared Manila an Open City. One of the charges was that the Japanese didn't treat Manila as an open city, and I would find it difficult to convict someone when we didn't treat it as an open city.

General Yamashita, who was convicted at an earlier trial, was executed by hanging at Clark Field while I was there and some of the MP Officers had to go as witnesses.

A second plane bearing more defense witnesses and General Hommas' wife arrived. We were interested on how the stoic Japanese people would act toward each other under these circumstances. They hadn't seen each other since he had been arrested immediately after we occupied Japan, and they undoubtedly knew after the Yamashita trial what the outcome might be. I can say that their reaction was the same as ours would have been.

Three MP Officers and I were able to take in the first post-war performance of the Manila Opera Company. The Opera was Carmen. It was my first opera and I thoroughly enjoyed it. An Opera Buff with us gave it high marks. The costuming and sets left something to be desired, but after nearly 5 years of War, it was amazing that it was as good as it was.

While I was there American Whiskey was supposedly available at controlled prices, particularly in quantities of more than one, while back in Tokyo it was virtually non-existent. I wanted to pick up a case or two to take back to my Outfit. One of the MP Officers took me to the Liquor Store and I was to go in and get the Dealer to admit that he had a case and to give me the price, and then I was to step up to the window where the MP Officer could see me and he would then come in complete with MP Armband and Sam Browne belt and gun. I would then ask the Dealer, "What did you say the price was on that case of whiskey, and the Dealer would give a dirty look and give the official price. We did that at two shops and ended up with two cases of Mount Vernon Rye Whiskey at a cost of a little less than \$2.00 per quart.

About this time it was determined that Sgt. Hardy had sufficient points for him to go home for discharge after he returned to our outfit. We got him on a MATS flight to Tokyo and I gave him a case of whiskey to take back, and after taking some for his use and fellow non-coms, to take the case to the Officers Quarters and tell them to each take a bottle and put the rest under my cot.

The Prosecution had concluded its case and the Defense asked for and was granted a 10-day delay before presenting

their case. I found that I too could go back to the States but I had to get back to my outfit in Tokyo first. I then had a difficult time to find someone who would read my orders, as I wanted them to read and okay my transportation. I was surprised to find an Officer that I had served under in the States, who was on temporary assignment in the Transportation Office, who Okayed transportation.

I proceeded to take my case of whiskey in its wooden crate, tied with some crude rope, onto the MAT's C54 and put it under the bucket seat and headed for Tokyo after the usual fueling stop in Okinawa. When I went off the plane at Tokyo, a ground crewman commented, "that's the second case of whiskey I've seen come through here this week and the Provost Marshall at Okinawa has really been going through the cargo hold for whiskey'. I didn't know you couldn't transport whiskey, and evidently the MP Officers in Manila didn't know it either as they took me to the Air Field and helped me load it on. I guess what saved me was that the Provost Marshall didn't think that anyone would be stupid enough to carry in open sight whiskey in a box marked accordingly.

When I got back to my outfit, I still had two quarts in the first case. I don't remember how I disposed of the balance as I was only there for a short time before I left for the Replacement Camp at Zama for shipment home.

After I returned to the State, I found that General Homma had been convicted and was to be executed by Firing Squad, and that he had subsequently been executed. To a military man, to be executed by hanging like General Yamashita met his death, is considered disgraceful; so evidently the Tribunal didn't think General Homma's actions were as heinous as Yamashita's.

Leo T. Callahan 316 Willow Lane Bismarck, ND 58504 (701) 224-8188 (Ed. Note-Callahan is associate member of the 164th Association. Guarding a Japanese Ambassador charged with WWII crimes and being able to observe some of the trial of Japanese prisoners was most unusual and no doubt very interesting. Thanks for an interesting story).



Photo credit: War Dept.

A Japanese nurse is sentenced to imprisonment at a trial of accused "Class B" war criminals convened in Yokohama. She was found guilty of having participated in eating the liver of an American airman executed at Kyushu University, where vivisections were performed on POWs.

Presidents Message

My fellow American (Presidents like to start like that) I'm sure with all the talk of war, troop movements and call up of the reserve units it brings a flood of memories to you of days gone by. May God watch over us! Good news Bad news-A patient woke up in the hospital to find the Doctor standing by his bed. Doc says "I have some good news and some bad news". The bad news is I had to cut off both your feet! Patient says "What could be good news after that"? Doc says "the Good news - As you requested at the last reunion, the reunion for this year will be at the place it was two years ago. Although it isn't called the RADDISON (now the RAMKOTA) it is located across the street from the MALL and just off the Bismarck Expressway so it is easy to get to. Bad news - We are losing WW 2 vets at the rate of 1000 per day. So our membership is dropping accordingly. Good news - THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS will be published again in February (Lord willing and Jim stays healthy). Bad news - Costs are rising! Printing, mailing and the like are all going up. Also MANY are not getting change of address forms to Ben. That means: mail NEWS, pay for return of the NEWS, and pay for mailing NEWS again. This may not seem like much but it is very costly!! PLEASE send Ben a change of address immediately when you move! Good news - We will have a reunion this year. Bad news - this may be the last. We do not have a Vice President so no President for next year. (They are a dime a dozen). BUT we do not have a SECRETARY-TREASURER for next year (that's a million-dollar job or should be). If you have nay ideas let us know. My e-mail is Feide00@hotmail.com Enough already. May the Lord take a liken to you!

Take care and God Speed.

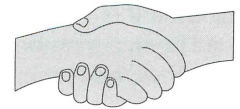
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ClW4 (Ret)

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701-255-7990

WELCOME



Life Members

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Eugene, OR

New Members

Lewis Goodman
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Bismarck, ND
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Oxnard, CA

Ass. Life Members

Robert W. Beer
Federal Way, WA
Erick Fosaaen
Fargo, ND
Agnes Privatsky
Dickinson, ND
Colleen Van Sweringen
Camas, WA
Richard C. Wiest
Washington, DC

New Ass. Members

Marie L. Bergh
Nokomis, FI
Mary Kay Murray
Minneapolis, MN
Ruth Sawyer
Brooklyn Center, MN

164th Annual Reunion

September 19th - 21st, 2003

RAMKOTA

(formerly Raddison Hotel)

Bismarck, ND

Ample Parking



DUES

Dues are the life blood of any association. Failure to pay dues is the start of the demise of an association. 2003 Dues are due 1 January 2003. Dues are \$10.00. Save your Association by mailing in your dues early. Life Membership only \$50.00

Thanks

Ben Kemp, S/T

LETTERS FROM THE SENATE

BYRON L. DORGAN
NORTH DAKOTA
713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405
202-224-2551
202-224-8718 TDD

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCIAL, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

December 3, 2002

STATE OFFICES

312 FEDERAL BUILDING
THIRD AND ROSSER AVENUE
P.O. BOX 2579
BISMARCK, ND 58502
701-224-4118
1-800-666-4482 TOLL-FREE
112 ROBERTS STREET, ROOM 110
P.O. BOX 2250
FARGO, ND 58107
701-239-5389
102 NORTH 4TH STREET, ROOM 102
GRAND FORKS, ND 58001
701-746-6972
100 1ST STREET S.W., ROOM 105
MINOT, ND 58701
701-852-0703

Jim Fenelon
2510 South 6th Street, Apartment A31
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Dear Jim:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding what I have done on behalf of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Brian Moran told me about his conversation with you. I would be honored if you would mention my efforts in the 164th Newsletter.

I think your readers will also be interested in the North Dakota Veterans History Project that I am sponsoring. Any war veteran in the state who wants to share his story should contact my Bismarck office at 1-800-666-4482.

Lastly, I am enclosing a copy of my tribute to the 164th Infantry Regiment from the Congressional Record dated October 10, 2002. I hope you find it interesting.

Jim, on behalf of all North Dakotans, let me thank you for everything that you are doing to keep alive the memory of one of the most gallant units in the history of the United States Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

Byron L. Dorgan
U.S. Senator

BLD:lrg
Enclosures

News From U.S. Senator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday
November 9, 2000

CONTACT: **Byron L. Dorgan**
or Barry Piatt
PHONE: 202-224-2551

State Veterans Cemetery will no longer be excluded from federal funds:

PRESIDENT SIGNS DORGAN LEGISLATION THAT WILL CORRECT FUNDING PROBLEM FOR NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS CEMETERY IN MANDAN

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) announced Thursday that President Clinton has signed into law a bill that includes legislation drafted by Dorgan to correct a federal rule that has barred the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Mandan from receiving funds from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to help pay for the interment of military veterans from North Dakota who are buried in the cemetery.

Effective immediately, the cemetery can begin to receive the \$150 allowance for veterans buried at the cemetery. It will amount to over \$20,000 per year for the cemetery. These are payments that every other veterans cemetery now receives.

"I'm pleased we were able to correct this unfairness," Dorgan said. "Our veterans should expect to be treated like all other veterans."

