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Vol. 48, No. 3



Rifleman by Doug Burtell

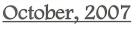


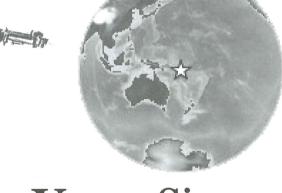




THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Targeting 164th History.....





Sixty-Five Years Since Guadalcanal

On 13 October 1942, a bunch of "farm boys from North Dakota" landed on the beach at Guadalcanal, to become the first U.S. Army unit to offensively engage the enemy -- in either theatre – during World War II.

The 164th Infantry Regiment, North Dakota Army National Guard, supplemented by Army draftees as well as National Guard fillers from other states, reinforced the 1st Marine Division in the defense of the tactical air strip that became known as Henderson Field....

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

Americal Division

Operations, Campaigns, & Battles

World War II * 1942	- 1945
GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN	13Oct42-1Mar43
2nd Battle of Henderson Field	23-25Oct42
Battle of Koli Point	5-11Nov42
Kokumbona & Poha River	18-23Nov42
Point Cruz & Matanakau River	8-22Nov42
Mt. Austen	12-17Dec42
Gifu Ridge	24Dec42-9Jan43
Final Offensive	16Jan - 9Feb43
Bonegi River	30Jan - 2Feb43
Tassafaronga	5-Feb-43
NORTHERN SOLOMONS	25Dec43-10Dec44
Perimeter Line	25Dec43 -8Mar44
Hill 260	10 - 15Mar44
Hills 165, 155, 500, 501	16 - 18Apr44
Mouth of the Torokina	5 - 8 Apr44
Advancing the Outpost Line	May-Nov44
LEYTE	23Jan -23Mar45
Jars - Valencia - Palompon	5Feb -10Mar45
Samar Island	19-26Feb45
Balicautros, Capul, Narajo Island	19- 26Feb45
Capute, Burios, Ticao Islands	3-10Mar45
SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES	24Mar-12Jun45
Cebu Island	24Mar-12Jun45
Talisay Landing	25Mar45
Cebu City, Go Chan Hill, Hill 27	25Mar-May45
Babay Ridge	12-17Apr45
Bohol Island	11-25Apr45
Negros Oriental Islands	26Apr-12Jun45
Palimpinon Heights	28Apr-3May45
Balasbulas	7-12Jun45
Northern Mindinao Island	May-45

www.americal.org

Naming the Americal Division

The Americal Division was named in 1942 when units of Task Force 6814 assembled in New Caledonia under command of Maj Gen Alexander M. Patch. "Ameri-" was derived from the American Troops forming the Division, and "cal" from New Caledonia where it was organized. It was the only non-numbered division in US Army history. It was inactivated in 1945, then reactivated by the Regular Army in 1954 as Hqs, 23rd Division; redesignated HHC, 23rd Division for Vietnam; and was inactivated in 1971 at Ft. Lewis, WA.

Americal Shoulder Sleeve Insignia



Description: On a blue Norman shield 2 5/8 inches high and 2 1/3 inches wide, four white stars of varying sizes all slightly tipped to the dexter, arranged to represent the Southern Cross.

Symbolism: The four white stars on the blue field are symbolic of the Southern Cross under which the organization served.

The Southern Cross Constellation



Crux (the Southern Cross), is visible from latitudes south of 25° N but is not visible in latitudes above 35° N, just as Polaris (North Star) is not visible in the southern hemisphere. Another interesting sidelight is that it was last seen in Jerusalem (latitude 31°46'45') about the time that Christ was crucified.

Credit: http://www.astronomical.org/portal/modules/wfsection/index.php



Regimental Unit Insignia

The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 164th Infantry Regiment on 11 January 1933. The 164th retained the lineage and honors of the First Dakota Infantry; the symbols on the crest represent the rich

heritage earned by their predecessors. The blue shield is for Infantry. The Spanish castle is taken from the Campaign medal representing the 1st Dakota's service in the Spanish-American War, and subsequent service in the Philippine Insurrection is indicated by the three mullets (stars) from the Philippine Island flag. The sun at the base of the castle is from the 41st Division shoulder sleeve insignia, which denotes service with that division during World War I.

JE SUIS PRET means "I Am Ready"



Regimental Flag

The colors emblazoned "First Dakota Infantry" were carried during the Spanish American War (1898), Philippine Insurrection (1899),& Mexican Border

Expedition (1916). In 1911, the North Dakota State Legislature approved a state flag in the same pattern as the state's military colors, with the words "North Dakota" replacing "First North Dakota Infantry" on the scroll below the eagle. When the 1st Dakota was activated in 1917 for WWI, the unit was redesignated 164th Infantry Regiment. More: The first National color of the Army was of blue, incorporating the design of an eagle displayed (somewhat similar to that in the coat of arms adopted for the United States) and the name of the regiment. That National color was carried until 1841 when it became the regimental color. From that blue flag evolved the eagle on regimental and battalion flags and, finally, on Major Army Command flags.

164th Infantry Units Mobilized for World War II

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1st Marine Division Guadalcanal Patch

The Marines 1st Division shoulder patch was originally authorized for wear by members of units that were organic or attached to the division in its four landings in the Pacific War [including the 164th]. It was the first unit patch to be authorized for wear in World War II and specifically commemorated the sacrifices and victory in the battle for **Guadalcanal**.



"Red Bull" Patch: Prior to WWII, the 164th was one of four infantry regiments assigned to the Seventh Service Command, 34th Infantry Division. Members of the regiment wore the shoulder patch until 8 Dec 41, when divisions were reorganized with only three regiments instead of four. "The 34th must have been one hell of a Division to get rid of the 164th" – Richard Stevens, COL (USA, ret)

The 164th Infantry Regiment, Americal Division

The 164th Infantry Regiment of the Americal Division went into action on Guadalcanal on 13 October 1942 as the first United States Army unit to conduct an offensive operation against the enemy in any theater. Elements of the Regiment defended Henderson Field against heavy enemy attacks, 23-25 October; took part in the offensive across the Matanikau River in November, and attacked and took Mount Austen in January 1943. Organized resistance ended and the Division was relieved, 9 February. It moved to the Fiji Islands, beginning 5 March 1943, to assume the defense of the main island of Viti Levu and to engage in extensive training. During the period 25 December 1943 to 12 January 1944, the Americal Division landed on Bougainville, relieving the 3d Marine Division, and was given the task of holding and extending the right half of a previously established perimeter. The Division went on the offensive in March 1944, driving the Japanese east of Mavavia River, 7-9 April, and seizing numerous strategic hill[s] during the rest of the month. Training and longrange patrol activity continued until 30 November 1944 when the Division was relieved. On 8 January 1945, the Division began movement to Leyte and Samar, to take part in cleaning out remaining Japanese forces on those islands, and to invade Biri, Capul, Ticao, and Burias. Relieved on Leyte, 13 March 1945, the Division landed on Cebu, 26 March, and seized the city and airfield by 28 March. Divisional combat teams made landings on Bohol, Negros, and Mindanao, where they cleared out pockets of resisting Japanese until 17 June when ordered to return to Cebu, arriving on 25 June. Training continued on Cebu for the proposed invasion of Japan. On 10 September 1945, the Americal landed in Japan and took part in the occupation of the Yokohama-Kawasaki-Yokosuka area.

Decorations Awarded to Members

1 Navy Cross
6 Distinguished Service Crosses
89 Silver Stars
199 Bronze Stars
7 Legion of Merit
10 Soldiers Medals
2000(Approx) Purple Hearts
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
Presidential Unit Citation (US Navy) (below)

Campaign Participation Credits

War with Spain
Philippine Insurrection
World War I
World War II
Northern Solomons
Leyte

Leyte
Southern Philippines
Guadalcanal (below)

GUADALCANAL

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943



Americal Division History for 1942

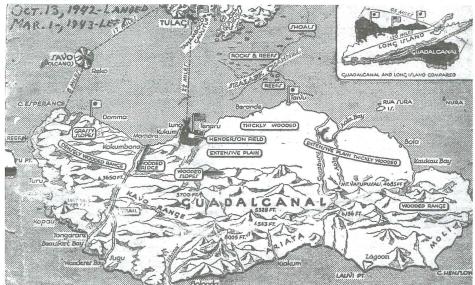
http://lzsally.com/sally2/archives/history_of_the_23rd_infantry_div.htm "Under the Southern Cross"

1942: TASK Force 6814 was activated at the New York Port of Embarkation on January 14, 1942. Under the command of then Brig Gen Alexander M. Patch, the Task Force sailed for the Pacific Theater via the Panama Canal. On March 12, the convoy and naval escort arrived in the harbor of Noumea, New Caledonia and the troops debarked. The mission of the Task Force was to hold New Caledonia against enemy attack.

On April 19, the **164th Infantry Regiment** [formerly] from the 34th Infantry Division arrived in New Caledonia to reinforce the 132nd and 182nd Infantry Regiments of Task Force 6814. Additional field artillery units also arrived about that time. Task Force 6814 was reorganized and constituted as the Americal Division on May 24, 1942, to become the only Army division not designated by number. The Americal derived its name from the phrase, "Americans in New Caledonia."

Having carried out its original mission, the Americal left New Caledonia in the fall of 1942, turning over the garrisoning of the island to other immobile units of Task Force 6814 which remained there under the island

command.



action on **Guadalcanal on October 13, 1942,** as the first US Army unit to conduct an offensive operation against the enemy in any theater.

Units of the Americal Division

the Americal Division went into

The **164th Infantry Regiment** of

Saw their first full scale battle with the enemy on October 26, when waves of enemy soldiers assaulted the positions of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, **164th Infantry**, in an attempt to break through to Henderson Field. After two days of fierce fighting in the Battle of Henderson Field, over 1,000 enemy dead were found in front of the positions of the Americal Division soldiers.

Map from the Frank Godava (Co F) collection

The second echelon of the Americal Division arrived on Guadalcanal on November 12, to participate in the offensive to the west across Matanikau River.

On December 9, the Americal Division, under Major General Alexander M. Patch, assumed control of all combat operations on Guadalcanal, relieving the 1st Marine Division.

On December 17, units of the Americal began the assault up Mount Austen, the enemy stronghold on Guadalcanal. With fierce fighting, the Americans took the mountain one hill at a time.

Rows of wooden crosses on Guadalcanal marked the first United States military cemetery in the Solomon Islands. There, on December 31, 1942, memorial services were held for the Americal soldiers who had given their lives on that island.

Americal Division Composition -- Guadalcanal

Under the Southern Cross – Order of Battle (does not include attached units) http://www.americal.org/history.shtml

Infantry

164th Infantry Regiment, less Cannon Co Arrived 13Oct 42 132d Infantry Regiment, less Cannon Co Arrived 12Nov42 182d Infantry Regiment, less Cannon Co Arrived 8Dec42

Artillery

Hq & Hq Battery

Americal Division Artillery Band

221st Field Artillery Battalion, 155-mm. Howitzer 245th Field Artillery Battalion, 105-mm. Howitzer 246th Field Artillery Battalion, 105-mm. Howitzer

247th Field Artillery Battalion, 105-mm. Howitzer

Engineers

57th Engineer Combat Battalion

Medical

101st Medical Regt (redesignated 121st Med Bn)

Special Troops

Hq & Hq Co Arrived December 8th 101st QM Regt (redesignated 125th QM Co) 38th MP Co, less one plat (redes MP Plat, Americal Div) 26th Signal Co Mobile Cbt Rcn Sq (redes 21st Cav Rcn Troop)

CUADALCANAL

Presidential Unit Citation (US Navy)

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION APO 716

31 December 1943

GENERAL ORDERS) NO. 67

BKIRACT

AWARDS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

By direction of the President, and authority contained in paragraph 5, Letter, War Department, The Adjutant General's Office, AG 200.5 (29 Jul 43), subject: Eligibility of Army Personnel to the Presidential Unit Citation and ribbon bar with star, dated 5 November 1943, and 1st Indorsement, Headquarters USAFISPA, APO 502, AG 200.6 (7)1, dated 10 December 1943, the Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to the following-named officers and enlisted men of the Americal Division who served in actual combat with the First Marine Division, Reinforced, on Guadalcanal at any time during the period 7 August 1942 to 9 December 1942.

Rank First MI Last Service #. Infantry

By command of Major General HODGE:

C. M. HcQUARRIE Colonel, General Staff Corpo Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

WHAT THE STANK Licutenant Colonel, Adjutant General's Department Adjutant General

References:

DA Pam 672-1 Unit Citations Register: (pg 193) The 164th Infantry Regiment is authorized the following:

+Navy Presidential Unit Citation

+Philippine Presidential Unit Citation



+Assault Landing, Cebu (arrowhead)



A **** +Occupation Credit 3Sep-15Nov45



AR 800-8-22 Military Awards Para 7-7: a. An individual unit award emblem is authorized for wear on the uniform for the Presidential Unit Citation [above] b. (2) A bronze or silver star is worn to denote second and succeeding awards of the PUC (Navy).

AR 670-1 Uniforms, Para 29-11 c(1): Emblems with or without frames are worn centered with the bottom edge of the emblem 1/8 inch above the right breast pocket.

Table 29-1 The PUC (Navy) is worn to the right of the Philippine PUC.

AR 800-8-22 Military Awards Para 9-15. Philippine Liberation Ribbon Service in-country 17Oct44-3Sep45



Some Guadalcanal Books & References

The Campaign for Guadalcana, Jack Coggins. Excellent sketches of equipment, ships, maps <u>Guadalcanal</u>, Richard B. Frank. Page 313: "The superior character of the [164th] regiment reflected its vibrant leader Lt Col Bryant E. Moore, who..... handled his command 'like a czar'."

On the Canal, Ore J. Marion. Page 233: "A Little bit of larceny to keep up our morale" describes hungry Marines watching the new Army unit unloading supplies and food at Kukum...so they went to get some! The Solomons Campaigns, William L. McGee. Between the 182nd and Marine positions, the Japanese strongly held a grassy knoll and could not be dislodged until the 1st Bn 164th Infantry was called to help (21Nov) No Bended Knee--The Battle for Guadalcanal, Merrill B. Twining. Page 133:"The reserve battalion in that area [24 Oct] was from the newly arrived 164th Infantry of the Army's Americal Division. Lt Col Robert K Hall, USA, commanded the battalion. They were good people and,...'an organization of stubborn Swedes from North

Dakota just waiting to get even' for the bombardment they had received...10 days earlier." Guadalcanal: Starvation Island, Eric Hammel. Page 315: "The fresh Guardsmen managed to get ashore without loss. There was no reason for them or anyone, to consider October 13 an exceptional day—yet."

Guadalcanal Diary, Richard Tregaskis

Under the Southern Cross, Francis D. Cronin. Concise history of the Americal Division. **Thin Red Line**, James Jones. The movie premiered in Bismarck with members of the 164th attending.

Orchids in the Mud: Edited by Robert C. Muehrcke, Personal accounts by veterans of the 132 Infantry Reg't.

Coming soon: I Am Ready: The 164th Infantry in WWII, Terry Shoptaugh. See pages 18-19 of this issue of the News

by Charles R. Anderson

A US Army Center of Military History Publication

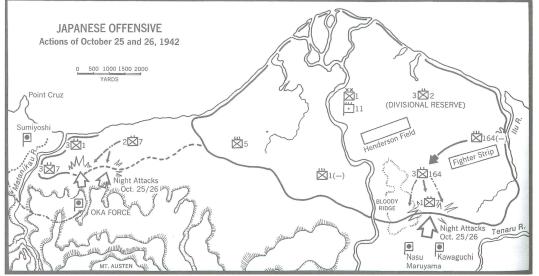


On 13 October, the 164th Infantry [Regiment], the first Army unit on Guadalcanal, came ashore to reinforce the Marines and took a 6,600-yard sector at the east end of the American perimeter. Commanded by Col. Bryant E. Moore, the 164th had come through the South Pacific ferry route in January to New Caledonia. There, the 164th [North Dakota Army National Guard] joined the 182d Infantry [Massachusetts Army National Guard] and 132d Infantry [illinois Army National Guard] Regiments, in addition to artillery, engineer, and other support units, to form a new division called the "Americal," a name derived from the words America and New Caledonia. Until the Americal commander, Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, and other units of the division arrived [on 18 Nov 42 and after], the 164th would fight with the Marines.

The newest American unit on Guadalcanal, the 164th moved into the southeast corner of the perimeter. On the night of 23 October, Moore and his troops heard the Japanese begin their attempt to retake the Lunga Point airfield, renamed Henderson Field by the marines. Two nights later the Japanese hit the 164th, running out of the dark jungles yelling "Banzai," throwing grenades, and firing every weapon they could carry. Despite armor, artillery, air, and naval support, the Japanese could achieve no more than temporary breakthroughs at isolated points. The men of the 164th put up a much stiffer defense than the Japanese expected of a green unit, and with the Marines repulsed the enemy with heavy losses while losing 26 killed, 52 wounded, and 4 missing. Once the enemy attack failed, Vandegrift had four experienced regiments manning a secure line.

General Vandegrift | now moved into the second phase of his operations on Guadalcanal: pushing out his perimeter far enough so that Japanese artillery could not reach Henderson Field, and overrunning the 17th [enemy] Army headquarters at Kokumbona, nine miles west of the airfield. On the morning of 1 November, following naval, air, and field artillery fire, Marine units began the attack both east and west.

On [November] 4th, the Army's 1st Battalion, 164th Infantry, joined the



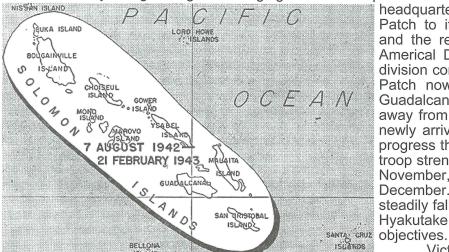
western attack, while the 2d and 3d Battalions, 164th, moved to the eastern front. The Army battalions assisted in a major victory during 9-12 November when they trapped against the sea 1,500 enemy troops who had just landed at Koli Point. Soldiers and Marines killed half the enemy force in a two day fight; the rest escaped into the jungle toward Mount Austen, six miles southwest of Henderson Field.

Vandegrift suddenly stopped his attacks in mid-November when he learned the Japanese would soon attempt a major reinforcement via the "Tokyo Express," the almost nightly run of supply-laden destroyers to the island. As expected, the enemy transports came, bearing the 38th Division for General Hyakutake. In the fourday naval Battle of Guadalcanal, the U.S. Navy so seriously damaged the task force that the enemy never again tried a large-unit reinforcement. Only 4,000 troops, of 10,000, reached land, and the 38th Division had to function as a large but underequipped regiment. The attack toward Kokumbona resumed on 18 November with the 164th Infantry, two battalions of the newly arrived 182d Infantry, and a Marine regiment. After advancing only one mile against strong opposition, the attack stalled on the 25th. The 164th Infantry alone lost 117 killed and 625 wounded or sick. Rather than continue the costly push into the jungle, American commanders decided to await reinforcements.

But rather than receiving reinforcements, the Americans lost effective combat units in December. Vandegrift's battle-hardened but disease-wracked 1st Marine Division boarded ships for a much-deserved reconstitution, leaving General Patch in command of all American units on the island. Despite this temporary reduction, Patch wanted to mount a limited offensive before the enemy strengthened positions any further.

