



3-2008

## 164th Infantry News: March 2008

164th Infantry Association

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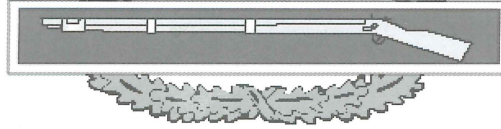
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



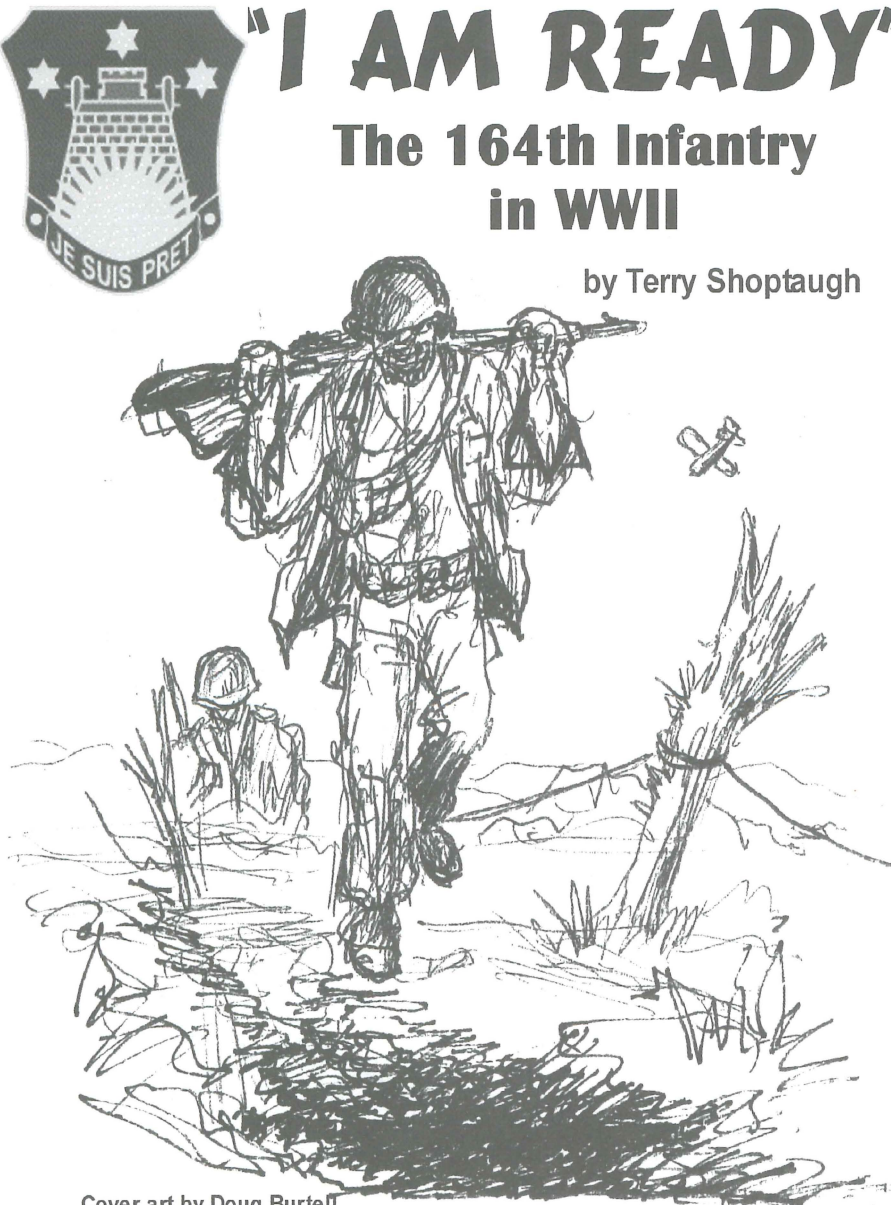
# THE 164<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 49, No. 1

Documenting 164th History.....

March, 2008

Your book is coming! *Your book is coming!*



**"I AM READY"**  
**The 164th Infantry**  
**in WWII**  
 by Terry Shoptaugh

Cover art by Doug Burtell

The manuscript in progress will document the history of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment for generations to come!

### *It's no Secret.....*

You can now read the draft chapters on-line, and help the author fill in the details or correct inaccuracies.

The key to accurate history is to verify the accounts by obtaining information from more than one source.

Do you have old letters written from the battlefield? Wartime newspapers in the attic? These items, as well as unit rosters, maps, battle narratives, notes, diaries, documents, photos, and awards citations can serve to validate an oral account, verify a date or location, confirm spelling of a name, or corroborate a statement.

This is YOUR story. You should help tell it!

See more about the website and book on Page 5 of this issue.

Above: Example Book Cover

**Guadalcanal Province History**

[http://pacificwrecks.com/provinces/solomons\\_guadalcanal.html](http://pacificwrecks.com/provinces/solomons_guadalcanal.html)

The island was under British control prior to the war. It was invaded by the Japanese on July 5, 1942, to be used as a forward air base against New Guinea, and as a staging point for further operations to the south. In August 1942, the US Marines landed on the island, just prior to the Japanese airfield becoming operational. Guadalcanal then became a pivotal piece of island real estate that both sides wanted to control, and were willing to commit larger forces of soldiers and materials over the months following the Marine landing. US Army reinforcements landed, while the Japanese attempted to supply their forces by night via the "Tokyo Express" down the Slot of the Solomon Islands. After the island was secured, pockets of sporadic Japanese resistance remained. The island became a rear base and staging area. The last Japanese holdout surrendered on October 27, 1947. Munitions and occasional war wrecks are still discovered to this day. It was this single island, and its airfield, that was the focal point of the six month Guadalcanal campaign, and a turning point in the Pacific war. After the fighting ceased, it was a major staging base and training ground for future Allied operations.

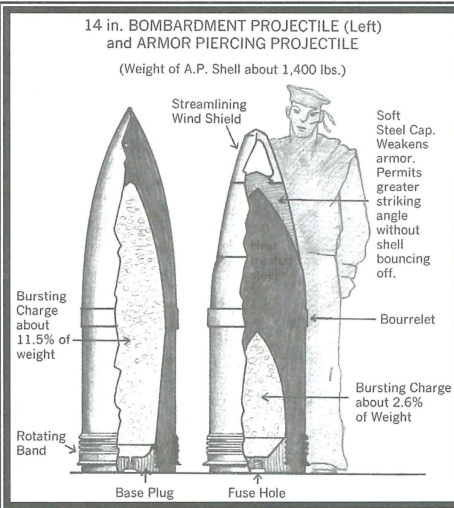
**Oct 27, 1947– Last Japanese Holdout Captured Stealing Food**

Four and a half years after the battle of Guadalcanal, and two years since the war ended, the last Japanese soldier surrendered. He was captured while breaking into the Honiara Police compound to steal food.

His belongings included a water bottle, a broken Australian bayonet, and a Japanese entrenching tool.

[www.wanpela.com/holdouts/](http://www.wanpela.com/holdouts/)

Years after the war, skeletons of starved or killed Japanese soldiers were discovered. Ammunition and bombs are still being discovered and defused.



**The WWII Japanese Navy 14" Round that Rang Your Doorbell at Guadalcanal**

Projectile	APC Type 91 Armor Piercing	Common Type 0 High Explosive	Common Type 3 Incendiary Shrapnel
Length	60.03in	47.25 in	55.1 in
Weight	1485 lbs	1378 lbs	1371 lbs
Charge	24.5 lbs	65.1 lbs	Not avail
Propellant Charge: 313.8 lbs (4 bags)			
Rate of Fire: 2 rounds per minute			
Range: HE round at 43° max elevation: 30,650 yards (17.4 mi)			
Striking Velocity: 1358 – 2198 feet per second			

Above: info from [www.navweaps.com/Weapons/WNJAP\\_14-45\\_t41.htm](http://www.navweaps.com/Weapons/WNJAP_14-45_t41.htm)

Left: graphic from the book The Campaign for Guadalcanal, Jack Coggins

Frank Godava



The poem on the next page was written by me (Pvt. Godava) at that time in a fox hole on the front lines. Bullets were whizzing over head and it was really hot. We dedicated to all our boys either killed or wounded on this island of "Guadalcanal"  
Cpl. F.V. GODAVA

"HELL"  
A LITTLE STORY I HAVE TO TELL  
ABOUT THE BOYS THAT DONE SO WELL  
UPON THAT ISLAND KNOWN AS HELL  
YOU KNOW ITS NAME ITS "GUADALCANAL"  
WHEN THE BOMBERS WERE IN FLIGHT  
THE BOYS WERE IN FOR A SLEEPLESS NITE  
FOR INTO THEIR FOXHOLES THEY WOULD RUN  
CAUSE OUT IN A BOMB RAID IT WAS NO FUN  
AND THE BULLETS WHIZZED BY OUR HEAD  
WE THOUGHT OF OUR PALS THE MANY DEAD  
AND A LITTLE PRAYER WOULD GO SO WELL  
FOR ALL OUR PALS ON THIS ISLAND OF  
"HELL"

THE WEATHER WAS HOT DAY BY DAY  
BUT IN OUR POSITIONS WE HAD TO STAY  
FOR IF WE SHOULD HAPPEN TO RETREAT  
WE KNEW THAT IT WOULD SPELL DEFEAT  
BUT SOON WE KNEW IT HAD TO STOP  
AND WE WOULD GET TO GO ON THAT HOP  
ON A BOAT FROM THIS ISLAND OF HELL  
YOU KNOW ITS NAME ITS "GUADALCANAL"  
WHEN TO OUR LOVED ONES WE COME  
HOME SO FEY  
GIVE US THE CREDIT WE ARE PUE  
CAUSE WE ARE THE BOYS THAT DONE SO  
WELL  
TO SECURE THAT ISLAND OF  
"GUADALCANAL"

By:  
Cpl. F.V. GODAVA  
DEC. 7, 1942



# Americal Division History for 1943

## GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

[http://lzsally.com/sally2/archives/history\\_of\\_the\\_23rd\\_infantry\\_div.htm](http://lzsally.com/sally2/archives/history_of_the_23rd_infantry_div.htm)  
from "Under the Southern Cross"

**1943:** On January 1, 1943, General Alex Patch relinquished command of the Americal Division to Brigadier General Edmund B. Sebree. General Patch assumed command of the XIV Corps, which placed him in charge of all forces on the island. In the headquarters of XIV Corps, plans were laid for an all-out drive to secure the island. Army and Marine units began a drive westward to seize the **Kokumbona** area.

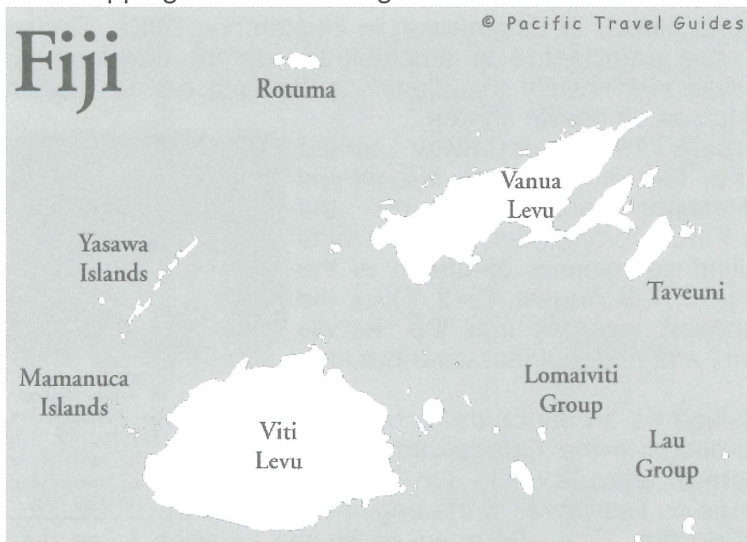
Elements of the 132nd Infantry moved by sea to **Verahue** [village located on the north-eastern coast of **Guadalcanal**, south-west of **Cape Esperance**] to advance on the enemy from the rear [northeast]. The drive around Cape Esperance was successful, and on February 9, the American units joined at the **Tenamba River**, signaling the end of organized enemy resistance on Guadalcanal.



Change of command, Guadalcanal, Dec 42. Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, center, succeeds Maj. Gen. Vandegrift (USMC)(right). Col R. Jeschke (USMC) briefs them.

On March 1, 1943, the first echelon of the Americal Division sailed from **Guadalcanal**, bound for **Viti Levu Island** in the Fiji group. The Americal was given the mission of defending the Fiji Islands, a vital communications link between the United States and the Pacific theater. The division used the time to train its replacements for the fighting ahead.

On May 29, Maj Gen John R. Hodge assumed command of the Americal. The remainder of '43 was spent manning observation posts, running continuous reconnaissance patrols, & training. By the end of the year, the Americal had been alerted for movement to **Bougainville Island**. Although the rugged days of Guadalcanal were gone, the year ahead would offer combat under some of the most difficult conditions yet encountered in the Pacific. The Americal Division was now stepping back into the fight.



Right: The words to *Isa Lei*, the song that many 164 members recall from their time in Fiji. Fijians would frequently sing it during their daily chores. The men's chorus from the 188<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard Band sings it each year at the reunion. Thanks to SFC Jennifer Schwind & Sgt Justen Reed, 188<sup>th</sup> Band, for providing the words

### ISA LEI

1) Isa Isa vulagi lassa dina  
Nomu lako au na rarawa kina  
Cava beka ko a mai cakava,  
Nomu lako au na sega ni lasa.

Refrain: Isa Lei, na noqu rarawa,  
Ni ko sana vodo e na mataka  
Bau nanuma, na nodatou lasa,  
Mai Suva nanuma tiko ga...  
\*\*\*\*\*

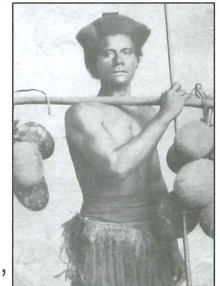
#### ENGLISH TRANSLATION

1) Isa, Isa you are my only treasure;  
Must you leave me, so lonely and foresaken?  
As the roses will miss the sun at dawning,  
Every moment my heart for you is yearning.

Refrain: Isa Lei, the purple shadow falling,  
Sad the morrow will dawn upon my sorrow;  
O, forget not, when you're far away,  
Precious moments beside dear Suva.

2) Isa, Isa, my heart was filled with pleasure,  
From the moment I heard your tender greeting;  
'Mid the sunshine, we spent the hours together,  
Now so swiftly those happy hours are fleeting.

3) O'er the ocean your island home is calling,  
Happy country where roses bloom in splendour;  
O, if I could but journey there beside you,  
Then forever my heart would sing in rapture.



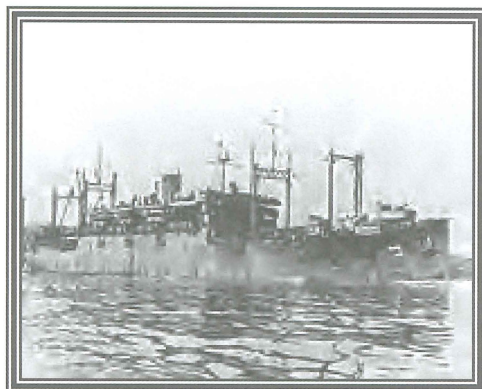
Traditional Fijian carries breadfruit. Photo from the Melvin Bork collection.

Whatever Happened to.....

the ships that took you to Guadalcanal?

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

## The USS *Zeilin* and the USS *McCawley*?

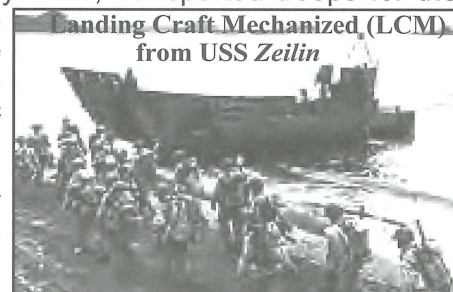


### USS *Zeilin*, 1942-1948

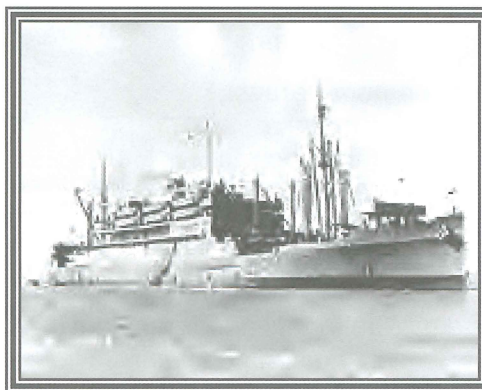
The USS *Zeilin*, a 21,900-ton transport, was built in 1920 at Newport News, Virginia, as the passenger liner *Silver State*. She was employed in merchant service from 1922 to 1940 under the name *President Jackson*. Acquired by the Navy in June 1940, she was converted to a transport and commissioned in February 1942. During the next year, *Zeilin* (AP-9, APA-3) made a round-trip voyage to the South Pacific, then took part in the **Guadalcanal Campaign**, during which she was damaged by Japanese air attack on 9 November 1942. Following repairs, and reclassification as an attack transport (APA-3), she participated in operations in Alaskan waters, including the landings at Attu in May 1943 and at Kiska in August. From late 1943 to mid-1944,

*Zeilin* carried troops for the invasions of **Tarawa**, **Kwajalein**, and the **Marianas**.

After an overhaul, *Zeilin* returned to the Pacific war zone, and, in January 1945, transported troops for the invasion of **Luzon**. While withdrawing from the invasion area on 13 January, she was damaged by a Japanese Kamikaze plane. However, she was able to remain in operation and took part in the **Iwo Jima** operation during the next month before returning to the U.S. for repairs. The Pacific War ended in August 1945 as *Zeilin* was again entering the combat area. She spent the next few months on occupation service and in transporting personnel back to the United States. From November 1945 to January 1946, she operated along the West coast, then steamed through the Panama Canal to the East coast, where she was decommissioned in June 1946. USS *Zeilin* was then transferred to the Maritime Commission, which retained her until she was sold for scrapping in May 1948.



