



7-2009

164th Infantry News: July 2009

164th Infantry Association

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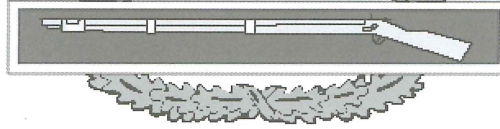
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 50, No. 2

65 Years Since D-Day

July, 2009

Still on Bougainville - 1944

Patrol on Bougainville
By Doug Burtell



The 164th Infantry spent all of 1944 fighting mud, mosquitoes, jungle heat, and Japanese on the mountainous slopes of Bougainville, Northern Solomons. The heroism and humanity of that time is remembered within these pages.

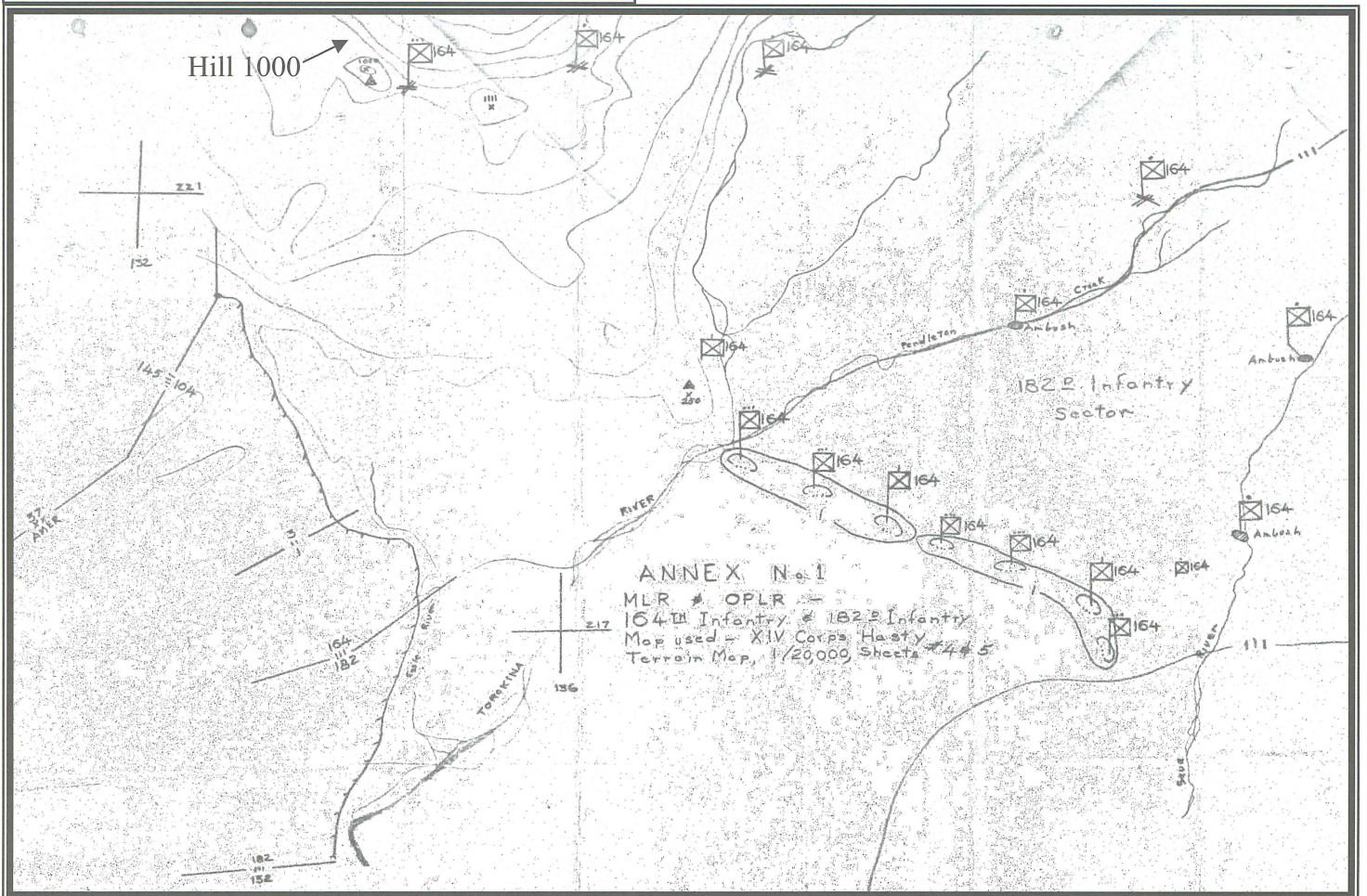
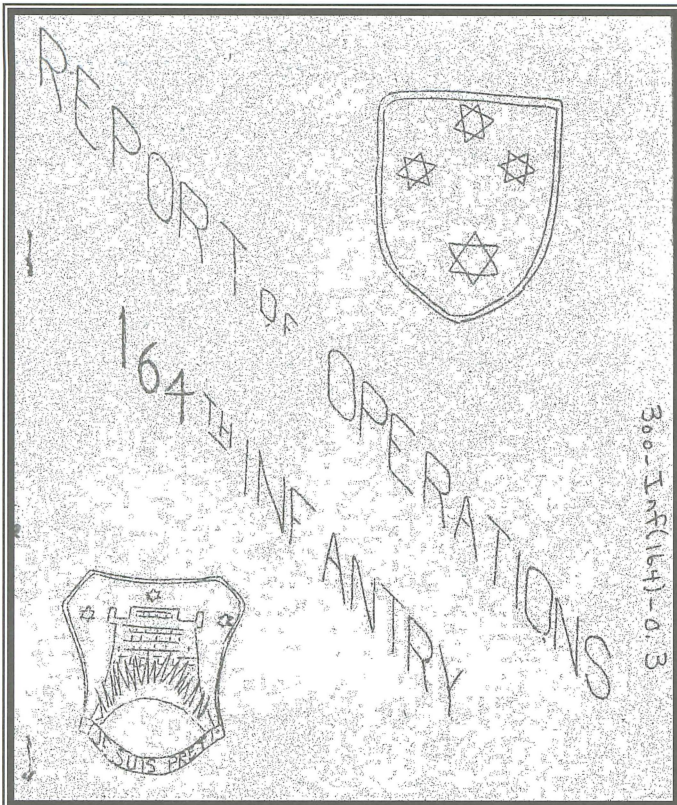
NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

HISTORY OF THE 164th INFANTRY, 1 July 1944 to 1 December 1944.

The information on these three pages was extracted from War Department documents on file in the 164th Archives at the University of North Dakota. It includes a short synopsis of actions, maps, and statistics. It also lists awards recipients from the campaign to that point.

"The principal activities of the 164th infantry during this period consisted of repeated long-range patrol engagements with the enemy who was stubbornly defending the Numa-Numa Trail in the Upper Laruma Valley area, and positinos in the Reini-Tekessi area. None of these patrol engagements developed into major battles. None of the engagements developed into sectional or major battles."