The 132d thrashed through the jungle for five more days before locating the main enemy strongpoint, called the Gifu position after a Japanese prefecture. Inside the Gifu, five hundred troops manned over forty logreinforced bunkers arranged in a horseshoe on the west side of Mount Austen. During the last ten days of 1942, the 132d hammered Gifu repeatedly, making little progress at a cost of 34 killed and 279 other casualties, mostly sick. Finally, on 1-2 January 1943, the 1st and 3d Battalions attacked from the north while the 2d Battalion swung around and attacked from the south to overrun most of the Gifu strongpoint and secure the west slopes of Mount Austen. Now the Americans could move against Kokumbona without fear of enemy observation or fire from the rear. In the 22-day battle for Mount Austen the 132d Infantry had killed between 400 and 500 Japanese but in the process lost 112 killed and 268 wounded.

During the last weeks of 1942 and the first weeks of 1943 the Americans strengthened their toehold on Guadalcanal by reorganizing and bringing in fresh troops. On 2 January General Harmon activated a new



headquarters, XIV Corps, and assigned General Patch to its command. The 25th Infantry Division and the rest of the 2d Marine Division joined the Americal Division on the island to fill out a threedivision corps in preparation for a January offensive. Patch now planned to destroy the Japanese on Guadalcanal rather than simply to push them farther away from the Henderson Field perimeter. With the newly arrived units, he could expect to make more progress than in the previous two months. Japanese troop strength on the island had peaked at 30,000 in November, but then fell to about 25,000 in December. With supplies from the Tokyo Express steadily falling and malaria casualties rising, General Hyakutake had no choice but to scale down his

Victory on Guadalcanal brought important strategic gains to the Americans and their Pacific allies but at high cost. Combined with the American-Australian victory at Buna on New Guinea, success in the Solomons turned back the Japanese drive toward Australia and staked out a strong base from which to continue attacks against Japanese forces, especially those at Rabaul, the enemy's main base in the South Pacific. Most important for future operations in the Pacific, the Americans had stopped reacting to Japanese thrusts and taken the initiative themselves. These gains cost the Americans 1,592 killed in action and 4,183 wounded, with thousands more disabled for varying periods by disease. Entering the campaign after the amphibious phase, the two Army divisions lost 550 killed and 1,289 wounded. For the Japanese, losses were even more traumatic: 14,800 killed in battle, another 9,000 dead from disease, and about 1,000 taken prisoner. On Guadalcanal General Hyakutake's troops gave American fighting men a chilling introduction to the character of the Japanese soldier: willing to fight to the death rather than surrender. Both navies lost twenty-four ships during the campaign but with a smaller industrial base to replace them, Japanese losses were more significant. Even more costly to Japan was the loss of over six hundred aircraft and pilots.

FROM: http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/brochures/72-8/72-8.htm (maps are from other sources)

This brochure was prepared in the U.S. Army Center of Military History by Charles R. Anderson, who said, "I hope this absorbing account of that period will enhance your appreciation of American achievements during World War II". For sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328 ISBN 0-16-038104-5

The Significance of Guadalcanal

[Lt. Gen. Sinishi] Tanaka, [Chief of Military Operations], wrote: "There is no question that Japan's doom was sealed with the closing of the struggle for Guadalcanal.

Admiral Mitsumasa Yonai, Navy Minister, stated that: "When we had to retreat [from Guadalcanal] taking the whole situation, I felt that there was no further chance of success."

And, when after the Japanese surrender, an interrogator asked Admiral Kurita: "At what stage in the war did you feel that the balance had swung against you?" Kurita answered simply, "Guadalcanal."

From: <u>The Campaign for Guadalcanal</u> by Jack Coggins, 1972 Battle Sketch on previous page from same source

Note: Adm Takao Kurita directed the bombardment of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal during October 1942

Guadalcanal Glossary

Henderson Field: Lunga Point airfield was renamed for Marine pilot Maj Lofton Henderson, who was killed leading an air attack against Yamamoto at Midway.

Edson's "Bloody" Ridge: S of Henderson Fld, was named for Marine LtCol Merritt Edson after the battle 12-14Sep42



"Washing Machine Charlie" & "Louie the Louse:: nicknames of the chugging floatplanes that would drop nuisance bombs and flares

"Pistol Pete" was the name given to the irritating long range guns that would pound rounds to the beach from the higher jungle areas.

ADALCANAL 1942-1949

Lt. Col. Samuel Baglien Regiment Executive Officer



Lt. Col. Samuel Baglien

"Red Book". From the (Register of North Dakota Veterans, World War II & Korean Conflict, 1968):

MILITARY: SN O 237 518; born Hillsboro, ND 25 Sep 1901; resident Traill County, ND; entered AUS Fargo, ND 10 Feb 1941: served Asiatic Pacific Theater; separated Camp Blanding, FL 3Jan45; rank: Lieutenant Colonel

It seems that Lt Col Samuel Baglien was born to be in the military. He ran away from home at age 16 and tried to join the Army. From the North Dakota records, it appears that he was allowed to join a year later at age 17, and was separated shortly after WWI in 1919. His writings in 1943 state that he spent 23 years in the 164th Infantry Regiment, so he must have joined the ND National Guard shortly after separation from active duty.

During his time with the Regiment at Guadalcanal, he logged his experiences in at least two accurate and insightful documents. The first is "The Account of the 164th Infantry Regiment on Guadalcanal", also known as "Baglien's Diary". He also wrote "Battle of the Lunga or the Second Battle of Henderson Field", most of which was published as "The Second Battle of Henderson Field" in the May 1944 issue of the Infantry Journal. He also wrote a few letters that were published in his hometown newspaper, the Hillsboro Banner.

After Baglien passed away in San Bernadino, CA, in 1989, Major (ret) Herman Wildermuth, a retired military friend, had the 'Diary' printed and spiral bound for presentation to libraries in each of the ND cities that was home to a 164th unit at the time of mobilization for WWII. These were distributed with the assistance of the 164th Association. A copy was located in the "rare books" section of the Bismarck Library, complete with the letter from Maj. Wildermuth.

"The Baglien documents are an extremely interesting and concise history about the 164th at Guadalcanal. For every story submitted by a soldier, there was an entry about that same action in the 'Diary'" -- Editor

Special Thanks to Richard "Dick" Baglien, who granted permission to the 164th News to use excerpts of his father's writings for this special issue about Guadalcanal. It is hoped that a more complete compilation of the Baglien

texts will be made available in the future.



Samuel at age 16 right after he ran away from home and joined the Army.

From "Soldiers, Sailors, & Marines" published by the State of North Dakota: MILITARY: Army # 464,828; not a registrant, under age; born Hillsboro, N. Dak., Sept. 25, 1901 of Norwegian-Ameriparents; occupation barber enlisted at East Grand Forks, Minn., on April 12, 1918; sent to Jefferson Barracks, Mo.; served in Company I, 48th Infantry to discharge. Private 1st Class, Aug. 1, 1918. Discharged at Camp Dodge, Iowa, on June 18, 1919, as Private 1st Class.



Above: Lt Col Baglien congratulates his son, Samuel Richard, upon completion

of Dick's Army Basic Training in 1944. **At right:** The Rev. Dr. Baglien's ordination, 1951 Far Right: Dick & Mavis on their 60th Anniversary

From Samuel Richard (Dick) Baglien
MILITARY: Inducted into the US Army 18 Nov 43; Basic Training at Ft Benning, GA; Served in World War II as a surgical technician with the 87th Infantry Division, 3rd Army, under General Patton. Wounded in action 29 January 1945 during the Battle of the Bulge and received a Purple Heart. Separated 22 October 1945.

> Memories of WWII: I crossed the Rhine River under fire on my birthday 25 March 1945. A young man next to me in the boat was hit and died. My walking tour of

Europe as a G.I. brought me through England, France, & Germany, where I viewed death and destruction.

Buchanwald Concentration Camp was unforgettable. The war influenced me to become minister and I entered the seminary at Rock Island, Illinois.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE 164TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ON GUADALCANAL

By LT. COL. SAMUEL BAGLIEN, REGIMENTAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Editor: This page is a short excerpt of significant entries from the beginning to the end of his time there: 7Oct 42 - 23Feb43 More of his "Diary" entries appear with associated stories in this issue of the *News*

Prior to and on Oct 7, 1942, the 164th Infantry Regiment was located on the island of **Caledonia**. On Oct 7, 1942, at 7:00 p.m., the regiment was alerted under orders from **Major General Alexander M. Patch, Americal Division** [to] prepare for movement to the Port of Embarkation at Noumea harbor on Oct 8, 1942. Oct 8, 1942, The First and Third battalions embarked aboard the USS Zeilin troop transport at 10:00 p.m., and the Second and Provisional battalions embarked aboard the USS McCawley troop transport at 10:00 p.m. Oct 9, 1942, The troop transports and convoy cleared the Noumea harbor during the afternoon and headed toward our destination, **Guadalcanal Island, Solomon Islands**.
Oct 10 to Oct 12, 1942, the regiment was at sea. Weather clear, sea calm. Admiral Turner got quite a kick out

of the trip, stating, "Imagine taking a bunch of the Army up to reinforce the Marines." To us the trip was a sig-

nal honor, as it meant that we would be the first Army Infantry troops in battle since the fall of Bataan.

Oct 13, 1942, at dawn the regiment arrived at Kukum Beach, Guadalcanal. ..The First marine Division, already stationed at Guadalcanal, covered the landing. At about noon, [the Japs] bombed the area for a half hour.

Corporal Kenneth S. Foubert, Company "M" was killed; the first casualty of the regiment. The Marines are sure glad we are here and they certainly look like they have gone through "Hell." [2KIA]

Immediately after midnight, 12:10 a.m., Oct 14, 1942, terrific shelling by enemy naval craft began. "Louie the Louse" seems to be directing the fire. Several cruisers and destroyers were lying off Kukum Beach and Lunga Point and shelled Lunga Point and Henderson Field increasantly until 3:30 a.m., [2KIA]

and Lunga Point and shelled Lunga Point and Henderson Field incessantly until 3:30 a.m. [ŽKIA]



MEMORIAL SERVICES AT U. S. MILITARY CEMETERY NO. 1. GUADALCANAL.

MARINE CORPS PHOTO 22-7

The 164th Infantry October 15, 1942. Regiment is attached to the First Marine Division, who have been at Guadalcanal since August 7. ... Members killed in action are being buried at the First Marine division cemetery. Graves are marked with a green wooden cross and there is no distinctive marking between rank. Chaplains are in attendance at a brief ceremony. A group of captured Japanese laborers dig the graves. A palm branch is placed over each grave.

Oct 18, 1942, our front line positions are well dug in, and guns are properly placed. Sector front is quiet. At 2:10 & 6 p.m...a wave of enemy bombers came over and bombed the area. "Pistol Pete" is working overtime. This is a funny war as I can ride my "Peep"

through the sector we are holding in front of our own lines. Oct 19, 1942, This is a peculiar war, the masters can ponder over this one. We have an airport on our regimental reserve line, the Jap Navy hits us in the rear, we fight them on our front, and they bomb Hell out of us from the air and we are holding a little piece of ground roughly six miles wide and three miles deep. Looks like

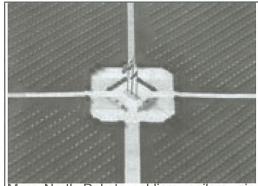
we are in for a rough time.

Here is the box score on casualties and miscellaneous information since our landing on Oct Dec 31, 1942. 13, 1942. 63 air raids. These are raids where bombs actually fell in our areas...not all the alerts. 137 men and officers killed in action. 308 men and officers wounded in action. 393 evacuated. 13 missing in action. Feb 2, 1943. Our score to date: 150 KIA or died of wounds; 360 WIA; and 853 evacuated since Oct 13, 1942. Feb 21, 22 and 23, 1943. Upon return from church on the Skyline, orders were waiting for Lt. Colonels Hall,

Richards, and myself to return home. The news provoked strong emotions - though mixed. Was Providence intervening or had our job been done? Leaving the old Regiment after 23 years was a hard task. But from tropical Hell to American home was a most happy transition –

outweighing all other factors.

Boarding the DC3 was all that remained to be done, and with characteristic Army dispatch that was accomplished. We took to the air and as if by spiritual control our plane droned low over the First Marine Cemetery before pursuing its course. Casting my tear-moist eyes below, there was present in my mind the picture of the old Regiment in open box formation about the cemetery, the Chaplain at the altar, and each man, upon the playing of taps, solemnly eager to break among the crosses in search of the final resting place of his pal and hero, there to kneel in manly reverence. My heart could stand no greater strain. My soul, linked with the souls of the dead below, resolved anew that "there shall be no rest until every Jap is obliterated from the Pacific." Then, as over her deep blue waters we flew away, a merciful fog enshrouded our brave dead.



More North Dakota soldiers, sailors, airmen, and 164th veterans are interred at the ND Veterans Cemetery, where a me-morial to the 164th Infantry proudly o the 164th Infantry proudly One wonders if Lt Col Baglien stands. One wonders if Lt Col Baglien and his 'brave dead' are looking down on these souls from their eternal flight.

Remembering Clarence Bonderud, Co F

--- By Catherine Walker, his niece



2nd Lt. Clarence Leroy Bonderud was born in Carrington North Dakota, October 25, 1918. He was the eighth of 14 children born to Norwegian parents, Oluf and Ella Olea Bonderud. Clarence grew up in Carrington and graduated from Carrington High School in 1936. Shortly after graduation, he entered the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC's) and served one year. In 1938, Clarence joined the National Guard.

In February,1941, when the 164th Infantry Regiment was activated for Federal service, Clarence, along with many other young men from Carrington's **F-Company**, left their homes and families and caught the train leaving for **Camp**

Claiborne, LA, where they would spend many months in rigorous military training becoming prepared in combat readiness. On Dec 7, 1941, war became a reality, sealing the fate of all young men in uniform. After his training in Louisiana, Clarence said his good byes to family and friends and traveled to San Francisco where he would board the ship that would take

many of the 164th Infantry to New Caledonia.

C. Scott seem to favor the southern flavor.

L: Clarence

(left) and

When an Officer's Candidate School was formed there, Clarence took the opportunity to become a 2nd Lieutenant. Becoming a platoon leader of a rifle company meant having 40-50 men under his command. A company had three

rifle platoons and one weapons platoon. The weapons platoon consisted of 60 mm mortar and machine guns. After OCS, Clarence was assigned to **K-Company** on Guadalcanal. Shortly after arriving, Clarence lost his dearest friend, **2nd Lt. James L. McCreary**. James had just finished OCS with Clarence and was transferred to **B Company**, 1st Battalion. The photo at left is Clarence just after accepting his commission.

On January 11, the third battalion was taken off the front lines for a rest period and moved along the coastline near **Kukum Beach** as backup. On the morning of January 14th, Clarence sent his last letter home to Carrington. That night, during a surprise raid, Japanese bombers flew over **Kukum Beach** carrying their deadly cargo. Bombs were dropped along the coastline. One such bomb directly hit Clarence's tent as he was sleeping, killing Clarence, **Robert Turner**, **Troy T. Gustafson**, **Arthur O. Johnson**, **Fred J.**

Reid, and Manuel D. Cuen. There were two eye witnesses to the bombing. The late Bill McLaughlin, 221 Field Artillery Battalion, attested to hearing about a kid being killed in his pyramidal tent during the hambing that night. He saw the hambers coming in and dropping hombs on unsuspecting men. The

during the bombing that night. He saw the bombers coming in and dropping bombs on unsuspecting men. The warnings for "Condition Red" were sounded too late. That particular night, Bill and couple of other men were on

Point Cruz and had a front row seat to the aerial display that rocked & blasted Kukum Beach. Apparently one of the two 500 lb bombs was dropped dead center on Clarence's tent. Orville Dodge also saw the bombers coming in that night and saw the bombs being dropped. Orville was on a ship coming from another island and viewed the whole episode from a sea-point perspective..

If you knew my Uncle Clarence, please contact me. I am gathering information for a book about his life and last days on the 'Canal.

Lt Bonderud is holding a Japanese army Nambu semi-automatic rifle captured 23-25 October 1942, when the Japs charged the 164th Infantry Lines —K Company—during the battle for the U.S. held fighter strip, Henderson Field. The Japanese charged in a series of bayonet attacks, screaming "Bonzi, Bonzi, You Die, You Die". About 2500 Japanese soldiers were killed in this attack. This picture was taken after the battle in a coconut grove near the US Cemetery and Henderson Field.

---written by Jim Fenelon

Catherine L. Walker, 500 Smith

Ave, Richland, WA 99352 CatherineLWalker@hotmail.com, phone 509-943-6717

Bonderud: Finding the Bits & Pieces....

The Puzzle of a Man's Life & Service

Having lost his life at Guadalcanal, my Uncle, Clarence Bonderud, died five years before I was born. I never had the privilege of knowing him. Clarence was a brother to my mother. The intrigue surrounding Clarence's life made me curious enough to begin writing a book about his life. Through the guidance of Providence I have retraced Clarence's footsteps in order to gain an accurate account of his life story. As with many young fighting men, they left this life swiftly and often without warning, fighting for the cause of freedom, a freedom esteemed

too lightly today.

March. 1948, Clarence's and James McCreary's remains were returned to American soil. Clarence now rests in the Carrington Cemetery next to his mother, father, sister Norma (my mother), and James McCreary.

McCreary-Bonderud Post # 3524 of the American Legion, in their hometown, Carrington, ND, was named after Clarence & James.

I was 12 yrs. old when I overheard a conversation between my mother and a friend that would considerably alter the way I view life. This was my first account of learning about a family member dying in a war, much less a man who was my mother's brother.

After the initial shock, I thought about perhaps one day writing a book about this mysterious uncle. Three years ago, I seriously began gathering information by interviewing the many men who knew my uncle. I've read many books on the early years of the war and the role that the 164th Infantry played in the first WWII counter-offensive that took place on this tiny island in the Pacific called Guadalcanal.

I owe the success of my research to men like 164 veterans Chuck Walker. John Paulson. George Laughlin, Rudy Edwardson, Jim Fenelon, Orville Dodge, A. F. Wiest, Anthony Hannel, Ted Kessel; F.M. Ashcraft (1st Marine Division); Wally Purscell (County Veterans Service Officer); and a host of other individuals who have

written letters and made phone calls to help supply me with some of the major pieces in Clarence's military life. You all are a great group of guys! My gratitude to each of you goes beyond words and the kinship we have established these last three years has been overwhelmingly heartwarming. After listening to the

testimonies of these Veterans, it's easy to understand why we won WWII. Our current generation could learn from the character, commitment, grit, and tenacity these men possess. With an upright posture, a pride in my heart, and tears in my eyes, I salute each one of you!

FEBRUARY 4, 1943

ONE OF THE HIGHLY DEVELOPED COUNTY WEEKLIES OF THE U. S.

Lt. C. Bonderud Killed Jan. 14 On Guadalcanal

en his life for his country in World War II

Lt. Clarence Bonderud, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Bonderud, was killed in action in the South Pacific Jan. 14. according to a telegram received Monday saying he "was killed in action in defense of his country in the South Pacific area." Lt. James McCreary was the first local boy-to die in action.

Clarence, who was 24 years old. received his second lieutenant's commission just a few months ago after attending an officers' training school on New Caledonia. He was inducted from Carrington with Company F for which he served as clerk, then sergeant. After he was commissioned, he was transerred from the company.

Receipt of the telegram by the Bonderuds followed by a few hours the arrival of several letters from Clarence. One was written to his sister, Norma, the day he was killed.

Clarence LeRoy Bonderud was born Oct. 25, 1918, in Carrington, the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Bonderud. He graduated from high school here in 1936, after which he was employed locally, working for Beck's grocery before leaving here with Company F in February, 1941. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran church.