Dorgan drafted special legislative language to correct the situation after meetings last month with officials from the Mandan Veterans Cemetery and with General Keith Bjerke, the head of the North Dakota National Guard, and Mike Walker, VA Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs. The legislation was necessary because federal law prevents the cemetery from receiving the \$150 VA interment allowance since it allows burial of certain members of the National Guard and Reserves who did not serve long enough to fit federal criteria.

Close to 1400 North Dakota veterans are buried at the Veterans Cemetery in Mandan. About 35 of them are National Guardsmen and Reservists who do not meet the federal definition of veteran. Before enactment of Dorgan's legislation, the federal rules required that all veterans buried in a veterans cemetery meet the VA criteria. When they did not meet that criteria, the VA withdrew all federal funding. Dorgan said the cemetery has lost \$170,000 in interment allowances since it opened in 1992 because of the federal rule.

Under terms of Dorgan's legislation, which was signed into law last week as part of the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000, the VA will now begin to pay the \$150 interment allowance. Dorgan said that a separate regulation that prohibits VA cemetery improvement grants, for the same reason that blocked the interment allowance, is still in place and he is working to get the regulation changed.

— END —

News From U.S. Senator

North Dakota

Byron L. Dorgan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday
November 12, 2001

CONTACT: Maynard Friesz
or Barry E. Piatt
PHONE: 202-441-2924

Dorgan amendment included in bill sent to the President to be signed into law:

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS CEMETERY WILL SOON BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL FUNDS TO IMPROVE & EXPAND FACILITIES

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) said Monday that Congress has approved and sent to the President a bill that includes a Dorgan measure that makes the North Dakota's Veterans Cemetery eligible for federal funds to expand and improve its grounds.

"This legislation honors North Dakota veterans by allowing access to federal funds to make improvements to the veterans cemetery and to help the cemetery grow and expand as the need for hallowed ground to honor departed veterans increases as time goes by."

Up to now, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ruled that the North Dakota veterans cemetery was not eligible for the State Cemetery Grants program, because not everyone buried at the cemetery met the federal definition of veteran. The cemetery, located south of Mandan, allows National Guard and Reserve members with four years of service to be buried on its grounds. Federal law requires Guardsmen and Reservists to complete 20 years of service to be eligible for burial in a veterans cemetery.

"It makes no sense to deny a state veterans cemetery access to grant funds simply because it allows a small number of servicemen who do not meet the federal definition of veteran to be buried there," said Dorgan, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He included the measure in the bill that funds the VA.

Dorgan expects the President to sign the legislation before Thanksgiving. Last year, Dorgan was successful in correcting federal provisions that prevented the cemetery from collecting interment fees that are paid by the VA to all other veterans cemeteries.

— END —

He who hesitates is not only lost,
but miles from the next exit.

- Unknown

LETTERS



To The Editor :

December 22, 2002

Dear Ben

I joined the 164th on Guadalcanal and just after they came off of the battlefield. Being from the South and an Alabama boy I did not know I would fit in a North Dakota outfit. The afternoon I got to D Company Ed and his brother Claude Avens. We were not just friends, were like brothers. I have been to Montana twice to see Claude and he has visited me once here in Alexander City, Alabama. We still visit by phone 3 or 4 times each year. I was called Tommy by all my buddies. The 164th was the best outfit in the Pacific.

T.R. Evans
13621 Hwy 63 S
Alexander City, AL 35010-6344

P.S. You guys are doing a great job with the paper. I enjoy every one of the articles printed. Thanks to a North Dakota outfit for your acceptance of a boy from the South.

(Ed. Note-You are welcome and you were a good fighting infantryman and added much to the success and history of the 164th Infantry WWII record. You all just talked different. Ha.Ha.)

December 31, 2002

Dear Ben,

I am sending \$30 for dues and \$20 for the 164th Newsletter. I hope you are able to keep this going 4 times a year. I enjoy reading it very much.

I joined the 164th in Bougainville and stayed with L Co. all the way to Japan.

Keep up the good work.

Charles C. Knapp
1706 Old Orchard Rd.
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901-2831

(Ed. Note- With help/support from the membership anything maybe possible. It would be interesting if you write me a letter about experiences on Bougainville and your time in Japan as a member of the 164th).

Enclosed is a check for a Life Membership.

Thank you.

(Wenzel) Agnes H. Privratsky
228 3rd St W
Dickinson, ND 58601-5138

January 10, 2003

Dear Jim,

Enclosed is a check for \$25.00 - \$10.00 for dues - \$10.00 for Newsletter. \$5.00 for (2) Bumper stickers.

Thank you.

Virginia Livingood
115 W 12th St
Grafton, ND 58237

(Ed. Note-Thanks)

January 4, 2003

Dear Ben:

Sorry I neglected my yearly dues. Enclosed find a check for my dues and a pair of bumper stickers. What's left use for Jim Fenelon's newspaper.

Sincerely

Arvid Thompson
1187 Farrington St
Saint Paul, MN 55117

Ben Kemp:

Enclosed is my check for ten dollars (\$10.00) for subscription to the 164th Infantry News.

Thank you.

Thelma Mannel
1603 Harmon Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501-2872

(Ed. Note-Thelma's husband served in the 164th WWII)

1-10-03

Dear Jim,

I am writing to inform you that Ray Sawyer passed away on Nov. 27th, 2002. He always looked forward to receiving the 164th Inf. News, and so did I.

If possible, I would like to become an Associate Member, so I can keep up on the news of the 164th.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ruth Sawyer
Apt. 233
5415 69th Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55429

(Ed. Note-Ray Sawyer was in the 164th Medics WWII. Ray was very active in Mpls./St. Paul Chapter of the 164th Infantry. Ray served on the 1963 Reunion Committee, Mpls and help host Joe E. Brown movie star and Yasuo Obi-former Japanese WWII enemy soldier. Ray, My friend, I will miss you).

Dear Jim,

I regret to inform you that John passed away on Feb. 20, 2002. Beside John, Arvid Hansvall who was in the 164th with him died also. We lost 3 other veteran friends of more than 55 years.

John was so proud of his service & the 164th. He couldn't wait to read the Newsletter. I've saved the ones from the last years for our kids 6, & 15 grandkids to know what he went through.

Good luck & long life to the rest of the 164th.

Sincerely

Marie Bergh
Mrs. John Bergh
2358 Sonoma Dr. W.
Nokomis, FL 34275

(Ed. Note-Sorry to lose a 164th er. So many people have started saving the 164th News from the past 5 years for their offspring. The 164 news covers some of the personal history of the regiment. I am glad John enjoyed the 164th News).

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find 2 Obituary's of 2 friends of the 164th Infantry. You may have information in which units these men served.

I think Sampson may have served with "C" Company. But my recall is not that good.

Also find 2 checks. 1 for Jess Hetheuyton a Navy veteran-Buried in 2002 as a Memorial to North Dakota Veterans Cemetery Foundation. It was suggested that we send it to the association, so that they may get credit and use where they feel is the most needed.

Also \$20.00 for postage for thej Publication and keep Jim Fenelon from tearing out his hair as to where he will find money to keep the News traveling on the Pony Express.

Happy New Year to men of the Association.

Clarence O. Blecha
4582 Belmont Rd
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(Ed. Note- thanks for the donation to keep the 164th News traveling via Pony Express. Contributions to the 164th News helps buy oats to keep the Pony traveling. If the Pony is to keep trotting for four issues more high powered oats & barley will be needed. Clarence my hair is white, thinning but still standing on end. Thanks).

Gentlemen,

Enclosed is check for 2003 dues. Always enjoy the 164th News!

Martin Broudy
3000 NW 42nd Ave apt B 401
Coconut Creek, FL 33066-2109

Dear Ben:

Sorry I'm so late. I take the papers to the nursing home and read them to Walt, and he seems to enjoy them. He nods and smiles, but doesn't seem to remember names.

Thank you so much.

Doris A. Trangen
321 Simrall Blvd.
Bottineau, ND 58318

(Ed. Note-Walt Trangen was in the 164 Medical Detachment and a very good bridge player. Sorry to learn that he is in poor health. Tell Walt hello from Jim Fenelon).

Hi,

Outstanding job on Newsletter.

Mr. Joe J. Oday
6195 Chadwick Ave
San Diego, CA 92139-3609

(Ed. Note-Thanks)

12-18-02

Riley

There is no city or zip code on where to send this.

My daddy always said that when in doubt, send it to the president.

Some money for the T-shirt & postage. Put the rest towards the Newsletter. The stamps are from when you sent my golf shoes to me.

Mr. Ray Fries
31215 Hartford Dr
Warren, MI 48088-7306

(Ed. Note-1) The T-shirt, Cap Company forgot mailing address. "Phil" corrected it in this issue. Thanks for the \$33.50 for the Newsletter and the T-shirts, etc. 2) Your daddy gave you good advise, the letter traveled down to the workers).