Excerpts: From 1 May to 2 June, there were no enemy contacts. Ambushes and outposts were established and maintained on hills...250, 600, 1000, 1100, and along the North Kuma Trail in the Torokina-Forks-Pendleton Creek areas....Large quantities of Japanese equipment, including 75mm guns and ammo of all caliber, was destroyed....Numerous Jap dead and graves were found throughout the sector. Combat firing ranges were built and all units not engaged in outpost activity continued training in Tank-Inf problems, scouting, first aid....



164th War Department Documents from the Bougainville Campaign

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

**WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



DO NOT REMOVE FROM THIS OFFICE

**WAR DEPARTMENT RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION
ROOM MB-867 PENTAGON**

100-11411-1-0-3 (Class) Messages
Operating Bn - 164th Inf Regt - Upper Laruma Valley

HISTORY OF THE 164th INFANTRY, 1 Jul to 1 Dec 44.

2-7 June: Active patrolling continued...From 3-6 Jun, a special Co I combat patrol reconnoitered the area N and E of Division Hill along the Reini River, contacting 7 Japs, killing 3 of them, later engaging an unestimated number of Japs in a fire fight. Our casualties were 1 Off and 1 EM KIA, and 3 EM WIA. Enemy casualties not observed.

7-20 June: No enemy contact. 1st & 3rd Bns improved their front lines. Patrolling & Tank-Inf training continued.

20-30 June: 3rd Bn reconnoitered the area east of Division Hill to Mom Mt, with Btry C 22s FA in support. On 23 Jun, contacted enemy, est. 12 killed. We had 1 man KIA and 1 walking wounded during this period.

1-15 July: Occupied roadblocks & outposts. No contact.

16-26 July: 2nd Bn relieved elements of 145th Inf, 37th Div in the Upper Laruma Valley. Units were attached for this operation were 1 Btry - 245th FA Bn; 1 Plt - 49 C.A.; 1 Sect - 4.2 Mortars, 82nd Chem Bn; Det of AP(F?)GAU; 1 Plt - 25th WD Plt; Det - 121st Med Bn; & 93rd Rcn Trp was placed under operational control of CO, 164 Inf.

HISTORY OF THE 164th INFANTRY 1 July 1944 to 30 September 1944

SECTION IX

Losses in Action.

Campaign: Bougainville Campaign, 1 July 1944 to 30 September 1944.

Index: Killed in action - - - Par. 1
Died in action - - - Par. 2
Missing in action - - - Par. 3
Wounded by enemy action - - - Par. 4
Wounded by accidents - - - Par. 5
Taken prisoner - - - Par. 6
Recapitulation - - - Par. 7

1. KILLED IN ACTION:

✓ Sgt Donald A. Syverson	20711327	Co G
✓ Pfc Robert J. Kitchen	36557535	Hq Co 3rd Bn
✓ Pfc Joseph A. Nadeau	31318190	Co L
✓ Pfc Peter Baldwin	32105091	Co C
✓ Pvt Roy Owens	34548102	Co L
✓ Pvt Adam E. Tomczyk	36638600	Co L
✓ Pvt James H. Cummings	36687758	Co A

2. DIED IN ACTION:

✓ Pfc Carl L. Kitzmiller	20721935	Co C
✓ Pvt Edward W. Brown	36646513	Co E

3. MISSING IN ACTION:

✓ Pvt Lucia M. Garcia	38553419	Co B
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4. WOUNDED BY ENEMY ACTION:

Capt Adelphos H. TePaske	01697933	Co B
1st Lt Duane L. Gibbs	0410543	AT Co
1st Lt John C. Nielson	01292388	Co C
S Sgt Martin A. Edinger	20711143	Co F
S Sgt William C. Hanson	20710814	Co B
S Sgt Richard E. Rowe	32135469	Co L
Sgt Robert Gutierrez	39226412	Co L
Sgt Ludvig W. Gullikson	20710937	Co C
Sgt Leon J. Wagner	37028126	Co F
Cpl Charles W. Harris	35727611	Co C
Pfc Louis Castellanos	39127268	Co E
Pfc Eugene P. Celie	35609416	Co E
Pfc Parker P. Foye	31320928	Co G
Pfc Michael Hayducko, Jr.	33678333	Co G
Pfc George D. Evans	35867378	Co F

Par. 4, Wounded by Enemy Action Continued.

Pfc Chester F. Forsberg	39329153	Co G
Pfc Clarence L. Dyché	39003574	Co B
Pfc George S. Elliott	20711120	Co B
Pfc James W. Pinkston	37516229	Co L
Pfc John B. St. Pierre	31309996	Co L
Pfc Felix A. Porcuro	31291965	Co L
Pfc Richard J. Walsh, Jr.	31309979	Co L
Pfc Francis D. Devos	20710927	Co C
Pfc Frank J. Donadio	32660958	Co L
Pfc Henry J. Niaswiecki	32929980	Hq Co 3rd Bn
Pfc Richard A. Herman	36567073	Co F
Pfc Albion F. Bona	35551234	Co G
Pfc Glenn M. Bloomfield	35633792	Co G
Pfc Gustav N. Jara	37027705	Co E
Pfc Jack L. Dillie	35139185	Co E
Pfc Lawrence C. Moser	20710514	Co E
Pfc Robert L. Cookrum	35699703	Co G
Pfc Cecil G. Fultz	35700604	Co G
Pfc Elmer F. Killars	35793543	Co B
Pfc Harold H. Taylor	39075769	Co B
Pfc Milton R. Landis	36356433	Co B
Pfc Morrell G. Muller	39002069	Co E
Pvt Anthony Veltra	33136675	Co L
Pvt Harold F. Phillips	37501809	Co L
Pvt Robert E. Medlock, Jr.	34658230	Co C
Pvt Roland V. Peters	39079172	Co C
Pvt Cletis E. King	37413616	Co E
Pvt Harry M. Booth	37441901	Co F
Pvt Arthur H. Beavor	39331884	Med Det
Pvt Russell D. Slodge	35701722	Hq Co 3rd Bn

5. WOUNDED BY ACCIDENTS: (accidental discharges, burns, dynamite, friendly mines, auto accidents, etc.).

T Sgt Lyle W. Bethke	20710084	Hq Co 3rd Bn
S Sgt Frank L. Thomas	20711473	Co K
Sgt James H. Hatten	34083534	Qn Co
Sgt Wesley H. Anderson	20710910	Co C
Tec 4 William F. Menka	37028618	Serv Co
Pfc Joseph E. Robedeau	20710246	Hq Co 3rd Bn
Pfc Boyce H. Bradley	34303001	Co F
Pfc Joseph Monis, Jr.	39128212	Co E
Pfc Eldred F. Bates	14137470	Co E
Pfc Luther Burdine	34729064	Co E
Pfc Raymond D. Dismang	16017869	Co I
Pfc Dhimitri V. Karakosta	36658252	Co I
Pvt Marle L. Morrison	37659347	Co B
Pvt Leon T. Booth	36688587	Co B
Pvt Chauncey T. Mitchell	32929706	Co C
Pvt James W. Morad	31295404	Co E

6. TAKEN PRISONER OR INTERVIEWED:

None.