Surviving besides the parents are 12

A second Carrington youth has giv- | brothers and sisters. They are: Oscar of Pasadena, Cal.; Mrs. J. A. (Blanche) Linde of Minneapolis; Mrs. Edna Green of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Leon (Thelma) Galehouse, Jr., Sidney, Norma, Dorothy and Kenneth, all of Carrington; Earl at Camp White, Ore.; Mrs. George Wescott (Alice) of Seattle, Wash.; Orville of Camp Barkeley, Texas; and Wesley in the navy at Camp Perry, Williamsburg, Va. A brother, Francis Maynard, died in infancy in 1929.

> News was received here this week of the death of a third member of Company F, a soldier known by few in Carrington. He is Hans M. Odegard, whose mother resides at Milnor. Odegard joined Company F after it was mobilized, probably at Camp Clai-borne, La. He was with them when they were on guard duty in the west.



From Lt Col Samuel Baglien's Diary

Jan 11, 1943. One air raid today. No casualties. Third Battalion relieved by our Second Battalion. The Third Battalion is suffering from malaria and will move down to the beach at Kokum, where they will constitute the perimeter reserve. Rains are heavy and roads are poor.

Jan 14, 1943. Eight men, including two officers were killed during an air raid tonight. Two men were also wounded. Those killed are as follows: S/Sgt Robert J. Turner of Co "K"; **Second Lt. Clarence L. Bonderud of Co "K"**; Pfc Troy T. Gustafson of Co "K"; Corporal Arthur O. Johnson of Co "K"; Pfc Fred J. Reed of Co "K"; Private Manuel D. Cuen of Co "K"; Second Lt. Raymond W. Baesler of Co "A"; and Pfc Coral D. Haagenson of Co "E".

To all men of the 164th-- I would gratefully accept any additional facts you might be able to offer regarding uncle Clarence. I want to properly honor his name. I will begin compiling the info ľve gathered into a book, soon. Credits will be appropriately given in my book. Thank you! Catherine Walker

GUADALCANAL: INFANTRY RIFLE COMPANY

STRENGTH LONG RANGE PATROLS by Lt.Col. (ret) Anthony A. Hannel, Co C

GUADALCANAL, January 10, 1943: Company C returned from a 5-day patrol back of Grassy Knoll (Mt. Austin). We were to be resupplied by air-drop, but somehow the resupply was cancelled. After the third day, we resorted to fishing, using concussion and frag grenades to stun fish in the streams. Eating the fish, cooked in a steel, paint-covered helmet was an experience. Our company found evidence of a Jap field hospital, with abandoned gear including some 25 caliber rifles. (I brought a 25 cal. back to the perimeter, later had it sent home.)

In some places the jungle growth was so restrictively dense it was much easier to wade up or down stream if not too deep. Tired and hungry, upon our return to the perimeter, we all tore into "C" rations, now available.

SAVO ISLAND, January 28, 1943:

Company C, 164th Infantry, departed from Guadalcanal on a light tanker for Savo Island, landing near Pago Pago, a native village. Our mission was to search for Jap survivors. At that village we were met by friendly natives, some who spoke good English. They said there were no Japs there as far as they knew. Captain Mjogdalen gave each platoon its mission; each platoon was to scout approximately one-third of the island. Prior to departure, each platoon was assigned three native guides; my platoon's chief guide was Sananah, and to his two helpers, we issued machetes for the purpose of hacking lanes through the jungle ahead of my platoon toward the center of the island, over the extinct volcano, then across to the opposite coast. Near the volcano



depression in the heavy, dense jungle, we came upon one of our missing, downed fighter planes with the pilot's remains still strapped in his seat, likely downed several days previously. We spent that night on the coast. When the Cactus Express showed up that night, with the fireworks all around the island, we were not sure if the Japs were making landings around us. Early next morning, Jap planes were flying at tree-top level right in front of us, so close we could see the pilots' faces. We soon observed what they were after when we saw them low-level bomb a Navy D.E. (destroyer escort). Within minutes the D.E. was engulfed in smoke and sunk. That morning, we returned to our C.P. to report our findings — all negative on Jap presence, also our sighting of the downed plane and its location.

On our way back to our C.P. along the beach, we observed a Jap long-lance torpedo which had slid ashore without exploding. At the Company C.P., we learned that the natives had picked up one of our downed pilots, not far offshore. His face was badly cut; he was soon taken to Tulagi for treatment. All three of our patrols had negative reports about any Japs on Savo. Our Company C.P. was in radio contact with 164th Infantry H.Q. on Guadalcanal. During the Jap intrusion, our sound wire line was severed temporarily; our wire chief Carl Haukedahl went out alone to locate the breaks and make repairs. In my book, he should have been

From Lt Col Samuel Baglien's Diarv

January 26, 1943. Four air raids between 0300 and 0500. 46 bombs were dropped. Company "C" under Captain Mjogdalen was alerted today to get ready to take over Savo Island. Savo is about eight miles off Cape Esperance and has been the scene of many a bloody naval battle. We are still planning for our landing against the Nips.

January 27, 1943. Japs put in a daylight raid and the

Company "C" is all set for their jaunt. ...

January 28, 1943. Company "C" left at 1000 on a tank lighter for Savo Island. Hope they don't run into too much opposition. They had ten day's rations and five units of fire along. ... We had three air raids during the night; one Jap bomber was shot down at Savo and four Zeros were reported down at Beaufort Bay.

January 29, 1943. Company "C" reported by radio from Savo. Everything was all right and so far no enemy encountered....

recommended for a Silver Star. Also we learned that early that morning natives found a beached PT boat with crew, result of Jap intrusion during that night. Help we received from the natives was invaluable. Prior to our return to Guadalcanal, the natives loaded us up with fresh fruit, and even with fresh eggs.

The next morning, January 29, approximately 3 or four miles offshore, Japanese dive bombers attacked the destroyer escort, USS De Haven, which was alone while it was steaming back to Tulagi. Our platoon witnessed the DeHaven being bombed and sinking. In less than 3 minutes, it was submerged, with loss of many lives. At that time, we were not aware the Japanese were evacuating 10-11,000 troops from Guadalcanal during 2 or 3 night runs.



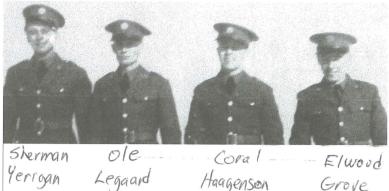
USS De Haven

LTC. Anthony A. Hannel, USA retired, 1001 Rosewood Ave, San Carlos, Ca 94070

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943 Ole Legaard, Co E, Remembers Coral Haagenson

From Associate Member Scott Legaard

Here's a picture of **Ole Legaard** and his buddies from Co E, Williston, before they went to Camp Claiborne. Sherman Yerigan died in Louisiana. Uncle Ole told me the story of the death of his childhood buddy at Guadalcanal. Ole and some other men had to carry Coral Haagenson down from the line on a stretcher as he was so sick from malaria he couldn't walk. They carried him to the hospital and there the Captain asked for 13 men to unload a ship. Ole volunteered and went down to the beach to help. The Lieutenant told the men they could stay that night and have chow and use the empty tents. The next day they heard some planes come over but that was not unusual. Several days later, Ole was told his friend Coral had been killed. Ole



didn't believe him, but the guy gave a description of the grave, which had an airplane propeller blade with Coral's name on it. Ole and a few men went to the cemetery and there the grave was. The Japanese had followed some of our planes in

From Lt Col Samuel Baglien's Diary (pertains to both stories)
Nov 25, 1942 Our combat strength is below 2,000. We have several hundred ineffectuals due to malaria, dysentery,... The Division hospital is congested, so we are treating many cases in our rear area...

Jan 11, 1943. One air raid today. No casualties. The Third Battalion is suffering from malaria and will move down to the beach at Kokum, where they will constitute the perimeter reserve. Rains are heavy and roads are poor.

Jan 13, 1943. ... Continuous rains and our labor details are heavy.

Jan 14, 1943. Eight men, including two officers were killed during an air raid tonight. Two men were also wounded. Those killed are as follows: S/Sgt Robert J. Turner of Co "K"; Second Lt. Clarence L. Bonderud of Co "K"; Pfc Troy T. Gustafson of Co "K"; Corporal Arthur O. Johnson of Co "K"; Pfc Fred J. Reed of Co "K"; Private Manuel D. Cuen of Co "K"; Second Lt. Raymond W. Baesler of Co "A"; and Pfc Coral D. Haagenson of Co "E"

and bombed the hospital, killing quite a few men, including Coral. This was on 13 Jan 43. His sister in law still has his Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Ole was hospitalized for six months after Guadalcanal. He had been left or dead but a medic noticed he breathing and he was saved.

60 Years Ago

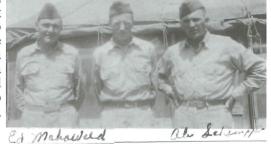
Friday, Feb. 7, 1943: Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Haagenson of Fortuna received word that their son, Coral, had been killed in action while fighting with the 165th Infantry on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

Remembering Clayton J Mattison, Co K

Hi - My dad was in the 164th and I have been looking for information on his group. His name was Clayton James Mattison from Max, ND...he was on Guadacanal until removed because of Malaria - then sent to New Zealand and finally home to the states. Needless to say Dad is gone as he passed in 1978 and all we have regarding his war years was a diary from the days before the canal - then afterwards..also some pictures and

news articles. The men with my dad are Ed Mahowald and Al Schempp who were from Garrison, ND. Dad talked about coming home on the ship USS Rock Ambroise(?) We cannot find this ship listed in any of the WWII ships that were on duty at that time so are wondering if anyone would have any information on hospital ships of a similar name. He never talked about the War and I did not know there was a diary until about three years ago we found it in my Mom's things. She said Dad never talked about the things that happened over there. Can anyone help me find out more information? Thank youLois Mattison Gustafson, lg.gustafson@kindrednet.net, 5378 165th Ave SE - Kindred, ND 58051



Diary of PFC Clayton J. Mattison – 37028366 home address Max, ND

On October 9th left New Caledonia for the Solomon Islands. October 13th - Fateful Day too much happened which is best forgotten.. December 12th relieved and sent on a quiet spot. Evacuated by plane on December 19, 1942 to New Hebrides for Malaria and Skin Ulcers. January 2nd Evacuated to Auckland, New Zealand. There sent to Wellington. Have been told I'm to be sent back, unfit for combat or tropical duty. Stomach is all shot or something is wrong. Have found New Zealandiers a nice sort of people- friendly and full of humor. Red Cross is very active. Paid February 5 - \$65.00. 164th made a name for itself. Received citations and commendations from Marine General Vandegrift. 1st American Army Infantry unit from reserve to actual combat against the Nipponese. They are tricky, shifty do not value life, will attempt to do the impossible. Reed, Johnson (Art), Gustafson, Pedgo(?), Ole(?), Bonderud, and Turner - killed January 12th or near. Willies Clark and Hicks wounded by same bomb- were on beach duty. Ed Mahowold is a Cpl. So Tony Stronsky told me. Harting also at Wellington, came in the 7th. February 8th aboard USS Rock Ambeoic. Headed for states. Editor: Staff Sergeant Edmond Mahowald was KIA in Leyte, Phillipines

Memories from Richard Stevens, Co M

Inspired by the Co M Flag story, July 2007 News!!!

Ms. Olgeirson: Congratulations on the current state of excellence of the <u>News</u>. May it last as long as possible. Those of us who served in the Regiment during World War II, and somehow are still around, have reached the Twilight Years for sure. Thank you for the emphasis we get. I served in **Company "M"** from Feb 42 until Feb 45. I joined them at Fort Ord, Calif's East Garrison tent city, along with 15 other enlisted "levies" of various ranks from **Co "M"**, 137th Infantry, Kansas National Guard. We were a part of various contingents added to the 164th prior to its imminent departure for overseas. In 3 years with **M/164**, I advanced

in rank from Corp to SSgt only because the Army upped the rank of Infantry squad leaders generally. Your two-page spread (July 2007) about M/164, the Japanese flag, those who signed it--1st **Sgt Bartz**, and **Lawrence Renner**-- is fabulous. The "tall guy", on the left in the group-of-four picture (below), is **Joseph M. Dahlen** who signed the flag, one of the few remaining No. Dakotans in the company by May 1945. I last met Joe at N. Camp Drake, just north of Tokyo, in August 1952. I, by then, was an Lt. headed for the 25th Division in Korea. Joe, a Warrant Officer, was headed home from Korea. And he told me that he was terminally ill, not up to the time-on-the-town lwe'd spent in Suva years before.

Dahlen

l've been a member of the 164th Infantry Association for a <u>long</u> time; the <u>News</u> has even published two or three of my articles. But reunions have always been a "bridge too far" because few WWII vets of **M/164** have attended since much earlier. I <u>do</u> faithfully buy raffle tickets and I <u>do</u> read each of your issues from cover to cover. But this is the first time that the spotlight has shown so vividly on **Company "M"**. Thank you, and 1st Sgt Bartz, who unfortunately I've never met. When I left, **John Tuff** was the CO and **Johnnie Kasberger** was the "top kick".



Korea, late1952 25th Inf Division. I had hair then.

I've done 57 Elderhostel trips, most of them since my wife died in January 2000. Among these are 15 hiking trips and 19 biking trips. My upcoming biking trip to Czechoslovakia/Germany is biking trip 20). Oh, I've had two heart attacks, open heart surgery, and total right hip replacement. Par for the course? Age 84.

Col (ret) Richard R. Stevens, 2400 Stannye Ct, Louisville, KY 40222 P.S. I stayed in the Army for 35 years, acquiring along the way a lovely wife, belated ambition, a commission and –eventually—a Colonelcy in the Regular Army. But the Best of Times—for me, in the Army—always will be remembered as those in M/164. In Korea, I served with both the 25th and the 24th Infantry Divisions. And, still later, I served in Vietnam (where I was offered, but didn't accept, a job in the 23rd –Americal.)



GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

3/164 JOINS THE BATTLE FOF HENDERSON FIELD By Richard Stevens

Sometime after midnight, our leaders woke us up with some urgency. A battle was taking place and we were going there. 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-incher, nose down, smack in the road a few feet from several of us. Dig deeper, strengthen overhead covers. 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 into 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 a 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 don't 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 Charlie 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 Officers' 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 gun tracers ricocheted skyward. We marched up and onto Edson Ridge, onward toward the battle in progress.

3/164 JOINS THE BATTLE FOR HENDERSON FIELD

By Richard "Steve" Stevens (continued....)

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 of our Army comrades.

A tip of the hat to the Old Breed member 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 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, nut not many—AND IT WORKED. Of course 1/164 performed well in the battle that night and the next, as did 2/164, in the action on the Marine left and 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 – 1 killed, two wounded), the left squad was dispatched up the left fork (the leader won the DSC that night). The platoon Motor corporal and I (Platoon Agent and Instrument Corporal – a function shortly abandoned by the Army) became litter bearers, assisting a Corpsman by carrying his patients beck 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 that Aid Station behind a large banyan tree saying "Just marked enthusiasm, Nicaragua!" The Old Breed.

Right: My only WWII photo. Camp Robinson, Ark, Co M, 137th Infantry. Age 18, Fall 1941. Four months later I joined M/164 at Fort Ord. Here I was a heavy .30 cal machine gun squad leader. We in the 164th kept these old style WWI helmets until 9 Oct 42. We were gathered in the Nickle Deck at Noumeau. New Caledonia, in small groups, each ready to be loaded into 2 Higgins Boats for transport out to a troop ship leaving for Guadalcanal. Suddenly we were ordered to pile up our steel helmets into 2 larges piles of castoffs. In exchange, we were issued three items to assemble: the new steel helmet, the original pre-plastic version of the helmet liner, and 2 circular head bands to be fastened inside of the liner. Assembled properly or not, almost immediately we started loading into Higgins Boats. Out in the harbor, shipside, we climbed up two cargo nets, with bull packs, rifles for some (I was one), and rifle ammo. My as yet unassembled helmet hung on my gear by the fastened chinstrap as we climbed. The helmet's headband was in my pocket. Once topside, the helmet got assembled. We were "off to war".



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 Motor 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 you Platoon Sergeant wouldn't correct to the members of the 2nd Plt (37mm) Reg't Wpns Co, 7th Marines. Those of us who were there remember those guns well. I have no idea what overall

Co, 7th Marines. 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, and 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 the Japanese intentions and were surprised by superior forces at the critical point of the attach. 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 1/164 to the battle is possibly best reflected in the Navy Cross which was awarded to its commander, Lt Col Robert K. Hall. Regrettably, Col Hall was severely wounded in November in a subsequent battle beyond the Matanikau. He was evacuated and never returned.

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 "triangular" 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 these things initially going badly at Tarawa, a rumor swept our Other Ranks that the 164th –closest to the port of Suva—had been alerted for deployment there. Ships were on the way to Suva. But then, Other Ranks seldom know what's

really going on, do they?

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

Memories from First Sgt John Paulson, Co F





Admiral Ghormley, General Harmon, and General Patch inspect troops of the 164th Infantry loaded on a transport at Noumea ready for the trip to Guadalcanal

all. When they left that island in March, 1943, Paulson says when they lined up to get on the boat to leave Guadalcanal, the count was 58 men in the unit that had been almost 200 strong. The rest had been killed, wounded, or incapacitated by malaria, dengue fever, or other tropical maladies. By the time they left Bougainville, Paulson was the crusty Top Kick at the ripe old age of 23. Now, he is

one of a handful of guys remaining from the Company F photo taken at Camp Claiborne in 1941.

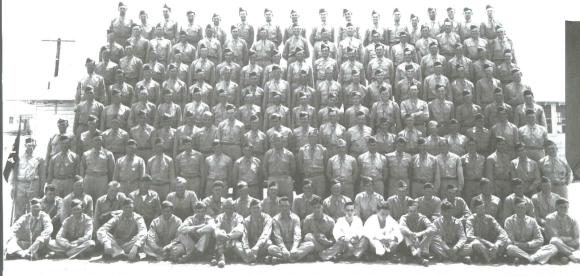
When John Paulson, Carrington, arrived at Guadalcanal in 1942, he was just another young soldier in his company of friends, neighbors, and fillers from Company F, comrades

> Paulson talks about his war experiences as if they happened yesterday, and he is sure to have a crackerjack interview with Dr. Terry Shoptaugh for "I Am Ready", the book about the 164th in WWII, currently in progress. His well worn copy of "Under the Southern Cross", given to him by a friend, contains his hand written remarks (left) that add an individual perspective to the descriptions of the unit experiences.

> John was a First Cousin to Miles Shelley, Co F, who earned Bronze and Silver Stars for bravery, and lost his life on Bougainville. In honor of their cousin, John and his wife, Natalie, named their son Miles, and Miles named his daugher Shelley.

> Miles designed and constructed the shadow box below for his dad. It's made of beautiful black walnut in the shape of the Americal

> > Patch, and contains John's medals and accoutrements.