Ense petit placidam sub liberate quietem.

"By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty"

Massachusetts State Motto (for 212 years)

December 31, 2002

Dear Ben:

Enclosed is a check for \$25.00. Ten dollars to pay my dues for 2003 and the rest toward the Newsletter.

We really enjoy receiving the fine Newsletter. Jim, as Editor, is doing a great job and we hope it will continue. We were sorry not to be able to attend the reunion this past year and missed seeing old friends especially those from Company E: Red Cherrey, Joel and Amy Fedje, the Walkers and others.

Happy New Year and sincere best wishes for the continued success of the Association and peace in the world in 2003. We'll also throw in a wish for health as we sure can use it. We're not quite as spry as we were back in 1940's when we were in the South Pacific!

Sincerely yours,
Emil Irving Blomstrann
32 Foxon Pl.
New Britain, CT 06053-2532

(Ed. Note- From J. Fenelon. Thanks for your gracious words. The encouragement helps to resist the 2 times a year advocates).

.....
Hi

\$10.00 for the newsletter + \$10 for dues.

Donald J. Evenson
612 19th Ave S
Grand Forks, ND 58201-7336

.....
Jan. 3, 2003

Hello,
Enclosed are my dues for 2003.

My father is Franklin T. Bergstrom of 505 1st St, Nashwauk, MN 55769.

Thank you,
Mary Kay Murray
1225 LaSalle Ave. #2205
Mpls., MN 55403-2333

(Ed. Note- "Welcome to a new member. I am sure your dad is proud of you)

.....
Dear Sirs

\$10.00 Dues, \$10.00 for Newsletter.
Thanks so much, keep up the good work.

Edward Kline
3720 State Street Apt. J-8
Grand Island, NE 68803-2369

(Ed. Note- Thanks for the donation to the 164th News).

11-25-02

Dear Sir:

Please accept my \$50 donation in memory of my father William "Bill" Love. (Rugby, N.D.) He was a proud member of the 164th. I have never read your Newsletter before, but recently received a copy. My mother, Florence, passed away this spring & all their mail is being forwarded to me - along with your newsletter.

It brought back many wonderful memories of both my Mom & Dad. At this time of giving & with war looming on the horizon, I could not think of a better way to honor their memory. Please use however you see fit.

Thank you
Colleen Van Sweringen
6040 NW Michael Brook Lane
Camas, WA 98607
(Daughter of Bill/Florence Love)

(Ed. Note- Fenelon- Thanks for your generous donation in memory of your parents. Bill Love was a good soldier and a fine man. I have known your father and mother for many years. Your loss is very hurtful).

.....

February 5, 2003

Greetings!

My dad, John J. Miller, has been receiving the newsletter for year. He died rather suddenly this past spring before we were ready, of course.

My mom has continued to get the newsletter; we all do enjoy it and hope it keeps coming to her. Enclosed is a check to cover my dad's dues and the newsletter. My dad landed on Guadalcanal on October 13th, 1942, and since he didn't speak of it, it was good for us to read.

Thanks for everything.
M.J. Englund
Astoria, Oregon

My mom (Mrs. John J. Miller) has moved from 2041 Aldercrest, Seaside, OR to: 1108 S. Holladay Drive, Apartment 35, Seaside, OR 97138

.....

January 13, 2003

Happy New Year to all,

I do hope you continue publishing 4 Newsletters a year. So here is a little help to keep going. You all really do a great service for us.

Ms. Alys Larson
1100 Meadowbrook Ln.
Nampa, ID 83686-8459

(Ed. Note-Widow of Art Larson-Reg. Hdqts. Co. 164th WWII)

Jan. 4th, 2003

Dear Sirs

I was drafted into the Army. I joined the 164th Infantry in Camp Clarborne, LA. Clement Fox, from Hensel, ND was gunner No. 1 and I was gunner No. 2. He is still alive and farms a bit East of Moorhead, MN. When we were in Company D about once a week we would all get together and march with the 164th band. It was a nice number to listen to and also to march by. I would like a tape of that number if any one has one, let me know. Question? Was Garnet R. Haislay from Neche, ND in the 164th Infantry? I heard him tell someone the other day that he was. Can you check on that for me?

Sincerely

Walter W. Weiss

P.O. Box 84

Neche, ND 58265-0084

(Ed. Note- Walter contact Clement Fox at RR. #1, P.O. Box 122, Falton, MN 56536-9642).

Dear 164th Friends,

Enclosed please find a \$50 check for the publication of your great 164th Inf. News.

Sincerely,

Julean A. Lee

1537 12th St N

Fargo, ND 58102-2219

1-29-03

Enclosed is \$10.00 for membership and subscription to the News.

I learned of this from a member, Ray Steffen.

I joined L Company Hillsboro in 1948. Was activated with the 164th in 1951, returned from Korea in 1952, again joined in 1953, transferred to Harvey, ND unit in 1955 and discharged in 1960.

Paul J. Steen

50 Carriage Sq.

Oxnard, CA 93030-3510

Sirs

I have enjoyed the Newsletter very much. Here is \$10.00 for the membership and \$10.00 for the Newsletter. I like to read all Newsletters since I served with the 164th from Fiji Island to Japan.

Thanks a lot.

William H. Darlay

1522 E/ Vineyard Rd.

Haysville, NC 28904

12-23-02

Hi ya Ben:

Please note my new address. I moved next door. Both parents passed away last month. 3 weeks apart. Tough month, but life goes on.

Next summer when I am playing golf I will advertise for the 164th.

Ben, you and your family have a very nice Christmas & New Year.

Take care.

Jim Lebus

1106 - 4th Ave So

Fargo, ND 58103

P.S. Have I paid my Dues?

(Ed. Note- Thanks for sending in your change of address. You will look great in the 164th golf shirt & cap. You will shoot under par, maybe a hole-in-one).

1-29-03

Dear Sir,

Please be advised that Lester G. Grue passed away on September 23, 2002. It was a shock to the family, as he was feeling well. He took an afternoon nap and never woke up. It was the way he wanted to go. He was with "Co. F" 164th Infantry Americal Division.

Sincerely,

Ms. Phyllis Grue

23 Dorrit Ct

Newbury Park, CO 91320

Hi

Enclosed checks \$30.00 - \$10.00 for dues and \$20.00 for whatever.

Thanks

Lewis Goodman

660 Camino de los Mares

Apt. 327

San Clemente, CA 92673-2827

(Ed. Note- Lewis your \$30.00 to the Newsletter is welcome. This will help the 164th News to continue. THANKS. Mailing your change of address was very thoughtful of you as it saves the Association considerable \$\$ as the P.O. charges \$\$ for the return of undelivered Newsletters).

Our greatest glory is not in never falling down but in rising every time we fall.

Anonymous

January 2, 2003

Greeting to all members of the 164th,

My name is Richard Pierzina. I joined the 164th "D" Company in 1941 in Fort Ord, then shipped over with them in April of 1942.

To start with the men I remember the most are Clement Fox, who we have visited and he has visited me within the last year. I was in the 2nd Platoon of "D" Company and when I left the Company from the Philippines in June of 1945 and was discharged July 7, 1945 I have seen Herby Lautt (the barber a couple of times. I understand he is living in the cities. John Sopeth I saw once shortly after I was discharged. To tell any of you wanting to visit I live in Little Falls, Minn. Right off Highway 27 going through town. 104 W Broadway, easy to find. Extra bed in the house and coffee pot on the stove.

Since being discharged I had several jobs. None really good pay. Then in 1952 I got a job at the Hennipen Paper Co. and worked there for 31 years. Retiring in 1983. Since then my health has not been the best, I've had both knees replaced, Prostate cancer for three years now and Diabetes for two year. So I am not really the best but am very happy with my wife Mary Ann and children. All grown up married and on there own. We had eight children, 5 girls and 3 boys, all doing very good.

On December 5, 2002 I turned 84 years with a big Birthday Party. Friends, family and neighbor.

One thing I didn't mention is I had a heart attack in May of 2001. So including the other things I am trying to doctor and clear up the heart attack. Hoping to get the News and hear from some of my buddies that served with me.

Yours truly,

Richard J. Pierzina
401 West Broadway
Little Falls, MN 56345

.....

1-22-03

Ben,

I forgot to pay my share of cost of 164th Newsletter. Enclosed is check for \$10.00

Bernard "Ben" Krisko
449 Finley Rd.
Belle Vernon, PA 15012-3800

.....

Dear Sirs

Here are my dues \$10.00 and an extra \$5.00 for the Association.