164th War Department Documents from the Bougainville Campaign

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

HISTORY OF THE 164th INFANTRY, 1 Jul to 1 Dec 44.

16-26 July (Cont): Telephone & radio commo nets maintained 24 hrs a day; a relay station established on Hill 1000. The 2nd Bn occupied the Laruma trailblocks...patrolling the area extensively. Long range patrols were made north of Igiaru village. On 20 July, Co E, on the point of D Block, advanced in a hot fire fight to secure 3 dominating points on the ridge. 1 man WIA. On 21 July, Reg't Intel & Recon Plt killed 4 enemy, no casualties. On 24 July, a Co F patrol contacted enemy force which had est 5 MG's. We killed 2 enemy and had 3 WIA. A special squad patrol from Co E travelled to Sisivie village. Due to excellent jungle craft and aggressiveness, they killed 15 enemy and suffered no casualties. Several other minor skirmishes caused enemy casualties. Attached units harassed the enemy continually. 26-28 July: 1st Bn relieved the 2nd Bn. No casualties.

28 July-5 Aug: 1st Bn operated numerous roadblocks. Extensive security & recon patrolling was done, combat patrols were dispatched, and long-range patrols were sent to Upara (3 times), Magerikopia (x4), Ibu (x2), Sisivie (x2), Igiaru (x2), Kariana (x4), Doyabie River (x1), Marabia River (x2), and Laruma River (x3). On 28 July, a Co B patrol had 2 KIA, 2 WIA when engaged by enemy HMG, 2 LMG's, unestimated number of rifles. On 2 Aug, Co C patrol from Block C contacted 7 enemy, killing 2. We had 1 officer WIA, and 1 man WIA in Block H. On 2 Aug, Co B patrol (1 reinforced plt) left block H to Igiaru where 2 men had been killed 28 July. They contacted enemy with 4-5 MGs and were unable to proceed. 3 WIA. Another Co B patrol (plus 1 plt from Anti-Tank Co) enroute to Ibu hit the enemy 400 yds beyond Sisivie, causing 26 enemy KIA. We had 1 WIA. Total of 36 enemy KIA; we suffered 2 KIA & 7 WIA. Units training concentrated on weapons proficiency.

5-7 Aug: 3rd Bn relieved 1st Bn. 7-14 Aug: On 7 Aug at 0440, Block H received heavy mortar fire, then received MG, rifle fire from unestimated number of enemy. At 0630, an estimated Company of Japs launched a double envelopment attack on our forces located at D block and Nip Hill. After a heavy fire fight, the enemy were driven off, with 48 men KIA. Our casualties were 2 KIA and 9 WIA. At 0915, Japs attacked C block, then withdrew. Co L trailblock at Kariana was withdrawn at 0800, then observed 12 Japs moving toward D block and others toward C block. The enemy opened fire, wounding two EM. Between 2000-2200, 3 Japs were killed in front of D block. On 9 Aug, one of our men was KIA by enemy automatic fire. On 11 Aug, a Co I patrol killed 4 enemy. Know enemy KIA is 55; our casualties this period were 4 KIA, 16 WIA.

HISTORY OF THE 164 th INFANTRY 1 July 1944 to 30 September 1944		in action. Awarded the SILVER STAR per General Orders #1080, Headquarters USAFISPA, dated 18 July 1944. (See Exhibit #14).	
SECTION I			
Members Who Distinguished Themselves			
1. ENGAGEMENTS: THE GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN:		b. Capt Morris W. Stroud III, O-434802, Medical Detachment. Heroism. Awarded the SOLDIER'S MEDAL per General Orders #85, Headquarters XIV Corps, dated 26 July 1944. (See Exhibit #19).	
a. S Sgt Robert J. Burkhardt, 20710647, Company A. Gallantry in action. Awarded the SILVER STAR per General Orders #1170, Headquarters USAFISPA, dated 31 July 1944. (See Exhibit #17).		i. Pfc Daniel Lujan, 39571662, Company I. Heroism. Awarded the SOLDIER'S MEDAL per General Orders #1152, Headquarters USAFISPA, dated 30 July 1944. (See Exhibit #15).	
b. 1st Sgt Virgil A. Labe, 20711573, Company L. Gallantry in action. Awarded the SILVER STAR per General Orders #1187, Headquarters USAFISPA, dated 22 August 1944. (See Exhibit #18).		j. The following members were awarded the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #108, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 2 July 1944 for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. (See Exhibit #1).	
c. Tec 4 William A. Hall, 20711727, Medical Detachment. Heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. Awarded the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #115, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 20 July 1944. (See Exhibit #2).		1st Lt John Noberg, O-1697926, Service Company. Pfc Worth H. Emanuel, 20711268, Co G Pfc Robert E. Fuller, 35798493, Co G	
2. ENGAGEMENTS: THE BOUGAINVILLE CAMPAIGN:		k. The following members were awarded the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #117, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 24 July 1944 for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. (See Exhibit #4).	
a. S Sgt Miles O. Shelley, 20711126, Company F. Extraordinary heroism. Awarded the DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS per General Orders #1165, Headquarters USAFISPA, dated 31 July 1944. (See Exhibit #16).		S Sgt Orrin J. Jacobson 20711052 Co E Tech 5 Carlos W. Klinger 37027295 Med Det	
b. Sgt Daniel C. Carroll, 19084567, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion. Gallantry in action. Awarded the SILVER STAR per General Orders #105, Headquarters XIV Corps, dated 29 August 1944. (See Exhibit #20).		l. The following members were awarded the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #119, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 27 July 1944 for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. (See Exhibit #5).	
c. The following members were awarded the SILVER STAR per General Orders #111, Headquarters XIV Corps, dated 14 September 1944 for gallantry in action. (See Exhibit #21).		Capt Arthur L. Griffiths O-347980 Hq Co 2nd Lt James J. Young O-1316899 Co I S Sgt Martin P. McArthur 37028246 Hq Co 1st Bn	
S Sgt Sall E. Jackman 37001342 Co A S Sgt Arthur R. Liebeck, Jr. 20607665 Hq Co 3rd Bn Pfc James E. Pinkston 37516229 Co L		m. The following members were awarded the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #125, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 7 August 1944 for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. (See Exhibit #7).	
d. Tech Sgt Arthur L. Chapman, 20711218, Company G. Gallantry in action. Awarded the SILVER STAR per General Orders #1028, Headquarters USAFISPA, dated 1 July 1944. (See Exhibit #11).		2nd Lt John R. Floss O-1305227 Co G S Sgt Arthur H. Christianson 37028226 Co F Tech 5 Alvin L. Loftus 36821168 Co G Pvt Ralph H. Koss 7030231 Co H	
e. S Sgt Hamlin L. Kjelland, 20711280, Company G. Gallantry in action. Awarded the SILVER STAR per General Orders #1031, Headquarters USAFISPA, dated 2 July 1944. (See Exhibit #12).		n. The following members were awarded the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #126, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 8 August 1944 for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. (See Exhibit #8).	
f. Capt William I. Hunt, O-436105, Medical Detachment. Gallantry in action. Awarded the SILVER STAR per General Orders #1072, Headquarters USAFISPA, dated 15 July 1944. (See Exhibit #13).		Maj Henry B. Shea O-208693 Hq S Sgt Raymond K. Iupoko 37028158 Co I S Sgt Lyle V. Stapleton 20912010 Co L	
g. Pfc Frank E. Frohnebofer, 39249801, Company I. Gallantry			

164th War Department Documents from the Bougainville Campaign

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

HISTORY OF THE 164th INFANTRY, 1 Jul 44 to 1 Dec 44.