TOP ROW #1: (Left to Right) C. FORSBERG, G. CONWAY, N. HYAMS, A. CINA, E. KRUGER, P. McKECHNIE, OTTO HEATH, W. RIVINIUS, A. MORLOCK, H. FARMER, A. THOMPSON, E.EVANS, F TOP ROW #12.(Left to Right) C. FORSBERG, G. CONWAY, N. BYAMS, A. CINA, E. KRUGER, P. McKECHNIE, OTTO HEATH, W. RIVINIUS, A. MORLOCK, B. FARMER, A. THOMPSON, E. EVANS, F. GODAVA, G. WIZER, J. BLOMPQUIST, B. SCLIAGUNN, W. JOHNSON, B. ROW #2. B. OVERBECK, M. HARRINGTON, J. CASEY, L. DEABIS, E. HOLAPPA, V. WRIGHT, A. SCEIDEN, N. THOMPSON, C. YOUNG, J. WENNERLIND, L. DRABIS, R. DEABISON, B. MERGHT, A. GRANT, H. MOEN, C. KNAPP ROW #3. F. REICKSON, N. WENTM, E. ERICKSON, N. WENTM, E. GODER, R. A. MORRICON, E. GODARD, R. G

COMPANY "F", 164 th INFANTRY REGIMENT, CAMP CLAIBORNE, LA



This photo in the Ju107 News had the wrong ID's

At left is John Paulson; right, Perry McKechnie.

Pvt Bernard Barholz, Co A



The Fertile Jour

THE ONLY "ISM" FOR AMERICANS IS AMERICANISM

Volume 55

Fertile (Polk County) Minnesota, Thursday, December 17, 1942

Bernard Barholz Killed In Action At Guadalcanal

In a 1991 letter to the family of Bernard "Buddy" Barholz, **Sgt Raymond J Patton** told of a Japanese ammo dump just in front of the Co A lines, well covered by enemy machine guns. The area had to be patrolled to keep the Japs from retrieving the ammo; Patton thought this requirement put his men in continual danger, so he decided to blow it up and eliminate the problem. After retrieving some ammo from the dump for intelligence purposes, he ordered his patrol back to camp--out

The World War, in all its grim reality, came to Fertile last week when it became known on Saturday that Bernard Barholz, foster son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barholz, had been killed in action on Guadaleanal Island November 21. A message from the War department, addressed to the parents, correyed the information.

Bernard was drafted into the army on April 24, 1941, and was first stationed at Camp Claiborne, La. and was transferred from there to Fort Ord, Calif. After receiving further training at the latter place, he went with a contingent to Oregon to guard bridges and railroads. He returned to Fort Ord and was sent out from there to active combat duty.

Bernard Leroy Barbolz was born to Adolph and Agnes Dragge at Dwight, N. Dak., April 28, 1918, of harm's way--and proceeded to accomplish the task himself, using grenades, cord, and tracer ammo he had "appropriated" from various sources. He was forced to take cover in Japanese foxholes filled with the bodies of the enemy soldiers they had killed when capturing the area. Patton wrote, "I was getting ready to proceed with the ...plans, when **Pvt Barholz** came flying into the hole with me and the dead Japs. He did it in a hail of their bullets from the ridge. I told him that I had ordered the patrol back as the Col. had forbidden me to endanger the men. He gave me a grin and said, 'Sarge, there's no way that I'm leaving you here alone'. I will never forget the gratitude I had for his help. I am sure that I never properly thanked him; but this was common as we constantly laid our lives on the line for each other and I'm sure he felt my gratitude. We pulled the grenade pins...got a good explosion going...and covered each other's retreat into the jungle." A few days later, Barholz was killed. Patton's squad had a portion of bare coral ridge to advance over. The squad Barholz was in was a couple hundred yards to our right in a brushy ravine. "The Japs had several machine guns dug in on the high ground and we paid an awful price to take it," wrote Patton. **That price was 8 men, including the brave Buddy Barholz.**

A recommendation for a <u>Silver</u> Star Medal for eliminating the ammo dump was found among the effects of his platoon leader, **1LT Earl Desautel**, and was approved through US Army Forces in the South Pacific Area (USAFISPA) channels, according to records that the Barholz family obtained from the National Archives. A <u>Bronze</u> Star Medal for his actions, along with a Purple Heart, and the Navy Presidential Unit Citation were sent to Buddy's father in 1944.

CASUALTY MESSAGE
TELEGRAM OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES BUREAU AGO 6 JE 2706 SPX O DASH G
AG 201 52:H5/12, BERNARO I (12-3-42) SPAPO-U 344111 BECEMBER 11 1942 37,027,746
MR FREDURICI O BARHOLZ
THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR FOOTUR ON FRIVATE BERNARD L BARROLZ WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN DEFENSE
OF HIS COUNTRY IN SOUTH PACIFIC ARKA ON NOVEMBER 21 PERIOD LETTER
POLLORS
OFFICIAL: THE ADJUTANT GENERAL PRINTS
ADULTANT GENERAL BATTLE REQUESTED AND STATE STAT
AG 704.1 (7 -7-47) 3 4 4 1 1 1 CASUALTY BRANCH

From Lt Col Samuel Baglien's Diary On November 20 our regiment took up defensive positions at Point Cruz west of the Matanikau....A slow advance toward objective further west is begun. The enemy is laying down heavy mortar and machine gun fire. They are well dug in and concealed. Due to the terrain of jungle and ridges and the terrific heat, it is very difficult to get supplies, ammunition and water to our troops. They are taxed to exhaustion. Coordinated artillery, air and mortar fire does not dislodge the enemy. They have dug-in in the coral and in draws and are quite secure. Any exposure of our troops draws accurate Casualties are fairly heavy. This situation continues on November 23 and 24. Advance is stopped, and positions are consolidated. Men must live on "C" and "D" rations and coffee, as movements draw heavy and accurate enemy mortar fire. Enemy light artillery appears to have been silenced by our air and artillery support. Snipers are active. Our planes continue to bomb and strafe enemy positions with unknown results. Our Third Battalion has suffered heavy casualties by artillery and mortar fire. Many exhaustion and sickness ineffectuals. The following men were killed in action on this movement to date: ... Pvt Bernard L. Barholz, Co "A", November 21; [plus 53 others].

Vern Lee, a nephew of Barholz's, wrote to seek information about each of the awards in the shadow box shown at right. Your Editor provided much of the info, but does anyone out there know about a badge inscribed "1941 Maneuvers -- National Defenders of USA". Was it authorized by the "local commander" for wear on the uniform at Camp Claiborne after the Louisiana Maneuvers? Or was it just a keepsake?

Contact Vern Lee, 43 Portwine Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527 Veltbd@aol.com



By Dr. Terry Shoptaugh (Copyright 2007)

On the evening of October 24 (local time), the soldiers of the 164th Infantry were facing what historian Richard Frank called "as stern a test as a new unit [to combat] could face," a night battle against an enemy that had won an unprecedented string of victories across the Pacific. Having arrived on Guadalcanal barely ten days before, the 164th riflemen had already been subjected to twice-daily bombings, regular shellings from the heavy Japanese guns dug in near Mount Austen, and even heavier nighttime bombardments from Japanese battleships and cruisers. Now, facing their first pitched battle about a mile south of Henderson field, they were to meet the equivalent of nine battalions of Japanese infantry.

Even if the men did not know all the details, they understood the situation: a Japanese victory in this attack could spell defeat at Guadalcanal and either death or a prison camp for all of them. They knew they had to hold the line. Back in the 3rd battalion ranks, held in reserve until called for, Alvin Tollefsrud of L Company was just one of many men who thought about the Guard meetings he had gone to back in North Dakota. He remembered how Robert Hall, a veteran of the trenches of the Great War. had told them that nothing they had read or heard or imagined could really prepare them for combat. "He liked to say to us "you dudes don't know what's it's really like." Hall used the term "dude" as an old westerner used it to identify someone who was still an amateur. "He'd say, 'you dudes will know more after you've seen the real thing." By the time the 164th arrived at Guadalcanal, Hall was the 3rd battalion commander. "When the Marines called for reinforcements, we marched up to the line," Tollefsrud remembered. "It was really dark and raining like heck, you had to practically hold on to the guy in front of you to keep from getting lost."

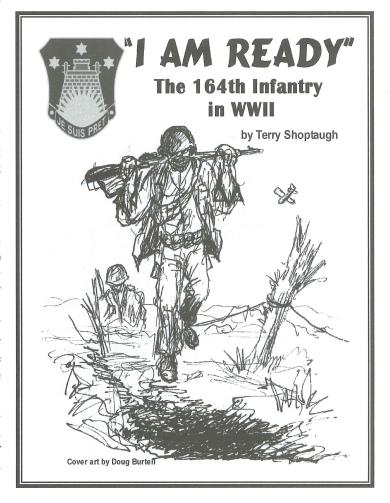
Up on the line, Company E, supported by machine guns commanded by Charles Walker, was already in action. Walker was scurrying from position to position, handing out more belts on ammunition to each .30 caliber gun position. He'd always remember the friendly advice that Kevin McCarthy, a "good Dakota farm boy" and one of his best gunners, gave him: "keep low Chuck, the bullets are thick as flies on horses**t out here." McCarthy and the other gunners were firing as fast as they could load new belts. Walker said later that without the fast-firing M1s that the Company E men had, "we'd have been overrun" while letting the machine guns cool down.

Behind the lines, **Don Hoffman** was as busy as **Walker**, hauling shells over to his 81mm mortar crews in **Company H**. "We had two kinds of shells, a smaller round that we could fire a long ways, and a bigger round that had less range but could really do a lot of damage."

"The Japs were trying to push down the wire, so we used the big shells and really tore them up. We had a truckload of shells when it started and used all that and another few truckloads by the time it stopped. I don't think more than two of our tubes were any good to us after the battle, they had gotten so hot." **Hoffman** also remembers that from time to time Japanese snipers who had slipped past the front line would try to pick off his crewmen. "One of our guys got a Thompson and went out looking for them. I can still see him, wearing nothing but a pair skivvies and his boots. You'd hear a shot from a Japanese rifle – they sounded different from ours – and after a bit, you'd hear his Thompson open up."

During the second night of the battle, many of the telephone lines were damaged, so **Hoffman** went up to the front line to see how well his mortars to dropping on target. There, he got a look at the carnage first hand. "There were Jap bodies piled up against the wire. Others were back in the grass, firing and yelling."

"Several kept yelling in English 'blood for the emperor!' And I'll never forget it, one of our guys yelled back 'yeah and we're piling 'em up for Eleanor!'"



"Farm Boys" continued....

Over at the lines of L Company, Japanese dead were also piling up. "We didn't shoot much that first night," Alvin Tollefsrud recalls. "The next morning me and another fellow got up to go out and look at the dead and as we walked out a Marine called to us 'watch it!' He looked like he wasn't more than fifteen years old. All of a sudden he shot a Jap officer who had got up from among the bodies out there and was coming toward us. But we reorganized our line and then they came the next night, they really came. They came at us from out of the tall grass. Now E Company had a 37mm anti-tank gun [over to the left], firing canister and it shot into the Japanese flank. I think if it hadn't been for that 37mm gun, a lot more would have gotten through [the barbed wire]. Bill Krogh was behind one of our machine guns and he saw them coming. He pulled the trigger and kept firing until that belt had gone all the way through. Then he slammed another belt in and kept firing. Pretty soon the barrel began to get red and all of a sudden it froze up. We were firing with our M1s and the Marines next to us saw us shoot eight times, pretty rapidly. Some of them [the Japanese] had gotten over the wire and were coming right at us. remember one, he was coming hard, and I don't know who shot him, but he was hit in the eye and about a quarter of his head was blown off. Normally when you hit someone like that they fall backwards, but he was coming so hard he fell forward just a few feet away from us. It was a pretty long night."

After two nights of constant attacks, the Japanese battalions were decimated and failed to break through.

Most of these units were part of the 2nd (Sendai) Division, which was a veteran outfit with a long record of victories in China and southeast Asia. But now their commanding general, who had promised a victory in this "Decisive Battle between Japan and the United States," had no choice but to order a retreat back toward Mount Austen. He left behind him a field littered with more than 2000 dead men. Bill Welander, one of the scouts attached to the S2 section of the 164th regimental headquarters, was part of a team who searched the dead for maps and other "That was a horrible job," he recalls. "The bodies were swelling up under the sun and the smell was terrible." A few days later, Welander joined a patrol that followed the trails the Japanese had cut through the jungle during their march. Along the way, the patrol discovered the bodies of about thirty Japanese who were part of a headquarters unit. "They had all killed themselves. About half had their throats cut and the rest had committed hari kari."

Journalists and historians later called the carnage of these two nights the "battle for Henderson field." But to the men who were there, it is best remembered as the battle that gave the regiment its reputation as top-notch combat outfit. Lewis "Chesty" Puller, the commander of the 7th Marines, which fought alongside the 164th those nights, praised the regiment's performance to its commander Bryant Moore, saying that they were "almost as good as marines, Colonel." Some of the 164th's men prefer a remark that Puller made to Robert Hall after the battle: "These farm boys can fight."

"I AM READY: The 164th Infantry in WWII"

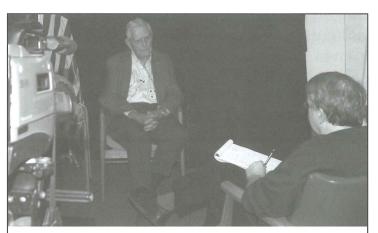
"Farm Boys.." is an excerpt from the manuscript for "I AM READY: The 164th Infantry in WWII" by Dr. Terry Shoptaugh, Professor of History at Minnesota State University–Moorhead.

The artwork for the book is being discussed with 164th's **Doug Burtell, Regt Hqs Co,** who sketched numerous "soldier scenes" in the South Pacific.

This is YOUR history. Your contributions are essential. <u>Now</u> is the time to share your stories, news clippings, documents, & pictures.

Contact Dr. Shoptaugh at MSU-Moorhead, 1104 South 7th Avenue, Moorhead MN 56563; office phone 218-477-2343; home 218-236-6068; email shoptaug@mnstate.edu.

Or send the information to your Editor at POB 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111, email Editor164InfantryNews@hotmail,com



Above, Dr. Terry Shoptaugh interviews Col (ret) Wendell Wichmann at the Barnes County Museum during the reunion in Valley City. He has interviewed more than seventy 164th soldiers and a few members of other Americal support units. "Historical accuracy is always a concern to veterans, says Shoptaugh. "That's why it's important to get as many recollections as possible to tell the complete story." Supporting documents such as letters written home, newspaper articles, and photos identifying names & locations are invaluable sources of information.

18 Veterans of Guadalcar



Guadalcanal Veterans (above, L-R):

Kenneth B. Shaver, Svc Co; 20710247 Dennis R. Ferk, Co A; 20710643 William J. Hagen, Co B; 20710744 Treumann J. Lykken, Co C; 20710947 Wendell W. Wichmann, Co D; O-363169 Henry A. Violett, Co D; 20710436 Louis J. Hanson, Co E; 37027683 Rudolph Edwardson, Co F; 20711144 Warren C. Griffin, Co G; 20711325 Bernard A. Wagner, Co G; 20711246 Gerald O. Sanderson, 2Bn Med; 20710188 George H. Hopkins, Co H; 20710504 Donald L. Hoffman, Co H; 20710502 William P. Welander, 3Bn Hqs; 20711321 Melvin P. Bork, 3rd Bn Bqs; 20710090 Albert F. Wiest, Co M; O-401874 William J. Tucker, Co M; 20711711

(inset) Ralph H. Oehlke, Band/AntiTank



Guadalcanal Veteran Ralph Oehlke 20710148







al attended the Reunion





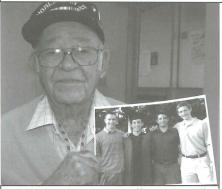




Reg't Hqs: Jerry Skogley; Svc Co: Ken Shaver, Bill Zettler; Med: Dr. John Goven 1st Batalion: Wendell Wichmann, Dennis Ferk, Joe Castagneto, Horace Nearhood, Bill Hagen, Ralph Lenzmeier, Owl Stensgard, Treumann Lykken, Hank Violett 2nd Battalion: Sandy Sanderson, George Dingeldy, Louis Hanson, Tony Griffin, Milt Kane, Owen Wallace, Vince Olson, Dave Lokken, Dave Winkler, Richard Gesellchen, Bernie Wagner, Ray Kreidlkamp, Bill Welander, Tom Vagle, Rhiny Weber, Francis Dahl, Rudy Edwardson, Eddie Otto, Gerald Pierson, Erling Dahl, George Hopkins, Don Hoffman, Al Wiest.

<u>3rd Battalion</u>: Mel Bork, Bill Welander, Filmore Hammargren, Ray Haltli, Al Wiest, Bill Tucker.

Herb Schultz (I) & Treumann Lykken take a bit of kidding from the Editor about their choice of location as they watched the 188th Army National Guard Band concert across the street.



Bill Welander shows off a photo of his 4 grandsons L-R: Adam, working on PhD in Chem Engr; Matt, graduate in Physics; Ben, Masters from Cal Tech, works for AeroJet, Seattle; Paul, grad of Cal Tech in Chem Engr & Math, working on PhD. Smart family!



Bob & Brad Lupien are the sons of Edmond Lupien, Antitank Co



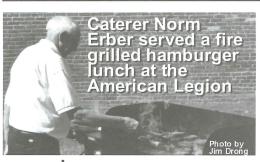
Left: Friend of the 164" Lois Brier stopped in to visit with the Dahls, Ottos, & Olsons. Right, Vince Powers' brother, Jim, is a new Associate member.



Ken Shaver was one of the guys interviewed by WDAY-TV about his experiences at Guadalcanal for a 65th Anniversary story.

Merry Helm stopped in to tell us that Woody Keeble's Medal of Honor paperwork is now on the President's Secretary's desk awaiting final signature. If you have a Keeble story, contact Merry at 701-293-5045 or email

mhelm@cableone.net. She is producing a film about Keeble's life and heroic acts.





enjoys the Friday nite buffet at the Valley City VFW, which was Reunion Hqs

REUNION HAPPENINGS



Col (ret) Wendell Wichmann poses beside his old uniform that is now part of the Greg Heinz collection. He was joined as the reunion by grandsons Michael Pyle (right) (a Marine!) and Andy Wichmann (left).



Valley City's ADAPT sang at the business meeting. L-R Don Bauer, Paul & Avis McDaniel, Tony Kobbervig, Al Eggert



Breakfast Hosts at the Senior Center: JoAnn Korf, Evangeline Tulp, Debra Crawford. Karleen Zaun

Edith Tuff* thanked

Terry Shoptaugh for



Sue Pompa* helped SGM Joe Castagneto locate 1st Bn Medic, Gene Scolavino (r). These two 'met up' at the reunion for the

first time in 62 years





Richard Gesellchen, center, was joined at the reunion by sister Myrtle Olson, daughter Karen Borneman, son Gary, and sister Olivia Aasen. Gesellchen mobilized with Co G, but transferred to an MP unit & guarded strategic sites in the US

Below: a chorus from the 188" Band sang at the Banquet on Saturday night. Photo by Jim Drong





62nd ANNUAL REUNION!!