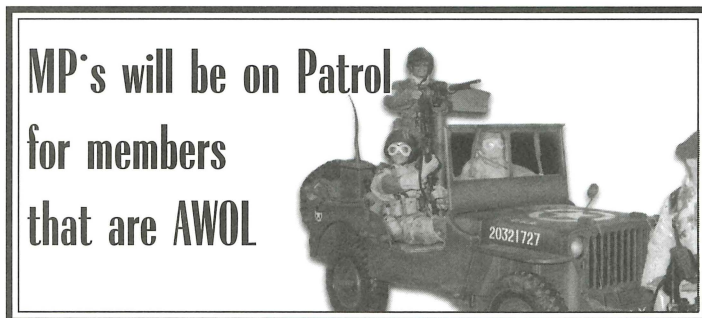
Mr. Clarence A. Moe
1106 4th Ave. N
Grand Forks, ND 58203

PAST DUE — AWOL

The following individuals have failed to pay their 2003 dues and this notice is the last notice you will receive and the last newsletter you will receive until your dues are current:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Mrs. Arthur K. Amos
7400 Crestway #621
San Antonio, TX | Allan J. Olson
3570 Whistle Stop Ln
Elbridge, NY |
| Edward J. Armstrong
106 Starview
Santa Fe, NM | Jake T. Ophaug
3087 116th Ave NE
McVilleville, ND |
| John P. Booher
1425 11TJ ST/#16
Santa Monica, CA | Oleln J. Ophaug
3087 116th Ave NE
McVilleville, ND |
| Robert E. Boyd
Box 199
Orting, WA | Marcella Ouradnik
7474 Chesham Ln
St. Paul, MN |
| Charles C. Bristrow
630 Bristow Rd
Crossville, TN | Harland Pederson
Box 702
Devils lake, ND |
| Leroy C. Decker
726 W. Cottonwood Ave.
Enid, OK | Jan Rasmussen
23314 29th Ave W
Brier, WA |
| Paul Dowhaniuk
600 SE 71st Ave.
Portland, OR | Pat Schleicher
1403 9th Ave W
Mandan, ND |
| William Friedewald
468 Hawthorne Ave.
St. Louis, MO | Louis M. Shank
3686 Small Ln E
Indianapolis, IN |
| Alvin M. Hexem
Box 1828
Williston, ND | Frank S. Votava
348 w 6th St
Grafton, ND |
| Orville Haltan
1204 Portland Dr.
Bismarck, ND | Bryan K. Webb
2806 7th Ave W
Williston, ND |
| Charles Kretchum
229 South First St.
West Newton, PA | Jane Hanson Wiens
1240 Gibson Circle
Socorow, NM |
| Ray G. Maxson
404 St. Mary's Ave. SW
Red Lake Falls, MN | |

Ben Kemp - S/T



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 164TH NEWSLETTER As of February 2003

\$75.00

Income from the sale of "T-shirts", "Caps" etc.

\$50.00

Colleen Van Sweringen Camas, WA
In Memory of her parents William & Florance Love

Dolores E. Hoff Eau Claire, WI
In Memory of her husband, Donald

Julean A. Lee Fargo, ND

Gerald O. Sanderson Willow City, ND

\$40.00

Marie Bergh Nekomis, FL

\$33.50

Roy Fries Warren, MI

\$30.00

Paul Fisher Dickinson, ND

Lewis Goodman San Clemeneto, CA

Ernest F. Aufero Vero Beach, FL

Lawrence E. Boisen Post Falls, ID

Alys Mae Larson Nampa, ID

Robert E. Korman Anchorage, AK

\$25.00

John A. Benzinger Bismarck, ND

Andrew M. Trageser New Park, PA

Arvid T. Thompson St. Paul, MN

Nat Rogan Jr. Los Angeles, CA

\$21.50

Jerry Longmuir Menoken, ND

\$20.00

Clarence O. Blecha Grank Forks, ND

Ewald Heisler Bismarck, ND

Charles C. Knapp Popular Bluff, MO

John T. Simmons Glendale, CA

\$15.00

Mrs. John J. Miller Seaside, OR

Neil A. Tennyson Northridge, CA

Veron W. Bogner Togard, OR

Mildred Stimson Watertown, SD

E. Irving Blomstrann New Britain, CT

Herbert Coffey Del Kay Oaks, CA

Lynn M. Kloster Mount Prospect, IL

\$10.00

William Dailey Hayesville, NC

Lorraine M. Gislason Tucson, AZ

Roy Hamer Fargo, ND

Bernard B. Krisko Belle Vernon, PA

Georgia E. Hill North Glenn, CO

In Memory of E. "Bud" Marmon

Harold J. Eberle Port Angeles, WA

William Pauteke Minot, ND

Tommy Evans Alexander City, AL

Donald J. Evenson Grand Forks, ND

Hilbert D. Swanson Eugene, OR

Erling A. Dahl Hettinger, ND

Leonard L. Berce Williston, ND

Edward M. Fox Dallas, TX

Donna Todd Payallap, WA

E.A. Sinkbeil Colfax, WA

C. Emerson Murry Bismarck, ND

Edward Kline Grand Island, NE

Donald French Virginia, MN

John R. Emrah Ft. Wayne, IN

Lloyd V. Anderson Yakima, WA

Walter Ensminger Grants Pass, OR

M. T. Gutterud Park River, ND

Joe J. O'Day San Diego, CA

Virginia Livingood Grafton, ND

Stanley A. Lee Seattle, WA

Walter Trengen Bottineau, ND

Edward Fox Dallas, TX

Hugh I. Masee Boise, ID

Thomas H. Vettel Cummings, ND

Richard R. Penman North Huntingdon, PA

\$5.00

Clarence Moe Grand Forks, ND

Joseph Blissenbach Woodburn, OR

Ted Rustad Atkins, AR

Pasquale Grande Johnston, RI

Orville Dodge Helen, MT

John W. Gregory St. Louis, MO

William Johnson Jamestown, ND

Glenn H. Olson Grand Forks, ND

Richard J. Piezina Little Falls, MN

Ervin J. Barta Bismarck, ND

Orlyen O. Stensgard Fargo, ND

Robert A. Shea Vero Beach, FI

\$2.00

Jack W. Hinton Butler, Pa

Total: \$1,198.50

Donations To The Newsletter

(Editors Note: Your continuing financial support is most gratifying. Thanks. The newsletter is about the only channel for members that served in the 164th to keep in touch and tell the stories of their WWII experiences and the history of the 164th in WWII and Korea.)

WELL DECORATED 164TH VETERAN

By Joe Zentis, Sharon Herald

"I would say a hero is one who just does his job when he's ordered to do it, that's all, and doesn't crawl down into a hole and disappears" said Don Eichelberger of Sharpsville, who served with the Americal Division in the Pacific during World War II.

Taken literally, this definition could apply to a teenager in a fast food restaurant who sullenly works just enough not to get fired. The job Eichelberger was talking about was facing an enemy who is out to kill you and your comrades. And for someone like him, it always applies to the guy next to him, never to himself.

Apparently the people next to him felt the same way, so Eichelberger ended up with two of only 199 Bronze Star Medals awarded to members of his outfit, the 164th Infantry Regiment, during 600-plus days of combat on Pacific Islands.

The first resulted from action on the island of Bougainville in Solomon Islands. Like action on many other islands, the major battle there happened not when the Marines first landed, but afterwards.

"The Marines had built a perimeter, but the Japanese were on the other end of the island," Eichelberger said. "They carried the artillery up to the top of the hills and really bombarded the Americans. The Japanese came on with attack after attack, then they went back into the bush."

Eichelberger was part of a twelve-man reconnaissance squad responsible for going out in search of enemy units. They had no advance intelligence about where they could be found. "We just had to go out and find them, that's all," he said. "They're out there somewhere. It's just a matter of where." When they located enemy soldiers, they would radio back to base for infantry support.

During November, 1944, his patrol discovered an enemy encampment. "We called in an infantry outfit, and we got them early in the morning, before they even got a shot off," Eichelberger said. Twenty-three of the enemy—the entire unit—were killed without a single American casualty, and a lot of weapons, supplies, equipment, and ammunition were captured.

The Bronze Star was awarded to everyone who participated in the raid. According to the citation, "The courage and jungle craft displayed by all members of the patrol is especially meritorious. The careful preparation, skillful execution, and deadly accuracy of fire constitute a masterpiece of jungle fighting."

After Bougainville, Eichelberger's unit participated in actions on the Philippine island of Leyte and Cebu. Then they were called to move on to the island of Negro. Eichelberger was corporal by that time.

"We were waiting around there three days on red alert and nothing happened, so I went fishing," Eichelberger said,



Joe Zentis/The Herald

Don Eichelberger, 164th Infantry, showing his many medals

"Well, I looked over and there's a guy waving at me. I get over to the beach and he said we're moving out. They were all loaded up in trucks and taking off. So I gathered up my equipment real fast and we got on the landing craft bound for Dumaguete, on Negros. The lieutenant says to all the guys, 'I want you to listen to this, Eichelberger, you're a private.' Okay, well, I probably deserved it. Then when we weren't far from the beachhead, he says, 'Eichelberger, you're a sergeant.'"