14-16 Aug: 2nd Bn relieved 3rd Bn. Training on crew served weapons and small unit tactics continued.

16-24 Aug: During the night of 16-17 Aug, a Co A patrol advanced 300 yards to the front of their positions on D block and engaged 9 Japs dug in around a banyan tree. Two Japs killed, we lost one man KIA. 20 Aug, 2nd Bn I&R patrol ambushed & killed 3 and wounded an unknown number of enemy. 21 Aug, 1 Jap KIA D block. Through careful patrolling, enemy movements were reported every day. Large groups of well-armed Japs were seen; however, the enemy was reluctant to make contact with our troops, satisfied to remain on defense.

24-26 Aug: 1st Bn relieved 2nd Bn. A Co G patrol killed 1 enemy on 26 Aug. A Co B patrol killed 4 enemy at the lower end of the N side of Nip Hill. At dawn on 29 Aug, Co C, on block O, was attacked frontally by an estimated 15 enemy, following a half hour's concentration of knee mortars and grenades. We had 1 man KIA [Peter Baldino - see pgs 8-9] and 5 WIA. Total enemy KIA this period is 20. Our forces 1 KIA, 5 WIA.

26 Aug - 30 Sep: The 182nd Reg't relieved the 164th Reg't in the Laruma Valley Area, and the 164th relieved the 182nd positions in the Reini-Tekessi area. Battalion rotations continued patrolling, roadblock actions. On 28 Sep, a fast striking Co E patrol hit an estimated 40 Japs in the vicinity of Tavanatu Village. Fighting viciously, they killed 18 enemy and suffered no casualties. Training continued on flame thrower, demolitions, and mines.

Special notes: On several occasions throughout the entire operation in the Upper Laruma River Valley area, the Air Corps was called on to help neutralize the enemy areas. Cooperation between units was excellent and good results were obtained. Full tactical use was made of the artillery, 4.2 mortars, 81 mm mortars, and 60 mm mortars in harassing the enemy continually, restricting his use of certain terrain features and in putting concentrations on his known positions every time they were encountered. Enemy casualties suffered from this artillery and mortar fire cannot be estimated, however, undoubtedly they did have casualties.

1 Oct - 1 Dec: Various uneventful patrols and training. On 15-16 Nov, the Reg't I&R platoon discovered enemy activity and reconnoitered the situation within 10 feet of the enemy positions. On 17 Nov, the I&R Plt (reinf w/1 Co H plt) made a lightning surprise attack on a village, annihilating the enemy garrison of 23 Japanese. (See commendation in the **Shedd** story, page 14-15) The 164th worked within the OPLR of the 132nd Inf Regt. In late November, the 164 positions were assumed by elements of the 3rd Australian Division.

✓ S-Sgt	John L. Stranas	20711681	AT Co
✓ Pfc	William E. Cody	34648866	Hq Co 1st Bn
✓ Pfc	Lieven A. Desan	32484379	Co I
✓ Pfc	Thaddeus F. Koon	33625247	Co L
✓ Pfc	Marvin W. Seas	37027900	Co K
✓ Pfc	Warren B. Skan	20724388	Hq Co 1st Bn
✓ Pvt	Lawrence W. Metter	19121020	Hq Co
✓ Pvt	James W. Edwards	20730933	Co M
✓ Pvt	Herbert M. Smith	39130490	Hq Co

o. The following members were awarded the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #131, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 17 August 1944 for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. (See Exhibit #9).

✓ S-Sgt	Helge R. Branden	37021559	Co L
✓ S-Sgt	Merle S. Brood	36225253	Co G
✓ Sgt	Clinton E. Loomis	20711171	Co F
✓ Tech 5	Albert H. Horstman	37027311	Med Det
✓ Pfc	Nephtale H. Carter	39131684	Co F

p. Pfc Charles W. Teach, 35727685, Medical Detachment. For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. Awarded the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #146, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 18 September 1944. (See Exhibit #10).

q. S Sgt Ralph H. Oehlke, 20710148, Anti-Tank Company. Heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. Awarded the OAK-LEAF CLUSTER in lieu of the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #122, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 1 August 1944. (See Exhibit #6).

r. S Sgt Ralph E. Brodin, 37023391, Headquarters Company 1st Battalion. Heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. Awarded the OAK-LEAF CLUSTER in lieu of the BRONZE STAR per General Orders #116, Headquarters Americal Division, dated 22 July 1944. (See Exhibit #3).

s. The PURPLE HEART was awarded to the following members under General Orders, Headquarters, Island Command, APO 709, for having been wounded in action against the enemy at Bougainville, Solomon Islands.

✓ S-Sgt	William C. Hanson	20710814	Co B
✓ S-Sgt	Richard E. Rowe	32135469	Co L
✓ Pfc	George S. Elliott	20711120	Co B
✓ Pfc	Henry J. Niedzielski	32929980	Hq Co 3rd Bn
✓ Pfc	James M. Pinkston	37516229	Co L
✓ Pfc	Richard J. Walsh, Jr.	31309979	Co L
✓ Pvt	Anthony Valtra	33136675	Co L

t. The PURPLE HEART was awarded to the following members under the General Orders, Americal Division, APO 716, 1944, for having been wounded in action against the enemy at Bougainville, Solomon Islands.

✓ Pfc	Barbee Cagle	34336415	Co M	GO#108
✓ Pfc	Louis Castellano	39127268	Co E	GO#116

t. The PURPLE HEART was awarded to the following members under the General Orders, Americal Division, APO 716, 1944, for having been wounded in action against the enemy at Bougainville, Solomon Islands.