PEOPLE - PEOPLE - PEOPLE



AWOL from the Unit Photo Page Karl Burkhart, Co G; Herb Schultz, Co E; Ben Kemp, Co K; Gerald Pedersen, Co G; Gene Scolovino, 1 Bn Medic



Members*
Edith Tuff* co M; Charlotte Flexhaug*, Co E;
Alba Clancy*, Svc Co; Ruth Myhre*, AntiTank



Janice & Milt Kane; Dorothy & Mel Bork; Mary Ann & Dave Winkler; Gerald & Beth Pedersen, Kay & Ray Haltli

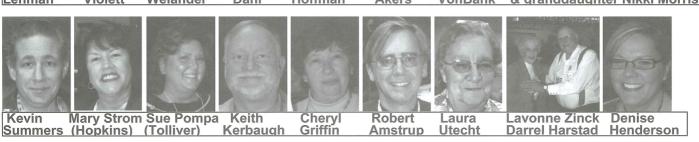






John* & Carolyn Bob VonBank & his 3rd Gerald & Harriet Pearl & Ralph Oehlke were joined by their Geston Grade teacher, Alba Clancy Pierson granddaughter and her boyfriend





Memorial Service

Held during Reunion Banquet
Names known as of 15 September 2007



Charles Adamsen, (WWII) Co C, 17 Nov 04 John N. Alme, (WWII) Co F, 17 Sep 06 Dominic F. Amoroso, Sr. (WWII) Co E, 25 Aug 87 Victor Athias, (WWII), 5 Jun 07 Fred W. Axelson, (K) Co G, 29 Jan 07 Odell O. Beasley, (WWII) Co E, 29 Jul 01 Bruno Bilotta (WWII), Co E, 2000 W. "Kenny" Bjornstad, (WWII), Hq 2rd Bn, 20 Jun 04 Benjamin F. Braddy (WWII) Co M, 23 Feb 01 LeVerne Brendmoen, (WWII) Co G, 2 Apr 07 LeRoy W. Busching, (WWII) 164 Band, 26 Nov 06 Angelo J. Ciampolillo, (WWII) Co E, 3 Jun 07 Harrol Collins, 31 Jul 07 Rolland C. Dahl, (WWII) Co G, 29 Oct 06 Peter G. Donati, Sr. (WWII) Co E, 1 Mar 57 Howard V. Erickson, 23 Jan 07 Robert E. Evans, (WWII) Co E, 4 Dec 06 Virgil Fellows, (WWII) Co F, 2 Dec 06 Doloras Foss*, 7 Apr 07 W. Warren Freeman, (WWII) Co G, 1999

Jim S. Fryer (WWII) Co E, 9 Feb 94 Joseph L. Gleason, (WWII) Co B, 10 Oct 06 James P. Grimstad, (K), 13 Nov 06 Melvin T. Gutterud, (WWII) Co D, 4 Jul 07 Eino J. "E.J." Kavonius, (WWII) Co A, 29 Nov 06 Paul Kessler, 5 Aug 07 Mary Kingston * (Clayton), 25 Nov 06 Hamlin L. Kjelland, (WWII) Co G, 31 Oct 06 Brenton C Knudson(WWII) Co B, 10 Sep 05 Arthur S. Kountz, (WWII) Co C, 1 Mar 03 [see Pg 8] Bernard Krisko, 5 Jun 06 Paul L. Latozke, (WWII) Co M. 5 Apr 07 Manuel Lopez (WWII), Co H, 1985 Kenneth M. McLaughlin, (WWII) Reg Hq, 17 Jun 07 Glenn H. Olson (WWII), 30 Oct 06 Roy Olson, 11 May 07) Frank L. Onufray. (K). 30 Sep 06 Gordon A. Otteson, 20 Sep 06 Leonard Palubicki, Sr. (WWII) Co M, 17 Mar 04 J. Harland Pederson, (K) Svc Co, 26 Nov 06 Leo V. Pfaff, Co G, 25 May 06 Tiadoro Rodriguez, (WWII), Co H, KIA 1944 Benny Rosales, (WWII) Co C, 1965 Richard Salsman, (K) Co F, 10 Nov 06 Dorothy Sande *(Erwin), 12 Jul 07 Emil Schock, (WWII) Co A, 12 Mar 07 Mark J Schroeder, (WWII) Co M, 20 Apr 02 Clarence Slais, (WWII) AntiTank Co, 25 Mar 07 Hunter S. Smith, (WWII) Co E, 26 Dec 06 Everett F. Stenmann, (WWII) Co M, 3 Jan 03 Oscar Stockeland (K), 10 Sep 06 Richard Stowall, (WWII) Co G, 7 Jan 07 Francis P. "Frank" Tighe (WWII), Co E, 5 Jul 04 Clair E. Tongen, (WWII), 14 Jul 07 Carl A. Whitman, (WWII), 24 Feb 07 Luther Wiest, (K), 5 Jun 07 Gerald E. Wright, (WWII) 164 Band, 27 July 04

The Last Roll Call: Ray Kreidelkamp (far right) struck the chime and Erling Dahl (right) & Francis Dahl (left) extinguished a candle in remembrance as Chaplain Tom Vagle read each of the above names during the Memorial Service.



Folks Who Attended the 2007 Reunion

MEMBED	ODOLIOF/OUEOT	LINUT
MEMBER Amstrup, Robert	SPOUSE/GUEST	UNIT
Bork, Melvin	Dorothy	AntiTank*
Burkhart, Karl	Dorothy	Co G (K)
Castagneto, Joseph		Co A
Clancy, Alba* (Ellis)	Judith Von Bank	(Svc Co)*
Colbert, Edmond J	(son of Dolphus Colbert)	Co E*
Dahl, Erling	Jean	Co G (K)
Dahl, Francis	Joyce	Co G (K)
Dingledy, George	Jill Campbell	H2
Drong, Pat*	Jim (photographer)	Conf Planner*
Edwardson, Rudy	Dolores	Co F
Ferk, Dennis R.		Co A
Flexhaug, Charlotte	Melvin Hagen	*
Gesellchen, Richard	Karen, Myrtle, Olivia, Gary	Co G
Geston, John* & Carolyn	(Matthew's Son)	Co C*
Goven, John		Medics
Griffin, Tony	Cheryl (dau)	Co G
Hagen, William	Merle Akers	Co B
Hatli, Ray	Kay	Co L (K)
Hammargren, Filmore	Agnes Manthey	Co L (K)
Hanson, Louis J.		H2, Co E
Harstad, Darrel	LaVonne Zinck	Driver
Heinz, Greg*	Caryn	Exhibitor
Hoffman, Don	Lorraine	СоН
Hopkins, George		Co H
Kane, Milt	Janice	Co G (K)
Kemp, Bennet J	D 11	Co K (-K)
Kreidlkamp, Ray	Betty	Co G (K)
Lenzmeier, Ralph Lokken, Dave		Co B (K)
Lupien, Robert	Son of Edmond Lupien	AntiTank Co*
Lupien, Brad	Son of Edmond Lupien	AntiTank Co*
Lykken, Treumann	Soli of Editiona Euplen	Co C
Nearhood, Horace		Co B
Oehlke, Ralph	Pearl	Band,AntiTank
Olgeirson, Shirley J.*	i cuii	Editor
Olson, Vince	Dorothy	Co G (K)
Otto, Eddie	Dolores	Co G (K)
Pedersen, Gerald	Beth	Co G (K)
Pierson, Gerald	Harriet	Co F (K)
Sanderson, Gerald	Leila Lehman	Medics
Schuldt, Al*		Exhibitor
Schultz, Herbert		Co E (K)
Scolavino, Gene		Medic 1 st Bn
Shaver, Kenneth	Ruth Myhre (Anti-T)*	Svc Co
Stensgard, Orlyn		CoB(K)
Shoptaugh, Terry*		Author
Skogley, Gerald	Marilyn	Reg't Hqs (K)
Summers, Kevin*	(Roy's Son)	Co F*
Tolliver-Pompa, Susan*	(Ernest Tolliver's daughter)	
Tucker, William J	Mary Lou Drain* (dau)	Co M
Tuff, Edith	Laura Utecht	Co M*
Vagle, Tom	Diana	Co G (K)
Ventsch, Warren		Co A*
Violett, Henry	Borgny	Co D
14/		O- F O
Wagner, Bernard	Mary	Co F, G
Wagner, Bernard Wallace, Owen	Mary	Co G (K)
Wagner, Bernard Wallace, Owen Welander, William		Co G (K) H3, Co G
Wagner, Bernard Wallace, Owen Welander, William Weber, Rhiny	Mary Jennie	Co G (K) H3, Co G Co G (K)
Wagner, Bernard Wallace, Owen Welander, William Weber, Rhiny Wichmann, Wendell	Mary Jennie Grandsons Michael & Andy	Co G (K) H3, Co G Co G (K) H1, Co A
Wagner, Bernard Wallace, Owen Welander, William Weber, Rhiny Wichmann, Wendell Wiest, Al	Jennie Grandsons Michael & Andy Mary Simpkins (dau)	Co G (K) H3, Co G Co G (K) H1, Co A Co H, M
Wagner, Bernard Wallace, Owen Welander, William Weber, Rhiny Wichmann, Wendell Wiest, Al Wiest, Richard	Jennie Grandsons Michael & Andy Mary Simpkins (dau) Lolly,Eileen,Nicholas	Co G (K) H3, Co G Co G (K) H1, Co A Co H, M Co H*, M*
Wagner, Bernard Wallace, Owen Welander, William Weber, Rhiny Wichmann, Wendell Wiest, Al	Jennie Grandsons Michael & Andy Mary Simpkins (dau)	Co G (K) H3, Co G Co G (K) H1, Co A Co H, M

Folks Who Made the Reunion "Go"





President Bernie Wagner & wife Mary (left) and their daughter, Reunion Organizer Pat Drong (right)







Jim Drong (left) says his main job is 'bag hander outer' but we know he does a few more things, too. R: Master of Ceremonies Eddie Otto & wife Dolores







Left, The man with the booming bass voice, Chaplain Tom Vagle and wife Diana R: Helper Extraordinaire, Darrel 'The Driver' Harstad







Left: Holy cow! Someone hi-jacked my camera there was a picture of me in it! Editor Shirley R: Vice President Ray Kreidlkamp and wife Betty







Left: Avid collector of 164 memorabilia, Greg Heinz, was joined by his wife, Caryn Schacher Center: Al Schuldt stands beside one of his "more expensive" pieces—a Japanese Admiralty flag. Right: Warren Ventsch displayed his sword collection

A PFC's Perspective...Bennie O. Thornberg, Co F From a "My Service" Book purchased by collector Greg Heinz



We [Second Battalion] went out on patrols till about the 4th of Nov, then we left the air field and went on a big patrol look for Japs and I tell you we found them. It was the 10 of November when we ran in to them, about 11 o'clock when they opened fire on us with machine guns and hand grenades. There was Japs all around us about

300 of them they said. The battle lasted till 4 o'clock that day. The big shots wanted us to stay where we were but on of the Caps said not by a dam side. He said that these boys have not had anything to drink or eat since yesterday. He said that we was coming out and we did. We pulled back about 2 miles in another swamp for the night. Then we had to walk about 2 miles after drinking water and something to eat. It got dark before we got back and some of the boys got lost and didn't get back before the next morning and it rained all night. Nov 11 we went thru in the morning where we had the battle and we counted 150 Japs that we had killed.

From Lt Col Samuel Baglien's Diary
Nov 4, 1942, our Second and Third Battalions proceeded toward Koli Point. Terrain is dense, steam-heated jungle, and progress is slow requiring tremendous effort of all men. Necessary to cut lanes in many

Nov 5. Our Second and Third Battalions crossed the Malimbau River with great difficulty. Patrols in jungle are meeting enemy machine gun resistance.

On Nov 7, 1942. Our Second and Third Battalions have now reached Koli Point and are preparing to move toward an objective further east. Enemy machine guns were encountered.

On Nov 10, 1942, the Second Battalion is still committed to the Seventh Marines. The following men were killed in action: Private Alois N. Georges, Co "G"; Sergeant Clyde G. Morgan, Co "F"; Private Gerald Hall, Co "F"; Private Joseph A. Miller, Co "E".

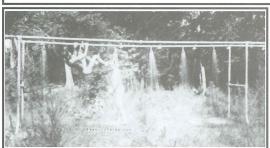
Nov 11, 10 am, 51 enemy planes came over in two waves, and dropped their loads near the airfield. Our air force went after them and shot down

16 enemy planes.

Nov 12, the Second Battalion was relieved from further duty at Koli Point and returned to the Regimental bivouac area for a well earned rest. 11:00 a.m. large enemy air raid. Our air force shot down 24 enemy planes.



Men of Co K land on the shores of Guadalcanal on 13 Oct 42. This photo was found at the Dickinson, Library website that honors Co K: www.dickinsonlibrary.org . There's a number of photos there that you'll enjoy, and since it's a new creation, you might be able to help identify your buddies or correct mistakes. The project point of contact is Leah Calbreath, who may be reached at leah calbreath@und.nodak.edu.



Melvin Bork submitted this picture of a 164 invention—a shower using water warmed when it passed through the cooling coils of a large captured generator on Guadalcanal

65 Years Since Guadalcanal

"The Foxhole Padre" Chaplain (Major) Thomas J. Tracy

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943



Father Tracy joined the North Dakota National Guard as a chaplain with the rank of first lieutenant in the 164th Infantry Regiment. He reported for active duty when the Regiment was called for federal service in WWII. and served with the unit at Guadalcanal and Northern Solomon Islands. He repeatedly disregarded his own safety and traversed difficult terrain while under enemy fire, to minister the sacraments and give

guidance and encouragement to personnel in foxholes and dugouts. For his bravery and valor, he was awarded the Bronze Star with the "V" device, and earned the title of "the Foxhole Padre". Chaplain Tracy was called again for federal service when the 164th mobilized in 1951 for the Korean War. He served

in staff chaplain positions in the US and had a tour of duty in Trieste, Hungary. He was granted disability retirement by the VA in Jul 54. He died 18 Oct 60 at age 49.





The Chapel at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton, near Devils Lake, ND, was officially dedicated as the Tracy Chapel on 9 June 1978.

Thanks to Chap. (1Lt) Justin Schmidt for his assistance in obtaining these photos from Tracy Chapel

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

Sergeant Major Sir Jacob Charles Vouza



Jacob Charles Vouza was born in 1900 at Guadalcanal. In 1916 he joined the Solomon Islands Protectorate Armed Constabulary, from which he retired at the rank of sergeant

major in 1941 after 25 years of service.

After the Japanese invaded Guadalcanal in World War II, he returned to active duty with the British forces and volunteered to work with the Coastwatchers. Vouza's experience as a scout had already been established when the 1st Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal. On 7 Aug 42 he rescued a downed naval pilot from the USS *Wasp* who was shot down inside Japanese territory. He guided the pilot to friendly lines where Vouza met the Marines for the first time. Vouza then volunteered to scout behind enemy lines for the Marines. On 27 August, he was captured by the Japanese while on a Marine Corps mission to locate suspected enemy lookout stations. Having found a small American flag in Vouza's loincloth, the Japanese tied him to a tree and tried to force him to reveal information about Allied

forces. Vouza was questioned for hours, but refused to talk. He was tortured and bayoneted about the arms, throat, shoulder, face, and stomach, and left to die. He managed to free himself after his captors departed, and made his way through the miles of jungle to American lines. Before accepting medical attention, he gave valuable intelligence information to the Marines about an impending Japanese attack. After spending 12 days in the hospital, Vouza returned to duty as the chief scout for the Marines. He accompanied the 2d Marine

Raider Battalion when they made their 30-day raid behind enemy lines.

The Silver Star was presented to him personally by Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift, commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, for refusing to give information under Japanese torture. He also was

awarded the Legion of Merit for his service with the 2d Raider Bn during Nov-Dec '42.

Through the years was frequently visited on Guadalcanal by Marines. During 1968, Vouza visited the United States, where he was the honored guest of the 1st Marine Division Association. In 1979, he was knighted by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. He died on 15 March 1984. -- Ann A. Ferrante

http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USMC/USMC-C-Guadalcanal.html



Remarks by U.S. Ambassador Leslie Rowe On the 65th Anniversary of the Battles of Guadalcanal

August 7, 2007: Sixty-five years ago today thousands of United States troops landed on Guadalcanal. Before that day----August 7, 1942---- most Americans had never heard of Guadalcanal or the Solomon Islands. But soon thereafter, EVERY American would know Guadalcanal, through news reports detailing the bravery and incredible resolve of American and allied troops who joined brave Solomon Islanders to defeat the enemy. On this beautiful morning overlooking Iron Bottom Sound, it seems almost impossible to comprehend that 7000

American and allied soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen died here. That countless Solomon Islanders, all volunteers from civil society, died here. And that nearly 30,000 Japanese soldiers died here.

We are so fortunate to have with us today a number of U.S. veterans of the Battle of Guadalcanal. You have traveled thousands of miles to be here.... And we have a number of Solomon Islanders such as Martin Kafaniro, who fought bravely with the US Marines and was wounded. He will turn 100 years old this month and you also honor us with your presence... We also recognize the family of Sergeant Major Jacob Vouza, one of the many scouts and coast watchers who made invaluable and courageous contributions to the war effort.

.... We commend all of you today and are grateful that we can be together to share this commemoration of Guadalcanal Day. We gather here today to honor the memory of the brave military and civilians who gave their lives ..Why did America, all the way on the other side of the world, join other nations to send its most

precious resource----the youth of the nation---into harms way?

America sent its young soldiers here to preserve the opportunity for free societies to exist around the world. They came here because the enemy was a threat to all the features of a free and democratic society. They came here to preserve the systems in which ordinary citizens freely elect their own leaders and schools operate freely, stimulating the creativity and energy of the citizenry. They fought so that people of all faiths could worship as they see fit and live out the values of their faith. They came here to preserve a world in which ordinary citizens could talk freely and openly express their views, even if it is to criticize the very same leaders who they elected. They came here so that newspapers and other media could operate freely, reporting the news as it happens and also editorializing on key issues of the day. They came here so that the rule of law would prosper, so that ordinary citizens as well as their leaders would be accountable to laws governing their conduct....In short, they came here to fight for democracy. It is well to remember the words of Winston Churchill who said that "...democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others..." Democracy is not always tidy----and often it seems inefficient----but in the end, it is the best system. That is what motivated the thinking of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who as Commander in Chief, sent thousands of American troops to fight against the threat to free and democratic societies.

As we reflect on the events that occurred 65 years ago and celebrate the lives of the brave men of the Battle of Guadalcanal, let all of us gathered here today honor them, by committing ourselves to uphold the precious

democratic values and freedoms for which they fought so valiantly. http://www.usvpp-solomonislands.org/

FRIENDS OF THE 164TH

officer candidates, due to the shortage of officers in the units forming there. He was sent to Camp Stevens to see if he was officer material, and was put in a tent with 3 other candidates, one of whom was **Lynch** from the 164th. The original thought was that officers from any given regiment would not go back to that unit, but would be assigned to one of the other two infantry regiments. When the new officers were commissioned in September 1942, however, some were assigned back

to their old Regiment, but not the same Company. Lander, originally with the 182nd, went to the 132nd, then the 57th Engr Bn, but Lynch went back to the

164th. Mr Lander said he got my phone number out of a copy of <u>The 164th Infantry News</u> he received from LTC (Ret) Tony Hannel (LM), who was also commissioned in New Caledonia. A day after donning

shiney new "butter bars", Lander and Lynch went

down to the shore and saw the harbor full of carriers, cruisers, and destroyers. They asked around to see if

they could get aboard one of the big boats, and after climbing the "longest staircase ever", they boarded the *USS Wasp*. They were told to salute the flag, then

USS Wasp (CV-7) burning and

listing after she was torpedoed by

the Japanese submarine *I-19*, on 15 September 1942, while

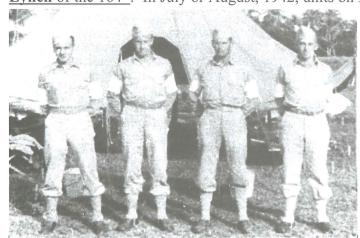
operating in the Southwestern

Pacific in support of forces on

National Archives (photo #80-G-16331)

Guadalcanal.