[www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-xz/apa3.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-xz/apa3.htm)



### USS *McCawley* (1940-1943)

The USS *McCawley*, a 9600-ton transport, was built in 1928 in England. As the civilian passenger liner *Santa Barbara* she was acquired by the Navy in July 1940, renamed *McCawley* (AP-10, APA-4) in honor of Colonel Charles G. McCawley, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps in 1876-1891, and placed in commission in September 1940. During the next year, she participated in amphibious warfare development exercises and was significantly modified to better suit her for use in landing ground forces on hostile shores.

In February 1942, *McCawley* carried troops to **Iceland**. Two months later, she moved through the Panama Canal and joined the Amphibious Force, **South Pacific**. As flagship of the Force commander, Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner, she participated in the first Allied amphibious operation of the Pacific War, the invasion of **Guadalcanal** and **Tulagi** on 7-9 August 1942. Over the following six months, *McCawley* made several transport voyages into the fiercely contested waters near **Guadalcanal**, taking in personnel and materiel that contributed to securing that island in February 1943.

Also in February 1943, *McCawley* was reclassified as an attack transport, with the new hull number APA-4. She continued her operations in the **Guadalcanal area** amid preparations for an advance further up the **Solomon Islands chain**. On 30 June 1943, she was amphibious force flagship for the landings on **Rendova**, at the beginning of a campaign to seize the nearby island of **New Georgia**. That afternoon, while the invasion force was withdrawing from the landing area, *McCawley* was hit by a Japanese aerial torpedo attack. In a sinking condition, she had been abandoned and was awaiting a final decision on her fate when several U.S. motor torpedo boats (PTs) mistook her for an enemy ship and hit her with more torpedos, causing her to sink rapidly. USS *McCawley*'s loss to "friendly fire" led to the urgent imposition of measures to reduce the risk of further such accidents.



Rear Adm R. Kelly Turner, (l), & Maj Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, USMC, on flag bridge of USS *McCawley* at the time of the Guadalcanal-Tulagi operation, circa Jul-Aug 1942.

<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-m/ap10.htm>

# Read the Draft Book Now, on the 164<sup>th</sup> Website!

*Je Suis Pret*: The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry in World War II is a Web Site created as part of the project to produce a written history of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during World War II. After interviewing several of the members of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association at last September's annual reunion, Dr. Terry Shoptaug has written the first three chapters, which describe the Regiment's training in Louisiana and its participation in the Guadalcanal campaign. Fifteen chapters are planned.

The direct link to the 164<sup>th</sup> web site is at  
[http://www.mnstate.edu/shoptaug/164th%20web%20site/jesuis\\_pret.htm](http://www.mnstate.edu/shoptaug/164th%20web%20site/jesuis_pret.htm)  
Or Go to: [www.mnstate.edu/shoptaug](http://www.mnstate.edu/shoptaug) Then Click "164<sup>th</sup> Infantry in World War II" link.

**Members of the Association are invited to read the chapters of the manuscript on the *Je Suis Pret* web site and contact the author.**

Once you're on the 164<sup>th</sup> Page, Click various links to see 164 History

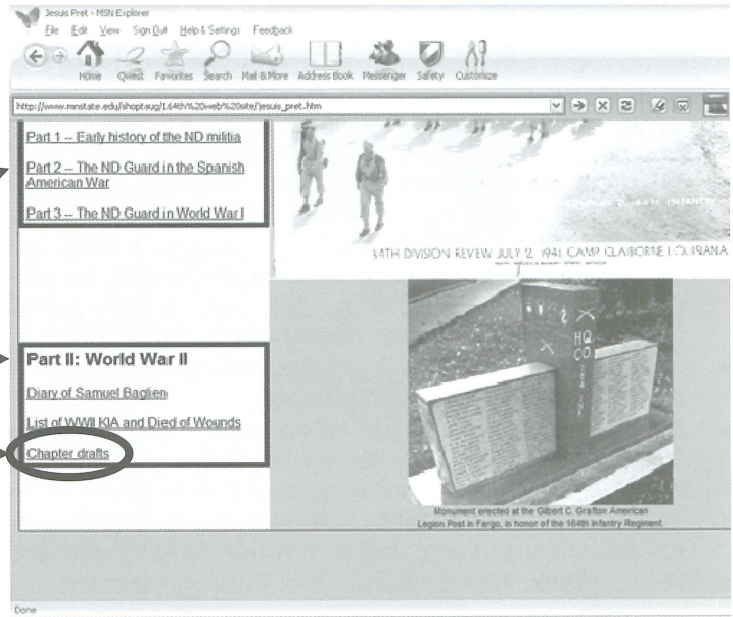
### PART I

- Part 1 Early History of the ND Militia
- Part 2 The 1<sup>st</sup> Dakota/Spanish American War
- Part 3 The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry/WWI

### PART II

- Diary of Lt Col Samuel Baglien, Reg't XO
- List of 164 Reg't WWII KIA & DOW

Click "Chapter Drafts" link to Read the Book



Association members are urged to read these chapters and send comments, changes, and corrections to Dr. Shoptaug. If you don't have a computer, ask for help at your local library.

In addition to the history of the Regiment in the war, the 164<sup>th</sup> web site has a history of the Regiment written in 1940, a list of the 164<sup>th</sup> soldiers who died in World War II, and the diary entries that Regimental Executive Officer Colonel Samuel Baglien wrote during the fighting on Guadalcanal.

More sections will be added to the website in the coming months, including a section filled with wartime photographs supplied by 164<sup>th</sup> members and family, maps of the Pacific campaigns that the Regiment participated in, wartime drawings of 164<sup>th</sup> veteran Douglas Burtell, and a section containing brief biographical sketches (and photos) of 164<sup>th</sup> Association members, starting with those who contribute to the book.

Once the World War II manuscript of the Regiment is complete, Dr. Shoptaug wants to give the web site to the North Dakota Adjutant General's office so that it can be preserved permanently on the Internet. The search for a hard-copy publisher for the manuscript will be ongoing. If you get a chance, please take a look at the *Je Suis Pret* web site and tell us what you think.

E-mail: [shoptaug@mnstate.edu](mailto:shoptaug@mnstate.edu)

Address: Terry Shoptaug,  
Minnesota State University Moorhead,  
1104 South 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Moorhead MN 56560  
218-477-2343

A screenshot of a web browser displaying an excerpt from a diary. The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://www.mnstate.edu/shoptaug/164th%20web%20site/baglien\_dary.htm. The page title is 'THE 164TH INFANTRY IN COMBAT FROM OCTOBER 7, 1942' by Lt. Col. Samuel Baglien. The text describes the regiment's location on the island of New Caledonia and their movement to Noumea harbor on October 8, 1942. Below the text is a banner that reads 'GUADALCANAL 1942-1943'.

**Above: Excerpt of the diary of Lt. Col. Samuel Baglien, Executive Officer of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry on Guadalcanal. Baglien's diary is now on the web site!**

**GUADALCANAL 1942-1943**



# A Japanese Analysis of American Combat Methods on Guadalcanal<sup>1</sup>

## I. Offense

- Preceding an attack by the American Army, there is always artillery bombardment for at least 12 hours. When this is begun at dawn or on the previous night, there are frequently an attack and an advance in the afternoon. At this time, we invariably open up a persistent checking fire....
- Attack formation: . . . They are quite brave, and use mainly automatic rifles. On rare occasions they send out ahead patrols of 2 or 3 men.
- Outline of Infantry Attack: When they come 300 or 400 meters in front of the fortified positions, first of all, they always stop, construct fortified positions, and about 100-200 meters to their rear flank they put up tents (the tents, for the most part, are for one section each, and are not large). Moreover, in front of these positions they station pickets. While reconnoitering they push forward their . . . [battalion howitzers], they continue their bombing, and concentrating their trench mortars on a certain sector, they advance and attack.... When they reach 100 or 150 meters in front of the position, they stop to bombard. They press on while sweeping with fire with their grenade rifles, light [machine] guns and automatic rifles. (In the last phase of combat they use flamethrowers and molotov cocktails). So long as even one of our men remains in a position and resists, they do not break through. Even though they realize that the position is completely demolished, they concentrate their trench mortars and then penetrate, yelling loudly.
- Penetration: ... If a strong reconnaissance force discovers an opening, after repeated bombardment they occupy it about evening. They build fortified positions until dawn, later adding to them and increasing the number of men. After that, they extend their penetration further to the front and flanks. Consequently, in Guadalcanal they never attempted to break through the depth of our position at one blow.
- They penetrate little by little, most cautiously, but very steadily. They advance while successively destroying every fortified position.
- Attack according to schedule: American troops conduct their attacks according to a planned table. Consequently, as a general rule, there is no such thing as taking advantage of an opportunity. Once they have executed an order which they were given at the outset, they seem to stop.
- When their attack fails, they revise their plans on a larger scale. However, the signal unit follows up [establishes and maintains communication] with unexpected speed.
- Night attack: Although they fire, infantry forces do not engage in night attacks.

## II. Defense

- Organization of an enemy position: It is a zone position without strong points which has as its nucleus special fire points and heavy fire arms.... The same class of troops is generally disposed in all sectors. The ... [battalion howitzers] (they must be above medium) and the ... [artillery] are moved by ... [truck] according to the situation....
- Enemy close range defensive battle depends on ... [machine guns and battalion howitzers]. As soon as they perceive (by their microphones, etc.<sup>2</sup>) that we are approaching, they repeatedly carry out a concentrated searching fire of 20 guns in the already prepared zone of fire.
- If one breaks this zone or rushes through the pockets, it becomes unexpectedly easy. But breaking through the zone of fire by force, whether by day or night, requires a considerable degree of neutralization and tremendous spirit. One should not employ mass formations. The enemy is not clever in a certain sense, for when his positions are penetrated by one of our units he becomes panic-stricken. We should take full advantage of this and should lose no opportunity to penetrate his positions and drive him out of them.
- Enemy fire is only on prepared points (sectors) and it is almost random fire. In the evening it is especially intense. For that reason we thoroughly reconnoiter the zones which they have prepared, and avoid them. At the same time, there is great value in drawing out enemy fire by a show of force and making the enemy expend recklessly. Moreover, a "feint" . . . attack by a small force is an effective method of attack against this type of enemy.

## III. Camp Duties

- The functioning of an American camp is extremely crude and imperfect. Although the American Army engages unexpectedly in 5th column activities, the functioning of its outposts is bad. Their security measures have many loop-holes and their night reconnaissance in particular is almost non-existent. There are sentry guards only in the daytime. At night they place pickets (between 15 and 20 men) very sparsely at important points so that infiltration by patrols and small forces is comparatively easy. In these openings, instead of sentry guards, they frequently place microphones. The division has never been able to discover these, but wires have been noticed. Direct security of positions is generally bad and extremely careless.

# A Japanese Analysis of American Combat Methods on Guadalcanal

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

(Continued...)

## IV. Other Items.

- American rear and flank susceptibility: The American Army is not susceptible on the flanks and rear. The American positions on Guadalcanal were probably all-out defense positions, and there were none with unprepared rear and flanks. Because of the deployment of their troop strength, which is thought to be sufficient . . . , they very seldom experience any hurt. As is clear from our own attack and a summary of the enemy's attack, the enemy never experiences any great anxiety over his deployment. This is indeed unfortunate. It seems the enemy will never experience any real suffering unless dealt a crushing blow. Therefore, rather than seeking excellence of deployment against the American Army, if we concentrate our entire strength on desirable points whether in the rear or flank, or in front, the enemy will come to be considered comparatively weak.
- Susceptibility to fire power: The American Army has a weak point in its great susceptibility to artillery and bombing attacks. Several effective rounds alone always rout an attack force of 300-400 or 500-600 in a moment, stemming the attack. For that reason, subjugation by shelling is easy, no matter what the type of enemy troops. However, the American Air Force takes off from runways during bombardments and frequently maneuvers bravely against rifles, machine guns, etc.
- Use of machine power and material power: They are skillful in the use of abundant material power and machine power. Even though they are the work of the enemy, newly established automobile roads, the strengthening of positions, speedy construction of . . . [airfields], the setting up of a network of communications, etc., are beautiful things. It demands all the more attention to force them out.
- Stress laid upon areas in the rear. In the American Army the stress laid upon rear areas is quite considerable, and the Japanese Forces (including the Navy) cannot compare with them. Not only do they form strong points in their rear, but they make persistent and utmost efforts to cut off our rear. This is to say, the enemy is constantly attacking our transport ships rather than our warships. In Guadalcanal they carried this out to an excessive degree, with untiring efforts. Consequently, if we can cut off the enemy's rear areas to half the extent that they do ours, their suffering will be beyond imagination.
- Progressiveness of American combat methods: The American Army is constantly endeavoring to devise new strategy. In a delaying action of 70 days, the American Army used a "non-tactical" attack and defense, but gradually became enlightened thanks to the Japanese Army. Their methods of attack improved, and they finally developed sound methods. Moreover, with the troop deployment which they have decided upon, they are carrying out attacks which have completely changed their first reputation. Therefore it should be said that it is a big mistake generally to disregard the general characteristics of the American Army and to consider their strategy as a fixed thing.
- The American Army is slow and steady, and does not place all its stakes on one big engagement. Individually or in small forces, they have often taken risks as in sports. As a whole group, however, they are extremely cautious and steady, advancing step by step. If they are not absolutely confident of their positions and strength, they do not attack. Therefore, in accordance with this situation, it is judged that vigorous operations and daring maneuvers will not be carried out for the present by large forces. One reason for this probably is that their officers of middle rank and below possess little tactical ability. Furthermore, if the enemy once gains self-confidence he becomes overly bold, but if any one opposes him he becomes radically less aggressive at once. This is seen to be the usual attitude of foreigners...

## Footnotes

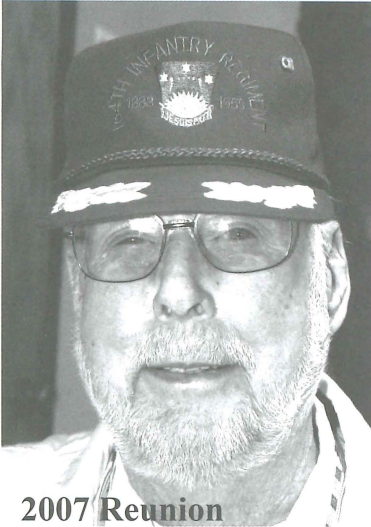
[1] This document, which was captured by Allied forces in New Guinea, was reproduced by ATIS (Army Translation & Interpretation Service, South West Pacific Area, on 21 November 1943 as Enemy Pub No. 56. It is a translation of a 10-page, mimeographed booklet written by a Japanese divisional staff officer and originally distributed to the Japanese in the South and Southwest Pacific Areas on 4 March 1943. The ATIS translation employs several American colloquialisms. After the war a search for the original Japanese booklet was made, that the colloquialisms might be removed, but the booklet could not be found. In this appendix, English words are substituted for the Japanese map symbols which are occasionally used by ATIS. Three sketches in the ATIS publication, showing American attack formations, methods of penetration, and organization of defensive positions, employ Japanese map symbols and have been omitted here. The Japanese and Allied distribution lists have also been omitted. Some changes have been made in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Col. Sidney F. Mashbir, Co-ordinator of ATIS during the war, checked the appendix and concurred in this version. Except for the alterations noted above, the text of the ATIS publication is reproduced almost in full, without change.

[2] The Japanese apparently believed that American troops employed electric devices, such as microphones, at observation posts to warn them against approaching enemy infantrymen. A similar idea was expressed by Colonel Furumiya (CO, 29th Inf), who was killed in October 1942. He suggested that the Americans were perhaps using machine guns which were operated by remote control, thus eliminating the need for a crew to man the gun. See extracts from his diary in 1st Mar Div Rpt, V, Annex I.



# The Long Cold Journey

by Sandy Sanderson, Medical Detachment



2007 Reunion

The **Medical Detachment**, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry, formed in **Bottineau**, ND, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1940. On February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1941, it was mobilized into Federal Service, to be a part of the **34<sup>th</sup> Division** and stationed at **Camp Claiborne, Louisiana**. We would leave by train in two weeks.

At morning roll call on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>, about a dozen new very green recruits were notified we would leave that morning by train for Devils Lake, to be attached to **Service Company** of the 164<sup>th</sup> as relief drivers, to drive their trucks to **Camp Claiborne**. That nite we were assigned to the driver and truck we would make the trip with. Some of us also drew a shift of guard duty on the truck line. Real professional, two months of medical and basic, never had our hands on an 03 Springfield, and of course it got down to 28 below zero.

The uniform of the day or start of the trip was wool long johns, O.D. (olive drab) wool uniform, denim fatigues over that, wool cap, long wool coat, and 2-buckle overshoes. The trucks were 1934 ton and a half standard, no heaters. Frank Shela was the driver of the truck I was assigned to. There were a few Dodge 4 wheel drive new army style trucks and they led the convoy. Sometime in mid morning, we left **Devils Lake**, twenty something below zero. Twenty or

so miles out of D.L., one of the trucks (our Wm Hall's) had a flat on the inside dual. They had to wait in the cold until the maintenance truck from rear of convoy came up to help. Lunch and warmup in **Grand Forks**, then on to **Fargo** for the nite. Supper and lodging at the Fargo armory.