Eichelberger wasn't sure whether or not the lieutenant was serious about the demotion. When he looked at his service records after the war, he saw that he had indeed been officially demoted to private and promoted to sergeant on the same day.

Eichelberger's second Bronze Star resulted from action on Negros. His recon squad went out on patrols through torturous jungles, for as long as twenty days.

"At first we'd take a dog out with us," he said, "but we found that from our experience we knew as much as the dog did. One of the signals was, as long as you hear and jungle sounds, the birds and what have you, there's nobody around. But when it was quiet,...Or if you walk down the trail and you run into cobwebs, there's nobody around there. If you see where some trees had been cut off, you can tell how recently they were cut by how much they've grown. They grow back from the inside out."

With feet continuously wet from slogging through the jungle, Eichelberger had to be hospitalized for treatment of ulcers on his ankles. He also contracted malaria.

After the island was considered clear of enemy soldiers, Eichelberger's unit started amphibious training for what would have been the most devastating and terrifying beach assault ever: the invasion of Japan itself.

"We were one of the units that were going to be in the first wave on Japan," he said. "We didn't know what they had waiting for us. Their planes were all converted over to suicide planes to take out the troop ships, even down to landing craft."

Of course, the war ended without an invasion after the United State dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Eichelberger disagrees with those who said the bombs shouldn't have been dropped. "We would probably have lost a million guys there," he said. Eichelberger spent three months in the occupation of Japan, then returned home. "My welcoming was walking into the house and being embraced by my parents. I didn't have any bells ringing or paraded and what have you."

What he did have were some tokens of what heroes sometimes get: not only two Bronze Stars, but also a Good Conduct medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Military Merit

medal, Armed Forces Achievement medal, Philippine Liberation Medal (from the Philippine government), Army of Occupation medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Asiatic Pacific medal with three campaign stars.

So was Don Eichelberger a hero? If you ask him, he'll tell you no. Then re-read his own definition of a hero, and make up your own mind.

(Ed. Note-Don Eichelberger was in Reg. Co. "I" and "R" Platoon. A record to be proud of. Enjoy seeing at 164th reunions. Its long drive from Sharpsville, PA. Thank reporter Joe Zentis for me.

A SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS... HELP

Dear Association Members:

This is a request for help from all membership categories (Associate Life Member - ALM/Associate Member - AM). The 164th Association is facing a very serious problem. The membership is gradually fading away due to so many members answering the Last Roll Call or are incapacitated due to health problems and are unable to take an active part in organizing the annual reunion.

The 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) has a proud military heritage from previous wars. The people that served in the Korean conflict carried on the same tradition. The men serving in the Regiment in WWII really bonded and this rapport continued when the 164th Infantry Association was formed in 1946/1947. The Association has held annual meetings since its inception. The reunions were held in ND cities that had been home base for the various units of the 164th Regiment. Organizing a reunion was never a great problem as there always were a number of volunteers that would step forward and carry out the functions of the reunions. Now this has changed due to the reason stated earlier in this request for HELP. Five of the last 164th Association reunions have been held in Bismarck with the same people shouldering the burden of organizing the annual reunion. If we are to keep the spirit and heritage of the 164th alive your help is needed. At the present time the office of Vice President is vacated. The nominating committee was unable to find a candidate for the V.P office and no nominations were received from the floor. So now the Association has no one to serve as President for year 2004. Ben Kemp, our valiant Secretary/Treasurer has been doing an outstanding job for the past seven-year's (7) and would like to retire. Kemp as S/T has kept the business affairs in order with good records and timely due notices. Kemp's files contain a good history of the Association. Along with keeping the financial Association affairs in order Ben has initiated many activities that has generated financial support for the Association. We need to keep him on board or at least have someone step forward to assist him.

The 164th Infantry News has played an important part in keeping the Association informed about the members lives and has provided the means for members to share their experiences with the 164th Infantry WWII. Our Editor Jim Fenelon (8 yrs) has informed me on several occasions to

start seeking someone to take over the position as Editor of the 164th Infantry News. Any one interested please call me or Ben. The situation facing the Association reminds me of a story I heard about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

Now, there is an important job to be done, and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. But Nobody did it, and Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Now Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done. Could this sort of thing happen to the 164th Infantry Association? Your help is needed.

As President, I am inviting you to a meeting April 25th at 12:00 p.m., Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND to discuss the future of the 164th Infantry Association. I know that it is not possible for many members to attend, but it would be greatly appreciated if you would write a letter or send E-mail (BennetKemp@AOL.com) or call 701-222-4694 with your suggestions. All letters received will be read at the meeting and recorded. No final decision about the future of the Association will be made at this meeting. The September 2003 annual reunion will have to make the decisions about the future of the 164th Infantry Association. With no one willing to take an active part points out that this is a moribund Association after so many years of close comradeship this is sad. Your ideas and cooperation will be appreciated. Thanks for your cooperation and support. Jesus Pret

Frank R. Eide, Sr. President

To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.

- Albert Einstein

3/164 Joins The Battle For Henderson Field · 24-26 October 1942

By Richard "Steve" Stevens, Then Corporal

Company M, 3rd Battalion

164th U.S. Army Infantry Regiment (Rifle)

Sometime after midnight our leaders woke us up with some urgency. A battle was taking place and we were going there. Then the call came as no surprise. Since we landed ten days earlier we had been in cramped bivouac reserve in a large coconut grove near the beach. The Japanese had been our First Sergeant's best helpers in motivating us to dig in and cover up. Our first morning on the island, still at the landing beach, one of our Corporals who couldn't find a hole was killed in the morning air raid. Pistol Pete sounded off late in the day, and still later there were the battleships. Days later the morning air raid special delivered a daisy cutter or two to our Company's bivouac. No one hurt, the kitchen torn up, a very meager lunch disrupted, renewed digging. A night cruiser shelling deposited a dud 8 inches, nose down, smack in the road a few feet from several of us. Dig deeper, strengthen overhead covers.

Daytimes we'd done details. We dug fighting positions on the ocean side of the airfield. And one memorable morning we rolled 55-gallon drums of aviation gas up the beach and onto trucks. A tiny Navy ship sat just offshore unloading the drums onto Higgins boats, while Pistol Pete fired a few rounds trying to hit her, obviously with fire control from Mount Austin. Just under, near our gun-target-line detail on the beach. Just over, in the water beyond the ship. Now the ship backed away a short distance. The next round landed where she used to be. Fortunately, Pete soon gave up (Supply Economy?) and we got the gas unloaded.

The night before our urgent awakening, every artillery piece in the perimeter must have been part of a heavy, sustained outgoing barrage. Rumors flowed the next morning (Axiom: Other Ranks know very little about what's really going on and often did not find out). Scuttlebutt was that the barrage was directed towards the Matanikau and that there had been a Japanese attack. Close enough for Government work.

Within minutes of our awakening we were hurried away in the dark from the coconut grove, never to return as a unit. Ironically, most of us would return, individually, as malaria patients in the small, dreary tent hospital. The last time I was there, Washing Machine Charley assisted the staff by influencing most of the patients to urgently seek immediate discharge. He dropped his load on the area hitting such places as the Officer's Ward (a small wall tent), and the nearby P.W. area. By noon the next day I was drinking my liquid quinine all alone in what had been a fullup tent.

We hurried across the airfield in the darkness in a ragged battalion column. Our destination was not in doubt. A small segment of the otherwise dark horizon was a carnival of lights and sounds. And we were walking directly towards it, closer and closer and closer. Lines of incoming machine guns tracers ricocheted skyward. There was a din of artillery and mortars and 37MM guns and small arms fire of all sorts. We marched up and onto Edson Ridge and onward towards the battle in progress, almost there.

And then somehow we were being split up and sent in various

directions. In the end that night, we Other Ranks were to know only what happened to ourselves and a very few others of our Army comrades.

A tip of the hat to the Old Breed members of Chesty Puller's 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, who successfully pulled off if not an unprecedented then surely a rare feat. Fighting a desperate battle at close range in the jungle darkness against determined, superior forces who already had breached a part of their lines, they infiltrated an Army 164-Battalion of strangers piecemeal into positions all along their front. Those of their members who did this were on their feet a few yards behind and with their backs to the battle - oblivious to everything except getting these strangers into their lines and fighting alongside Marines. Some Marines and some soldiers fell in the process, but not many - And IT WORKED. Of course, 3/164 performed well in the battle that night and the next, as did 2/164, in the action on the Marine left from the beginning - but much less thinly dispersed.