Your editor received a phone call from LTC (ret) Victor Lander from Florida, who served in the Americal in the South Pacific. He left a message on my answering machine and asked if I would please call him back "relatively soon", since he is now 93 years old! He is wondering if anyone knows what happened to Thomas Lynch of the 164th. In July or August, 1942, units on New Caledonia were tasked to submit names of potential



Here's a photo of four of us as Officer Candidates at **Camp Stevens, Noumea, New Caledonia**. At left is **Art Lazazzoro**, returned to Co A, 182nd, and was killed on Guadalcanal. Next is **Fred Kucera**, sent to Co L, 132nd Inf, was wounded on the "Canal" and died after he returned to the States. Third is me, **Victor Lander**, sent to Co H, 132nd Inf, then a week later to the 57th Engr Bn for the duration of the war. Served 42 months in the South Pacific – not a scratch, just malaria. The end man is **Thomas Lynch**, **164**th. I heard he had been wounded on the 'Canal, recovered, and was wounded again, but I never knew for certain.

tablecloths, and a galley with 7 big tubs of ice cream, they thought they had made a mistake: An Army guy was lucky to have a log to sit on while a buddy chopped his hair, and he'd be sitting on that same log for chow — with no ice cream for dessert. Live & learn. But, on a ship, there's no place to go but down, as did the *Wasp*, only a short time later.

Figure 160.—Focal point of entire Hill 260 battle. Banyan tree used as an Americal Division artillery spotting post. In the 20-day fight for the hill, 541 Japanese were killed.

Lander also talked about Bougainville, where he as a 1Lt. His platoon of the 57th Engr Bn,

supervised by Sgt Bill Nixon, was assigned to build the platform on the "Million Dollar Tree" near **Hill 260**. Lander went up the ladder to take a look at the completed project. He describes the observation platform as 14-15 ft square, with 2 cots, 4 phones, a bunch of radios, and a Battalion Scope with which you could see down to the ocean. There were ropes and pulleys to hoist equipment. The area below was protected by a minefield.

salute the officer of the

deck. An Ensign arranged

for a tour. After looking at

officer's mess with linen

the ship's barber shop,

--Tom Lynch is not in the ND mobilization book, so was assigned to 164 later.
--There are listings for 246 Thomas Lynch's in the WWII National Archives database; only one from ND was Thomas J. Lynch, enlisted in 1946, so not him.
--The only ND death index listing since 1945 is for Thomas E. Lynch, born 1911 and died in 1973. ND "Red Book" says European Theater, so not him.
--ND "Red Book" lists Thomas W. Lynch, entered Apr41 as enlisted 37028296, served Pacific Theatre, separated Jan46 1Lt O-697834. This would be he!

Bill Welander, who was at the 2007 reunion, said that Lynch was a lawyer who practiced in North Dakota and Minnesota. Bill said he knew Lynch had passed away a few years ago but didn't remember exactly when.

If anyone has any more information about Tom Lynch, please contact **Victor Lander**, 311 W. Graham Park Cir, Haines City, FL 33844



Company E, 164th on Bougainville, 1944

By Staff Sgt. Emil I. Blomstrann

During 1944, the 164th Infantry was stationed on the island of **Bougainville** with the mission to keep the three airfields on the island secure. There were regular patrols into the jungle hunting out the Japanese. On March 24, 1944, there was an attact on **Hill 260** by the Japanese and several 150 shells landed in the rear area of the 2nd Battalion of the 164th, which was sandwiched between three artillery batteries. **Company E** kitchen and supply tents were demolished and another 150 bounced from the loose sand between two rows of tents, then went spinning off to the east, failing to explode.



Joseph Lauer, John Wells, & Emil Blomstrann were attached to the supply tent

During this attack, John Wells was wounded and sealed in a Chuck Walker described the situation as follows: "Emil Blomstrann frantically tried to dig Wells out while I rousted a doctor from the battalion headquarters dugout. Shells were still coming in and the Doc was a little reticent about coming out, but he did. We got a new doctor after that and he was the best." I still have my New

Testament, which was in my barracks bag and was spliced by a fragment of the shell which hit Wells.

But to relieve tensions, there was also time to relax. Company E was interested in basketball and had a good team. We were able to fish or swim in the ocean. Chapel attendance was good and so was the movie theatre. In the mess hall tent, there was a radio, which played all day until "lights out." There were transcriptions of stateside programs like "Fibber McGee and Molly" and music from "Oklahoma."



John Wells shows off a strategically-located shrapnel wound, acquired when Jap artillery hit Co E Supply Tent

To relax, I found a piece of wood from a broken cot frame and chipped away at it

with a knife in my spare time trying to create the head of a female. It was a slow process but guys would stop by at the supply tent to ask how it was coming and wanted to know who it was. Carrol Cooledge from F Company thought I needed photos to work from and gave me some movie magazines. We had recently seen "Two Girls and a Sailor" with June Allyson and Gloria DeHaven*, so Cooledge suggested it should be Gloria. John Wells wrote to Gloria DeHaven asking for life size photos. Her studio sent 8 x 10" photos. One of the men on security duty helping to maintain the three airports brought me some red sandy clay that the bulldozers had been digging up. I worked with that but it wasn't satisfactory. Then a young officer from division headquarters came to see what I was doing and suggested clay. A couple of days later, five pounds of

modeling clay arrived and a model of Gloria DeHaven was created. The story of the clay model even made it back to the home-town newspaper. The Hartford Courant. *Editor: The Sailor was Van Johnson



Bust of Gloria DeHaven & the original army cot frame carving By Emil I. Blomstrann

Gloria DeHaven was one of the signature perky soubrettes of the 1940s. A hometown sweetheart for many GI's, she was a good singer with a vivacious screen presence. She has appeared on stage and in

many TV shows, including "Gunsmoke", "As the World Turns", and "Murder, She Wrote".

www.hollywood.com/celebrity/Gloria_DeHaven/199579

I have now been married for 38 years, still have the model of Gloria, much to the irritation of my wife, Lois. Inasmuch as I cannot always remember our anniversary, I never forget Gloria's birthday when July 23rd rolls around and I insist we have a birthday cake for her. She'll be 82 this year (2007). Just a kid; I'll be 91.

Above right, Emil Blomstrann, 32 Foxon Place, New Britain, CT 06053, celebrates Gloria's 82nd birthday with cake, ice cream, and a candle!



Ed Collins: Company E Connections Made!!

Resulting from the Co E Flag story in the July 2007 News!!!

Date: 07/09/07 From: ellyc2@comcast.net To: thunderfive@tx.rr.com Subject: Dolphus "Doc" Colbert



Ed Collins 1944

Dear Ed (Colbert): I'm Ed Collins and I met **your father** at the draft board in Richmond, Calif, in 1943. His serial number was one off from mine and his name appeared before mine on every shipping list until I was sent home from the Pacific. I am pictured on page 2 of the 164th Infantry News July 2007. Lam the one on the left and the other is **Al Betz**. **Doc** and I were

News, July 2007. I am the one on the left and the other is **Al Betz**. **Doc** and I were essentially brothers until I got malaria and hookworm on **Leyte**. I have many stories about your father but I'll only tell one now. If you are interested, please contact me at the above e-mail. Your father was ordered to lead the second platoon into a ravine on **Leyte**. He refused the order and was backed by **Capt**. **Walker**. **Doc** had walked into a crossfire and was barely able to crawl out himself. A few days later, **B**

Casore were the best scouts in Co E. Doc was not only tough but he had a lot of common sense. I'll leave it at that - hoping to hear from you. I'm still in a bit of shock after seeing his picture. I contacted the Veteran's Administration several times before I found out he had passed away in 1987. I have been troubled ever since that he left us at such an early age. (He was 12 days older than I am). His friendship was the best part of my army experience. Hoping to hear from you, Edward F. Collins, 2421 Crestline Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566

From: "Ed Colbert" To: editor164infantrynews@hotmail.com Date: Mon, 9 Jul 2007 Shirley, I am blown away by this......to say that I am shocked and touched would be an under-statement. I will be calling him tomorrow....and Emailing tonight. I need to find him and fly out to see him wherever he lives....Thanks! Ed

Editor: I looked Collins up on the 164th Membership Roster, and the <u>Colbert name</u> is still--as Collins put it-- "one before his" on our roster, too!! AMAZING!!

1 August: From: Ed Colbert: Shirley, these are photos that

Mr. Ed Collins sent from the War... Dad and Collins were together from basic training all the way through the Bougainville campaign...Then

Collins became ill with Malaria and was sent home. Dad stayed on through the end of the war and the occupation of Japan in 1945.

Mom and I called Mr. Collins a couple of weeks ago & had a wonderful hour-long conversation with him. I offered to give him a pass on American Airlines and have him accompany me to the reunion, but he

said his failing health would not permit the trip. This, unfortunately, is the reality of this aging group of heroes. I told him I would take lots of pictures and tell him about it when I return. I look forward to being there! Thank you again for the extra copies of the newsletter. You have

touched many lives in a wonderful way...

Best regards, Ed



Above: Doc Colbert & Ed Collins

Left: Al Magorno

Right: Bougainville 1944:

Back row: Blackie Catalfamo, Ed Collins, Herman

Dahlem Front row: Bruno Bilotta, Ray Stellon, Doc Colbert (Editor: Raymond E. Stellon passed away 16 May 97 at age 80.

Associate member **Doris Stellon** resides at 15805 County 3, Drayton, ND 58225).



A former welder at Shipyard No. 3, Pvt. Dolphus Colbert, 325 South Twenty-sixth street, has been officially commended by his regimental commander for metitorious service during a combat patrol in which 18 or more Japanese were slain without loss to the Americans.

Ple, Edward F. Collins learned about jungle warfare on his first patrol during the Bougainville campaign, when his outfit encontered an enemy machine jun nest.

Pfc. Collins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Collins of Richmond. He attended Richmond Union high school and has one brother in the Army. Pfc. Collins, who is stationed in England.



Co E "Flags of our Fathers" on Display at Reunion

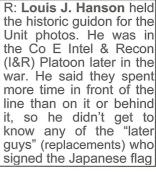
The cover of the July issue of The 164th Infantry News told of two flags owned by sons of the 164th veterans



Above, Ed Colbert stands beside the Co E display that included his father's Japanese flag & photos.

who brought them home over 60 years ago. One was the Company E guidon that served the unit during the war; the other was a small Japanese souvenir signed by members of the Company E patrol that found it. Dominick J. Amoroso, Jr., donated the guidon, in his father's honor, to the 164th Association for the purpose of displaying it at annual reunions and eventual donation to the 164th Archives at the University of North Dakota. Edmond J. Colbert brought his father's Japanese flag to the reunion. The two flags were displayed along with a poster-size front cover of the July issue, as well as the pages from the News and photos

Seven more pages of the July News told of the search & discovery of members and family of the soldiers Collector Al Schuldt, left, tells Ed Colbert (r) that Ed's father's small Japanese flag who signed the flag, and resulted in the contact from member Ed Collins. is a bayonet banner used for







MORE...Company E Connections Made!!

esprit and signaling.

Based on the Co E Flag story, July 2007 News!!!

From: ellyc2@comcast.net Date: 07/09/07 To: p.donati@comcast.net Subject: Peter Donati - Company E I just received the July, 2007, 164th Infantry News. I am the soldier pictured on page 2 on the left. My name is



Ed Collins 2007

Ed Collins. I'm listed on page 5 as a member of the Association. I played on the Company basketball team with your dad on Bougainville. Neither of us saw much action because it was pretty much a North Dakota thing. I got to know him shooting basketballs while we were in the rest area. He was easy going and got along with everybody. We were in different platoons so I can't relate to his combat feats readily, although I remember him getting a purple heart and being regarded as a guy you could count on in combat. My daughter lives in Issaguah, so I have been to the Seattle-Renton area many times. I always wondered whether Renton Chevrolet was connected to Pete. I am shocked that he left us at such an early age. This world could use a lot more Pete's in it. My lasting memories of Pete are a soft left handed shot and he scored a lot of points. Best regards. Ed Collins 2421 Crestline Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566

From: "Pete Donati, Jr." p.donati@comcast.net To: ellyc2@comcast.net Date: Mon, 9 Jul 2007

Ed, I can not begin to thank you so very much for taking the time to send your note along to me. I lost my dad when I was only two years old so I do not remember him. It is so odd missing a person you never knew....but that is how I fee have lived in Renton my entire life and would love to meet you the next time you come to visit your daughter. I about him. It has left a large void in my life and hearing something about him is so wonderful. My dad was the shop foreman for Williams Pete Sr.



and Swanson Chevrolet after the war. He was just starting his own service station with his brother in law and was at work on a Saturday afternoon when he passed away. I have been told that I am easy going and get along with people well. It warms my heart to hear of personality similarities we may share. My grand parents both lived into their late 90's, so that was a blessing for me to know them and my dad through them. I guess my dad received the bronze and silver stars during his time of service. I have written the government requesting details of how his medals were earned. Thank you again, Ed, for taking the time to send me this note. Also, thank you for your service to our country, the sacrifices you made and the time you gave for all of us who have benefited. I am thankful for people like you who made the United States such a great country. Pete Donati, Jr. 17637 162nd Place SE, Renton, WA 98056, phone 425-271-1555, email p.donati@comcast.net

164th Infantry Association of the United States

Minutes: Annual Meeting, Saturday, 15 Sep 07, Valley City, ND

The Annual meeting was called to order at 9:00am by President Bernie Wagner.

Officers present were President Wagner and Patricia Drong, Secretary/Treasurer.

The singing group ADAPT sang the National Anthem.
Benediction was given by Chaplain Tom Vagle.
Greetings were given by Valley City Commissioner Steve Ondracek

The group ADAPT sang several songs.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Bernie.

President Bernie called for a motion to forgo the reading of the 2006 minutes as they were published in the 164th Newsletter last fall. Treumann Lykken made a motion to forgo the reading of the minutes with a second by Bill Tucker. Carried.

Joe Castagneto was called on to explain the Silent Auction items.

Scholarship Report: Warren Ventsch and Milt Kane gave their report. Warren read a letter from the newest recipient of the \$500.00 scholarship, Amy Retterath. The September '06 recipient was Sarah Dahl, and the May '07 recipient was Mathew Bitker. They stated that Joe Castagneto donated \$50.00.

President Bernie called for a short break for the Committees to meet. President Bernie called the meeting back to order.

The Nominating Committee put forth the names of the current officers: President Bernie Wagner, Vice President Ray Kreidlkamp, and Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Drong. Dave Lokken made a motion to accept the nominations; second by Dave Winkler. Carried

The "Time and Place" Committee: Dave Lokken reported that the Committee selected Valley City to be the city for the next reunion to be held on September 12-13-14, 2008. Francis Dahl made a motion to accept the time and place with a second by Dave Winkler. Carried.

Owen Wallace gave the Finance Committee report on the audit of the books. Everything was in order.

Keith Kerbaugh, member of the WWII Honor Flight program, spoke on the program. The second flight just got back from Washington, DC. The 3rd flight is coming up. Several members have been on the past flights and all comments on the flights have been positive.

As there was no further business. Louis Hanson made a motion to adjourn with a second by Owen Wallace. Carried.

Patricia L. Drong, Secretary/Treasurer

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR 2008 DUES —RIGHT NOW!

We could significantly cut mailing costs if annual members would send in their dues for 2008 now, before a reminder is necessary. So, get out the Checkbook – There's no better time than <u>right</u> now! Annual Dues \$10, or upgrade to <u>Life Membership \$50</u>

Mail to Secretary/Treasurer Patricia L. Drong, Box 192, Sanborn, ND 58480

164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FROM SEPTEMBER 2006 THRU AUGUST 2007

Net Worth August 200	6	\$21,082.59
MONTH OF:	EXPENSES	INCOME
SEPTEMBER '06		\$ 8,022,46
OCTOBER '06	\$ 525.96	\$ 5,157,14
NOVEMBER '06	\$1,639,29	\$ 932.03
DECEMBER '06	\$ -	\$ 240.73
JANUARY '07	\$ 261.29	\$1,750.07
FEBRUARY '07	\$ 831.07	\$1,432,96
MARCH '07	\$1,352,25	\$ 553.87
APRIL '07	s -	\$ 244.12
MAY '07	\$ 2,20	\$ 139.29
JUNE '07	\$ 92,00	\$ 223.30
JULY '07	\$1,384,93	\$ 124.98
AUGUST '07	\$ 550.00	\$ 17.84
TOTAL 31Aug07	\$6,638,99	\$18,838,79
BANK STATEMENT		\$12,199,80
CASH		\$ 50.14
CD BALANCE		\$11,419,60
NET Wort	h AUG '07	\$23,669,54

I CERTIFY THAT THIS REPORT IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGEFOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 AUGUST 2007

> PATRICIA L. DRONG SECRETARY/TREASURER

\$164 Winners!! Guadalcanal veterans <u>Dennis Ferk</u> & <u>Bill Tucker</u> donated their winnings back to the Association!!



Alys Mae (Art) Larson*,
Nampa, ID, says she's never
won anything before, and
now that she has, she's
giving it away!
\$64 to the \$164th
\$50 to Soldiers Angels
\$50 VFW Operation Uplink

NEW MEMBERS!!

Paul Guzie, (WWII) Co K, 8330 Cason Rd #405, Gladstone, OR 97027 Russel "Dennis" Wilson^, Jr., Co K, 415 Emerson Lane, Mundelein, IL 60060 Ole N. Legaard (WWII) Hqs 3rd, 26909 E 312th Ave, Ridgeway, MO 64481-8211

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS*(identified by *)

Scott Legaard*, 1111 W. Fallview Dr, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815 [nephew of Ole Legaard, WWII, Hqs 3rd Bn] James Powers*, 2420 Willow Rd, Fargo, ND 58102 [Brother of Vince Powers, WWII, Band] Victor Lander*, 311 W. Graham Park Cr, Haines City, FL 33844 [Veteran of 132nd Inf Regt and 57th Engr Bn]

NEW MEMBERS JOINED FOR LIFE!!

Bob Hintz (LM)^, Tank Co, 1935 N 6th St, Bismarck, ND 58501-1812 Duane Hesch (LM)[^] Co G, 228 5th St NW, Valley City ND 58072 Jim Privratsky (LM)*, 1053 Dell Ave, Dickinson, ND 58601 [son of Wenzel Privratsky, WWII Co K] John J. Hansen (LM)*, 3143 Cattail St, Unit C, Bozeman, MT 59718 [Nephew of Hamlin Kjelland & "Mac" McDonough Mary Simpkins (LM)*, 1393 Tall Maple Loop, Oviedo, FL 32765 [Daughter of Al Wiest, WWII Co M] Eileen Keller (LM)*, 2538 Jay's Nest Lane, Holiday, FL 34691 [Great niece of Al Wiest, WWII Co M] Keith Kerbaugh (LM)*, 1755 Park Blvd, Fargo, ND 58103 [Son of Lester Kerbaugh, WWII Co E] Blake Kerbaugh (LM)*, 3014 East Winged Foot Dr, Chandler, AZ 85249 [Son of Lester Kerbaugh, WWII Co E] Kelly Drabus (LM)*, 4341 115th Ave SE, Valley City, ND 58072 [Son of Leonard Drabus Co F] Lois Mattison Gustafson (LM)*, 5378 165th Ave SE - Kindred, ND 58051 [daughter of Clayton Mattison, Co F]

MEMBERS WHO RENEWED FOR LIFE!!