Second day still very cold, bulk gas truck fueled us up by driving down the line of trucks. We went to Moorhead and took US Hiway 75 south. From now on, we would eat our meals at restaurants and stay in civic centers, armories, or other public buildings. Keeping a proper space between vehicles took some practice, especially for us green horns. Going through towns, we had to slow up, and then got stretched out, and then get up to hiway speed again could also get interesting. Second nite spent in **Canby, Minnesota**.

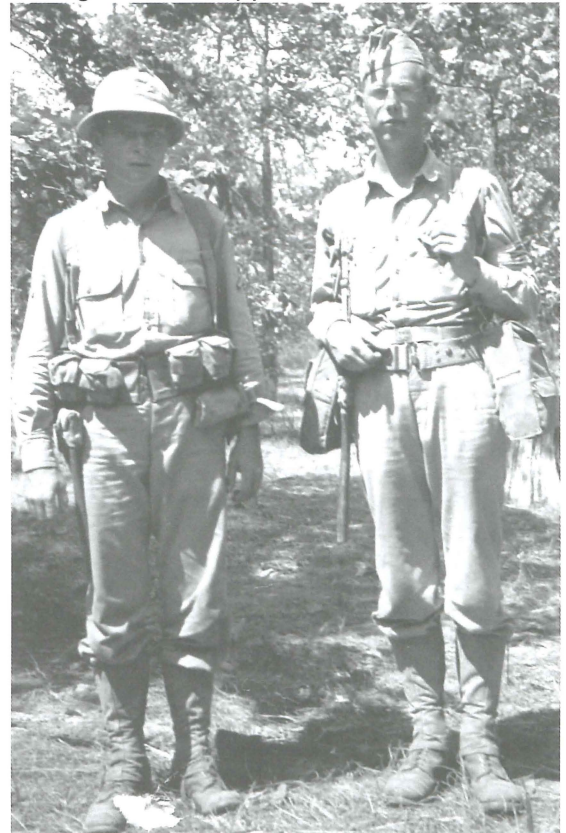
Third day, more of the same. Gas up, have breakfast, and on our way. Not much snow, but still cold in unheated trucks. Each day of our trip, we had hiway patrol escort. Third nite was spent in **Onawa, Iowa**.

Fourth day uneventful til we went thru **Council Bluff, Iowa**. The convoy leader must have speeded up too fast; we got split up and Frank took us thru town wide open. We spend the nite at **St Joseph, Missouri**.

Fifth day, snowing, temperature cool, approaching Kansas City on hiway bypass. Stopped for a while, then moved on slowly. At an intersection, one of the 4 wheel drive Dodges was stopped on side of the road. Saw some car wreckage and the intersection was covered with broken eggs. Didn't find out til we stopped for the night in **Joplin, Missouri**, that some egg producer with a '33 two door Ford sedan had tried to cross the hiway between two of the Dodges, and hit one right at the rear wheels, breaking the rear drive shaft so they drive it to Joplin on front wheel drive. Guess it really whined. They named the driver "**Crash**" Kirchofner.

Sixth day, still cool but didn't need such heavy clothes now. Saw a neat one today. Some guy tried to pass the convoy just ahead of us. Two trucks were a little farther apart and the patrol got along side of him and forced him between the two trucks and out into a field, and was writing him a ticket in classic movie stance of those days—booted foot on running board.

Can't remember where we stopped in **Arkansas** for last nite of trip. Big event of next day, convoy made sudden stop and the truck ahead of us hit the truck ahead of it hard enough to shear the back bumper bolts. Frank saw it soon enough to pull out and lock brakes. We ended up right along side of the truck ahead of us. Would have been a big smash. Uneventful trip the rest of the way to **Claiborne**. Got our tents and second day returned to **Medical Detachment**. The long cold journey was over, but the cold front had followed us all the way to Louisiana.



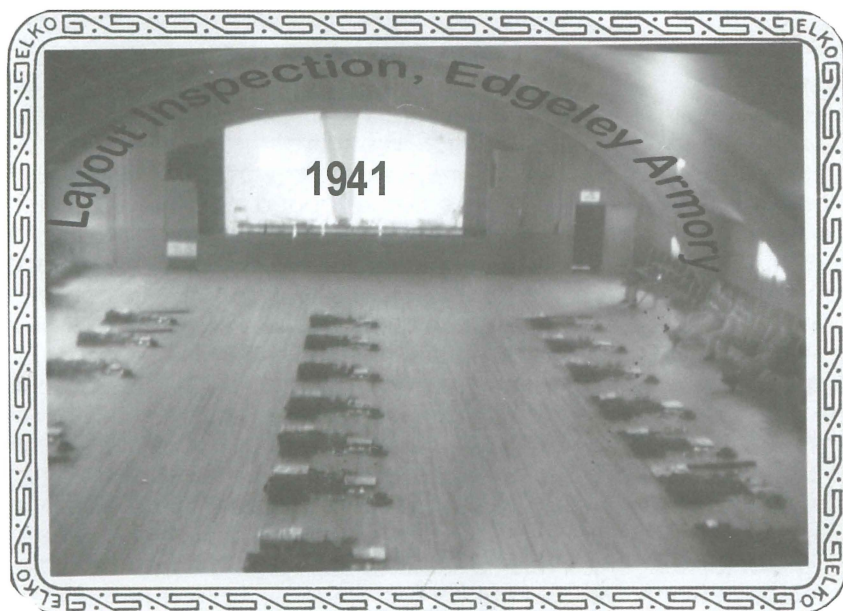
**Gerald "Sandy" Sanderson**, 2150 80<sup>th</sup> St NE, Willow City, ND 58385

Photo: Cold Journey to a hot destination. Now at Guadalcanal, **Sandy Sanderson** (right) carries medical bags. **Russel Rapp** is in the pith helmet. Photo from the Bernie Wagner collection.



Dorothy & Melvin Bork at the 2007 reunion.

*I joined* the N.D. National Guard in 1938 at the age of 17. On February 10, 1941, we were inducted into federal service by order of President Roosevelt. We left **Edgeley, ND**, on 25 Feb 1941 (temperature -25°F) for **Fargo, ND**. During the night, a troop train was assembled, consisting of units of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The train departed for Camp Claiborne Louisiana, arriving there 1 Mar 41.



Many personnel joined the unit in May 1941. The time at Camp was for extensive training and the long summer maneuvers. We were to be in training for one year. Events of December 7, 1941, changed those orders. We left **Camp Claiborne** December 12, 1941, arriving at the **Cow Palace** in Frisco on 16 Dec 44. We left there 24 Dec 41, arriving at the ordnance depot at **Hermiston, Oregon** on 26 Dec 41. Headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion guarded the ammunition bunkers. We left Hermiston 7 Mar 42, arriving in **San Francisco** the same day. The 164<sup>th</sup> boarded the ship *President Coolidge* – destination unknown. We arrived in **Melbourne, Australia**, 8 Apr 42. The *President Coolidge* was unloaded into three smaller ships. Third Battalion was on the ship *Maitzuckr*. We left **Melbourne** 12 Apr 42, arriving in **New Caledonia** 19 Apr 42. Our duty there was more training and unloading cargo ships.

We left **New Caledonia** 7 Oct 42, aboard the ship *Zeilin*, arriving at **Guadalcanal** 13 Oct 42. We left 1 Mar 43. The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry landed on **Fiji Islands** 6 Mar 43. We were in Fiji for rest and recuperation. Many new personnel were received to bring the unit to full strength. We left **Fiji** 25 Dec 43, and landed on **Bougainville** 25 Dec 43. We left **Bougainville** 8 Jan 45 after the Island was secure, and arrived in **Leyte, Philippines**, 8 Jan 44. We did combat duty on the islands of **Cebu, Bohol, and Mindenau**. I left Leyte 19 Jul 45, and arrived in **Frisco** 22 Aug 45, and was discharged from **Fort Lewis, WA**, 26 Aug 45. The duty for 3-1/2 years was very stressful, but I am proud to have been part of it...service for my country.

Melvin Bork, 608 38<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560, dbork86@aol.com

Service Record

JOINED N. G.	1938
Inducted into fed. ser.	Feb. 10, 1941
Left Edgeley, N. D.	Feb. 25, 1941
Ar. Camp Claiborne	Mar. 1, 1941
Left Camp Claiborne	Dec. 12, 1941
Ar. Cow Place - Frisco-	Dec. 16, 1941
Left Cow Place	Dec. 24, 1941
Ar U.O.D. Hermiston, Or	Dec. 26, 1941
Left U.O.D. "	Mar. 7, 1942
Ar Fort Ord	Mar. 10, 1942
Left Fort Ord	Mar. 13, 1942
A Frisco	Mar. 18, 1942
Left Frisco	Mar. 19, 1942
Aboard Fre. Coolidge	
Ar Australia	Apr. 8, 1942
Left Melbourne	Apr. 12, 1942
(Aboard Maitzuckr)	
Ar New Caledonia	Apr. 19, 1942
Left New Caledonia	Oct. 9, 1942
(aboard Zielin)	
Ar Guadalcanal	Oct. 13, 1942
Left Guadalcanal	Mar. 1, 1943
(aboard Fuller)	
Ar Fiji	Mar. 6, 1943
(aboard Crescent City)	
Left Fiji	Dec. 19, 1943
Ar Bougainville	Dec. 25, 1943
Left Bougainville	Jan. 8, 1945
Ar Leyte, P.I.	Jan 25, 1945
Left Leyte (LST)	Apr. 9, 1945
Ar Cebu	Apr. 10, 1945
Ar Bohol	Apr. 11, 1945
Left Bohol	Apr. 28, 1945
Ar Cebu	Apr. 29, 1945
Left Cebu	May 12, 1945
Ar Mindinau	May 13, 1945
Left Mindinau	June 17, 1945
Ar Cebu	June 18, 1945
Left Cebu	July 10, 1945
Ar Leyte	July 11, 1945
Left Leyte	July 22, 1945
Ar L.A.J.	Aug. 22, 1945
Discharged-Fort Lewis	Aug. 26, 1945



Camp Claiborne, La. 1941

# Pfc. Grove receives military medals 65 years later

**saukherald.com**

By Harry Hanson

2/18/2007 10:33:00

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Sauk Centre Herald • Sauk Centre, MN • 320-352-6577

Sixty-five years after the event, Elwood **Grove** received service medals in a neat picture frame featuring medals he had earned throughout World War II. A nephew [Scott] of a National Guard friend [of Elwood's, Ole Legaard] from Williston, N.D., wanted to surprise him with the present secured through the Defense Department when it was noted that replacement medals became available after the originals had been lost or damaged.

"I haven't really taken note of them over the years, but am happy to have them and for the work which went into getting them for me," said a gracious **Grove**, who lives in West Union.

Along with the medals was a copy of a letter dated Oct. 29, 1942, from C.B. Cates of the 1st Marine Division, thanking the commander and men of the 164th Infantry for holding the airfield after his Marines were relieved after being cut up and laid sick from malaria in the heat.

Among **Grove's** medals was the Purple Heart he received when he was hit in the back while guarding an airfield at **Bougainville** in the South Pacific. "We were in foxholes made by the Marines around the perimeter of the airfield with thick woods all around," was the way the 89-year-old retired Great Northern Railroad worker remembered it. "Artillery shells were being lopped on to the airfields when one came up short and sprayed my area with shrapnel. I must have turned or something when it struck a tree and scattered." **Grove** was withdrawn from the area and sent to a field hospital after which he was sent back to the United States for further recovery and another of his assignments. Once fully recovered from his injury, he was chosen to train a cadre of soldiers on the basics of fighting. After four and half years, he had accumulated enough points to go to Ft. Snelling where he was discharged in late 1945.

**Grove** chose National Guard to better choose his place in the war. Prior to stateside duty, Elwood had joined the National Guard in lieu of having a low draft number when the military draft was enacted in the fall of 1940. The North Dakota National Guard was soon dispatched for basic training at Camp Claiborne, La.

"Our first assigned duty seemed simple enough, guarding bridges in Montana against possible sabotage," said **Grove**. "Soon a ship took us to **Australia**, followed by **New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Figi Islands, Bougainville** and then home." His only fond memory of his stay in the Pacific was R & R in Fiji and in listening to a buddy's small phonograph with Bing Crosby singing "White Christmas" in the middle of the night.

As a youth he had worked on farms for his uncles in North Dakota, but he first returned to Hoffman, Minn., after which he became an on-the-job trained mechanic for Tony Straus in Sauk Centre. When he secured a job on the Great Northern Railroad, he remained as a cook and machine operator on a section crew out of Sauk Centre. "We laid and repaired tracks on the main line between St. Paul and Montana," he said.

He was then and still is living with his wife, Gladys, at their home along Highway 52 in West Union. Both now in their 80s and 90s, they, together with Gladys's daughter Janetta, enjoy singing western and old time music once a week or so at nursing homes.

Elwood still remembers his three friends who joined the National Guard with him from the little town of Fortuna, N.D. "They are all gone now, but the memories of our military duty are not."

HERALD PHOTO BY HARRY HANSON Elwood Grove holds his service medals in a neat picture frame featuring medals he had earned throughout World War II.



## Associate Member Scott Legaard does Good Things for WWII guys



Elwood received his shadow-box from me before Christmas & the Sauk Center newspaper did a story on Elwood & the 164th The reporter had an uncle in the same area of the Pacific but thought Elwood had embellished the 164th's combat record. Anyhow Elwood was thrilled to see his medals after all these years. I put his name in the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC, along with as many buddies I could think of. Thanks again for the help with the awards info!

Scott Legaard ([sblegaard@yahoo.com](mailto:sblegaard@yahoo.com))



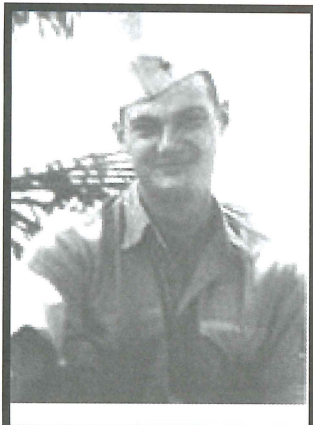
**Ole Legaard, Co E**, and wife Coy on their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1985. His nephew, Scott (far left) located your Editor's email, found out about the Association, and recruited Ole back into the ranks. (Scott joined, too). A story about a group of Co E friends from No. Dakota was printed in the October issue of the News (pg 13). Ole & Coy reside in Ridgeway, Missouri.



This is **George Leininger** & wife Elaine at a Veteran's Day program at the high school in Crosby, ND. George was originally with **Ole, Coral, Elwood**, and Sherman in Camp Claiborne, then the 164<sup>th</sup> was split out of the 34<sup>th</sup> Division. George was with the 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry (34<sup>th</sup> Division) in the North Africa & Italy Campaigns

# SOLOMON ISLANDS: Part III Gavutu, Tanambogo, Guadalcanal

October 1942 - January 1943 [Excerpt from Chapter 10].....*the memoirs of Marine William T. Paull*



1944

Sgt. William T. Paull

.....A few days after this battle [at Gavutu] we made the perilous journey across the channel in our battered Higgins boats, without any Jap interference, and landed on Guadalcanal at a coconut plantation near the Tenaru River. Our bivouac was about a half mile from Henderson Field. It was hard to believe that Tulagi and Guadalcanal are only twenty miles apart. It was easy to figure out why the officials of the Lever Company set up their headquarters on Tulagi. The big island felt hotter and swarmed with mosquitoes. There is a narrow strip of coconut plantations on the coast; the rest of the island is steep mountains, covered with dense jungle. We camped in a level area between two sluggish, muddy rivers. The island stank and I never got used to the smell. I felt that the stench reached into my bones. It took months in New Zealand with cool weather, cold milk, fresh fruit, and friendly civilians before I felt clean and human again.

Every night, a lone bomber from Rabaul, or some other Jap base nearby, made a run over Henderson Field and dropped a few bombs. Since our position was near the field, we got clobbered with the near misses. We dubbed the nightly visitor *Washing Machine Charlie*. I guess that high droning sound reminded someone of his mother's Maytag. Charlie usually managed to dump a couple of bombs on the field, but we could always patch up the damage and keep a runway operating. Charlie's real damage was psychological. He kept us on edge as we jumped into foxholes two or three times every night. After a week or so, we just ignored him. We'd wake up to that high, scary, drone and decide to take our chances in our tents.

G Battery became the artillery support for an Army regiment that was assaulting Mt. Austin. Sam Dallas and I were attached to one of the infantry companies of the 164th Regiment as forward observers. I developed love and respect for those "dog-faces". Marines like to feel superior, but those doggies had as much determination and guts as we did. Sam and I had a built-in advantage since we had been in the islands for over four months and were regarded with respect as grizzled veterans. I know that we capitalized on this and told outrageous stories of our heroic deeds.

I have hazy memories of that long, slow hike up to a ridge overlooking a Japanese strong point. The advance up the slope was painful and the column was stopped whenever a Jap sniper fired. When there was a concentration of enemy troops ahead, the lieutenant would ask us to call for artillery fire. This was scary for me... I hadn't been trained for this kind of warfare. Our field exercises back in California taught us how to register our guns on targets that we could see... to direct artillery fire up, down, left, right, and observe the impacts. In Guadalcanal's dense jungle, none of this applied. Our guns were registered on a checkpoint far in advance of our position so we could call fire back toward us in increments of fifty yards. It is spooky when you see and feel artillery shells exploding in the trees only a few yards away and know that you are responsible. Anyway, our shells were ineffective. They were

used to explode at the first resistance which meant that they blasted all the tree tops but didn't do much damage to the snipers and troops below. Among my memories of bad things is the smell of burnt powder & shredded vegetation.