✓ Pfc	Barbee Cagle	34336415	Co M	GO#108
✓ Pfc	Louis Castellano	39127268	Co E	GO#116
✓ Pfc	Parker P. Foye	31320928	Co G	GO#117
✓ Pfc	Cecil G. Fultz	35700604	Co G	"
✓ Pvt	Harry M. Booth	37441901	Co F	GO#120
✓ Pfc	Eugene P. Celio	35609416	Co E	"
✓ Pfc	Robert L. Cockrum	35699703	Co G	"
✓ Pfc	Jack L. Dillie	35139185	Co E	"
✓ Pfc	Michael Hayducko, Jr.	33678333	Co G	"
✓ Pfc	Gustav N. Jore	37027705	Co E	"
✓ Pvt	Cletis E. King	37413616	Co E	"
✓ Pfc	Lawrence C. Moser	20710514	Co H	"
✓ Pfc	Chester F. Forsberg	39329153	Co G	GO#122
✓ Sgt	Leon J. Magnan	37028126	Co F	GO#123
✓ Pfc	Elmer F. Eilers	35793543	Co B	GO#125
✓ 1st Lt	Duane L. Gibbs	0-410543	AT Co	"
✓ Pfc	Milton R. Landis	36356433	Co B	GO#126
✓ 1st Lt	John C. Nielsen	0-1292388	Co C	"
✓ Pfc	Harold H. Taylor	39075769	Co B	"
✓ Pfc	Francis Devos	20710927	Co C	GO#129
✓ Sgt	Robert Gutierrez	39226412	Co L	GO#128
✓ Pvt	Harold F. Phillips	37501809	Co L	"
✓ Pfc	Felix A. Porcaro	31291965	Co L	"
✓ Pfc	John B. St Pierre	31309996	Co L	"
✓ Pvt	Russell D. Sledge	35701722	Hq Co 3rd Bn	GO#130
✓ Pfc	Glenn M. Bloomfield	35633792	Co C	GO#140
✓ Pfc	Albin F. Bosa	35551234	Co C	"
✓ Sgt	Ludwig W. Gullikson	20710937	Co C	"
✓ Pvt	Robert E. Medlock, Jr.	34658230	Co C	"
✓ Pvt	Roland V. Peters	39079172	Co C	"
✓ Pfc	Richard A. Herman	36567073	Co F	GO#136

u. The PURPLE HEART was awarded to the following members under General Orders, Headquarters, Island Command, APO 709, for having been wounded in action against the enemy at Bougainville, Solomon Islands.

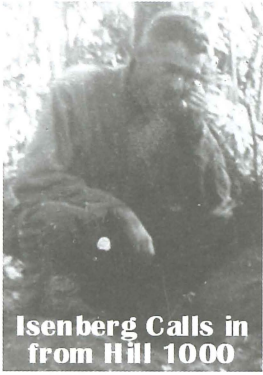
✓ Pfc	George D. Evans	35867378	Co F
✓ Pfc	Clarence L. Dyché	39003574	Co B
✓ Pfc	Frank J. Donadio	32660958	Co L

v. S Sgt Martin A. Edinger, 20711143, Company F. For having been wounded in action against the enemy at Bougainville, Solomon Islands. Awarded the OAK-LEAF CLUSTER in lieu of the PURPLE HEART per General Orders #120, Headquarters, Americal Division, dated 28 July 1944.

Patrol With Scout Dogs

By George Isenberg, Co F

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944



Isenberg Calls in from Hill 1000

During the summer of 1944 the Japs made several major attempts to penetrate the lines of the Americal Division but after being severely rebuffed they settled down and contented themselves with small raids. These harassing attacks required our commanders to take counter action which amounted to rigorous patrolling by small reconnaissance patrols. Five to ten men including one Sergeant and one Lieutenant usually made the reconnaissance patrols. When a Jap unit was discovered a combat patrol went into action.

One day a rumor slithered down the grapevine that Division Headquarters had received a platoon of scout dogs. A few days later I got orders to take a patrol out the next day with a scout dog and his handler to try and contact the enemy. The purpose of the mission was to determine if the scout dogs would be of any value in a patrol. I was warned not to let the dog or its handler become casualties.

On my arrival back at the unit I found the scout dog Platoon Leader waiting for me. He explained that the dogs had been trained to alert by freezing with an out-stretched tail whenever they smelled a Jap and had become very good at it. He also said that the dog and handler must be out in front of our scouts and upon alerting moved to the back of the patrol.

I decided if we departed our Company area the next day at 0530 we would be able to clear friendly lines by sunup and told the handler my plans. The next day, surprise, the dog and his man arrived on time. The handler appeared to know his business. The dog looked like any other German shepherd, tongue lolling out the side of his mouth revealing a number of big teeth, alert, watching whoever was talking, just a good dog.

My patrol of ten men and a Sergeant loaded on to a truck that carried us a couple of miles to the perimeter of the 164 lines. Here I briefed the Company Commander on the mission and made sure he knew we would be back through the lines at 1700. He agreed to have the mines and booby traps on the trail we were using put on safe or removed just before we came through. The dog, so far, had made no moves either of affection or aggression, just remained at his handler's side.

With that we left, moving through the perimeter lines into the jungle. When we were a hundred or so yards out, I stopped the patrol and moved the dog and handler up in front. Following him by about ten yards came my lead scout with a rifle. Another ten yards back the second scout followed with a sub-machine gun. We still did not have full confidence in the dog, so I used the normal formation. I trailed the second scout and the rest of the patrol came behind me at about five-yard intervals. The Sergeant brought up the rear. Two of the men carried sub-machine guns; the rest had rifles. All had at least two fragmentation grenades and one concussion grenade.

It is surprising that twelve men heavily loaded with ammunition, weapons, grenades, aid packets, canteens, bayonets, and probably more stuff in their pockets can be so quiet. We moved in absolute silence, no talking, no joking, no coughing or sneezing. Every sense - sight, hearing, and smell -- on high alert.

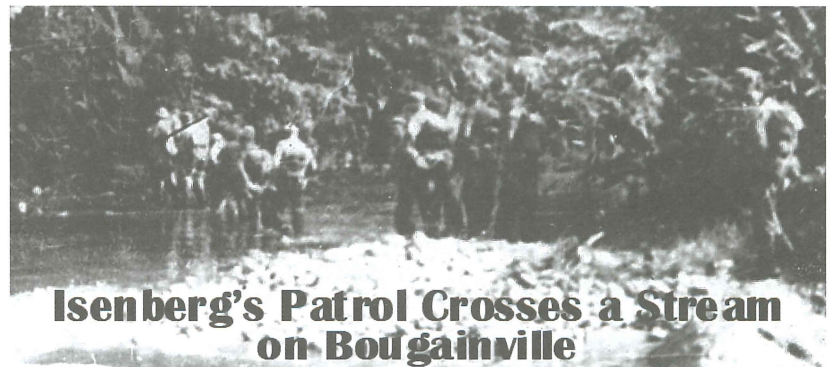
Scouts carried their weapons in their hands and the rest carried them slung. All sling swivels were taped securely to prevent rattles. Even the heavy ammunition belts were taped where they were hooked in front, and not removable until we got back.

We had covered perhaps a mile when the dog alerted. As soon as I got up to the dog I ordered his handler to the rear with a hand signal, which he executed with great dispatch. As he passed me I put my hand on his arm stopped him and put a finger to my lips. He nodded and went more slowly. Considering this was his first time in the jungle and his first real patrol he was OK.

The patrol proceeded more slowly and carefully but found nothing. There was no wind even up in the canopy (the tree tops) so the dog could not have received wind-blown odor. After another slow hundred yards I ordered the dog back up and called all the men in, and we proceeded. If there had been a Jap around he was long gone.

We moved another mile or more. No more alerts. We were well beyond the screen line the Japs had been maintaining. I estimated we were 5 to 6 miles in front of our perimeter when we found a trail that showed evidence of recent use, but not in the last several days. All the footprints had been washed out.

After another mile or so the dog alerted again. The scouts moved very carefully now. Twenty minutes more and a hundred yards further along the cause of the alert became obvious. There was a dead man someplace nearby. We made a slow search and found the body. I checked it as best I could. He had been there a while, but I could tell he was a Jap.