John Gregory (LM) WWII Co H, 4806 Freshfield Ct, St Louis, MO 63128-2811 Robert Lupien (LM)* 2600 S Parker Rd #220, Aurora, CO 80014 [Son of Edmond Lupien, Antitank Co]

ADDRESS CHANGES

Change: Richard C. Wiest (LM)*, 4924 Carole Dr NE, Olympia, WA 20036-2069 Change: Evelyn Salsman (LM)*, 1110 3rd Ave N #804E, Fargo, ND 58102 Change: Vern Fetch (LM), 4231 Shaun Lane Unit 4, Mandan, ND 58554-6274

Change: Ellenora Schultz (LM)*, 1000 W Century Ave Apt 249, Bismarck ND 58503

Change: James Jarvis (LM)(WWII), 21A Geneva Trl, Hopatcong NJ 07843-1142 Change: Donna Kjonaas*, 590 Park St, Suite 310, Maplewood, MN 55119-6023

Change: Betty Anderson*, 1327 3rd St E, West Fargo, ND 58078-4298

Change: Mavis Swap*, 1040 Lincoln Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-3508

Change: Roger B Fuller (LM), 3905 Cardiff PI, Parrish, FL 34219

Change: **Tony Beer (WWII)**, P O Box 496, Alto, NM 88312 Change: **Harry Dolyniuk (LM)**, 2609 Henry St, Unit B5, Augusta, GA 30904 Change: **Don Stevens (LM)(WWII)**, 7050 15th St E, Unit 12, Sarasota, FL 34234

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS!

Donations to the A	
Anderson, Betty	\$20
Anundson, Pearl	\$35
Beatini, Michael	\$15 \$15
Beer, Robert	\$15
Bjornstad, Harold	100
Bostrom, Gordon	\$10
Buttke, Paul Collins, Harrol	\$15
Collins, Harrol	\$10
Dickerson, Paul	\$25
Engbrecht, Ruth	\$35
Goddard, Howard	\$10
Hamer, G. R.(Dick)	\$25
Haussner, James	\$10
Heath, Otto	\$35
Hill, Evelyn	\$10
Holly, Earl	\$10
Isenberg, George	\$10
Larson, Alys	\$15
Lenzmeier, Ralph	\$5
Love, Robert	\$5
McKay, Malcolm	\$15
Opat, Gail	\$10
Otto, Eddie	\$5
Pfarr, Mildred	\$10
Rahn, Edna	\$35
Remmers, Ervin	\$25
Rosalez, Ben	\$5
Rothrock, Jane	\$10
Schuldt, Al	\$50
Sinkbeil, Raymond	\$25
Sturn, Anton	\$25
Wagner, Charles	\$35
Whitman, Ethel	\$10

Donations to the A	ssoc
Gjevre, Alden	\$1
Aufero, Ernest	\$5
Baglien, Donald	\$5
Beaton, James	\$5
Bogner, Vernon	\$5
Buckingham, Bill	\$5
Burns, Robert	\$5
Burns-Hedstrom,	\$5
Cashion, Ernest	\$5
Cecil, Lorraine	\$5
Chemistruck, Steph	\$5
Clarke, Martha	\$5
Coffey, Herbert	\$5
Collins, Edward	\$5
Cruse, Robert	\$5
Dahl, Erling	\$5
DeSautel, Aurel	\$5
Docktor, Donald	\$5
Drew, Fred	\$5
Eide, Frank	\$5
Evenson, Donald	\$5
Fischer, Carl	\$5
Fuller, Roger	\$5
Gehrman, Frances	\$5
Gesellchen,Richard	\$5
Geston, John	\$5
Gilbertson, Arnold	\$5
Goven, John	\$5
Haman, Benny	\$5
Heinz, Greg	\$5
Herman, Curtis	\$5
Hintz, Robert	\$5
Hoff, Dolores	\$5

Jacobsen, John Kane, Milt Keller, William Kessler, Paul Klava, S.J.	\$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5
Keller, William Kessler, Paul Klava, S.J.	\$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5
Kessler, Paul Klava, S.J.	\$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5
Klava, S.J.	\$5 \$5 \$5 \$5
	\$5 \$5 \$5
	\$5 \$5
Koppang, Alton	\$5 \$5
Korsmo, Gen	
Kreidlkamp, Ray	
Kupitz, Richard	\$5
Kurtz, Balzer	\$5
Kurtz, Clifford	\$5
Leadbetter, Dwayne	\$5
Lystad, Ken	\$5
Marchant, L.C.	\$5 \$5
Mathews, Ardis	\$5
McLaughlin, James	\$5
Morgan, Gordon	\$5
Nix, Donna	\$5
Olson, Vernon	\$5
Ostapchuk, Nicholas	\$5
Pillarick, Mitchell	\$5
Pompa, Sue	\$5
Privratsky, A James	\$5
Renschler, Harry	\$5
Ryan, Kim	\$5
Sandhop, Kenneth	\$5
Schmaltz, Arthur	\$5
Scolavino, Gene	\$5
Simpkins, Mary	\$5
Skogley, Gerals	\$5
Smith, Elva	\$5
Starkenberg, Wallace	\$5
Stevens, Don	\$5

Stevens, Richard	\$5
Stimson, Mildred	\$5
Summers, Kevin	\$5
Swanson, Monte	\$5
Thilmony, Norbert	\$5
Thompson, Mike	\$5
Trageser, Andrew	\$5
Waldhauser, Gerald	\$5
Wallace, Owen	\$5
Watkins, Buriel	\$5
Weber, Rhiny	\$5
Wiest, Luther	\$5
Wiest, Richard	\$5
Wilson, Laura	\$5
Wittmer, Lawrence	\$5
Wozniak, John	\$5
Anderson, Duane	\$10
Blecha, Esther	\$10
Boisen, Lawrence	\$10
Breitenstein, Linda	\$10
Cruz, Cresencio	\$10
English, Thomas	\$10
Hanley, Arthur	\$10
Jarvis, James	\$10
Krejci, Jerome	\$10
Oefner, Robert	\$10
Oshaben, Stanley	\$10
Otmar, Joe	\$10
Salsman, Evelyn	\$10
Steffen, Raymond	\$10
Tuff, William	\$10
Wagner, Paulette	\$10
Alin, Robert	\$15
Drabus, Lawrence	\$15

Greuel, Elroy	\$15	
Samson, Norman	\$15	
ennyson, Neil	\$15	
Vood, Ralph	\$15	
Brodie, Warren	\$20	
Evans, Thomas	\$20	
Gronvold, Victor	\$20	
/on Bank, Bob	\$20	
Vood, Wayne	\$20	
Byers, William	\$25	
/lassee, Hugh	\$25	
Paulson, John	\$25	
Vell, Donald	\$25	
Viest, Albert	\$25	
Risser, Harold	\$35	
Bell, Charles	\$50	
Summeringer, Joe	\$60	
ongmuir, Jerry	\$85	
Adamsen, Eloise	100	
Berntsen, Winnifred	100	
/lcLaughlin,Donna	100	
Onations Assoc 8	& Nev	٧S
Castagneto, Joseph	\$55	\$50
Oolyniuk,Harry	\$5	
Dolyniuk,Harry Carr,Robert	\$5	\$30
/lartin,Albert	\$5	\$30
/lauch,Marvin	\$5	\$5
Powers, Vince	\$5	\$10
Veber,Lloyd	\$5	\$50
<u>Zettler,William</u>	\$5	\$10
Castagneto Sale	\$	180

Editor: I am enclosing a \$10 check to cover my membership dues for this year. I became aware of your organization when you sent me page 6 from the July 2006 issue of the *News*. A new member, **Tony Czarnecki**, was looking for men who had served with him. I was one of them. I originally went to **New Caledonia** and later was assigned as a replacement to the 164th on the 'Canal. I went to **Bougainville, Leyte, Cebu, Bohol, & Mindanao**. I was wounded at **Villabe, Leyte**, on 27 Feb 45. After the fighting, I went to Yokohama and then to Camp McCoy, WI, where I was discharged on 20 Jan 46. I definitely would appreciate past copies and the current issue of the *News*. Thank you. **Paul Guzie, Co K**, 8330 Cason Rd #405, Gladstone, OR 97027

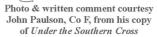
New member, Russel "Dennis Wilson, joined Company K (formerly Co B) of Fargo, ND on 18 Jan 54, along with 5 other guys from Arthur, ND-Ed Boetcher, Ray Gebeke, Ken Schur, Monte Swanson, and me (Ben Kemp). We were recruited by Lt Bud Johnson, Dennis' brother-in law. He was paid \$5 a head. (They now receive \$2000 per recruit). At our first Guard camp (1954), we were issued used clothing, to include used boots. We had to bring our own towels, etc., and had to purchase a sleeping bag and footlocker. When we were paid at the end of Guard camp, we had to pay for the sleeping bag and footlocker, and had to dig up about \$10 out of our pockets to break even. My Dad was not too happy with me after losing 2 weeks of my civilian pay and still owing another 10 bucks for our equipment. At Camp, we were short troops, as most of them left the Guard after the Korean War. We were let off K.P. early so we could go on guard duty. Denny joined the Regular Army in 1955 and served in Germany from '55 to '58. ----Ben Kemp (LM), former Secretary/Treasurer of the 164th Infantry Association, 1708 Cologne, Bismarck, ND Editor: Ben recruited Dennis as well as new Life Member **Bob Hintz**, from Bismarck, into the Association!

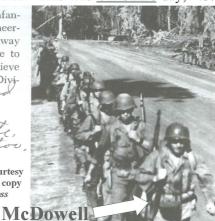
Dear Editor Shirley and Secretary Pat: Thank you for the July News Letter. You did a great job. I was very pleased to see that President Bush has signed the authorization to award Woodrow Wilson Keeble the posthumous Medal of On page 20, under Presumptions, Assumptions, & Timeline..., it stated that USS Calvin Coolidge took the 164th to New Caledonia. That is not so. The harbor in New Caledonia was not deep enough o accommodate the Coolidge, so we went on to Melbourne, Australia, where we transferred cargo and troops to three Dutch freighters that took us to New Caledonia. It is true that the Coolidge was sunk on it's next mission. The story we heard was that the Captain did not wait for a pilot to guide him in and the Coolidge was sunk without casualties in the harbor at Espirito Santo, when it hit one of our own mines. It sank with the heavy artillery that the troops on Guadalcanal were waiting for and possibly some P-38's. I will not be attending the reunion. I'm enclosing a check for \$125 to pay for the two books of raffle tickets, plus 2 more books, and \$100 to support the *News* letter. Have a great reunion! Keep the newsletter coming! Sincerely, Harold Bjornstad (LM), 31707 Oakville Rd, Shedd, OR 97377

Contribute to the BOOK about the 164th!!! See pages 18-19

Sir. Enclosed please find \$10 renewal (2008). Also, I'd like to call attention to our book "Under the Southern Cross". At the center of the book, there is a photo the 164th marching along Major Fissel Highway **Bougainville**. The lead soldier was me, as I saw a fellow in the back of a truck standing and taking photos. This was Christmas day, '43.

Elements of the 164th Infantry march along Engineer-built Major Fissell Highway on Bougainville, en route to forward positions to relieve units of the 3d Marine Division we land a family of the street day to calculate the street and the street along the street





I was on my first patrol in front of the lines on New Year's Day of 1944. My memory is not what is used to be, and neither is my writing! Sincerely, former **SSgt Wm Wayne McDowell, Co B**, 901 S 15th St, Mattoon, IL 61398

Dear Sirs: Enclosed is a check for \$50 for a Life Membership. My dad, **Wenzel Privratsky**, was a member of the 164th and my mom, **Agnes**, receives your newsletter, which she enjoys. I read your last one and it is good reading –keep up the good work. **Jim Privratsky***, 1053 Dell Ave, Dickinson, ND 58601 *Editor: Agnes is also an associate life member! Welcome to the 164 family, Jim.*

Dear Friends, Enclosed is money for the tickets and a little extra which you can use where it is needed. You all are doing a great job for us, and we thank you. Sorry, we will not be able to attend the reunion this year. Hope we can attend next year. We really enjoy the 164th Infantry *News* Magazine. It sure brings back a lot of memories. Thanks Again, **John M. Paulson**, 80 2nd Ave N, Carrington, ND

Thanks for putting the re-union together. Don't think I can make it, but will try to do so next year. **Bruce Hagen**, 108 Riverside Park Road, Bismarck, ND 58504

Sorry I can't make the reunion. Here's \$25 for dues & News. Malcolm J. McKay, Co B, 3055 Wylie Dr, PO Box 1083, Helena, MT 59635

Not able to make the reunion this year. Am sending tickets and a little extra for whatever. Elroy O. Greuel (LM), Reg't Hqs, 1327 3rd St E, West Fargo, ND 58078

Bernie: I'm sorry we won't be able to make the reunion again this year. Dennis has an appt. in Rochester Sept 18th, and he thinks it's cutting it too close to be in Valley the weekend before. I guess he is right about that. I'm sending a check for \$20 for the ticket stubs—who knows, we could get lucky. © Hope you have a great turn out and we know you'll have a wonderful time! Sorry to have to miss it. Sincerely Laila Burns-Hedstrom (LM)*, POB 364, Hoffman, MN 56339

Hi. Sending \$15 for Raffle and \$35 for newsletter. Also, I have pictures from my husband, **Emil Rahn**, **Co A**. Can someone let me know if you would like them? **Edna Rahn***, 413 4th St NE, Hazen, ND 58545 *Editor: Absolutely!! I'd like all the pictures I can get! I'll scan them and return them to you.*

Will miss being able to join you at the reunion. At 90, it is getting a little difficult to travel. Shirley is doing a great job with the newsletter. I'll be sending more photographs taken on Bougainville & Japan. Hope you can use them. **Emil I. Blomstrann** (LM) (& **Lois**), 32 Foxon Pl, New Britain, CT 06053 Editor: Lois, an editor of an historical newsletter in her hometown, has been corresponding with your Editor by email to help tell the story (page 20) about Emil's 82 year old WWII girlfriend whom he has never met! © The photo below is of a very small Co E reunion! **Charles Ross** (LM)(WWII)(K) with **Lois** & **Emil**. Ross lives at 3720 Sugar Creek Lane, Conyers, GA 3009, and an internet search says he still runs 10k (6.2 mile) races at a very respectable pace!



Hi, You all! Just a little southern lingo there! You're doing a great job with the news magazine. Very enjoyable reading. I'm sending \$15 for tickets and \$5 for the 164th News. Have a good—no, GREAT—reunion! Thanks for all your hard work. **Mrs Bert (Alys) Larson***, 1100 Meadowbrook Lane, Nampa, ID 83686

Dear Friends—If one of my tickets wins, please consider it a gift to the Assoc. Best to all for a good time. **Bob Alin** (LM), 867 Oak St, West Fargo, ND 58078

Hello! How are you all? Long time, no see. Maybe some day. You have a good newsletter. **Art Schmaltz** (LM), 2767 East St, Niles, MI 49120

Would love to be there, but the years have taken their toll. Here's \$10 for 2008 renewal, \$10 for whatever, \$20 for tickets. If I win, put it in your funds. Our thoughts are with you all. **Donald "Dutch" Well** (Hq 1st Bn), 1108 Bermuda St, Bakersfield, CA 93309

Bernie—Here's a check for \$35 to help out. If I'm lucky enough to win, please donate money back to the 164th. Have a great reunion. **Linda Breitenstein***, 1704 NW 65th St, Vancouver, WA 98663

Hey, folks!! SEND PICTURES with your notes!! --Editor

Hello, Bernie. I enjoy the Newsletter. Enclosed is \$15 for the raffle tickets. We will not be able to attend the reunion, but certainly send our very best wished to all attending. And thanks for all the effort that you put into the association. Sincerely, **Elizabeth Koster***, 7374 Chico Way NW, Bremerton, WA 98312

Bernie and Ray: Sure enjoyed the newsletter. Best ever. Keep up the good work. Money sent for tickets – use the rest for whatever. Maybe see you next year. **Harold (LM)** & **Dolores Risser**, PO Box 695, Park City, MT 59063

Dear Sir: I really enjoy receiving the 164th Infantry Regiment newsletter. Thanks to the folks who do such a good job of putting it toether. I'm sending \$45 to cover the cost of the two books of tickets and the remainder for dues or donation. If I happen to win one of the prizes, I would prefer for it to be given to the 164th Infantry Association to be used where most needed. Sincerely, **Tommy Evans**, 8485 Elkahatchee Rd, Alexander City, AL 35010

Sirs: Hope you have a very successful and enjoyable reunion. My thoughts are with you. Enjoy the newsletter very much. Keep up the nice work. God Bless the 164th! **Andrew Trageser, Co E**, 1163 Fawn Grove Rd, New Park, PA 17352

164th – Tickets \$15, General Fund \$50. Really appreciate all the work that you do for our pleasure. **Chuck Bell, Band** (WWII), 113 E Bay Ave Newport Beach, CA 92661

Hi, everyone! Hello and Good Luck. Hope you are all well and ready for another "Great Reunion". Sorry I will not be there – with Swede in a nursing home, I pity the nurses. In the meantime, I'll reconnoiter the beaches. **Ernest "Sparky" Aufero**, **Co D**, 101 Spring Lake Drive #206, Vero Beach, FL 32962

Dear Sirs: I really enjoy receiving your newsletter. I'm 87 years of age and I just cannot come to the reunions anymore. I'm sending \$15 for the raffle, \$10 for dues, and \$25 for the news letter. Yours truly, **Ervin Remmers, Co** C, 1912 E Mount Vernon Ave, Orange, CA 92967

Bernie—Lenard always enjoyed meeting with his buddies from Co H and so did I. Enclosed is \$25 for tickets and newsletter – keep up the good work! Wishing everyone the best. Sincerely, Millie Pfarr* (LM), 17 West Rd, Circle Pines, MN 55014

Hi Patricia—Enclosed \$15 for raffle plus \$10 for the wonderful newsletter. Thank you for your wonderful work! **Jane Rothrock***, 13101 Del Monet Dr Apt 179L, Seal Beach, CA 90740

Hi Bernie. Enclosed \$15 for tickets plus \$5 extra. Won't be able to attend the reunion, health reasons. Take care. **Buriel Watkins, Co A**, 300 W. Hawthorne St, Aurora, MO

I've enclosed payment for two books. Remainder to contribute to the 164th Newsletter. I was pleased with the last newsletter! **Michael C. Beatini (LM), Co E**, 39 Highland Rd, Montvale, NJ 07645

I'm glad you are still having the reunions. If Morry were still alive, we'd be there! **Catherine (Kay) Hannum***, 140 N Cheyenne St #209, Powell, WY 82435

Thanks for the good and faithful work of the Reunion Committee. **Esther M. Blecha***, 4582 Belmont Rd, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Dear Pat: June and I regret that we will not be attending the 164th Inf Reunion this year. My trouble with walking and the shoulder I fell on are not getting any better, and it's better that I say home and take care of them. I missed attending three 164th reunions while I was overseas in the service. So this will be my 1st while in the States. I've enclosed my check for \$25 to cover the cost of 2 books of tickets plus one more book. Good luck with the reunion and I will miss all of you. As Ever, **Pete Grant** (LM), 4026 Boardwalk St, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Dear Bernie: Just a note to inform you that I still read the *News* from cover to cover and enjoy the pictures so much. My husband, **Forrest**, has been gone nearly 15 years now and I don't recognize very many names, but I still enjoy reading *The 164th Infantry News*. I'm enclosing money for 2 ticket books and dues. Thanks to all of you who keep the *News* coming!! Sincerely, **Mildred Stimson**, 17476 458th Ave, Watertown, SD 57201

Dear Bernie: Sending \$15 for tickets and \$5 for what you need it for. Sorry I can't give more, but having many problems. Hope the reunion goes well, and say "Hello" to everyone from me! Yours Truly, Nicholas Ostapchuk (LM), Co B, 582 Ramona St, Rochester, NY 14615

Hi, Patricia—I'm writing for Earl again this year. He really misses going to the reunion—but says to tell all his old friends "Hi" for him. He is doing quite well in the Spokane Vets Home. We love our visits with him---to hear more stories about his life. Thanks for all you do. Enclosed \$25, please send raffle tickets. Earl wants to help out where he can. Doris Cobb for Earl H. Johnson (LM), c/o J.L.Cobb, 710 Fir, Coulee Dam, WA 99166

Enclosing \$15 for both ticket books. Good luck to you all with the reunion, and sincere thanks and appreciation for the newsletter. You are doing a marvelous job and I am keeping them all. A tremendous record of history as the storis of actual experiences are being told. Thank you! Donna Hoff—wife of **Robert**—I should say widow. Will not be attending the reunion. **Donna Hoff***, 1342 3rd St N, Fargo, ND 58102

Hi gang. Money for the tickets and a little for the newsletter as well. Sorry, but due to health problems, I won't be able to make the reunion this year. Everyone have a great time! **Lloyd A. Weber**, 12122 Stagg St, N Hollywood, CA 91605

Bernie—Enclosed is a check for the 2 books of tickets. We would dearly love to join you but not possible at this time. We will be thinking of you! **Mona Johnson (Walter**'s wife), 704 2nd Ave SE Apt #4, Rugby, ND 58368

Members—Tell YOUR story. Please send in your photos, news clippings, and documents. I'll scan them & return.