The heavy machine gun section I marched behind was led off Edson Ridge to the left and down into what must have been A/1/7. Our guide was a calm, professional Marine enlisted man who didn't waste time. The right machine gun squad was sent up that trail fork to the right, (soon taken under fire at close range - one killed, two wounded), the left squad was dispatched up the left fork (the leader won the DSC that night). The platoon Mortar Corporal and I (Platoon Agent and Instrument Corporal - a function shortly abandoned by the Army) became little bearers, assisting a Corpsman by carrying his patients back to the Aid Station in shelter halves (or ponchos - there was no litter). As long as I live I will remember a voice in the dark at the Aid Station behind a large Banyan tree saying with marked enthusiasm, "Just like Nicaragua!" The Old Breed.

The next morning 1/7 and 3/164 divided up the line, like with alike, the Army on the left to tie in with 2/164. The Mortar Corporal and I found ourselves manning machine guns of our own. They gave us a case of ammunition in belts and that night we fired it all. Supply Economy was not an issue!

And let's give a salute your Platoon Sergeant wouldn't correct to the members of the 2nd Platoon (37MM), Regimental Weapons Company, 7th Marines. (See their sketch map at page 17, Guadalcanal Echoes, February/March 1996). Those of us who were there remember those guns well. I have no idea what overall contribution the 37MM Gun made to the conduct of the Pacific War. But on that flat, dark, densely jungled battlefield on those two critical nights those guns - as employed - made a significant difference. The distinctive BOOM of their canister rounds was settling, reassuring, inspiring, devastating. The knowledge of their impact quickly spread along the line.

The final result of the Battle for Henderson Field is well known. The Japanese side had a good plan, ample forces to carry it out, bumbling generals, poor communications, inadequate reconnaissance, and exhausted men. The American leaders initially were deceived as to Japanese intentions and were surprised by superior forces at the critical point of attack. But

they made brilliant use of their Interior Lines to avert disaster. Score one for the Good Guys.

The Marine evaluation of the contribution of 3/164 to the battle is possibly best reflected in the Navy Cross, which was awarded to its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Robert K. Hall. Regrettably Colonel Hall was severely wounded in November in a subsequent battle beyond the Matanikau. He was evacuated and never returned.

It doubtless was pure chance that brought the 164th to Guadalcanal in October. By September Vandergrift badly needed reinforcements. But all Gormley had readily at hand under his command was a composite Army division, the only Army division that ever existed with a name instead of a number. Its three National Guard regiments were all castoffs. When the Army

converted "square" to "triangle" Infantry divisions in 1941, each division cast off one regiment. And three of these had found their way to New Caledonia. (That 34th Division must have been a hell of a division to cast off the 164th!) As soon as Gormley could get the means together to do so he sent off the regiment closest to the port of Noumea. It was the 164th.

After Guadalcanal the Americal Division, still under Navy control, was sent off to Fiji to recharge its batteries. It was there when Tarawa took place a few hundred miles to the north. With things initially going badly at Tarawa, a rumor swept our Other Ranks that 164th - closest to the port of Suva - had been alerted for deployment there. Ships were on the way to Suva. But when Other Ranks seldom know what's really going on, do they?

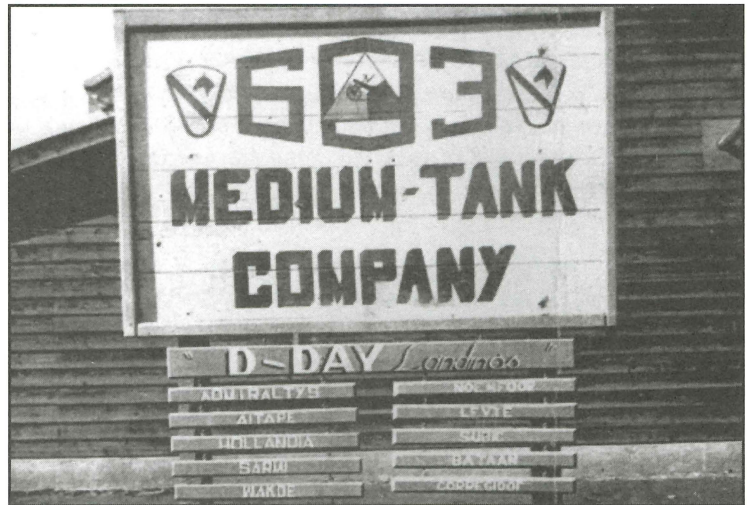
MOBILIZATION

Mobilization, 1941, 1951, or 2003, it really has not changed that much. (The Guard was also called up in 1961 and 1991). The first three mobilizations took place in January or February, the coldest months in the year. Does the Pentagon pick these cold dates on purpose? The following are some comments relating to the recent call-up of some ND units.

The 142nd Engineer Battalion (Heavy) located at Fargo, North Dakota (formerly Co B 164th Inf., Wahpeton, North Dakota (formerly Co I 164th Inf. Mayville, North Dakota, Lisbon, North Dakota and Oakes, North Dakota plus one company from Minnesota were recently called to active duty and given a very a short period of time to report to Fort Carson, Colorado. This Battalion drove their equipment over 1,000 miles to Ft. Carson, Colorado. There were a large number of vehicles, plus they hauled large equipment with their own low boys. The large equipment included D-8 dozers, road graders, scrapers and even a rock crushing unit. One vehicle broke down and had to be towed into Ft. Carson. As they drove thru the gate at Ft. Carson a group of civilian (Army) inspectors converged on them. The inspectors immediately reported to Fifth Army headquarters that over 52% of the National Guard Equipment was dead-lined and not combat ready. This really gave the Guard a black eye, but in checking it out most of the equipment was dead-lined because a bulb was burned out in a light or something very minor. Yes, some of the deficiencies were justified, as the large equipment needed new tires for combat, but were O.K. for training at Camp Grafton, North Dakota, because replacing them every year was too costly. The State Adjutant General called the 5th Army Commander and explained the 52% dead lined status and in less than two days the equipment was up to 100% combat ready. Civilian inspectors had the job of correcting these deficiencies (job security) but it was accomplished quickly only because of the help of the 142nd soldiers. The fact that these vehicles drove over 1,000 miles in the dead of winter and only one vehicle broke down meant nothing to the Regular Army.

Continued on pg 22

Trial Photos... continued



A Japanese Army Camp taken over at "Asaka", Tokyo. It was later named "Camp Drake, and was the Staging area for Korea



L - R: Staff Sgt. Hardy, Lt. Leo Callahan

*Inset: Lt. Leo Callahan
603-Medium Tank,
1st Div. Cav.*

Just prior to leaving Camp to pick up Amb. Murato at Sugamo Prison.

As it was pretty cold in Tokyo at that time, Lt. Callahan was wearing a moutian coat and Sgt. Hardy had on about 4 layers and gloves, when coming off the plane at Manila.

"They set a record for changing cloths."

FISHING FIJI STYLE



Photo Credit: Jim Fenelon

Fishing Fiji Style Black/White #1 Picture ID - L-R Bob Fennel, (Los Angeles/Serv. Co.), Asa-Fijian Native Guide, Dave Stewart, W.O. Serv. Co. (Bowman, ND), Carl Whitman (Serv. Co), Beverly, MA, Jim Swanston (Serv. Co.-Chicago, IL), John Gachne (Serv. Co./Devils Lake, ND)

The picture was taken in Camp Samabula, Fiji Islands, May/ or June 1943. Looking close one can see the Service Co. trucks in the parking area. (right)

The display of the sharks was the result of a fishing sortie in beautiful Suva Bay. Asa, the native guide, led the fishermen on many fishing trips on Suva Bay in a flat bottom boat built by Ken Shaver, (Ammo/Dynamite, Sgt.-Service Co.). Shaver was very handy with carpenter tools. Plus a skill in finding unclaimed (???) lumber on the docks in the port of Suva. The yacht constructed by Shaver was 13 feet long, 3 feet wide and approximately 16 inches deep. To get the lumber Shaver had to be very quick in selecting the correct timber lengths as there was very little time for accurate measurements as the unclaimed lumber was under the close scrutiny of the MP's/SP's. The lumber was taken to Camp Sambula to assemble into a seaworthy craft. Prior to locating the lumber, the fishermen had been riding in native craft that were very small and could not carry more than 3 or 4 people. Once the boat was constructed the natives agreed to guide the fishermen to the best fishing spot on the numerous tidal rivers and in Suva Bay. Shaver among his skills and training as the ammunition Sgt. for the 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) had access to various types of explosives. The native guides pointed to schools of fish in the tidal rivers. Explosive charges were prepared, weighted and dropped over the side. The dynamite/gelignete explosions would kill or stun quantities of fish. The native guide pointed out the poisonous fish and the edible ones were put in the boat. Rowing the flat bottom on Suva Bay took some effort. Again the native guides pointed to a certain spot and explained that about 30 to 40 feet below was a rocky ledge. Explosive charges were made ready and dropped at the spot selected by Asa. After the explosion, the natives would dive down and bring up armloads

of fish and throwing them in the boat. Sharks began to swim around the boat but this didn't stop the natives from continuing down to the rock ledge to bring various species of fish. The native divers demonstrated no fear of the sharks swimming in the water. Dave Stewart said he wanted to dive down with the divers to the rocky ledge to help bring up more fish. The natives said "No, no to dangerous. You will be attacked by the sharks. Your white skin will attract the sharks and they will think you are food. Stewart accepted the good advise. No other members of the fishing party volunteered to test the theory that white skin would cause the sharks to attack. The native guides ignored the swimming sharks, displayed no concern about the sharks. Apparently the dark skin of the natives was a form of protecting against shark attacks. The situation would change if the native diver were bleeding from an injury. The native divers had no special diving gear, just a deep breath and down they would go to the fish laden rocky ledge 30 to 40 feet below, stay down a minute or more or at least it seemed that long.