We finally reached the ridge and dug in. At night we could hear the Japs shouting, "Maline, you die!" They had snipers placed on their side of the slope so it was instant suicide to stick your head up to take a peek. We had two army radiomen assigned to us to send our commands back to the gun batteries. Sam and I used their TBX as a screen when we had to make a firing adjustment. I guess we hoped that Japs would hit the radio and put it out of commission. We reasoned that if that happened, we'd be declared unnecessary personnel and sent back down the mountain. This ploy didn't succeed, but after three hairy, scary nights on the ridge, Sam and I were relieved by a couple of Army observers and ordered to report back to G Battery.

We started back down the trail accompanied by two stretcher bearers carrying a wounded soldier. We were almost out of the jungle when snipers opened up on us. Sam was hit and rolled down a steep bank into a little stream. The stretcher bearers ran off the trail with their burden but they weren't able to save the soldier. I jumped behind a fallen log and found myself alongside a decaying Jap corpse.

This was my peak of terror and horror. It should have been my worst wartime experience. Possibly it was. I was lying alongside a stinking mass of putrefaction and too afraid to move. I thought Sam was dead. I could see that the wounded soldier had been killed and I assumed the other two soldiers were dead too. Then my mind went on automatic pilot. I remained aware of what was happening, but I felt a cool detachment. It seemed to be merely an interested observer.

This ability to tune out fear and panic and still do my job served me well throughout the Tarawa, Saipan, Guam and Iwo Jima landings. Every time I was in a dangerous, stressful situation, I was able to switch into automatic drive and function without panic. I came to be regarded as a fearless warrior, and I was willing to accept the label. Eventually even I came to believe that I was the super, splendid, ideal Marine that my peers perceived me to be. But I had a secret. I knew that no matter how terrible the situation might be, I'd emerge unscathed. It was some other guy that looked just like me that was exposed to all those dangers. I'd still be OK when the show ended and the credits rolled by on the movie screen. This even earned me a field commission on Iwo Jima. In part, my letter of recommendation read, "... uncommon coolness and effectiveness under stressful combat conditions..."

Eventually an army patrol came down the trail and cleared out the four snipers that had us pinned down. The two soldiers were unhurt. Sam was hit in the side but he could walk, so we stuck with the patrol until we made it out of the jungle. Sam was bandaged and sent out to a hospital ship and I never saw him again. I hope he recovered and made it back to Arkansas.



The South Pacific Diaries of Marine Sgt Paull are on the web at address [www.sihope.com/~tipi/marine.html](http://www.sihope.com/~tipi/marine.html).

This excerpt is used with permission from Mrs. Paull. Sgt William T. Paull, Btry G, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 10th Reg't, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines, passed away 24 September 2007

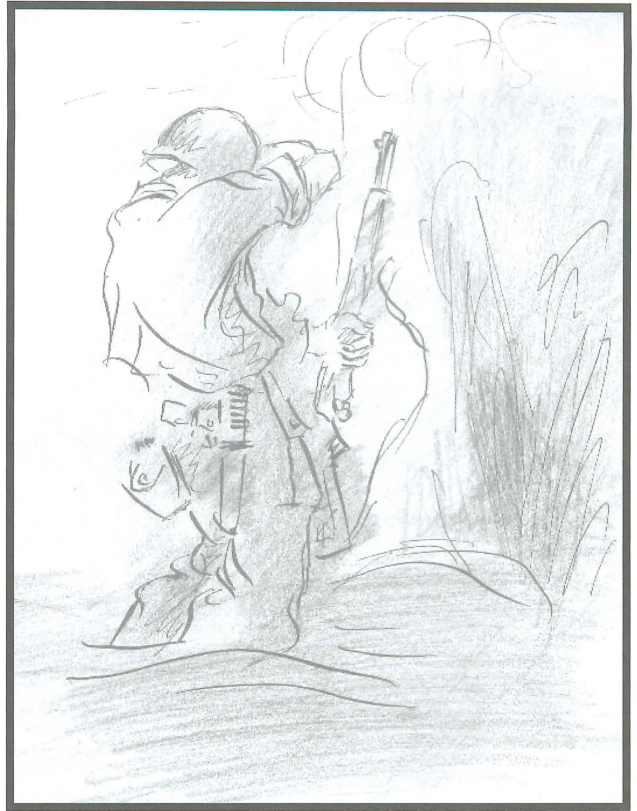
# Burtell's Art of War

By Dr. Terry Shoptaugh

The Cass County Historical Society (West Fargo) is joining with North Dakota State University to develop an exhibit of the sketches of **Douglas Burtell**, a member of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association, and a veteran of the Pacific War.

The two sketches accompanying this story were done during the latter part of the war and show the mature work of a combat veteran. The first sketch of two men sleeping in a shallow foxhole is an excellent example of the Philippine terrain, the exhaustion of the soldiers and the care they took to keep weapons near to hand. The second sketch of a GI under fire has similarities to the work of combat artists used by the Army and to the work of Bill Mauldin.

**Douglas Burtell** was born in 1924, in Casselton. He grew up in Casselton during the hardest years of the Great Depression, going to school and doing odd jobs to help his family. As he told Terry Shoptaugh in an interview last Fall, "I wasn't able to play football at school until my junior year, because [before that] I had to be down at the garage at four o'clock, scrubbing floors, washing cars, greasing cars, driving the wrecker – I didn't have a driver's license. I got my social security card when I was fourteen, in 1938. Then when I was fifteen I delivered a truck to a farmer. My dad told me to deliver the truck and ask the farmer for the job of driving it. So I got that job hauling grain for a dollar a day. Later, the farmer fired one of the bundle haulers who got drunk, so then they put me on a bundle wagon and I hauled bundles for a dollar a day. That was hard work, you got up at four or five in the morning, harnessed the horses. I also shoveled the grain into the trucks, the trucks didn't have hoists. I shoveled lots of grain." Doug also started drawing when he was young, sketches of his school, his friends, the countryside, just about anything. "I was always drawing."



Doug joined the North Dakota National Guard late in 1940, becoming a member of the Head-quarters Company for the 164<sup>th</sup> Regiment. "Some of the guys that were in the Guard, like **Bernard Starkenberg** and others, would come out to Casselton. Some were chasing girls, others had family and friends there. Starkenberg and these guys talked me into joining. I was sixteen years and eight months old. That was in December 1940. When we were sworn in to Federal service in January, that old sergeant stamped out our World War I type dog tags with a little stamper and a wooden hammer." When the Guard was federalized in February 1941, Burtell and his companions went to **Camp Claiborne**, Louisiana, for training and service as the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. The entire regiment was at Claiborne in December 1941 when the attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the United States into war.

## Burtell's Art of War (continued.....)

On **Guadalcanal**, Doug was assigned to intelligence gathering duties. This meant that he and other members of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance (I&R) Platoon made numerous long-distance patrols into the jungle of Guadalcanal, attempting to find information about the enemies' whereabouts and intentions, take prisoners, and capture Japanese documents. Burtell used his artistic talents to make maps for the 164<sup>th</sup>, and also made sketches of his experiences in the war.

He describes several combat episodes in his interview. "Larry McCarten and I were returning from a patrol and saw the kitchen truck was up with food. So we went over. Fred 'Fritz' Maier ran over and said 'I just saw a damn Jap come up the hill over there and he ran back when he saw us.' So Larry and I went over to look for him in the tall grass. As we got closer I heard the snap of a grenade and yelled 'grenade!' and we pulled back. I got hit by a few fragments in the back when it went off. We rolled a couple of our grenades into the grass and then went in. He was dead, but I think he killed himself with his own grenade as he saw us closing in. They did that a lot."

When **Burtell** returned from the Pacific in 1945, he brought home with him a sketch book containing drawings of the Pacific. In the 1990s he was commissioned to adapt one of his sketches for use as the memorial plaque at the North Dakota Veterans' Cemetery in Bismarck. In addition, parts of earlier sketches were used in interpretative panels now on US Highway 2 (designated as the "164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Memorial Highway" by the ND State Legislature in 2005), and a painting by Burtell, depicting the active volcano **Mount Bagana** on the island of **Bougainville**, was once reproduced on paper. Several 164<sup>th</sup> members have copies of it.

The Cass County Historical Society-NDSU project now plans to create full size reproductions of Doug's sketches and put them in a traveling exhibit across the state. Some of the images will also be placed on the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry web site (see article on Page 5). Portions of a recorded interview with Doug may also be added to the exhibit and the web site.

## The Casselton Contingent

by Doug Burtell, Reg't Hqs Co

Thought this might make an interesting story for the 164<sup>th</sup> News. Enclosed are two pictures of Casselton, ND, boys at Camp Claiborne, La, summer, 1941. **Les Wichmann** was kind enough to send me these pictures and I had prints made.

Louis Kittel, the pilot of this fighter plane, was from Casselton Also. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1939. He buzzed our Regimental area at Camp Claiborne with his fighter, and we Casselton guys drove over to the airfield where he landed and had our pictures taken with him and his plane. He was a captain at this time, the summer of 1941.

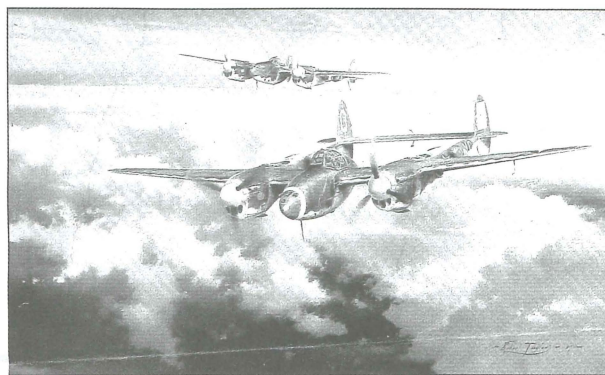
His P-38 Squadron came to Guadalcanal in the early spring of 1943, Feb or March. **Louis Kittel, a proponent of night flying, shot down the first "Washing Machine Charlie" over Guadalcanal.** (Charlies were Japanese planes bombers that bombed Guadalcanal nightly.) Kittel accomplished this by turning on the searchlights and no anti-aircraft fire.

*Maj Louis Kittel's squadron shot down Admiral Yamamoto over Bougainville. Above is an undated ad for a print by artist Robert Taylor that depicts the P-38's of that fame.*



Above, Casselton Boys at Camp Claiborne. L-R: Les Wichmann<sup>1</sup>, Doug Burtell<sup>1</sup>, Bob Kilpatrick, Leroy Wahowski, Vince Powers<sup>1</sup>, Red Eberhardt. (<sup>1</sup>current members)

**The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News, March 2008**



### "LIGHTNING STRIKE"

A special edition of only 35 prints each signed by TEN P-38 pilots including all the living survivors of the Yamamoto raid. These 35 prints are part of ROBERT TAYLOR's original edition, which is now sold out.

When Robert Taylor's superb print "Lightning Strike" was issued by his publishers, The Military Gallery, the edition quickly sold out. As a Military Gallery Dealer, Federal Galleries acquired a small inventory of this famous print, which when published carried the signatures of 4 outstanding P-38 pilots—Jay Robbins, Gerald Brown, John Mitchell and Rex Barber.

We are pleased to announce a small edition—within-edition, of just 35 prints, which is also signed by the six surviving pilots of the historic Yamamoto Raid, when P-38 pilots intercepted and shot down the aircraft carrying Japanese Commander Admiral Yamamoto: Delton Goerke, Besley Holmes, Roger Ames, Doug Canning, Jack Jacobson and Louis Kittel.

Adding even more significance to this valuable collectors item, the print is also signed by P-38 Ace Jack Ilfrey and another name from the history books, Roger Pineau, who broke the Japanese code enabling the attack on Yamamoto to go ahead.

Robert Taylor's magnificent painting is claimed by many to be the finest artistic study of P-38's in action yet painted, and enthusiasts will recognize the historical significance of these few rare copies and the opportunity they afford for future investment. Already 12 of the available 35 prints have been reserved prior to this announcement, so please write or call us before the remaining copies are acquired by collectors.

Same six as the other picture, plus pilot **Captain Louie Kittel** (center), also from Casselton.



Plane is probably a T-6 Texan "pilot maker"  
[www.warbirdalley.com/t6.htm](http://www.warbirdalley.com/t6.htm) (Thanks John Jacobsen!)

## TREUMANN LYKKEN'S WAR

RURAL ADAMS, N.D., NATIVE'S SERVICE IN N.D. GUARD'S 164TH LAUNCHED LIFETIME OF VETERAN INVOLVEMENT

Treumann **Lykken** didn't know it when he and other members of North Dakota National Guard's 164th Infantry Regiment left for basic training in early 1941 at the U.S. Army's Camp Claiborne in central Louisiana. But in effect, they were going off to war.

"I was on weekend pass down in Beaumont, Texas" in December of that year, recalled **Lykken**, 21 then, now 87 and a Grand Forks resident. "Four, five of us got in a car and drove down there, just for the weekend. Just looking the sights over down on the beach there. "Well, we come to the gas station, we were going to gas up for the trip back home (to Camp Claiborne), and the guy says, 'Are you ready? And we said, 'Ready for what?'

That's when they learned about the Japanese attack on Hawaii's Pearl Harbor. "So, we said, 'Well, we better head back to camp.'"

**Lykken** was among the first troops sent to the Pacific Northwest - the nation's, not the ocean's. His squad was assigned to guard a railroad bridge at American Falls, Idaho. "We slept in a boxcar right outside the bridge and ate uptown at a cafe." They ultimately were sent by ship to Australia, then New Caledonia, in the South Pacific, in 1942. By the time the rural Adams, ND, native's Pacific Theatre tour of duty was over, it was later 1945, and WWII had just ended.

**Lucky and unlucky:** Recuperated from a bout with jaundice that late summer, **Lykken** was aboard a ship bound for the States that had stopped at Hawaii for repairs when word came that the Japanese had surrendered. "I was one of the last (discharged)," a chuckling **Lykken** said. "I guess I wasn't lucky. You took it a day at a time. Not much you could do about it. ... I was happy to serve, of course. There were ups and downs, but I come through it hale and hardy." Not completely. After dodging malaria throughout his island-hopping combat service in the Pacific, **Lykken** says, he was stricken at home by the infectious tropical and sub-tropical disease around Thanksgiving and Christmas. But return home, he did.

Not all members of the 164th - which, at the battle of Guadalcanal, became the first U.S. Army unit to take the combat offensive in World War II - were as fortunate, **Lykken** knows all too well. The records show that the war killed 325 members of the 164th and wounded nearly 1,200 more. "We were lucky to get through it alive," said **Lykken**, assigned to 60-millimeter mortars during the war. "We're grateful."

**Active veteran:** He's come a long way from the high school kid who went with several friends in the late 1930s to sign up with the National Guard's Grafton, N.D.-based C Company. Then, he was paying little attention to the uneasiness in Europe involving Germany's rising Nazi Party. "Really, I just wanted to get into the service. Hope I'd pass the physical and so on," he recalled, laughing softly.



▲ Treuman Lykken holds a plaque of his medals he earned during his service in World War II. Jackie Lorentz, staff photographer



## TREUMANN LYKKEN'S WAR (continued)

Post-war, **Lykken** quickly left farming when North Dakota dirt and dust gave him frequent nosebleeds. He worked eight years in retail sales for Gamble stores in Grafton, Carrington and Bismarck, and in Webster, S.D. Shortly after moving the family to Grand Forks in 1954, he began a 28-year career at Sears, retiring in 1982. But he didn't abandon his military ties. Back in '45, **Lykken** and an older brother, Harvey, an Air Force mechanic in

the war's European Theatre, quickly joined the American Legion post in Adams. "I guess most guys were joining veterans organizations at the time," Treumann said. He became an active, involved member, serving twice as a post commander, at Carrington and Grand Forks; and once as state commander, in 1975-76. He also spent three terms of three years each on the Legion's National Americanism Commission. A den in his home contains memorabilia from 60-plus years of service in the Legion and other veterans organizations. He lives alone now. His wife of 56 years, the former Margaret Lothspeich of Langdon, N.D., died in May 2002. She spent most of the war years in Washington as a secretary for the offices of the War Production Board, which oversaw the wartime rationing of fuel, rubber and other materials. They married in 1946. Three of their five children - Diane Kraemer, Warren **Lykken** and Debra Muus - live in Grand Forks.

**Restless nights:** Treumann **Lykken's** life may be far removed from his first combat experience in 1942. But he hasn't forgotten Guadalcanal. From Australia, the 164th were sent to join other troops to form the Americal Division at New Caledonia. Then, they were sent by small boats to Guadalcanal to help Marines defend Henderson Field, a vital airstrip to the war effort, from Japanese naval and infantry attacks. Reaching Guadalcanal in October 1942, **Lykken** and other 164th soldiers saw beach debris and other evidence of shelling. "We got our first casualty while unloading," he recalled. "He was killed by a sniper." On Guadalcanal, the soldiers quickly tried to find places to dig a sufficiently deep fox holes amid the shale and rock. The landscape "was infested with roaches and other insects, you know. They'd chirp at night. Pitch black. You couldn't see your hand in front of your face. Any movement, you'd think it was (Japanese soldiers)." For several days, "we were really bombed from land, sea and air. I don't know, but a lot of people said we really could have been pushed back into the ocean very easily. But we held on. ... We almost lost (Henderson Field) many of times. It was bombed and strafed, of course, and we had very few aircraft left at one point." The 164th's C Company was several miles from the field, and some other companies took higher casualties. In the Battle for Henderson Field, the 164th saw 26 of its own killed and double that number injured. "I know I spent 30 days in the foxhole without getting a bath or a darned thing," **Lykken** recalled. "Thirty days on the line, (under fire) anytime, all the time," with only C-rations - prepared canned food - for meals. "I spent a lot of restless nights there." Deadly individual battles and patrols replaced the fierce fighting of those first weeks. The 164th saw nearly 150 of its soldiers killed by the time it left the island in early 1943.