Dad/Pat: We won't be able to attend the 164 reunion in Sep. Enclosed is a check for \$50 for 2 books of raffle tickets and the remainder as a donation to continue the publication of the 164 Infantry Newsletter. Hope you have a great reunion again this year! Chuck (LM)* & Joal Wagner, 4908 Harbor Tr NE, Mandan, ND 58554

Unable to attend. Have a great time. Say "Hi" to any Co A members. Anton J. Sturn, 101 Clay St, Vallejo, CA 94591

I am sending \$15 for the ticket stubs. I won't be able to make it to the reunion this year. Sincerely, **Joe Poleschook**, 200 303rd Ave, Max, ND

Neil Tennyson, **Regt Hqs**, is now in skilled nursing facility, but wanted me to tell you he hopes to make the next reunion. Also, to send in his money for the tickets. Am praying for a successful reunion. Joan McAndrews, niece & trustee. **Neil:** 4815 Lee Ave, La Mesa, CA 91941

One of these years, I'll make it to a reunion ---this isn't it! Thank for all of your good work. **Duane L. Anderson** (LM)(K), 3301 Potter Ln, Sacramento, CA 95821

Here are the raffle ticket stubs and a check for the raffle plus a little more for the Newsletter. If (when) I win the raffle, give that money to the Newsletter to keep up the good work. Best wishes to all for a great reunion. Wish I could be there. **George W. Isenberg**, 4012 Rainbow Blvd #K265, Las Vegas, NV 89103

Here's money for the tickets and \$10 for the News. I won't be coming to the reunion. Greet the **Co** L boys – **Hammargren** & **Haltli**—for me. **Raymond Steffen** (LM)(K), 1903 Willow Dr, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Enclosed is money for the tickets, plus \$10 for my membership, and \$10 for the Newsletter. Hope ya all have a good reunion and my best to the guys from **Co B**. God Bless you all. **1SG (ret) Gordon E. Bostrom**, 3029 Jeanne Rd, Augusta, GA 30906 gordon13@mindspring.com

Mr Bernie Wagner: I'm enclosing \$20 for the tickets and news letter. I'm sorry I can't go to the reunion because I'm having an operation. I hope to see you all next year. I had a great time last year, met lots of wonderful people. Pat and Shirley made a great newsletter. Thanks Again, **Ben J. Rosalez (LM), Co C**, 4317 Belle Dr, Antioch, CA 94509

Really wish I could make it to the reunion—better yet if **Ham** could be there, too. He is so missed. Will be thinking of you all. I'm sorry for misplacing the first letter, thank you, Pat, for sending another one. Take care, have a wonderful reunion. They are so special. **Pat Kjelland** (LM)*, 3820 Spadoni Ln, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Enclosed is the money for the tickets, and also \$20 for the 164th newsletter. I do enjoy the newsletter very much. Also my new address: **Betty M. Anderson***, 1327 3rd St E, Unit H, West Fargo, ND 58078

YOU can help save mailing expenses

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The 164th Infantry News, October 2007

See what happened to me!! I turned 90!



Still in good health, tho, drive & stuff. I just lost my UND Professor brother, Oz Hager, at 99, so 90 doesn't hurt a bit. He was an early founder of DECA. Sorry, I have a conflict and can't be there this year. My good friend, Esther Blecha, can't be there either, but we often visit about or WWII husbands and the great 164th. Will miss seeing Gene's WWII buddy, Hank Violett and his dear wife, Borgny. Sec. Pat and the very capable Editor Shirley get the greatest 164th Newsletter to everyone. Have enclosed \$15 for tickets and \$10 for Newsletter. Have a great one! Thenks Evelyn Hager Hill, 912 Sunset Dr, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Bernie: Am sending a check for \$15 for two books and \$5 donation for the 164th Newsletter. We do enjoy the letter, so continue sending it!!! Sorry we can't make the Reunion – old age has taken it's toll, as it is a "long haul" to ND!. We're with you in spirit. Larry & Suzie Wittmer, Co H, 15737 S Co Rd 206, Blair, OK 73526

Enclosed are stubs for the drawing. Hope Ray wins. He is still in the Veteran's Home in Boulder City, so we will be unable to attend the reunion. Last week, I visited my brother John Landowski in Altru Nursing Home in Grand Forks. He is a Life Member. Both men would enjoy hearing from some of their buddies. It would be a nice gesture if the 164th could send a Christmas card to the men in Nursing Homes. Have fun at the reunion! Arneson, 1040 Atticus Ave, Henderson, NV 89015

Hi, Bernie. Sorry but I can't attend the reunion again this year, due to "old age" physical problems. I do wish everone a good time. Enclosed find a check for \$20 for raffles and \$30 for News letter. Wishing you good health and God Bless! Note my new address! Harry Dolyniuk, Co K, 2609 Henry St, Unit B5, Augusta, GA 30904

Bernie: Unable to attend the reunion this year, but send best regards to all those who are there. Many thanks for the excellent newsletter. Sincerely, Col (ret) George R. "Dick" Hamer, 701 Whispering Pines Cir, Melbourne, FL

My Friends at the 164th: Say, what a nice surprise that I won your raffle! I never won anything before. Thanks a bunch. Now I'm sending back \$64 to you. Then I'm sending Soldiers Angels and VFW Operation uplink \$50 each, so they can help our great soldiers who are putting their lives on the line for us—just like you all did. Thanks again, Mrs Art (Alys) Larson, 1100 Meadowbrook Lane, Nampa, ID 83686

A veteran is someone who, at some point, wrote a check payable to the United States of America for an amount up to and

including his life.—Unk



164 history panels were displayed at the Barnes Co. Museum during the Reunion. They normally are at Bonanzaville in Fargo. Sponsored by Cass Co Hist Soc, W. Fargo VFW, ND Legislature, & ND Historical Society.

Does Anybody Know About Kampbell's Kool Killers??

In July I received a newspaper clipping about my dad [Ernest Tolliver, Co F] being a member of an elite scout group called Kampbell's Kool Killers. I immediately tried to find John Campbell, the leader, and found nothing (He may have been older). I never even tried to find the other men mentioned in the story. I asked Dr. Shoptaugh, at the reunion, if he'd come across any of these men and he said no. Driving home I realized I should try to find them. I have found out that Max W. Foerster, Forest River, ND, and Edward C. Avens. Rugby, ND, are deceased. The other two men have common names, Clarence A. Johnson of Pine Creek, MN, and Wesley H. Anderson, Grafton, ND. I spoke to Mrs. Luelia Avens yesterday and she has the same newspaper article I have. She relayed several stories her husband had told, but I saw a semblence of what I hear from the men at the reunion; comical stories. He must have told her the stories he could laugh at rather than the ones he'd cry at.

Anyway, if you have room for a small filler in the next newsletter would you ask if anyone could contact me about this group. How were their jobs different from every other soldier? Were they as "elite" as the newspaper article said or did every group of men have an interesting name? I would like to try to track down Campbell, Anderson, & Johnson. Thanks. Sue Pompa, 11411 2nd St, Arnolds Park, IA 51331, skp2307@mchsi.com

N.D. Men Make Up 'Best Bougainville' Patrol on

WITH THE ARMY FORCES ON service station attendant at Pleasant BOUGAINVILLE - (P) - "Kambell's Kool Killers" compromise what one army battalion considers the best patrol outfit on Bougainville.

Skill, daring and proper jungle training give the patrol, led by Lt. John H. Campbell, of Los Cruces, N. M. its reputation. Campbell says his patrol has the toughest soldiers in the Pacific and "nobody knows it better than the Japs on Bougain-ville."

Who are these stealthy jungle reconnaissance men who are among the best Jap killers in the South Pacific?

They include: Pfc. Wesley H. Anderson, who used to captain an American Legion basketball team In Minnesota. His mother is Mrs. Grace Zinke, of Grafton, N. D.
Staff Sgt. Edward C. Avens, ex-

service station attendant at Pleasant Lake, N. D. His wife, Luella, lives in Rugby, N. D.

Pfc. Max W. Foerster, ex-photographer in Forest River, N. D., a whiz at firing an M-1 from the hip. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Foerster, of Forest River.

Sgt. Clarence A. Johnson, who holds the silver star for saving an injured companion on Guadalcanal, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar W.

is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar W.
Johnson, Pine Creek, Minn.
Pfc. Ernest V. Tolliver, one-time
bowling alley pin setter at Bismarck,
N. D. who says "you gotta get all
yours in the one-three pocket out
here." His mother is Mrs. Lydia
Tolliver, of Mitchell, S. D.

The soldiers mentioned in this dispatch obviously served with the 164th infantry of North Dakots on

Last Roll Call 164th Infantry Regiment

As Known on 15 September 2007

Charles Adamsen, (WWII) Co C, 17 Nov 04 John N. Alme, (WWII) Co F, 17 Sep 06 Victor Athias, (WWII), 5 Jun 07

Angelo J. Ciampolillo, (WWII) Co E, 3 Jun 07

Harrol D. Collins, 31 Jul 07

Virgil L. Fellows, (WWII) Co F, 2 Dec 06

Melvin T. Gutterud, (WWII) Co D, 4 Jul 07

Paul Kessler, 5 Aug 07

Kenneth M. McLaughlin, (WWII) Reg Hqs Co, 17 Jun 07

Glenn H. Olson (WWII), 30 Oct 06

Roy Olson, 11 May 07

Frank L. Onufray, (K), 30 Sep 06

Carl A. Whitman, (WWII), 24 Feb 07

Luther Wiest, (K), 5 Jun 07

Clair E. Tongen, (WWII), 14 Jul 07



---Artwork by Doug Burtell



John N. Alme, 84, died 17 Sep 06, in Riverside, Calif. He was mobilized in 1941 with Co F, Carrington. He is survived by wife, Colleen. He was a member of the 164th Infantry Association. Photo is from the 2005 reunion.

Victor Athias, 85, died 5 June 2007 at his home in California. Victor enlisted in 1939 and served until August, 1945. He served approximately 3-1/2 years in the Asiatic Pacific Theater as a PFC with the 164th Infantry Regiment. He was a life member of the 164 Association. He is survived by nephew, Frank Jandura, San Rafael, CA.

Kenneth M. McLaughlin, 85, of Fargo, ND, died 17 Jun 07, at his home. Ken joined the 164th Infantry Regiment, ND Army National Guard, in February 1941. He was stationed in the Solomon Islands for four years. A graduate of NDSU, Ken

was an engineer with Rural Electric (REA) for 30 years. He was a life member of the American Legion, VFW, and Elks. He is survived by wife of 59 years, Donna Holland McLaughlin.; a son, Richard; 3 daughters, Patricia Annie, & Nancy; 8 grand & 6 great-grandchildren.

Luther F. Wiest, 78, Bismarck, died 5 Jun 07 at the Baptist Home, Bismarck, after a short battle with cancer.



Frank L. Onufray, 86, of Williston, ND, passed away 30 Sep 06, at Mercy Medical Center in Williston. In 1940, Frank served in the US Army with 644 Tank Destroyer, Company C. He was discharged in 1945. Frank served with the National Guard as a Warrant Officer

from 1949-1951, and in 1952 was a US Army Warrant Officer with the 3rd Infantry Division **in Korea**. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite, Williston, ND; son Frank,daughters Paula & Patricia, & a granddaughter.

Carl A. Whitman, Martha's Vineyard, MA, died 24 Feb 07, at age 88. He is survived by his wife, Ethel (Askman) Whitman, 2 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons. He was predeceased by 1 son.

Glenn H. Olson, 88, died 30 Oct 06 at the hospital in Grand Forks, ND. He was a veteran of WWII, serving in the U.S. Army, 164th Infantry. He farmed in the Northwood, ND, area until moving to Grand Forks in 1986. He was a member of the Northwood American Legion and VFW, and life member of the DAV.



Harrol Collins, died 31 July 2007, just 5 days after his 88th birthday. He is survived by his wife, Eleanora.

More...Last Roll Call



Melvin T. Gutterud, 88, Park River, ND, passed away 4 July 07 at the hospital in Park River. He served in the 164th Infantry serving in the South Pacific and Guadalcanal from 1941-1943. He attended Aaker's Business College in Grand Forks. He worked as a Depot Agent for the Great Northern Railroad and retired from the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1979. He was a life member of American Legion Post #147 & Masonic Lodge, Park River; DAV, Grand Forks; and Sons of Norway Vaarliv Lodge, Fairdale, ND. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Margaret** Gillespie Gutterud of Park River, 2 grandchildren, and a great grandson. Photo is from the 2005 reunion.



Clair E. Tongen, 87, Cavalier, ND, died 14 July 07, at Wedgewood Manor, Cavalier. He served in the 164th Infantry Regiment, Americal Division, from 25 Apr 41 to 20 Oct 45. The 164th was the first Army unit to engage in combat against the Japanese, beginning at Guadalcanal, the Solomon Islands, with a final campaign in the Philippine Islands. Clair spent a total of 3 years, 5 months in the South Pacific Theatre, and received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lieutenant. In 1946, he married Joyce Einarson at Mountain, ND. He farmed in the Walhalla area until 1969, then worked with Production Credit Association until 1983, also serving several years as a Pembina County

Commissioner. He was a member of the Walhalla American Legion. Clair is survived by wife Joyce; children Constance, Joel, Karen, Rebecca; 10 grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Charles D. "Bob" Adamsen, 84, died 17 Nov 04 at the Lutheran Sunset Home in Grafton, ND. He served with Co C, 164th Infantry, during WWII. He is survived by his wife, Eloise.

"In our Thoughts and Prayers"

19 July 07: Editor: This is to inform you of the death of my husband, Staff Sergeant **Kenneth M. McLaughlin**, with the **164**th **Headquarters**. He died on Father's day, June 17, 2007. The reunions were always the high point of his year – that, and a good cigar. Please accept this check for \$100 in Ken's memory. **Donna McLaughlin***, 2410 7th St N, Fargo, ND 58102



Wallace G "Bud" Olson's name was listed in the July 2006 <u>Last Roll Call</u>. His photo, however, was not included due to an editorial error. He served with **Co L** at **Guadalcanal**.

Dear Bernie—I am sorry to inform you that my husband of 62 years, **Carl Whitman**, died in February. Carl was with the 164th Infantry in WWII in the Pacific. He enjoyed your newsletter very much. Sincerely, **Ethyl Whitman**, 11 D HS Hill Rd, Chilmark. MA 02535

Dear Sirs: My husband, **Charles "Bob" Adamsen** was with **Co C** of the 164th. I should have written before, but Bob died 17 Nov 2004. I miss him so much. We had attended many of the reunions and enjoyed our visits with fellow comrades. He was quite a dancer so enjoyed the music of the 188th Band from Fargo. I enjoyed the ladies' banquets, and if my health holds out, I hope to make an effort to attend one again. Enclosed is a check for \$100 to be used in Bob's memory. I know he would have wanted this. Really enjoy the newsletter. Sincerely, **Eloise Adamsen*** (LM), 731 6th W #402, Grafton, ND 58237

164 Associate Member **Dorothy Sande**, 83, Bismarck, passed away July 12, 2007, at St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck, following complications from surgery. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Ervin**.

Our sympathies to **Pearl Oehlke**, whose sister passed away during the reunion weekend.

God Bless All Who Served & Their Families

Dear Sirs: My husband passed away July 4, 2007. He would have wanted me to buy tickets for him this year, so a check and stubs are enclosed. **Margaret Gutterud***, 119 Kensington, Park River, ND

18 July 07: Dear Editor: It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you that my father, **Angelo J. Ciampolillo** ("Champ"), passed away suddenly on June 3, 2007, at 84.



It is ironic that he just wrote to you on April 30th expressing his gladness to hear from you in your letter of March 21, 2007, that you were trying to track down GIs in the photo that was enclosed, along with the photo of

a Japanese Flag signed by members of Co E.

My family was astounded when your Newsletter arrived the other day with this same picture and the complete letter that he wrote to you [July 2007, page 4]. He was so looking forward to future communications from you and any upcoming events that he could be a part of. Dad was an Army man to the core – a man of respect and honor. He was a "hero" to those of us who loved him, not only for his service to his country, but for his legacy of a life full of love, care, devotion, and fun. Sincerely, **Diane M. O'Brien,** Daughter of a Proud Member of Company E, 164th Infantry, Americal Division.

This is to inform you that **Harrol Collins**, **Co H**, passed away July 31, 2007. He had been in the nursing home for a year and a half. He had Parkinson's with dementia. I would like to join as an Associate member. **Eleanora Collins**, 616 5th St, Madison, MN 56256

Associate Life Member **Doloras Foss** passed away 7 April 2007 at the nursing home in Crookston, MN.

Earl "Pinky" Johnson passed away at press time. His name will be on The Last Roll Call in the next issue.



Notes from your **President**

We have just completed our '07 Annual Reunion. We had a very nice attendance. The WWII attendees are becoming fewer each year. I am happy to see that the Korean Era Veterans are taking over the duties of the Reunion. A big "Thank You" to the Co "G" members for all of the work they did, along with Secretary Pat and Editor Shirley. As you have read in the minutes of our reunion, Valley City has been selected as the Reunion City for '08. The dates for the Reunion have been set for 12, 13, 14 Sept '08. The 188th National Guard Band was well received and they have scheduled their Sept '08 drill to coincide with our reunion. You the members are the ones that make the 164th Infantry Association the success that it is.



THE ULTIMATE WEAPON

by Francis E. Dahl (K), Company G, 164th Infantry

The Ultimate Weapon of War, not one better that's for sure. When our enemies grow bolder, nothing beats an Infantry Soldier. A defender called "dog-face" and more. The Infantryman.

When the battle lines grown thin, we all know who's gonna win. With blood, sweat, and tears, he's a winner through the years. The "ground-pounder", who just won't give in. The Infantryman.

From the Marne to Guadalcanal, to Korea's Battles from hell. He risked it all in Vietnam, went on patrol to get Saddam. The "gravel-agitator" makes the bell. The Infantryman.

You can call him nasty names, he'll do time in hell and flames. When you find what war's about, the common G.I. will stand out. An Ultimate Weapon, just the same. The Infantryman.



THE 164th INFANTRY NEWS P.O. Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

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