Using the fish recovered from the explosion as bait the fishermen baited steel hooks, using one-quarter inch rope as the line. When a shark grabbed the hook the boat would be towed around until the shark tired out. Once the shark was pulled to the boat the shark was stabbed or clubbed by a native. After displaying the sharks and excess fish the kindly fishermen gave the catch to Asa, the Fiji guide to take to his village. The steel shark hooks and quarter inch rope for fishing line was purchased at Sir Bernard Philips Hardware Store, Suva, Fiji. True fish story as I took the pictures and consumed some of the fish, which was prepared by Russ Opat (Duluth, MN) a fine Chef.

Jim Fenelon

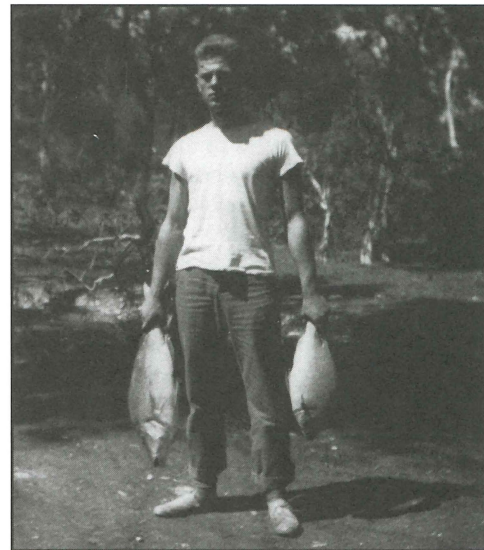
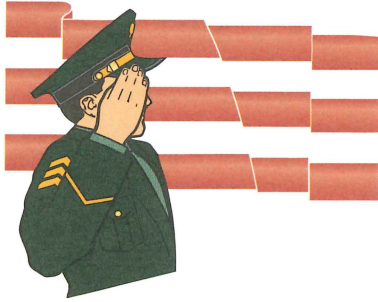
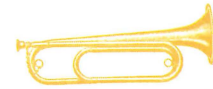


Photo Credit - J. Fenelon

Fishing Fiji style "Doug" Burtell - Hqds/Recon Patrol (Fargo, ND - now Bowman, ND) "Doug" apparently used the standard method of fishing rather using the high explosive technique used by Ken Shaver and party.



Last Roll Call



Walter R. Abbott

Mar. 02
New Orleans, LA
WWII

Paul M. Clemens

17 Sep. 02
Chico, TX
WWII

Leonard H. Drabus

11 Apr. 02
Bellevue, WA

Sheldon Frost

30 Dec. 02
Bakerfield, CA

Lester G. Grue

25 Sep. 02
Newbury Park, CA
WWII

Ernest H. Haykel

20 Oct. 02
Minot, ND

Arvid C. Honsvall

18 Nov. 02
Goldon Valley MN
WWII

Donald E. Hoppe

13 Jan. 03
Santa Rosia, CA
WWII Korean War

Benjamin Parkos

29 Nov. 02
Fargo, ND
WWII

Myles L. Rivard

07 Oct. 02

Taylor Falls, MN
WWII

Juan S. Rodriquez

12 Jun. 01
San Marco, TX
WWII

John L. Samson

18 Dec. 02
Cavalier, ND
WWII

Raymond L. Sawyer

27 Nov. 02
Brooklyn Center, MN
WWII-Medics

Clarence G. Schultz

17 Oct. 02
Harvey, ND
WWII Korean War

Donald J. Smock

11 Dec. 01
Evansdale, IA
WWII

Clifford J. Weber

ND Vets Home
Lisbon, ND
WWII

Harold Ziesche

Ocean Park, WA
WWII

*Something has spoken to me in the night.
Burning the tapers of the waning year:
Something has spoken in the night.
And told me I shall die. I know not where.
Saying:
"To lose the earth you know, for greater
knowing:
To lose the life you have, for greater life:
To leave the friends you loved, for greater
loving:
To find a land more kind than home, more
large than earth
Whereon the pillars of this earth are founded.
Toward which the conscience of the world is
tending
A wind is rising, and the rivers flow."*

- Thomas Wolfe

*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.*



MY FIRST TWO DAYS ON GUADALCANAL

I just read the 164th Infantry News Vol. 42 No. 3 and enjoyed it very much just as I did the article written by the Fargo Forum with a heading "Famed N.D. unit saved the day in WWII battle" which brought back real memories of what I and my buddies went through on October 13, 1942.

Somebody said a Jap sub was shelling us so Rudy Pence and I, plus a few others, headed for the jungle and then it got dark. In the jungle at night you can't see your own hand in front of your face, so our buddies recognized each other by our voices. We stopped and set up our own guards, then the moon came up and we could see; about that time we saw a Marine coming toward us and he said "come on we will take you to Henderson Field where you can get some rest" so we walked (marched) about an hour and just as we stopped, the Jap Navy let loose with 14 and 16 inch shells; palm tree tops came down, wild horses ran over where I had been as Rudy and I were running here and there to miss the Navy shelling. We had no fox holes to crawl into and no time to dig one; so we ran further into the jungle where we finally found an old Jap dug out and we crawled into it and spent the night there.

While in the Jap dug out we set up our guard watching for the enemy or the unusual. My turn off guard duty and Fritz Macross took over; then we saw someone coming toward us so Fritz challenged him asking for the password; he didn't know it and Fritz was going to shoot him and I said wait, let him come closer; and then we saw it was a Marine who we let advance toward us; and saw that he was trembling all over knowing that he had escaped from being shot. He then joined us in our Jap dug out.

The next morning we ate coconuts and Rudy and I headed where we thought the 164th was. We finally ran into I believe M Company 3rd Battalion mess sergeant and said we want some water; the mess sergeant said no; so Rudy and I took the safety off of our M-1's and pointed our M-1's at him and again said we want water so the mess sergeant said help yourself.

Rudy and I finally got back to our company "B" and fox holes where we spent another night of Jap Navy shelling; but this time we were more secure in our fox holes.

That was my first two nights on Guadalcanal.

V.R. Powers Co. "B" 164th Infantry 816 Nez Perce Dr Hamilton MT 59840

(Ed. Note-From J. Fenelon: Vince, thanks for sharing your Oct. 13, 1942 experience. In Lt. Col. Samuel Baglien report on 164th on Guadalcanal he kept stating the troops were very well under control and settled in fox holes, dugouts, etc. Well it is clear from the many letters that have been sent in and the many, many conversations at the Annual reunions that a great amount of confusion existed, of course Lt. Col. Baglien was ensconced in a very deep well constructed dugout and not out in the open over like 90% of us were shaking and shivering from the rounds of shellfire. Lt. Col. Baglien belonged to the "Old Boys Club" NDNG PA and should have been sent home from Camp Clarborne). Nice enough guy but no great shakes as a military leader. It would be helpful for the records of the 164th if more men would drop me a letter telling me about their experience, in Camp Clarborne, LA and any experience after Dec. 7, 1941.)

... MOBILIZATION CONTINUED

The soldiers, both men and women, all 675, were housed in a large maintenance bay. It was dry, but that was about all. They were given cots (beats a foxhole) but the cots were touching one another. The Army regulations state that the cots must be two feet apart for health reasons and the Regular Army always made sure we did that in the guard, but I guess the Regular Army does not have to follow regulations. The boiler has worked only about half of the time in this building. The 675 troops had to share two showers and four toilets. We have a prison here in Bismarck, North Dakota and it houses killers, rapists and the likes and these people have their own BED, SHOWERS and TOILETS. Why can the Regular Army not take care of our troops the same as we do our prisoners? Relatives have reported that food is being served in very small portions. The Bismarck Tribune reported that the base cafeteria has been low on food. I can image what would happen if our prison in Bismarck was low on food and the killers, rapists etc. did not get three square meals a day. Even our politicians would get up in arms on that. Should we not expect the same for our soldiers? Also these soldiers had qualified with their M-16's in October/November time frame last year, but the Regular Army does not trust the Guard so they again had to qualify in the snow at Fort Carson.