**Closest call:** From Guadalcanal, **Lykken** and others got some rest, relaxation and more training on the Fiji Islands before being sent in late 1943 to Bougainville, part of the Solomon Islands. The 164th stayed there for most of 1944, going out on patrols, checking for signs of Japanese combatants. At Bougainville, **Lykken** says, he came closest to losing his life. "We were advancing on a ridge. There happened to be a ridge to our right, and it was higher up than we were, actually. The Japanese had a pill box there, and we got strafed by machine gun fire, you know. So, we got off of that hill as fast as we could, of course, on our stomachs. "That's where my gunner was hurt, and I think the lieutenant up ahead of me there, he was hurt. ... The shells were peppering all right around me, and it took the front sight off my rifle. ... It scared me."

**Shock of loss:** Combat training helped save his life, but it couldn't prepare him for a different loss that occurred while at Bougainville. An Army chaplain found **Lykken** at his position in the Solomon Island hills one day and delivered a letter with news from home. "I lost my mother when I was in Bougainville," he recalled somberly. Ragna **Lykken** had not been sick. "Not really," he said. "She died in the Langdon hospital. That's where they went. She had a blood problem of some kind. ... She wasn't very old. 47, 48. Maybe a little older than that. "Never expecting anything at all, you know, that was wrong with her," **Lykken** recalled, his voice softening. "So, it was shocking." That news from home, he says, remains one of his most distinct war memories. A year later, back in the States, **Lykken** was discharged at Fort Lewis, Wash., and he took a long bus ride across the Rocky Mountains and Northern Plains to Grafton. His sister Beulah picked him up at Grafton and brought him back to the farm home north of Adams. Once there, one of the very first things Treumann **Lykken** did was to visit the gravesite of Ragna **Lykken**.

Brue is the Herald's weekend projects editor. Reach him at (701) 780-1267; (800) 477-6572, ext. 267; or mbrue@gfherald.com.

**Photo:** Jackie Lorentz, staff photographer

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Thank you, Editor Mike Jacobs

**GrandForksHerald.com**



# Fact Sheet World War II - Page 1

[http://www.60wwii.mil/Presentation/Education/wwii\\_fact.cfm](http://www.60wwii.mil/Presentation/Education/wwii_fact.cfm)

## PROFILE OF U.S. SERVICEMEN (1941-1945)

- 38.8 percent (6,332,000) of U.S. servicemen and women were volunteers.
- 61.2 percent (11,535,000) were draftees. Of the 17,955,000 men examined for induction, 35.8 (6,420,000) were rejected as physically or mentally unfit.
- The average duration of service was 33 months.
- Overseas service: 73 percent served overseas, with an average of 16.2 months abroad.
- Combat survivability: (out of 1,000) 8.6 were killed in action, 3 died from other causes, and 17.7 received nonmortal combat wounds.
- Noncombat jobs: 38.8 percent of the enlisted personnel had rear echelon assignments-- administrative, technical, support, or manual labor.
- Average base pay: Enlisted: \$71.33 per month; Officer: \$203.50 per month.

## U.S. ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL (1939 - 1945) (Enlisted and Officer)

	ARMY	NAVY	MARINES	TOTAL
1939	189,839	125,202	19,432	334,473
1940	269,023	160,997	28,345	458,365
1941	1,462,315	284,427	54,359	1,801,101
1942	3,075,608	640,570	142,613	3,858,791
1943	6,994,472	1,741,750	308,523	9,044,745
1944	7,994,750	2,981,365	475,604	11,451,719
1945	8,267,958	3,380,817	474,680	12,123,455

## PEAK STRENGTH OF ARMED FORCES DURING WORLD WAR II

U.S.	12,364,000	Switzerland	650,000
U.S.S.R.	12,500,000	Rumania	600,000
Germany	10,000,000	Philippines	500,000
(including Austria)		Yugoslavia	500,000
Japan	6,095,000	Netherlands	500,000
France	5,000,000	Sweden	500,000
China		Bulgaria	450,000
Nationalist	3,800,000	Hungary	350,000
Communist	1,200,000	Finland	250,000
Britain	4,683,000	Brazil	200,000
Italy	4,500,000	Czechoslovakia	180,000
India	2,150,000	New Zealand	157,000
Poland	1,000,000	Greece	150,000
Spain	850,000	South Africa	140,000
Turkey	850,000	Thailand	126,500
Belgium	800,000	Iran	120,000
Canada	780,000	Portugal	110,000
Australia	680,000	Argentina	100,000

## U.S. ARMED FORCES TOLL OF WAR (1939 - 1945)

	Killed	Wounded
Army and Air Force	234,874	565,861
Navy	36,950	37,778
Marines	19,733	67,207
Coast Guard	574	432
Total military	292,131	671,278

### Merchant Marines

Died as POWs	37	Dead	5,662
Missing / presumed dead	4,780	Killed at sea	845

## ESTIMATED INTERNATIONAL COSTS OF WORLD WAR II

Battle deaths	14,904,000
Battle wounded	25,218,000
Civilian deaths	38,573,000
Direct economic costs	\$1,600,000,000,000

## COSTS BY INDIVIDUAL NATIONS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WAR (in U.S. Dollars)

U.S.	288,000,000,000	Netherlands	9,624,000,000
Germany	212,336,000,000	Belgium	6,324,000,000
France	111,272,000,000	India	4,804,000,000
U.S.S.R.	93,012,000,000	New Zealand	2,560,000,000
Britain	57,254,226,000	Sweden	2,344,000,000
China	49,072,000,000	South Africa	2,152,000,000
Japan	41,272,000,000	Turkey	1,924,000,000
Italy	21,072,000,000	Switzerland	1,752,000,000
Canada	20,104,000,000	Norway	992,000,000
Australia	10,036,000,000	Portugal	320,000,000



Out of the gaping mouths of Coast Guard and Navy Landing Craft, rose the great flow of invasion supplies to the blackened sands of Iwo Jima, a few hours after the Marines had wrested their foothold on the vital island. 1945.  
Photo M2c. Paul Queenan. (Coast Guard) Exact Date Shot Unknown  
NARA FILE #: 026-G-4098  
WAR & CONFLICT BOOK #: 856

## SOURCES

Arthur Enock, *This War Business*, The Bodley Head, London, 1951

Operations Navy, Division of Naval Intelligence, September 1945

# Fact Sheet World War II - Page 2

[http://www.60wwii.mil/Presentation/Education/wwii\\_fact.cfm](http://www.60wwii.mil/Presentation/Education/wwii_fact.cfm)



Flight Deck, USS CASABLANCA. Flight deck load, aircraft, P-47NES, aft. Planes loaded at N.A.S. Alameda, California, enroute to Guam, from San Francisco, July 16, 1945. PhoM3c. D.C. Diers. (Navy)  
NARA FILE #: 080-CASA-706  
WAR & CONFLICT BOOK #: 960

## TANK PRODUCTION (All Types)

U.S.	60,973
Britain	23,202
Germany	19,926
Italy	4,600
Japan	2,464
U.S.S.R.	54,500



"The Jerries were on the run and we wanted to keep them that way. The Tricolor flying from the Arc de Triomphe looked pretty good as we went through."  
----American tank in Paris, August 1944. (OWI), Exact Date Shot Unknown, NARA FILE #: 208-YE-68 ,WAR & CONFLICT BOOK #: 1051

## AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION (All types)

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
U.S.	2,141	6,086	19,433	47,836	85,898	96,318	46,001
Britain	7,940	15,049	20,094	23,672	26,263	26,461	12,070
Soviet Union		10,382	10,565	15,737	25,436	34,900	40,300
Germany	8,295	10,826	12,401	15,409	24,807	40,593	7,540
Japan	4,467	4,768	5,088	8,861	16,693	28,180	8,263

## MILITARY AIRCRAFT LOSSES (1939 - 1945)

U.S.	59,296	France	2,100
Germany	95,000	Canada	2,389
Japan	49,485	New Zealand	684
Britain	33,090	India	527
Australia	7,160	Sweden	272
Italy	4,000	Denmark	154

(U.S.S.R. losses were extremely high, but they were undisclosed by the Soviet government.)

## NAVAL LOSSES (1939 - 1945) (Submarines, frigates, and all larger ships) Number of ships

U.S.	157	Germany	672
Britain	296	Japan	433
France	129	Greece	22
Netherlands	40	Yugoslavia	13
Norway	40	*U.S.S.R.	102
Italy	300	Others	36

\*Unconfirmed statistic.

## MERCHANT SHIP LOSSES (Ships over 200 tons)

Britain	3,194
Japan	2,346
U.S.	866
Other Allied	1,467
Neutral	902

## PRISONERS OF WAR

Prisoners held by the Allies  
(excluding those in the Soviet Union):

German	630,000
Italian	430,000
Japanese	11,600

Prisoners held by Germany:

French	765,000
Italian	555,000
British	200,000
Yugoslav	125,000
American	90,000

Prisoners held by Japan:

British	108,000
Dutch	22,000
American	15,000

## SOURCES

Robert Goraliski, *World War II Almanac*: 1931-1945, G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY, 1981. Trade Division, Naval Staff, Admiralty (London), October 1945

# NOW HEAR THIS... NOW HEAR THIS....by SGM (ret) Joe Castagneto

As I was watching the Baseball All Stars game from San Francisco, CA, the TV network showed the Golden Gate Bridge. This brought back memories of October 19, 1943, and the responsibility I, as a lowly PFC, was given for the safety of thousands of troops.

I was stationed at Ft. Leonard, MO, for my Basic Training with the 75th Infantry Division. I was told to report to the 1st Sgt. He told me that he received a letter from General MacArthur, that he needs your help. A polite way of saying you are on orders to go overseas. I was to report to Camp Stoneman, CA. I processed and was assigned to APO 716 San Francisco, CA. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, a group of us went to Sacramento, CA, to board ship. When we arrived, the band was playing their military music. I thought this was a nice way to say Good Bye as you was going into harm's way.

At the dock, we saw a huge ship that looked like a bucket of rust with the name painted on the bow "MOOR MAXI." I remembered the name and I hope that I spelled it correctly. This vessel was an old merchant ship converted to a troop transport. I and many others hoped that this bucket would not come apart during our journey to parts unknown. Up the gang plank we went with duffel bag and some carried guitars, and down the hold to our assigned bunks. It was hot down below and it didn't take long for the human odor to build as we started to perspire. We departed the next morning. The Galley had rows of stand up tables, no seats, and was hot as hell. You ate as quickly as you could and got out of there for some fresh air,

As we passed under the Golden Gate Bridge, troops were lined up at the ship rails and waving good bye as we passed. Things were quiet as we passed the point of no return, to a place unknown. The troops were milling around trying to find a place to sit. Some got between the hold covers and laid down a blanket and were shooting craps. Others were in clusters in the middle of the passageway. The loud speaker came on blaring "Now Hear This...Now Hear This...Leave a path forward and aft. Leave a path forward and aft." This announcement came on every 15 minutes. This was in the event we were attacked and the crew would have a clear path from bow to stern.

Then an announcement came on "Now Hear This...Now Hear This...PFC CASTAGNETO Report to the Captain at the bridge." I thought, "What did I do?" to have to report to the Captain! I reported to the Captain in the military manner. Although he was a civilian, I paid him the respect he deserved as the captain of the ship. He asked me to accompany him outside. He then turned to me and said, "As you can see, we have no radar." He pointed to a stack with a ladder and at the end with a round platform on top. "That is a Crow's Nest for a lookout who is our eyes and ears," he said. "That is your duty while we are at sea and we depend on you to report any vessels or aircraft to me at the bridge". Before I could say a word, the Captain said we are depending on you and Good Luck. I didn't have the chance to say a word and ask "Why me, and not a seaman?" I looked up that stack a few times and every time the ladder got narrower at the top. I got my wits together and started climbing. The higher I got, the shakier I got. I would stop and take a deep breath and hugged that ladder for dear life. I didn't dare to look down-- it would make matters worse because it was a long way down, there. I finally reached the Crow's Nest and crawled in. I found the telephone and binoculars and reported to the bridge that I had arrived at my station. At night, I was assigned duties at the bow as a lookout with a seaman until midnight.

The crow's nest gave me a good view of the ship below. There were troops standing at the rail, seasick doing their thing, and as I looked out to sea, the ship listed side to side and my stomach began to churn. When the sea got a little rough, the boat listed so much I felt I could touch the ocean. What an odd feeling. The speakers came on with its normal announcement and followed with another "Hammer crews man your stations" I thought, 'what now?'. The hammer crews started chipping rust and old paint off the deck. It seemed to me that, with all that noise, it wouldn't be hard for a submarine to track us. The bridge had to know more than me for this to go on.

We zigzagged as we went along after a few days the seamen came on deck to fire their weapons and check them out. We had very little armor, one twenty-millimeter cannon, two fifty-caliber machine guns, and three thirty-caliber machine guns.



Searches on the internet and questions posed to WWII ship's experts produced no photos of, or information about, the *Moor Maxi*, so I found a picture of a Dutch passenger liner and asked Joe if there might be a resemblance. He wrote: To give you a better picture of what it may look like: (1) cover all the port holes (2) cut the rear half of the bridge off (3) move the front mast to the rear of the bridge in front of the funnels (smoke stacks). At the top of the mast is a black dot---that is the position of the crow's nest. Picture a round bucket to stand in and you got it. Disregard the masts in the rear of the photo, they are part of the other ships in the area.

The days were long in the nest in the hot sun, the only relief I had was at chow time a seaman would relieve me. One evening at 10:00 PM, we saw the water churning at the front of the bow and saw a torpedo go by. It was a miss and the only one I saw. I reported it to the bridge and was told not to mention it any one and that could cause the troops to panic.

As we zigzagged along, I saw Sea Gulls looking for food. This was a good sight to me because there had to be land nearby. Flying fish every so often and porpoises swimming along the ship--that was a good sign meaning no sharks in the area. Occasionally a PBV (Submarine Patrol Aircraft) hunted submarines. I would report my sightings to the bridge.

After dark, nobody was allowed on deck for fear that someone may light a match or lighter which was a no-no and may give our position away. There was one soldier who would wait until everybody was below deck and he would stand at the rail and look out to sea and sing the song "I'll Be Seeing You". I felt sorry for this man as he must have really been heart broken.

After about three weeks, we crossed the Equator and it was hot and worse down in the Galley. It was so hot that when you bent your head to eat, the sweat would roll off your forehead and drop in your food. After about thirty days at sea, it was a beautiful sight to see land. The old rust bucket made in to New Caledonia.

I disembarked with the rest of the troops and didn't get a thank you for the duties I performed that I was not trained for." We processed at New Caledonia and boarded another ship to arrive in the Fiji Islands and I became a member of Co. "A", 164th Infantry Regiment, of the North Dakota National Guard. In 1960, I was assigned to the Transportation Group in Okinawa at Naha Port, and discovered that the *Moor Maxi* was sunk off the coast of Okinawa during the invasion in 1945.

## Awarded...Lawrence Renner, Co M



After 1SG Ed Bartz sent in a photo of a souvenir flag signed by members of Co M in 1945, your Editor located one signer...Lawrence Renner at Almont, ND. [Jul 07, pg 8-9]. When his daughter, Mary Ann Kilen, saw his positive reaction to the flag and a copy of the News, she contacted US Senator Kent Conrad's office for assistance in obtaining his service awards. Senator Conrad presented them at an awards ceremony at the residence home in New Salem, ND, in November. Photo courtesy Will Kincaid, Bismarck Tribune.

## In Search Of.....

### Charles Grytness, Co I

Dear Shirley, I have a bit of a puzzle I have been trying to solve, perhaps you can help me. **Charles Grytness** served with my Uncle **Ole Legaard, Elwood Grove, and Coral Haagenson**, and was a very good friend of our family. I have his **Company E** picture from Camp Claiborne. He is listed as KIA on Nov 23, 1942, as a member of **Company I**. He is not listed in any of the ABMC cemetery burials or MIA lists. His death was reported in the Baglien Diary and Elwood told me Charles went out in enemy fire to retrieve a downed man--what happened next nobody seems to know. He is not on the KIA list from the book "*Under the Southern Cross*" either. It looks like he had 2 stripes in the **Company E** photo. I guess he was promoted overseas and transferred to **Company I**.

**Scott Legaard** (sblegaard@yahoo.com).

**Got  
PICTURES?  
You know you do!**

Send them to the  
164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News, Box  
1111, Bismarck, ND 58502

Editor164InfantryNews@  
hotmail.com

## In Search Of..... Charles MacIver, Co L

Dear 164<sup>th</sup>: I am the son of **Charles MacIver** who served in the 164<sup>th</sup>, **Company L**. My father died in 1949 of polio when I was 2-1/2 years old. My mother recently passed away and did not have much information other than these pictures. After the war, my father had not spoken much about his time in the Pacific. He did talk of **Conrad Kamisch**, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting several times. However time fades memories and I am not certain of the names of the young men in these photos. **My brother, Ralph, and myself (Lyle) were named for two men whom Dad served with**, but I have never known their last names. Is it possible to circulate these pictures? I understand that there is a reunion in Valley City each September and hope to attend in 2008. Unfortunately, more of these brave young men are lost each month. I would appreciate any help you can give me. The PBS series by Ken Burns which recently aired



was excellent and pushed me to ask one more time for further information. Thank you for any assistance you can provide me. Enclosed is \$40 for a subscription and a donation for your efforts. Lyle C. MacIver, 16155 Ashmun Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401, phone 218-829-2351, [irmaciver@charter.net](mailto:irmaciver@charter.net). Editor: The photos are numbered, as are the soldiers in them, so if you know any names, please identify them with these numbers.