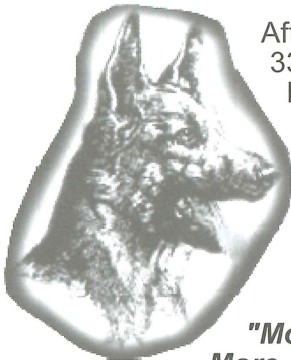
Isenberg's Patrol Crosses a Stream on Bougainville

His weapon, equipment and boots were gone --- a good point for my report. Were they having trouble getting boots? Have we interfered with their supply lines so much they are scrounging from their dead? I estimated he had been there for about a week. There was no way I could tell how he died. I returned to the trail and went back to the point where the dog alerted pacing the distance off. It came to 110 yards. I figured it would take a large group of live Japs for the dog to alert at this distance. That was to be my conclusion on the patrol report. We circled back to our perimeter lines, taking a break alongside the trail a few hundred yards out so as not to arrive at the mine and booby trap line before 1700 hours.

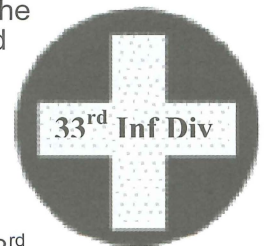
My report recommended that the dog's usefulness had been proven. I also mentioned that he would surely have alerted much further back if there had been a favorable breeze. We were never provided with scout dogs again. I don't know where they went or where they were used. I do know they would have been helpful in jungle reconnaissance and more than once I wished I had one with me.

The following information might answer some of George's questions. The 39th Scout Dog Platoon is the only such platoon listed in service in the Pacific during WWII. Although computer searches didn't have any information about the locations or timeline for "testing" the idea of scout dogs, 1944 at Bougainville would be consistent with preparations for assignment to the 33rd Division in early 1945.

The 39th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon, 123rd Inf Reg't, 33rd Inf Division



After training in the California desert, the 123rd Infantry Regiment of the 33rd Infantry Division made an interim stop in Hawaii. The 33rd Division's first combat task was at Morotai in New Guinea. Elements of the 33rd valiantly fought and secured Morotai before the landing on Luzon in February, 1945. When the 139 days of combat were over for the 33rd on Luzon, 339 of its men had been killed, 1274 WIA, 319 injured, and 3 listed as MIA.



The citation of the 39th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon, made by the 33rd

Division, one of the four divisions with which that platoon served in the Philippines:

"More than 200 combat patrols during the period from March 9th to May 23rd, 1945... More than 200 known enemy killed by patrols after advancing into areas alerted by dogs... Any number of times, parties were saved from ambush by the alertness of the dogs and their handlers..."

Danny, a German Shepherd, and his handler Sergeant Knisely took the point when an assault patrol was given the mission of locating and destroying an enemy machine gun nest. Twice the dog alerted, and scouts went forward but were unable to spot the well hidden nest. Then the handler volunteered to lead the patrol as close as possible. Slowly and cautiously they moved up. Danny alerted very strongly, the sergeant pointed out the gun's exact position and it was eliminated. Knisely was killed, was awarded a Silver Star posthumously.

Wolf, a shepherd, was leading an infantry patrol through the Corabelle Mountains toward the strategic Belete Pass, when he scented a Jap party entrenched on a hill about 150 yards distant. The patrol launched a surprise attack. Wolf was severely wounded by shell fragments. Since he never whimpered or showed signs of pain, the men around him failed to notice that he had been hit. The Americans realized they were heavily outnumbered and were being encircled. Three more times, Wolf's alerts enabled the patrol to avoid Jap columns closing in on it. Wounded though he was, Wolf finally guided the American troops out of the trap and back to their command post. When Wolf's wounds were discovered, an emergency operation did not save him.

Bruce. During a screaming Jap banzai attack on E Company, 27th Infantry, the German Shepherd sighted three Japs with fixed bayonets bearing down on a foxhole in which two wounded American soldiers lay. Bruce rushed out in a fierce charge that routed the Japs and saved the wounded men.

Duchess, handled by Sgt. Knight, on patrol with the 3rd Bn, 123rd Inf, 30 April 1945, Luzon. On approaching a large cave, the dog gave a strong alert. Grenades were thrown into the cave, killing 33 Japanese. On another occasion, Duchess alerted on Filipino huts, 800 yards away, locating 9 Japanese.

The 33rd Division, including its attached units like the 39th Scout Dog Platoon, was slated for OPERATION OLYMPIC, the invasion of Japanese home islands on 1 Nov 45; planners estimated that the 33rd Division would suffer 80-90% casualties. Fortunately, the Japanese surrendered.

From http://members.tripod.com/39th_scout_dogs/id34.htm

For all things War Dog: <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAB/war.html>

Mount Bagana, Bougainville

By George Isenberg, Co F

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944



The 164 landed in Bougainville on Christmas Day 1943 and moved immediately to the front lines to relieve a platoon of marines. We marched about an hour and a half from the beachhead on jungle trails and corduroy roads through the thickest jungle I had ever seen, and was ever to see again in the succeeding two years of fighting in the islands. The jungle floor was layered with wet, rotting leaves, twigs, and dead creatures. The smell was horrid. There is no other word to describe the constant odor rising from the jungle floor other than to say it stunk. There was little noise. No birds sang or chirped, and I saw no sign of animal life.

After a stiff climb up a very steep ridge we came to a ridge top that showed evidence of human life and I met the Marine Lieutenant whose platoon we were to relieve. He showed us our boundaries and the dugouts where we were to live. Our positions were on the crest of a very steep, heavily wooded ridge. It was almost impossible to crawl, much less walk down the slope in front of our positions because of the growth.

The marines told us the Japs were entrenched about fifty yards downhill from our line. During times when it was quiet we could hear muffled noises, whether animals or Japs we couldn't tell, so I passed word for everyone to cover their ears and had one gunner fire a long burst down the hill. Sure enough, when we took our hands off our ears we heard shouting down there. None of us spoke Japanese so we just yelled back at them, telling them what they could do with Tojo, and what he ate. "Tojo eat shit," was one of our milder insults.

Just before dark a runner from Company Headquarters came by to spread the word that tomorrow we might get a hot meal from the company kitchen at noon if they were able to get their gear off the beach. Meantime, we ate our "C" rations. There were three cans per ration; one day of food for one man. These early rations had a breakfast, lunch and supper meal. There was no variation and nothing else was included. Later, manufactures added crackers, four cigarettes and jelly, and still later the main cans of meat and veggies came in different menus -- meat and beans, meat and stew, and meat and hash. But not these; the early rations were just very basic survival food.



Isenberg heats up some chow on Hill 1000

The night descended on us. The usual jungle night sounds began. The platoon Sergeant and runner rolled out their blankets and went to sleep. I listened to the jungle. It was pitch black; nothing could be seen even inside the dugout. A couple of times, a flare was fired far away on the perimeter and several times a burst of firing occurred some distance away. That night, lying on the wooden boxes, I slept as though I hadn't slept for a week. Apparently the enemy was tired too, for they made no trouble for us that night.