It may seem like I have complained a lot about Fort Carson, but I feel my complaints are justified. When I was assigned as the Battalion Supply Officer with the 164th Engineer Battalion at Minot, North Dakota I attended at least three Mob-X's at Fort Carson in the 70's. At every one of these exercises, I was told by the civilian personnel at formal briefs "don't bring a battalion here to Fort Carson, we can not take care of them." That was thirty some years ago, don't you think the West Point Ring knockers, and The GS-25's (civilian) could have worked out some on these problems in the past thirty years. May be they should turn the Fort over to the Guard

and we would have it up and running.

For the most part the soldiers are not complaining and the morale is high. It is people like me that are complaining and I think it is justified. The things that have happened to this battalion never should have happened. They could have been mobilized right here in our state at Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, North Dakota. We have permanent barracks to house the troops, not maintenance bays. And yes we could handle all 675 of them plus more. We have BEDS, SHOWERS and TOILETS to accommodate them. These barracks are heated. We have contract meals that can feed this number of troops, and if food was short, it would be corrected in a heart beat. And yes, we have a rifle range at Camp Grafton where the troops could lay in the snow in North Dakota and requalify with their M-16s. And they could have "rail" loaded their equipment in Devils Lake for overseas shipment and we have two regular Air Force bases within one hundred miles of Camp Grafton where the troops could have been airlifted out. So my question is why Fort Carson, when it could have been done better at Camp Grafton? This is why I am complaining. I must also tell you our troops were told to load their equipment for rail movement overseas, and were given four days in which to do it. It was completed in seventeen hours. That's our Guard.

In closing, I would like to relate to you what one 21 year old soldier said to a reporter from the Bismarck Tribune as his Guard unit was leaving Bismarck for Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He was asked how he felt about being called up. His statement was, "I am proud to be able to serve my country and now I will become a "VETERAN" and no amount of money in the world can buy you that title."

BENNET J. KEMP / CW4(RET) NDARNG

SECRETARY/TREASURER-164th INFANTRY ASS.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Proceedings and Debates of the 107th Congress, Second
Session Washington: Thursday, October 10, 2001

SENATE

North Dakota's 164th Infantry Regiment

Mr. Dorgan. Mr. President, it was 60 years ago that 2,000 men from North Dakota's 164th Infantry Regiment performed heroically in a savage battle in the South Pacific. It marked the first time the U.S. Army launched an offensive operation in that war and stands today as a critical juncture in World War II.

Coming from almost every city and village in North Dakota, the members of the 164th Infantry were North Dakota's National Guard and traced their unit's heritage to the Indian wars on the American frontier. Its history was one of distinction, most notable marked by spectacular ten Medals of Honors its men won in the Philippines in 1899.

Called to active duty early in 1941, the North Dakotans were ordered to the West Coast the day after Pearl Harbor, and landed in the South Pacific in the spring of 1942.

Meanwhile, on the island of Guadalcanal, U.S. Marines had begun America's first offensive action against Japan. By autumn, it was a precarious deadlock and the 164th Infantry was sent in October 13. By noon it had its first casualty. Corporal Kenneth Foubert of Company M of Grand Forks, North Dakota was killed in a bombing run by Japanese planes. As Japanese ground patrols tested U.S. positions, the 164th Infantry advanced, the first unit of the Army to go on the offensive in WWII.

An intense Japanese attack, the largest battle fought on Guadalcanal, occurred October 24-25. In "Citizens as Soldiers," a history of the North Dakota National Guard, authors Jerry Cooper and Glenn Smith tell how a battalion of the 164th Infantry was sent to reinforce the Marines. Despite the blackness of night, made darker by a heavy tropical rain, the 164th Infantry, over narrow trails slippery with mud, followed its Marine escorts to the front line, holding on to the backpacks of the man in front of them to avoid being lost.

Fighting side by side with the Marines, the 164th Infantry poured relentless fire through the night into continuous waves of oncoming Japanese. At dusk of the next day, the Japanese attacked again. The situation was precarious and cooks, messengers, and clerks manned positions and waited for the worst. Even the musicians of the North Dakota band were pressed into service as litter bearers. Every member of the 164th had a role in the battle, the fiercest of the campaign/

At one outpost, 18 Marines, many seriously wounded, were surrounded. The 164th Infantry's Sgt. Kevin McCarthy of Jamestown, ND, used a small, lightly armored, open topped vehicle to make repeated trips to the desperate men and, under heavy fire, rescued them all. For his bravery, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

By dawn, it was clear the enemy had suffered a disastrous defeat. In front of the 164th Infantry were 1,700 dead Japanese. The North Dakota unit, meanwhile, suffered only 26 killed and 52 wounded.

Impressed, the Marine's commanding general sent the North Dakotans a message that said the Marines "salute you for a most powerful piece of work. We are honored to serve with such a unit. Our hat is off to you."

Lt. Col. Robert Hall of Jamestown, ND, received the Navy Cross for his leadership of the battalion during this crucial action.

The fight for Guadalcanal continued into November when the 164th was assigned to drive Japanese defenders off a series of ridges. From November 20-27, the battle raged. It was the bloodiest week of the entire war for the unit. More than 100 men were killed and some 200 wounded. Not until February did the Japanese finally flee the island.

It was none too soon. Guadalcanal had taken its toll. The 164th was no longer combat effective. It was down to less than two-thirds its authorized number. Most men had lost 20 pounds or more. They suffered from malaria, heat exhaustion, exotic tropical diseases. All told, the unit buried 147 men on the island, had 309 wounded, and another 133 casualties from shock, trauma, and neurosis.

It was little wonder that Americans called the island "green hell" and Japanese referred to it as the "island of death."

The regiment received a Presidential Unit Citation for its outstanding contributions and personal plaudits from General George Marshall, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Admiral William Halsey, commander of the South Pacific forces. For Guadalcanal, men of the regiment won a Navy Cross, five Distinguished Service Crosses, 40 Silver Stars, more than 300 Purple Hearts, and many Soldier's Medals and Legions of Merit. One of its proud boasts was that it would leave no one behind and, indeed, it had no men missing in action.

The survivors are now old men. They have had America's hat tipped to them before, but they deserve it again, one more time before they leave us to rejoin the comrades, brave young men who left North Dakota on troop trains in the bitter February cold so long ago to answer their Nation's call.

(Ed. Note: from J. Fenelon-All our thanks Senator Dorgan for the respect and honor you paid to the 164th Infantry Regiment (Rifle) in your remarks on the floor of the United States Senate and placing the historical WWII record of the Regiment in the Congressional Record defining how the 164th Infantry worked in concert with the 1st Marine Division in defeating a tenacious battle hardened Japanese force on Guadalcanal, October 1942.)

(Ed. Note-Any one wishing to thank Senator Dorgan can send them to Senator Dorgan, P.O. Box 2250, Fargo, ND 58102, Tel-701239-5389 or (1-800-666-4482, ND only) E-mail senator@dorgan.senator.gov)

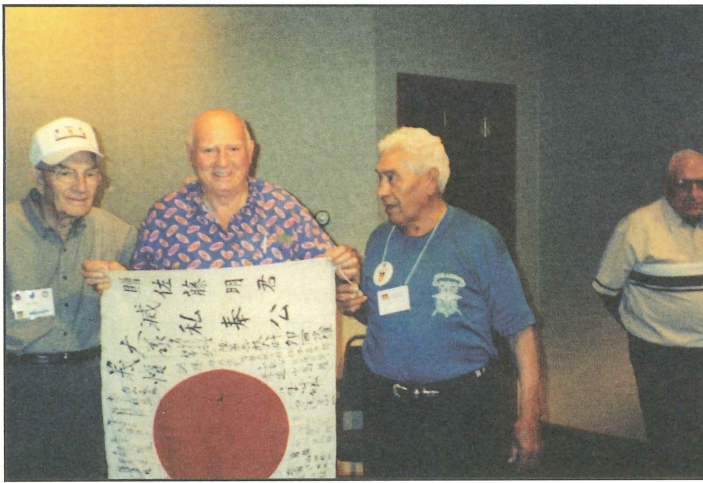


Photo Credit: Jim Fenelon

Ben Glatt, Bismarck, ND, Don Eichelberger, Sharpsville, PA, Don is holding a Japanese battle flag that he picked up on the many patrols he led on Bougainville/Philippine Islands, Joe Cuellar, Corrales, NM

L - R: Clement Fox - "D" Company - Felton, MN., Karen Berg, Lake Park, MN., ask Karen about the parking ramps in Bismarck, Vince "Swede" Clausen, Company "D" (St. Paul, MN)



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2001-02 Association Officers are:

- President Frank R. Eide Sr.: (701) 255-7990
Bismarck, ND
- Vice President Vacant - Need a volunteer
- Sec./Treas. Ben Kemp: (701) 222-4694
Bismarck, ND
- Editor Jim Fenelon: (641) 752-9621
Marshalltown, IA

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EDITH I TUFF *
3111 BROADWAY APT 104
FARGO ND 58102-1400

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