## *Remembering Arvid Thompson Hqs Co* by Carole Beane (his daughter)

Around 1939-1940, Dad received his induction notice into the Army. He reported to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, for basic training and infantry training. He was initially sent to Montana to guard bridges, but soon was sent to the South Pacific. He got one furlough, where the romance between Dad and Mom



grew, and off he went for 4 years in the South Pacific. As many of you who have heard Dad's stories of the war would know, he spend his tour in New Guinea, Australia, Bougainville, Figi, and Guadalcanal. For much of this time, he was a driver for a colonel, so the duty wasn't too bad. Dad seemed to remember the good stuff, not really ever dwelling on the bad stuff. A few years ago, Mom wrote a piece where se said she realized that Arvid wasn't too quick about making decisions, especially if they involved money. Sometime during their 5 year courtship, Mom let Dad know that if she was going to be waiting for him, she needed something on her finger. Dad sent her money, and she bought an engagement ring in downtown St. Paul. She also told the story of the grass skirt that Dad sent her from Fiji. She must have told one of her co-workers about it, and they persuaded her to model it for the cover of the Megaphone, the 3M magazine. The magazine was sent to all 3M workers in uniform, and Mom received letters from all over the world. But she stuck with Dad, a fact which my sisters and I are very thankful for. Dad was discharged from the Army on July 4, 1945, from Ft

Snelling. Of course, he was anxious to get home and surprise Mom, but [remember his] extreme frugalness with money. Instead of taking a cab, after 4 ½ years, Dad took a streetcar with this duffle bag. Unfortunately, the time away had changed the streetcar lines, so instead of going home, he landed in Minneapolis which, if you are from the east side of St. Paul, is like landing in Kansas City. I don't know how he got home, but Mom said she was sleeping on the couch when he finally arrived. After his return, my parents were uncharacteristically quick, getting married in August at Fort Snelling Chapel. Now, the marriage between a Catholic and a Lutheran was kind of a big deal in those days. Dad's Chaplain in the Army, Father Tracy, agreed to marry them, saying he could vouch for Arvid, but he wasn't sure of Virginia. *Editor: 62 years and 3 daughters later, I think Father Tracy will now vouch for Virginia, who joined Arvid just three months after he left this world. See Last Roll Call/Thoughts & Prayers, page 30-31.*

## *Thoughts on John D Creamer, Co A* from William H. Dailey, Co A

Dear 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association: I wanted to let my friends know that we lost a good friend and soldier in January — John D. Creamer. He was in Company A, Second Platoon, First Squad, as a Scout. He joined the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the Fiji Islands in 1943. The 164<sup>th</sup> was relieving the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. John went on with the 164<sup>th</sup> to the Southern Philippines, where he was wounded on Negros Island. On the battlefield where, most of the time, your life depends on your fellow soldiers, I was proud and honored to have John there with me. The enclosed photo was taken on Bougainville in 1944. As the years have gone by, I remember all my buddies in the photo but have forgotten two of the names.

L-R Back Row: David Oshaunisie, Davidson, Dorman, ?, Stoop Giles  
Front Row: Denver Hanes, John D Creamer, ?, William Dailey, Floyd Watson



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I'll scan everything and send it right back to you.  
Mail to Editor, *The 164 Infantry News*  
Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111  
Or email: [Editor164InfantryNews@hotmail.com](mailto:Editor164InfantryNews@hotmail.com)

## ***The 164<sup>th</sup> Scholarship Foundation*** by Milt Kane

The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Scholarship Foundation of the United States of America is registered with the Secretary of State in North Dakota and is incorporated; designated as a 501c3 tax exempt entity; and is eligible to receive tax deductible donations from any person or persons, or from wills or the donor's estate.

Five years ago, the sons of Lt. Ben Osborne, WWII, Co B, donated \$3000 to form a 164h Infantry Scholarship Foundation. This was done with the intent of granting a monetary sum of \$500 to students who are pursuing a college education, and who are majoring in medicine or history.

One of the requirements of receiving the grant is that the recipient research the history of the North Dakota 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and submit a short essay in writing to the committee, along with a written application. The scholarship committee can then determine if the student applicant is in serious pursuit of the stated goal. A grade point average should also be submitted with the written application.

Since inception of the scholarship program, five applications have been approved. Because funds are very limited, the committee has set a goal of two grants of \$500 per year until the funds are depleted.

The foundation did receive \$150 at the last reunion from members attending. We would welcome additional funds so that we could perpetuate this endeavor and keep alive in the minds of our younger generations the history and sacrifice of past generations as it pertains to the freedom that they now enjoy.

## ***The Medal of Honor*** ceremony for **Woodrow Wilson Keeble**

has not yet been scheduled,  
but we'll keep you posted!  
For a refresher on his heroic acts in the Korean War, refer to the March 2007 issue, Pages 1, 19-27

## **164 WWII DVD Available**

The DVD is "home movie" footage taken at Camp Claiborne and Guadalcanal by John Hagen, Company B  
Anyone wishing to order one, send \$5+\$2 postage to Editor, Box 1111, Bismarck, ND  
Thanks to Dr. Terry Shoptaugh who make the footage available.



Left: The dinner table at Guadalcanal.

Above: The Tojo Ice Company -- Under New Management. At the airfield, Guadalcanal

# Memories from Claude Parish, Co H based on interviews with Dr. Terry Shoptaugh



**Claude Parish** was born in Camden County, Missouri, in 1919. The family moved to Oklahoma when his father was moved there in connection with his work in the oil industry. Claude was 6 weeks old when the move occurred. He grew up near Bristow, where he went to school. After graduating from High School he worked at several jobs until February 1941, when he was hired by the Seismograph Service Company, which did oil exploration. He was engaged in this work in Great Bend, Kansas, at this job in December 1941 when Pearl Harbor brought the U.S. into World War II. The job provided him with draft exemptions until late in the war. He married in 1939 and had two children when he was drafted in October 1944. He reported for duty in Arkansas and was shipped to Florida

Claude received his basic training at **Camp Blanding**. By that stage of the war, the camps were no longer training new units as such. Rather, they were giving each man 13 weeks of basic instruction and then assigning them to replacement units that would be shipped as needed to units already engaged overseas. Claude found the training “strenuous” and “to the point.” He wasn’t impressed with Camp Blanding, saying it was a hot, sticky environment and the barracks were “kind of poor,” quickly constructed and already showing signs of wear. He still remembers the “blisters you got from digging into that awful sand there in Florida.” His training unit was commanded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Pfeffer. Because two other men in the unit were named Peacock and Partridge, Pfeffer called Parish and them the “three musketeers.”

At the end of 1944, Parish was shipped to California and assigned to Ford Ord. Other men from Camp Blanding went to other assignments at other camps. Parish kept the names of all the men he went to the Pacific with in a “little black book,” but lost it when returning to the States in 1946. Peacock and Partridge are two “of the names that have stayed with me.”

In January 1945, Parish and many others boarded a troop ship (probably a Liberty ship from the description) and crossed the Pacific. “We spent 36 days zigzagging across the ocean, using our speed to get away from any Japanese subs.” Being assigned to the Pacific theater was unsettling. “We had all heard by then that the Japs never surrendered, that you had to kill them, and that they didn’t take prisoners. That was pretty frightening to think about.” The ship made port at **Leyte**, where the first campaign of the **Philippines** was underway. Some of the men were sent on to Manila, but Parish was among the replacements who were assigned to the **Americal Division, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment**. Parish joined **Co. H**, and was assigned to a .30 caliber machine gun crew in the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon. In the next six months, Parish fought with the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, hauling the guns and ammunition into position. When not firing the gun, He was either supplying it with ammunition or supporting it with his M1 rifle. “I used the rifle more than the machine gun. We had to keep Japs from getting close enough to use grenades to knock out the guns. They could hide nearby or try to crawl up near enough to use a grenade. You learned to fire at any odd movement in the grass or brush.”

The combat on **Leyte** centered on numerous hills that Japanese units occupied. “Our fighting was in taking those hills,” Parish remembered. Small numbers of Japanese would often hold a hill to delay the **164<sup>th</sup>**s advance while the rest of a Japanese unit would withdraw. “We would set up our machine guns and lay down fire, while other men went forward to assault the hill.” Americal artillery would also assist with barrages. “Sometimes short rounds would fall near us and kill Americans, but I was glad they were there to help us because we’d have lost more otherwise.”

Fighting in hilly terrain was very difficult. Each side always tried to control the highest ground and hold the advantage in observation and fire. **Company H** generally rotated its platoons so that the freshest platoon would draw the task of assaulting the next hill. “A lot of times we would go up a hill but have to withdraw after taking casualties. Then the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon would go forward. I remember one time we fought our way to the top of this one hill and the Japs were over on another hill firing at us from a long trench they had dug.” Using the machine guns, the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon drove the Japanese back onto the reverse slope of their own hill.

The Japanese were adept at digging tunnels into the hillsides, useful not only for protection against artillery fire, but also for storing supplies and even loot. “I remember this one time [possibly on **Cebu**, where the Japanese had looted every shop in Cebu City] we found a tunnel that had a new Buick in it. It was a 1939 Buick I think.”

The battles on **Leyte** were followed by similar campaigns on **Cebu** and **Negros**. The 164<sup>th</sup> was broken up into separate battalions for these islands and it was difficult for the men to obtain all the supplies they would have liked. Parish carried a tiny stove that he heated with fuel pellets. The stove was valuable because it did not emit smoke; smoke was certain to draw enemy mortar or artillery fire. He could use his stove for coffee and heating some of the canned rations. Fresh food was rare. “We were in **Dumaguette**, on **Negros**, and I remember we kept saying this little rhyme, ‘there’s no spaghetti on Dumaguette, let’s go back to Cebu.’” Parish credited his company and platoon officers for their concern for the men, boosting their morale. News from home was difficult when units moved from island to island. “We didn’t get too much mail when we were over there.”

## Memories from Claude Parish, Co H (continued.....)

**Cebu** was not as tough a campaign as **Leyte**, because the Japanese withdrew to the hills soon after the 164<sup>th</sup> battalion landed. "When we'd take a hill, the Japs would pull back. We'd dig in and set up a perimeter, set up the machine gun because we knew that at night they would try to sneak into our lines. I remember one night when all hell broke loose. The man on our machine gun opened up on sounds in the grass on the hill. The next morning we found a dead cat. He had fired all that off at a cat. But you fired at any movement at night. Another night I remember the Japs were on the next hill over and they fired their rifles, sort of just hoping to hit one of us at random. If they didn't fire, they'd just work the bolts on their rifles to keep us awake. I can still hear the sound of those bolts being worked back and forth, in my mind."



**Negros** was similar, but it was there that Parish had a close call. "I was sitting out with "**Red**" **Gideon**, another fellow from Oklahoma who he had trained with. "We were sharing a foxhole on one hill, across from another hill where the Japanese were. We were sitting on the edge of our foxhole and it was getting late. All of a sudden I heard a bullet go by and a little pop. We looked down and there was a mark where the bullet had cut a little corn stalk, right between us. That was the closest I came to getting hit. Not a scratch of any kind. It bothered me that some guys got a Purple Heart for minor injuries. One fellow got a Purple Heart for cutting himself on a can lid. When I think of hundreds of men lying dead after battles, that bothers me."

Parish's buddy, **Raymond 'Red' Gideon**, also survived the fighting. But when the American troops of the Americal Division went to join the occupation of Japan, Gideon's luck changed. "He had gotten some bad news from home." Gideon became very depressed. "He was really down and nothing we said could cheer him up. Finally they let him go back to the states. He was really down in the dumps." Gideon may also have suffered from severe battle stress, because Parish heard later that Gideon had committed suicide.

Toward the end of the **Negros** campaign, Japanese soldiers were finally admitting defeat and surrendering. "We took one or two prisoners several times and took them to the MPs. But some still fought to the death." After **Negros**, the battalion returned to **Cebu** where the Americal Division was reforming for the expected invasion of Japan. But the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought the war to a close when the Japanese government surrendered in August 1945.



Parish was part of the **occupation of Japan** in the last months of 1945. "Most of the older Americal guys had enough points to go home, so I was transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, **First Cavalry Division**, for a few months. We spent our time looking for **Jap** weapons and pulling guard duty. Then I got a field promotion to sergeant in the transportation company. We had ten jeeps, about five trucks and drivers we used for all kinds of things." In January 1946, he had enough points to return to the states and sailed home. He was discharged at Leavenworth, Kansas, in early February 1946. "I was discharged as a corporal, but they said if I stayed on I could be a sergeant. I said no thanks." He returned to his family and got his old job back at the oil company, spending 42 years there before retiring.

Fifty years after he got back to Bristow, Oklahoma, he was awarded a Bronze Star, for meritorious service. "I received it in the mail."

Now 88, **Parish** doesn't talk too much about his war experiences. When he got home he would have liked to "get everyone together and tell them all about it once, and then never have to explain it again." He's proud of his sons who both served in Vietnam. His youngest son, **Larry**, served in the Air Force, "which I told him was better than carrying a rifle in the infantry. He was a mechanic, but did fly on some bombing missions over North Vietnam." **Will**, his older son, also fought in Vietnam and won a Silver Star in a critical battle around **la Drang**. "Will talks to groups about his war experiences. I couldn't do that. He can't understand why I don't want to say much about it. But you forget some of the really bad stuff as time goes by, and that's fine with me."

Claude Parish, Box 416, Bristow, OK 74010

### We Were Soldiers Once...and Young

By LTG (ret) Hal Moore and reporter Joseph L. Galloway

This excerpt from **Vietnam story** by Joseph L. Galloway  
[www.usnews.com/usnews/news/articles/soldiers/vietnam\\_901029.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/news/articles/soldiers/vietnam_901029.htm)

*The word was the la Drang would be a walk.*

*The word was wrong...*

.....Specialist 4 **Willard Parish**, 24, of Bristow, Okla., was a Charlie Company mortarman, but this morning he manned a machine gun. "I looked to the front, and it seemed like the North Vietnamese were growing out of the weeds," he remembers. "The training took over. I just fired that weapon, totally unaware of the time, the conditions. I remember a lot of noise, a lot of yelling, air strikes. Then quiet." When he ran out of machine-gun ammunition Parish stood up with a .45-caliber automatic pistol in each hand and kept shooting.

Later, they counted more than 100 enemy dead in front of his machine gun. [Willard] Parish was awarded the Silver Star for valor.



Right: the Distinctive Unit Insignia of Parish's unit:  
7th Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division



# Memories from SSgt (ret) John Gregory, Co H



Dear Editor: Cleaning out my old files, I found some pictures that might be of interest. Sorry the quality is not better. They were taken in Bougainville, developed and printed at night. No dark room was available. We used a flashlight to make prints – very primitive.

A quote from the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News: “If we don’t get these stories down, we’ll lose them.” Here are some of my memories.

In May, 1943, while I was a senior in high school, I got The Letter. I was called to duty on August 30, 1943. Off to Ft. McClellan, Ala, for 17 weeks of basic training, then home for a six-day furlough. Then on a troop train for a 3-day trip to Ft Ord, Calif, on to San Francisco to board the Dutch freighter “Paula Lot” that had been converted to a troop ship. We left the States on Feb 11, 1944. Shortly after setting sail, we passed under the golden Gate Bridge while eating breakfast. We got into open water, the ship began to roll, and that was the end of our breakfast. A lot of the men got seasick. I lost my appetite and felt bad for a few days, but never got sick. It took 28 days to get to **Noumea, New Caledonia**. After being at sea that long and not seeing land, the harbor and shore looked beautiful.

We had about two weeks of training and then boarded another ship for a short stop to drop off some replacements at **Guadalcanal**. That was Good Friday 1944. On a troop ship you get one meal a day. On this day, we were served corn beef hash. Good Friday was the only day we were not to eat meat. Somebody reminded me what day it was, and into the garbage can went my meal.

*Charles Stout Dike Bazzia John Gregory Herman Greenfeld*



**Squad in Co H**

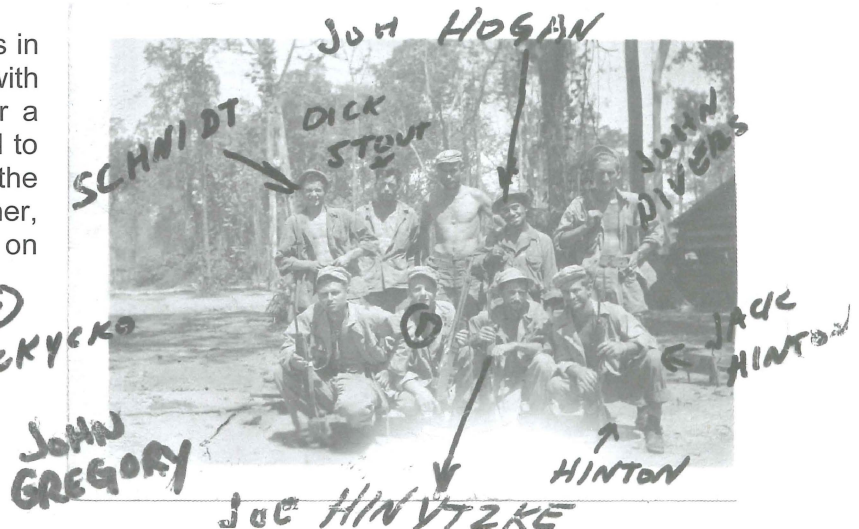
*John Divers Cecil Hill Tresler*

Then we went to **Bougainville**, where I was assigned to **Co “H”, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry**, and made friends with a bunch of nice guys. We were there to protect an air strip. All the heavy fighting was over with by this time, but we did go on a lot of patrols to locate the Japanese. On one patrol, I was the lead scout. I was going up a hill and at the top I met a Japanese. He dropped to the ground and so did I. He got up and ran back and so did I. Mission Accomplished! All we were to do was find out where they were and not to start a firefight. These patrols lasted two or three days, then back to camp for more training. When **Bougainville** was secured, the Japanese retreated to the other side of the

island, and after nine months we were off to **Leyte, Philippines**. We landed in **Leyte** around 20 Jun 45.