Pasin makes coffee

Things gradually settled down to a routine. The Japs fired up at us occasionally and about every third or fourth night sent a couple of men up in an attempt to flip grenades into our bunkers. Our firing slits were very narrow and did not allow room for grenades to come through. We fired at them and tried to flip grenades back down at them and I think we had better luck than they did.

About two weeks after we took over the line the world almost came to an end in the middle of the night. The ground heaved and a great series of jolts shook us awake. Men started yelling and firing their weapons. We heard great crashing sounds as trees fell around us. It sounded like incoming artillery rounds. There were seconds of bedlam until things quieted down enough to be heard and a check for casualties began. It turned out there were no serious injuries although we had to dig out a couple of caved-in bunkers. A few men had bad bruises but that was the worst of it.

We heard the Japs jabbering. They sounded very excited and much less disciplined than we were. We were certain we had experienced an earthquake and that supposition was confirmed in the morning when we received word that the mountain was blowing considerably more smoke. That spring and summer we defended the perimeter against two major attacks by the Japs. Both were thrown back. We had relatively few casualties but there were major numbers of dead Japs. We patrolled out to the maximum ranges of known Jap artillery and set up battalion-size outposts about two-thirds of that distance out. We had numerous minor skirmishes.

We set up patrol bases still further out. We manned each hilltop with an outpost after we cut and detonated enough of the growth to allow for a view. What does all this have to do with Mt. Bagana? Stay with me.



1st Platoon rests before moving up

In late August 1944 I was with a platoon from Company "F" on one of those far out hilltops. One night we settled down as usual. Thirty minutes after sundown everyone was in their foxhole because anyone on their feet between then and daylight would be shot with no challenge, no warning.

It was my turn to sleep. I squirmed around until my hip was in its hollow in the earth, my blanket wrapped around me and tucked under. My pistol was in my right hand, cocked and locked. It seemed only a minute after I fell asleep that the Platoon Sergeant was leaning over from his hole, shaking me.

"Lieutenant! Do you smell anything?"

"Hell, yes! What is it?"

"I don't know, but I don't like it."

I was wide-awake now. "All right. Do you think it smells like poison gas?" I couldn't remember any war gas that smelled like this but I wasn't sure those Jap bastards hadn't come up with something.

"Call Company headquarters and see if they smell anything."

He made the call and reported that headquarters did not smell anything.

I checked myself over. I was having no trouble breathing and when I moved my arms and legs everything seemed to be working in good order.

"I'm going to see if I can get back to sleep. Wake me up if you have trouble breathing."

I don't know how long it took me to get back to sleep, but I do remember laying there cursing Japs with all my heart and hoping I was not getting all of us killed by not abandoning the hill I was ordered to hold.

Soon, but not soon enough, the sky began to lighten and I could see a fog over us. Actually, we were on the western edge of it. Most of the fog was over the Japs. I looked upwind to the south and there was Mt. Bagana spewing out a stinking, sulphurous smoke.

Later that morning, the Executive Officer came up to our outpost to find out what was going on. Had we all gone jungle mad? What was all that shouting and shooting about last night? Did we have a source of booze and had we gotten drunk? If so, share it with him! We showed him the smoke trail that was drifting further east into Jap country and got a good laugh out of it.



Unfortunate Jap

By George Isenberg, Co F

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

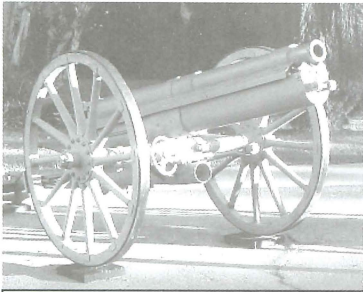
During the summer of 1944, after the Japs had finally given up the idea of running us into the Coral Sea they settled for harassing our perimeter with artillery fire and with raids by small units. The raids were easily stopped but the artillery fire was another matter. Our mission was to protect the two airstrips and just a few rounds delivered in the proper places could shut down a strip for hours while the holes were filled and the matting replaced.

The Japs kept moving their artillery. In addition to that, our artillery had difficulty putting a round on the back slopes of the steep ridges. Our patrols found several places where, to avoid detection by our observers, the Japs dug right through a very steep knife-like ridge from their side and opened a small hole through which they could push the muzzles of their guns.

One time my unit was on the front line for nearly a month during which time we demolished old Jap artillery positions, some hidden and some just on flat places on the reverse slopes. We ran security patrols out a thousand yards or so every day. Our front was on top of a ridge with an extremely steep front side but a gentle slope on the back. The usual patrol left just after dawn. About half an hour later one of the men arrived back at the line with a message for the Captain.

[this story continues.....]

When the Captain arrived, the messenger told him, "We got to the bottom of the ridge and were crossing the stream when we saw something about 20 yards upstream. The Lieutenant called a halt and went up the stream to look. He came back and told us to set up a defense perimeter and do it quietly. We found a Jap soldier lying with his head in the water and the barrel and breech ring of a howitzer on his back. He was dead but only recently. That is when he told me to come quick and get you."



75mm Japanese Howitzer

The Captain told me, "See if you can find someone with a camera and get down there and check it out."

Arriving at the creek I found that the body had been pulled out of the water; it took four men to lift him. I identified the gun barrel on his back as from a Jap 75mm howitzer. It was lashed to his back in such a way that he could not get it off. Someone must have put it on for him. The lashings were not rope but flexible vines with a crude pad made of leaves between his back and the barrel. The load was improperly balanced. The breech ring and breech block had been placed at the top of the load so he was badly top-heavy.

Our guess was that the poor devil lost his way and became thirsty. He had no canteen or any other equipment. When he knelt down to get a drink the weight of his load drove him onto his stomach and the lay of the land would not allow him to roll over. He was larger than most Japs, but someone had loused up by loading him so heavy. Obviously his unit would be looking for him, more for his load than his person. Our men, four at a time, brought the gun to our line up over the ridge and eventually it went to Regimental Headquarters to be mounted on the gate post.

Reverse Lend Lease by George Isenberg

Early in 1944 we began to receive shipments from Australia, including some strange looking shoes. Our field uniform in or out of battle included high-top shoes that reached just above the ankle. To protect the lower leg we wore canvas leggings which were noisy in grass or brush. Before we received combat boots many of the men got jungle rot where the top of their leggings rubbed against their shins. Most of the men wore a band-aid or tape at that spot to prevent these ulcers from forming. The leggings, made of canvas with hooks on the outside and a strap under the instep, covered the lower half of the leg below the knee and were supposed to protect the legs from bites and gashes.

The Australian shoe was the same as our high-top service shoe with one important difference. It had small steel hobs on the sole and heel projecting maybe three eighths of an inch from the sole. The hobs resembled round nail heads. There were eight hobs in the sole and four more in the heel. The difference they made walking in the jungle was little short of amazing. No more slipping on the muddy, damp growth, or dying leaves, rotting twigs and branches. It made the march much less tiring.