There was combat on **Bougainville**, but generally only the front men got hurt. My machine gun squad and I were way back. **On Leyte, we lost three men from Co H –John Divers, Wallace Lundy, and Charles Uptagraph**. We had 60 rough days on **Leyte**.

I got dengue fever and spent two weeks in the hospital. The medics tried to treat me with opium pills where we were camped, but after a few days when I didn’t get better, they decided to send me to the hospital on the other side of the island. They took me to the beach on a stretcher, put an “information tag” on me, and loaded me on a barge for the trip to the hospital. It was a sort of ferry with about 20 other people on board. I was unloaded from the barge, still on the stretcher, and left on the beach in the hot sun. After about an hour, the ambulance finally arrived. I remember the medics saying, “Oh, there he is.”



## Memories from SSgt (ret) John Gregory, Co H (continued.....)

When I got to the hospital, I asked for a drink of water, but they wouldn't give me one until a doctor examined me. A doctor finally admitted me. The orderlies put me in a shower, gave me a hospital gown, and threw away all my soiled clothes. The whole trip took about 6 hours.

The hospital was just a large tent. After 10 days, the fever was gone, and I was discharged. All I had were my shoes and a hospital gown. During the time I was in the hospital, **Co H** had relocated to the hospital side of the island about five miles away. They told me where I could find them, so I started walking down the road in my hospital gown. Two officers in a jeep came along and asked what I was doing. I told them I was just discharged from the hospital and way on my way back to my unit to get some clothes. They were in disbelief, but said "get in" and took me to my unit. It was good to be home again with my buddies.

When I sent this picture home to my friend her mother wrote me that she was very upset and let me know that it wasn't appropriate to send a picture like this to a girl.

I hesitated sending this to you but times have changed. Anyway, this is the way it was when we washed our clothes.



After a week or so, I was asked to go with a group to retrieve the body of **John Divers** who was my squad leader. I helped bury him, but I was still pretty weak and had to be helped back to camp.

After a week or so of R&R, we packed up and went to **Cebu**. We sailed into the harbor of **Cebu City** just like a cruise ship. We lined the railings and the Philipinos on the dock waved and cheered. Over the loud speakers came a radio report saying that today the **Americal Division liberated Cebu City**.

All was quiet in the city. We got organized and moved out. About 10 miles out of the city, we ran into the Japanese. They put up a little resistance, as I remember, but they continued to retreat. They were short of supplies but continued to be a nuisance.

Our battalion was sent to **Dumaguete, Negros**, on an island East of Cebu, to drive the Japanese out of the city. We had strict censorship and in our letters home we could not say where we were. However, the day we were to make the beach head, I got off the LCI, held my map case above my head and waded in waist deep water to the shore where we were met by about three news cameramen with their cameras on tripods photographing us making the beachhead. How's that for a very secret operation? Again, the Japanese let us land without any trouble. I was no longer in the heavy weapons squad; that's why I carried the maps.

A short distance from the city, they began to put up a fight. We had some casualties, but they had more, and kept moving back. After some time, we went back to **Cebu** to join the rest of the battalion.

The war was over for me then, but we started to train like mad for the invasion of Japan. We were to land in Yokohama, Japan, about the first of October, and from there we were to drive to Tokyo. Three American divisions --1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, 32<sup>nd</sup>, and the Americal-- against twenty Japanese divisions defending Tokyo.

The man who planned that one probably believed General Bradock when he said, "One American is as good as 20 Nips." We sure had a wild time in Cebu when Japan said "uncle". Then we started to load the ships for the trip to Yokohama. Everything was combat loaded, but we had no trouble in Japan at all. If we had had to fight our way in, I wouldn't be here today. There are a lot of interesting stories of my time in Japan, but they can wait until some other time.

Our unit was the very first to land on the shores of Yokohama, and I was the first man off the LCI. That made me the first American to land in Japan, other than Gen. McArthur and his group who flew in. I tell that story to friends and they say "Yeah, we heard that story a thousand times." Now, this makes it one thousand and one!



**Staff Sgt (ret) John W. Gregory (LM), 4806 Freshfield Ct, St Louis, MO 63128-2811**

# DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

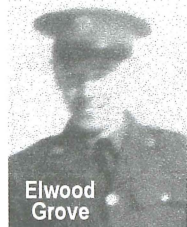
Dear Editor: The 2007 October issue of the 164<sup>th</sup> News was an excellent effort. While not of great moment, **Col Stevens** [pg 18-19] misspelled **Joe Dalen's** last name. Joe entered Active Duty 4 Sep 50 with the 231<sup>st</sup> Engineers and according to the "Red Book", passed away 19 Sep 55. Thanks for your efforts. **Lowell W. Lundberg (LM)(K)**, 1701 Plumtree Rd N, Fargo, ND 58102

Dear Shirley: We received our October 164<sup>th</sup> News. What a great job! We would like to get four copies, if possible, to give to our family members. We would pay any expense involved. Thank you. Yours truly, **John (LM)(WWII) and Natalie Paulson**, 80 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N, Carrington, ND 58421

We got the extra magazines. Thank you for the fine service. [Enclosed \$20 donation]. As I read the things that happened to long ago, it sure brings back a lot of memories. As always, I realize that we were not alone, as God was with us all the time. Thanks again for all you do. **John & Natalie Paulson**.

Shirley, **OUTSTANDING JOB ON THE NEWSLETTER!** Wow, what a large issue! It took me over an hour to digest everything in it. So newsy. The guys had to have loved it too. I've already contacted **Lois Mattison Gustafson Rudy Edwardson**, a second or third cousin of mine, gave me some pictures a couple of years ago, and her dad may be in one of them. And, thank you for the fine job you did on **Clarence**. I don't know if I told you this or not but I am an artist. If ever I can assist some way, please let me know. Blessings to you. **Catherine Walker**,

From: **Scott Legaard** (sblegaard@yahoo.com)



Shirley, I found my uncle Ole's buddy, **Elwood Grove**. He lives in Minnesota and is 89. I want to put together his medals. He did say he received a Purple Heart when he was on Bougainville. He is very interesting but low key and humble about his service. I recently requested some photos of **Coral Haagenson's** grave marker from the cemetery commission in Honolulu. I guess they will do this for relatives of the deceased. I appreciate the photo in the last edition [Oct 07, pg 13]. **Elwood** saw it and was pretty surprised. **Elwood** described a little of his & Ole's participation in the landing on the 13th of Oct and the airfield battle. Thanks again, and any info would help. **Scott**.

Editor: **Elwood Grove, Co E, is a 164 Association member!** His address is **PO Box 10A, West Union, MN 56389-0110**. I sent the awards info to **Scott** and, in December, he sent me a photo of the framed medal set that he put together for **Mr. Grove**. Wow! [See page 10]



When you send in a note, send in your old photos, too! I'll scan and return them right away--Editor



Pfc. Henry Wiik, Kenmare, ND, Member of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Advance outpost on Savo Island saying goodbye to one of the Savo islanders who had helped the infantry establish the surveillance outpost across the straits from Guadalcanal. Photo McNeer 24Feb43 SignalCorps#187211

Sir: Would it be possible to send a copy of the October issue to my brother, James, who was a Captain in the Medical Corps in WWII? I'd like for him to see my picture on page 344. Sincerely, **Wm. Wayne McDowell, Co B, 901 S 15<sup>th</sup> St, Mattoon, IL 61938 Editor: Done!!**

To each of you, many thanks for doing such a great job on the newsletter. My youngest grandson joined the Army this past January. Bless him and all the veterans of the 164<sup>th</sup>, and a big Thank You to all of you, too. Here's \$15 for the News and \$10 for dues. **Dolores (Mrs Don) Hoff, 923 Bradley Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701**

Patricia: Enclosed is my dues of \$10 for 2008. Sorry I'm a little late. I just got the 164<sup>th</sup> Inf News today. It is interesting! Thank you all very much. **Betty Anderson\*, 1327 3<sup>rd</sup> St E, West Fargo, ND 58078**

164<sup>th</sup> Association: Keep up the outstanding work—"The News" is better every issue. Enclosed is yearly dues and \$30 for other expenses as you see fit. Shoot First, Shoot Often. **Barry Doe\***, [son of **Frank Doe, Reg't Hqs**] 485 Old Colchester Rd., Unacasville, CT 06382

Shirley: Thank you for sending me the 4 extra copies of the Oct issue of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News that I requested. My aunt and children will enjoy seeing uncle Buddy [**Bernard Barholz, pg 17**] honored in the News and becoming more familiar with the battles of Guadalcanal. I'm happy to enclose this \$20 donation and our thanks to you and the association. Sincerely, **Judi Buehrer, Littleton, CO**.

## DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS



Above, **Bill Tucker** (left) helps **Joe Castagneto** (right) sell beautiful feather Crosses & Mandellas at the 2007 reunion. **Joe** donated the items to raise money for the Association. The sale raised over **\$190!** Thanks Joe!

Greetings! Enclosed are my dues for 2008. I thought you people did a great job on the newspaper. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Keep up the good work!! My wife can't make the trip, or we would come to the reunion. Sincerely, **Cliff Ottinger, (WWII, Svc Co)**, Corvallis, MT

Yesterday I got the Oct 07 issue of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News. This issue is really an outstanding History Lesson of the Regiment. It really puzzles me what Shirley will do for an encore in the future. But to make sure I won't miss any issues, I am adding 25 bucks to my renewal for 2008 to assist in keeping the *News* circulating. My son tells me I shout when I talk to him; my excuse is a high frequency hearing loss. So I compensate by writing larger type letters in my correspondence for this in my old Phart category often have a sight problem also. **Zane E Jacobs, Co E**, Seaside, CA 93955.

Ms Drong: Enclosed you will find a check for dues for my father, **Bernard Scheer, Co K**. Health issues have kept both Mom and Dad from attending recent reunions, but they still enjoy reading the "Newsletter". Best Wishes to all members of the 164<sup>th</sup>. Regards, Dan Sheer (son).

Dear members of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association: I would give anything to be able to attend our reunions, but for now it looks quite futile. The great distance, plus a lack of good and adequate transportation with all its complexities, it remains just a temptation each fall. Just turned 86, so not getting any younger. I'm sure this applies to all of our very early members of the **Guadalcanal "Bunch"**. Find enclosed \$10 for dues and \$10 for whatever. **Paul H. Longaberger, Sgt Major, Hq 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, "Canal" to Tokyo '42-'45**, Williamstown, WV 26187

LTC Shirley: The October 2007 issue of the 164<sup>th</sup> *Infantry News* is outstanding in every respect. We have read and re-read it from cover to cover and are thoroughly impressed and pleased. We would like to receive 3 additional copies to share with our three children (grown) and their families. Enclosed is \$35 for expenses. Thank you to you and your staff for this special anniversary edition. LTC (ret) **Tony & Olga Hannel**, San Carlos, CA 94070. Editor: Done!

Please find enclosed \$10 for the newsletter, which I truly enjoy. In a future newsletter, I hope you have something about Kampbell's Kool Killers. My husband, **Edward C Avens**, was part of the group. Thank you and best wishes to all. **Luella Avens**, 2334 Wyoming Ave, Billings, MT

Patricia: I have just returned from the Honor Flight to Wash, DC, and found the 164<sup>th</sup> *News* in my mail. It was fantastic. A son of mine was my escort and wanted to know what it was about. I said, "Your grandfather was on Guadalcanal." Enclosed is a check for \$100. Please apply \$50 for my son Tim's Life Membership and \$50 to help keep the *News* going. I think I'm signed up as a Life Member, but if not, the other \$10 is next year's dues. **James R. McLaughlin\***, Fargo, ND 58102 [Son of **Kenneth McLaughlin, Reg't Hqs**]

Shirley: Many thanks for a wonderful October 2007 issue, 'Sixty-Five Years Since Guadalcanal'. My father, **SSgt Martin Broudy**, served in the **Northern Solomons, Jars, Valencia, Palompon, Cebu, Bohol, and the Northern Mindinao Islands**. Although he witnessed firsthand the atrocities of war and virulence of malaria, he seldom spoke of this period in his life until he began receiving your newsletter, some 5 years ago. As one of the 199 Bronze Star members highlighted on page 3, at 85, my father is finally comfortable, from a historical perspective, in sharing this guarded period of his life with his children and grandchildren. To him, like so many others, he just did what his Country asked of him. But to us, he and all the others are heroes. They are, truly, the Greatest Generation. Please accept my donation of \$100, in the name of my father and all the brave men of the **Co K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 164**, in the on-going support of The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association. Your efforts and contributions are to be commended. Sincerely, **Scott Broudy**, Plano, TX

Thank you for sending extra copies of the October News. Here's a \$20 donation. Each grandson will get one. On Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, I had my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! Hope to get to Valley City again next Sept! **Bill Welander**, Apache Junction, AZ

I would like to join the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association as a Life Member. **Company L, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion** (Hillsboro, ND) was activated 15 Jan 51, and I went to Camp Rucker, Alabama, during the Korean Conflict. As you know, the 164<sup>th</sup> became a cadre training unit. I was one of the few from the National Guard who never left the States. If possible, I would like two copies of the Oct 2007 *News*. I have enclosed money for dues, the *News*, and the back copies. Thank you, **Terry Overmoe**, Salt Lake City, UT.

Got email? Write Editor164InfantryNews@hotmail.com

# DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

## Oops! Pen & ink changes to October 2007 News:

Page 4 Bottom paragraph,  
Change 132 to 182 (Arrived 12 Nov 42)  
Change 182 to 132 (Arrived 8 Dec 42)

Pages 14-15  
Change all instances of 1/164 to 3/164

Thanks to the following experts for pointing out the errors.

Your recent Newsletter just arrived and I have already read it from cover to cover -- enjoying it as usual for I always had a great deal of respect for the 164 Infantry. I would like to call to your attention one mistake on Page 4 'Americal Division Composition - Guadalcanal'. Under 'Infantry' it states that the 182d Infantry Regiment, less Cannon Co. Arrived 8 Dec 42 and the 132d Infantry Regiment, less Cannon Co., arrived 12 Nov 42. This is incorrect and should be reversed. The 182nd Infantry Regiment, less the 3/182, arrived 12 Nov 42. The 3rd Battalion was still on the New Hebrides. The 132nd Infantry, less the 3/132 Inf, arrived on 8 Dec 42. This information is taken from the history of the Americal, 'Under the Southern Cross' by Capt. Francis J. Cronin. The Infantry Regiments did not have Cannon Companies on Guadalcanal. They still had Anti-Tank Companies. The Cannon Companies did not arrive until the Americal was on Bougainville. Sincerely, **James C. Buckle, E Co, 182 Infantry** [jbuckle@comcast.net](mailto:jbuckle@comcast.net)

*Editor: Mr Buckle is the Chairman of the Americal Division Veterans Association and is a former Editor-in-Chief of the Americal Journal.*

Dear Shirley: The October 2007 issue of the News is an exceptional and historic issue, and I thank you again for the attention given to Company M. Just one discrepancy – on page 15, there are some references to “1/164”. **These should be references to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, or “3/164”,** as I was writing about Company M which was a part of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. I'm sure 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had their share of an interesting evening, but I cannot attest to it. Col (ret) Richard Stevens, Co M, Louisville, KY.

*Editor: I scanned the story into a word processing interpretation program, and it got almost everything correct! Now I know to proofread scans a little closer!*

Dear Editor & Pat: Enjoy Newsletter very much. Keep up the good work. Thanks! **Russel (Dennis) Wilson, (K), Co K, Mundelein, Ill**

To 164 Infantry Assoc: I enjoy reading the News, keeping up with my friends and soldiers with whom I fought and served in WWII. **William H. Daily, Co A, Hayesville, NC** I really enjoy the newsletter. Keep up the good work! **Edward Collins (LM) (WWII), Co E, Pleasanton, CA**

**Got email?** Write [Editor164InfantryNews@hotmail.com](mailto:Editor164InfantryNews@hotmail.com)

If you are a WWII or Korean War veteran and don't see (WWII) or (K) on your mailing label, let the Editor know!

Hey there. My Dad [**Buriel Watkins**] was never one to talk about the war; that was, until he reconnected with a few of you guys in Dakota at the reunion. It was then he could open a little bit about it now and then. So, a BIG Thanx there. I don't think Dad was ever really Proud of his serving when he returned to the States in the 1940's. I believe he felt a little guilty for being one of the Survivors. His Heart really went out to the families of the ones who didn't make it, this I learned just a few years ago. Nowadays we identify it as Post War Syndrome. I remember him showing me the horrors of war when I suggested I join the Army after my Senior Year in 1972. He said, "I'll be damned if you enlist. I spent enough time overseas for many Generations of the Watkins to come." We stayed up and listened to the draft and I was number 184...I didn't get called, but I felt a void for not having served like my Dad. His funeral service was one you would have been proud of. When they presented the flag to Mom, I cried. He would have been so PROUD!!! I had a fantastic relationship with him and I am sure serving with him was awesome. He always had a way of making the tough times seem so easy. May God sit on your shoulder, as he sits on our Family shoulders and be with you for the rest of your life. A Proud Son, **Bob Watkins**

This is an answer to your email of Sept 29, 07 regarding a picture I sent you of the colors in a 164 Infantry parade on **Bougainville, July, 1944.**



I'm sorry I'm so late in answering. My WebTV went on the fritz and just got a new one last week. I'm unable to name all the guys in the picture, the guy carrying the 164 colors and the left guard I cannot identify. The right guard is **Robert Dodd** and I'm carrying the U.S. Flag. The two fellows I'm not able to identify were from Headquarters Company or the Medics. I'm hoping someone can recognize them and come up with their names. As I recall, the reason for the parade

down the airstrip was for the benefit of dignitaries from Wash DC, Australia, and New Zealand. [Also a few natives]. I believe Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Knox, was there. It did not include the whole Regiment, just one Battalion, I believe. I'm going thru my STUFF to see if I might have something of interest for the News and I'll let you know. By the way, I found the original roster of names of all personnel from **B Co** that boarded the *President Coolidge* in San Francisco March, 1942. Do you know how far along Dr Shoptaugh is with his 164 book? I'm look forward to reading it. Thanks Shirley for a great job you're doing for the *164 News*. The last issue covering the reunion was Super. **Les Wichmann, Co. B & Service Co, Minneapolis, MN, [lwick@webtv.net](mailto:lwick@webtv.net)**

## NEW MEMBERS

Claude Parish (WWII), Co H, Box 416, Bristow, OK 74010 [See pages 22-23]

## NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS\* (identified by \*)

**1Lt Kristopher K Elijah\***, 3505 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Mandan, ND 58554 [son of **Robert Elijah**, Lisbon unit (became 477 FA)]  
**Vern Lee\***, 43 Portwine Rd, Willowbrook, IL 60527 [nephew of **Bernard "Buddy" Barholz, Co A**]  
**Judi Buehrer\***, 32 Manzanita, Littleton CO 80127 [niece of **Bernard "Buddy" Barholz, Co A**]  
**Scott Broudy\***, 5712 Meadowhaven Dr, Plano, TX 75093-8556 [son of **Martin Broudy, Co K**]  
**Judy Baglien-Coon\***, 22232 24<sup>th</sup> Ave S, unit Q115, Des Moines, IA 98198 [granddaughter of **LTC Sam Baglien, Regt XO**]  
**Ginny Baglien-King\***, POB 253, Circleville, UT 84723 [granddaughter of **LTC Sam Baglien, Regt XO**]  
**Steve Baglien\***, 1132 Wallingford Ct NE, Lacey, WA 98516 [grandson of **LTC Sam Baglien, Regt XO**]  
**Patrick O'Toole\***, 1511 E Bowen Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505 [hometown friend was in 164]  
**Margaret Kennedy\***, 131 E 10<sup>th</sup> St, Grafton, ND 58237 and 4661 &. Emelita, Mesa, AZ [wife of **Joseph Kennedy, Co C**]  
**Lois Watkins\***, 300 West Hawthorne St, Aurora, MO 65605-1053 [wife of **Buriel Watkins, Co A**] [see LRC pg 31]

## NEW MEMBERS JOINED FOR LIFE!!

**Terry H. Overmoe (LM)(K), Co L**, 26 E. Dartmoor Ln, Salt Lake City, UT 84103

## NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS JOINED FOR LIFE!!

**Tim McLaughlin (LM)\***, 720 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Minot, ND 58703 [grandson of **Kenneth McLaughlin, Reg't Hqs**]  
**Lyle C. MacIver (LM)\***, 16155 Ashmun Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401 [son of **Charles MacIver, Co L**]  
**Carol Beane (LM)\***, 3719 Nature View Trail, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127 [Daughter of **Arvid Thompson, Co F**]  
**Sue Erickson (LM)\***, 5898 Prairie Ridge Dr, Shoreview, MN 55126 [Daughter of **Arvid Thompson, Co F**]  
**Richard Thompson (LM)\***, 353 Krattley LN, Hudson, WI 54016 [Son of **Arvid Thompson, Co F**]  
**Loren Lundberg (LM)\***, 15257 N 52<sup>nd</sup> Ln, Glendale, AZ 85306-3407

## MEMBERS WHO RENEWED FOR LIFE!!

**Harry G. Ballo (LM)(WWII), Co E**, 2729 Charles Bryan, Bartlett, TN 38134  
**Edward F. Collins (LM)(WWII), Co E**, 2421 Crestline Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94566  
**1SG Edward F. Bartz (LM)(WWII), Co M**, 55 Brookwood Dr, Hamburg, NY 14075  
**MSG (ret) Darrel Dolan (LM)\***, 504 N. Hannifin, Bismarck, ND 58501  
**Susan Tolliver-Pompa (LM)\***, 1411 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Arnolds Park, IA 51331 [daughter of **Ernest Tolliver, Co F**]  
**John J. Revers (LM)**, 2814 S 35<sup>th</sup> St, Omaha, NE 68105-3538 (unit??)  
**Irwin J. Barta (LM)(K)**, 3015 E. Colorado Dr., Ste D, Bismarck, ND 58503

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Change: **Martin Broudy (WWII), Co K**, 4800 West Parker Road, Apt #221, Plano, TX 75093  
 Change: **Wm Warren Freeman\*, Jr**, SJO 22357 POBox 028508, Miami, FL 33102  
 Change: **Richard R. Penman (WWII) H3 & Co L**, 1 Woodcrest Cir, Apt 202, Scottsdale, PA 15683-9555  
 Change: **Richard C. Wiest (LM)\***, 2030 151<sup>ST</sup> Place SW, Lynnwood, WA 98087-6345  
 Change: **David Ellis (K)**, 10 Spry Ave Apt 61, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-2545  
 Change: **Stan Cowen**, 251 3rd St NE #10, Valley City, ND 58072-3065  
 Change: **Euretta Poe\***, 1001 24th St W #2527, Williston, ND 58801-3245  
 Change: **Dr. Neil Macdonald**, Sheyenne Care Center, 979 Central Ave NW, Valley City, ND 58072  
 Change: **Thomas Vettel**, 665 166<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Cummings, ND 58223  
 Change: **Stanley Lee**, 1250 Taylor Ave N, Apt 301, Seattle, WA 98109

## THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS!

Amacher, Laverne	5	Cuprak, Grant	20	Jacobs, Zane	25	Skogley, Gerald	10
Arlie, Osborne	15	Dailey, William	10	Juvinall, John	5	Stellon, Doris	10
Bartz, Edward	10	Dodd, Robert	15	Koppang, Alton	5	Sturn, Anton	20
Benzinger, John	10	Doe, Barry	30	Kreici, Jerome	10	Swenson, Ida	5
Berce, Leonard	10	Drain, Mary Lou	15	Kurtz, Clifford	10	Tollefsrud, Alvin	15
Breitenstein, Linda	20	Evenson, Donald	10	Legaard, Scott	5	Trageser, Andrew	15
Brinkman, Eugene	4	Fischer, Thomas	5	Longaberger, Paul	10	Tucker, William	15
Broudy, Scott	100	Gadomski, Stanley	15	Marchant, Leland	5	Tuff, John	10
Buckingham, William	10	Gesellchen, Richard	5	McLaughlin, James	50	Tuff, William	15
Buehrer, Judith	20	Goodman, Lewis	10	Murry, C. Emerson	10	Vettel, Thomas	10
Burdette, Byron	10	Grindahl, John	5	Opat, Gail	10	Von Halle, Karl	5
Castagneto, Joe	110	Hamer, George	15	Opdahl, Gerald	5	Waldhauser, Gerald	15
Castagneto, Joe (Scholarship)	40	Hannel, Anthony	25	Otto, Edward	10	Wallace, Owen	10
Chemistruck, Stephen	20	Hannel, Anthony	10	Overmoe, Terry	50	Weland, William	20
Coe, Peter	2	Helgeson, Gary	10	Paulson, John	20	Wilson, Russell	15
Coffey, Herbert	10	Hill, Georgia	10	Roth, Austin	5	Winters, Theodore	5
Collins, Edward	25	Hoff, Dolores	15	Rothrock, Jane	10	Wood, Ralph	5
Coon, Judy	8	Holly, Earl	10	Siems, Frederick	5	Wood, Wayne	10

# Last Roll Call

## 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

As Known on 10 February 2008

*John D. Creamer, (WWII) Co A, 6 Jan 08*  
*Kembel "Bud" Dahl, Co G, 6 Dec 07*  
*Dr. John Goven, Co G, 15 Dec 07*  
*Pasquale Grande (WWII) Co G, 10 Aug 07*  
*Arthur V. Hanley (WWII) Co A, 8 Oct 07*  
*Earl H. Johnson (WWII), 29 Sep 07*  
*Edwin J. "Ted" Kjelstrom (WWII), Co D, 26 Dec 07*  
*Herbert Klein (WWII) Co K, 12 Nov 07*  
*Chris Maier (K), Hqs 1st Bn, 7 Jan 07*  
*Thomas J. Sheehan (WWII) Co F, 13 Aug 07*  
*Gordon B. St. Claire (WWII) Reg't Hqs, 26 Nov 07*  
*Norbert "Duke" Thilmony (K) Co G, 5 Jan 08*  
*Arvid T. Thompson (WWII) Reg't Hqs, 6 Oct 07*  
*Buriel F. Watkins (WWII) Co A, 1 Jan 08*



---Artwork by Doug Burtell



**Earl H. "Pinky" Johnson**, 88, died 29 Sep 07 at the Spokane Veterans Home. He joined the Army in Apr 41, and earned a Bronze Star at **Guadalcanal**. He received the Purple Heart at **Bougainville** in Feb 44. He spent 7 months at West Point training cadets prior to separation in Jun 45. His wife passed away in 1977. He is survived by a sister, step-daughter, and special friends Doris & Jim Cobb.



**Art 'Bill' Hanley**, 81, died 8 Oct 2007. He served in the South Pacific during **WWII**; as a Harbor Master in Japan during the **Korean War**; in the Transportation Corps in Europe during peace time; and as a tug boat skipper in **Vietnam**. He retired from the Army in 1967. Bill is survived by his wife Carol, son Brad, daughters Donna, Kim, & Kit; 2 granddaughters, 5 sisters, and 3 brothers.



**Doctor (Colonel), ret., John Goven**, 78, passed away 15 Dec 07 from complications including myelocytic leukemia. He graduated from medical school in 1955 and served many years in the Army, USAR, & ND National Guard, retiring as a Colonel. He was a member of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association. His wife, Carol, passed away in 2005. He is survived by a son, Judge Tom Goven, and daughter, Dr. Gigi Goven.



**Pasquale Grande**, 84, died 10 Aug 07 in Providence, RI. He served with **Co G, 164<sup>th</sup> in the Southern Philippines**, and he was a member of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association. He is survived by his wife, Genevive, 3 children, and 4 grandchildren

**Herbert Klein**, 88, died 12 Nov 07, in Wishek, ND. He served in the 164<sup>th</sup> from 1941 to 1944 in WWII and was a member of the 164<sup>th</sup> Association. Burial was at North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. He is survived by son, Delmar; daughters, Dorothy, Arlene, and Charlene; 12 grand- & 16 great grandchildren.



**Gordon B. St. Claire**, 85, died 26 Nov 07 at the Minnesota Veterans Home. In Feb 1941, he enlisted in the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry and served in **Guadalcanal & Northern Solomons** during WWII, and was a 164 Assoc member. He lost his wife of 55 years, Lois, in November 2000. He is survived by daughters Reni & Rochelle, 5 grand- & 12 great-grandchildren.

**Edwin J. "Ted" Kjelstrom** died 26 Dec 07, at Valley Eldercare Center in Grand Forks, just 5 days before his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. He was mobilized with **Co D, Rugby**, from Feb 41 thru Jul 45; again for Korea Jan 51 – Dec 52; once more for the Berlin Crisis in 1961. His wife, Leona, passed away in 2006. He is survived by sons Kervin and Kent, 5 grand-, and 4 great grandchildren. He was a member of the 164 Inf Assoc.

# More...Last Roll Call



**Thomas J. Sheehan**, 84, died at his Denver home, 19 Aug 07, just 7 months after his wife of 55 years (Joanne). He earned a Silver Star & Purple Heart while serving in the **Philippines** with the 164th. After the war, he went to law school in his home state, Nebraska, then moved to Denver in the '50s. He's survived by 6 children & 10 grandchildren. *Editor: Lt Sheehan was not a member of the Assoc.. I searched for him after reading the Co F patrol log (May 1944) that will be featured in a future issue.*



**Chris Maier Jr.**, 81, of Linton died Sunday, Jan 7, 2007, in Tempe, Ariz. Chris served in **WWII** and the **Korean Conflict**. He was a member of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Betty (Fors) Maier; three children, Kurt, Roger, & Danette; & 7 grandchildren.



**Kembel "Bud" Dahl**, 80, died 6 Dec 07 in Sydney, MT. He served in the Navy during WWII. He joined the Army during the **Korean War**, received a commission, and was medically discharged in 1951. He was a member of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association. His wife, Mary Lou, passed in 1989. He is survived by daughters Kristy, Vicky, Sherry, Michelle, & Janice; brothers **Erling & Francis Dahl, Co G**.

**Norbert A. "Duke" Thilmoney**, 83, died 5 Jan 08, in Oviedo, FL, after a short illness. Duke retired from the post office and National Guard. He is survived by seven children: Tom, Mary, Debby, Cindy, Dan, Joel, Tim; 13 grand- and 13 great-grand children. He was preceded by wife of 64 years, Pat, and 3 sons.

**Buriel F. Watkins**, 88, died at his home in Missouri on 1 Jan 08. He served in the **Philippine & Fiji Islands**. Near the end of the war, as allied troops



were preparing for the invasion of Japan, he was instructed to take two men to accept the surrender of a Japanese officer and his men. On arriving at the surrender site, they encountered not only the officer but several hundred Japanese soldiers who marched by and surrendered their weapons. Member, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Assoc. He is survived by wife of 67 years, Lois; children Freda & Bobby, 4 grand- & 4 great-grandchildren.

**Arvid T. Thompson**, 90, died 6 Oct 07. He spent 4-1/2 years in the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the South Pacific. He was a member of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association & the American Legion. His wife of 62 years, **Virginia**, passed away just 3 months later, on 7 Jan 08. They are survived by daughters Susan, Carol, & Joan; son Richard; 12 grand- & 16 great grand children.



**John D. Creamer**, 83, died 6 Jan 08, in Longview, TX. He served with Co A, 164th Infantry, in the South Pacific (Bougainville), and was a member of the Association. He was an ordained minister for 46 years. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rose; daughters Kimberly Ann and Dena; son, Rev. John David; and 4 grandchildren. [See pg 20]



## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Carol Beane wrote in October that her Dad, **Arvid Thompson, Co F**, had passed away 6 Oct 07. She paid dues for her Mother, Virginia, so she could get the newsletter. In January, Carol had to write again with the sad news that **Virginia** had passed away, just 3 months after Arvid. Carol and siblings Richard & Sue have joined as Associate Life Members! They also sent a check for \$130 donation to the 164<sup>th</sup> that "Arvid would have wanted you to have" from memorial money. [see story on Page 20]

This is to inform you of the death of my father, Herbert Klein, **K Co**, on 11/12/07 (Veterans Day). What a day to go. Dad was in **Guadalcanal**, India, Burma campaigns, with **Merill's Marauders**. Delmar D. Klein, (son), Bowman, ND

This is to inform you that **Pasquale Grande** passed away on 10 Aug 2007. He was with the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry, **Co G**. He was 84 years old and a member of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association. He is survived by his wife, Genevieve, 3 children, and 4 grandchildren. Sincerely, **Genevieve Grande**, Johnston, RI.

After the dues letter sent to **Noma Kane** was returned, I looked in obitfinder.com (social security death index) and discovered that she had passed away on 11 Oct 07; she was born on 2 Jun 17. I couldn't find an obituary anyplace, so I asked member Milt Kane--he informed me that she was the widow of **Lt Francis "Bud" Kane (WWII), Reg't Hqs Co**,

Just to let you know, **Richard** is in re-hab after suffering a fall in early January. He will be confined for at least 4-6 weeks, as he broke a small bone below his knee. We pray he will make a full recovery. **Helen Penman**, Scottdale, PA.



Chaplain (Major), ret., **Magnus Lutness**, Bismarck, passed away 28 Jan 08. He was assigned as an officer on an amphibious landing craft (LCD) at Anzio, convoys in Mediterranean Sea, invasion of S. France, & minesweeping at Sasebo, Japan. In 1954, he became the Staff Chaplain for the ND Army National Guard; was activated during the Berlin Crisis (1961-62) with the 164 Engineer Group; and retired in 1970. He served as Chaplain for some of the reunions of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association, but was not currently a member.





## From your President


Greetings for the  
New Year 2008

Dates to remember:

**Reunion: Sep 12,13,14 Valley City, ND**

I want to give special thanks to the Reunion Committee for the work that they do in preparation for the Reunion and during the Reunion. They are all Korean War Era Veterans who are members of the Association and are as dedicated to the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Colors as the WWII Era Veterans. The Korean Veterans were called to active duty again in the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry in 1951, trained, and sent overseas as replacements. We of WWII do not realize it, but they are the ones who will be telling their War stories in the not too distant future.

Most of all, many thanks to our Spouses and the Associate Members, namely the Secretary/Treasurer, Photographer, and our Outstanding Editor of our Newsletter. Our Reunion would not be the success that it is if it wasn't for the support that we get from the 188<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard Band, out of Fargo, ND.

  
Bernie Wagner



**The New York's motto: "Never Forget"**

The *USS New York* (LPD-21) was built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center.

It is a new San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It carries a crew of 360 sailors & 3 marines, and is capable of carrying 437 combat-ready troops that can be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft.

In addition to the *USS New York*, the *USS Arlington* (LPD 24) will be named for the location of the Pentagon, which was hit by American Airlines Flight 77. The *USS Somerset* (LPD 25) will be named after the Pennsylvania county in which United Flight 93 crashed after being taken over by hijackers.

The keel was laid in New Orleans in 2004. The ship is scheduled for christening as the *New York* on 1 March 2008, and will "come alive" as part of the operating forces of the US Navy when it is commissioned the *USS New York* at a ceremony in New York City in 2009.

<https://www.pms317.navy.mil/ships/lpd21.asp>



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

P.O. Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

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Valley City, ND

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Secretary/Treasurer & Reunion Coordinator: Patricia Drong  
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