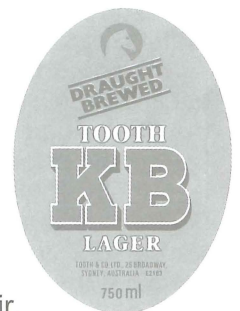
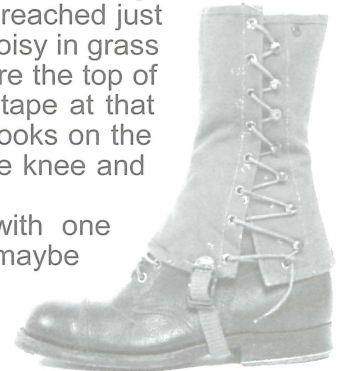
After the first issue of these shoes we learned they were made in Australia and furnished to the U.S. troops in the Pacific as a sort of reverse Lend Lease in exchange for the planes and trucks that we sent the Aussies. Even after we started to get the new combat boots quite a few of us continued to wear the lend-lease shoes with our canvas leggings. They were by far the best item of that program.

We received other things on that program, too. The butter substitute, probably an early form of oleo-margarine, was far from the favorite of our cooks. I cannot recall it tasting bad but the cooks all hated it.

On the other hand everyone loved the Aussie chocolate. It came in a tin can with a water-tight rubber gasket. The chocolate was excellent and did not melt in hot weather, another big plus.

Aussie mutton was not well received at least partly because we got too much of it. It seemed to be on the menu every other day, then less often, but the damage had been done. The cry, "Not that dead goat again!" became the war cry of the mess lines but it was the only fresh meat we received on Bougainville.

Probably the best-liked shipment from Australia was *Toothes KB Lager*. This, I was told by connoisseurs of beer, had to be the finest beer ever brewed. We received it irregularly in one-liter bottles. The size of the issue varied, sometimes we were given one bottle for every three men, sometimes two men shared a bottle and infrequently, one man could enjoy a bottle all to himself. It was always welcome. We cooled it by putting the bottles in a container of gasoline, then placing the end of an air hose in the bottom of the container and turning on the air, a procedure that quickly resulted in ice cold beer.



The Solomon Island jungles have some of the thickest growth of forest on earth. They have no seasonal growth pattern but grow constantly. The tropical climate results in rain measured in hundreds of inches per year, combined with heat. The windward side of mountains and ridges receives the most rain and has the thickest growth. It is not unusual to find an entirely different type of growth on the opposite side of a mountain because of the reduced amount of rain.



Banyan at Bn Hqs Area

Mature jungles have huge, massive trees that tower 200 feet high, similar to redwood forests, but there the similarity ends. Instead of pleasant park-like grounds around the trees with a thin mat of needles on the ground, a jungle has a solid mass of smaller trees, vines and bushes under the canopy of the tall trees. A mat up to a foot thick of rotting vegetation covers the ground and the ground is either damp or soaking wet depending on how recently it has rained.

When it starts to rain it takes some time for the rain to reach the ground and after the rain stops the trees will drip for many hours, perhaps until the next rain starts, usually about the same time the next day.

Many of the plants and vines growing on and under the trees are parasitic, having no roots and drawing their moisture out of the air. Sunlight seldom reaches the ground. The air at the ground surface is perfectly still, although if a person could see the crown of a big tree it might be moving in the constant trade wind.

Be assured you will be wet from perspiration, the drip, and the humidity ten minutes after you enter the jungle and you will stay wet until you get out in the open again. Your skin wrinkles as though you had spent the whole day in a swimming pool.

There is constant noise in the jungle; animals and bugs at night, birds and bugs in daylight. Some animals are noisy day and night. Wild pigs rooting can sound exactly like Japs digging in. The call of some birds can sound like a human calling out, others sound like a person screaming. Most of us learned to distinguish between noises.

Smells abound. Everything rots quickly and odiferously-- vegetation, bugs and animals. You cannot see much except the jungle growth itself. Everything has a green tint.

I hate bugs and creepy crawlers so naturally, during my service in WWII I ended up in the mother country of all bugs and creepies.

In the jungle all things plant and animal grow rapidly. Their deaths result in a lot of trash on the jungle floor. The bulk of it is plant life, leaves, vines, etc. These and the animals that die must be returned to the soil in order to feed the new growth.

The whole jungle floor is a quivering mass of creatures eating and digesting other creatures, many of which do not distinguish between things living and things dead. I soon learned never to put my boots on until I had knocked them vigorously against something substantial to dislodge anything that may have taken refuge there. I did shake out one or two scorpions often enough to prevent me from forgetting that routine.

Let me tell you about some of the bugs we met routinely:

Centipedes: Nothing like the cute little ones we call millipedes at home. Jungle centipedes often totaled 12" long, and 3/4" inch wide, with segments 1/2 inch long. They have one pair of legs for each segment. Their bite is very painful. I never heard of anyone dying from a bite but it caused a lot of swelling and pain and definitely caused the loss of a bitee from the unit for a week or 10 days while he recovered.

Scorpions: Much like the ones you find in the US but more of them and larger and more aggressive with a serious bite that can cause a temporary paralysis.

Spiders: Not as many as I expected. Some were poisonous we were told. I never knew anyone who was bitten by a spider but one got so many bites you never knew what caused them all.

Mosquitos: Were everywhere. Certain to be there. Some were out during the day, others at dusk and dawn and still others at night. Anopheles were out all the time. These carried malaria and Dengue fevers. We had no quinine because the Japs controlled all the islands where quinine is produced and in 1942 there was as yet no substitute. It actually came to the point on Guadalcanal where medical thermometers were issued to the Platoon Leaders on the line who were ordered to send men back to the aid station only if their fever reached 104 degrees F.

We did receive Atabrine later. This did not cure malaria, but it did help to hold down outbreaks of chills and fever when taken regularly. It also caused the whites of a person's eyes to gradually turn bright yellow so one look at a man told you how long he had been out in the islands.

Last, but not least, of the common bugs and varmints were the leeches!

Leeches: These creatures were not water animals like I had seen in the US, and as you may have seen in the movie "The African Queen." These lived on the jungle floor.

The Will o' the Wisp

By George Isenberg, Co F

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

In the spring and summer of 1944 the Japs began to harass our perimeter with quick hit and run attacks by small units. Our primary mission became one of constant patrolling to prevent the Japs from establishing permanent positions. This story is about an incident during one of these patrols.

My orders were to:

(1) Make a reconnaissance patrol east along a nearby ridge, searching both sides as well as I could without breaking up the patrol.

(2) Avoid heavy contact with the enemy.

(3) Bring back as much information about the actions of the enemy as possible, and

(4) Break radio silence and report location only if it became necessary to bivouac overnight.

My twelve-man patrol started after a before-dawn breakfast. Before the sun rose we were escorted through the mines and other "mass mutilators" in front of our perimeter and by the time the sun was up we were approaching the target ridge. The day's work had begun.

We moved silently up the ridge. The scouts searched our immediate front and the men behind searched their assigned areas, left, right or overhead. The day went smoothly. We saw only two Japs and they were very brief sightings at a great distance, too great to even bother to fire off a round at them.

Some hours later, just after I told the scouts, "At the top of the knob ahead we will turn around and head back," both scouts dropped to their bellies giving the signal that the enemy was in close sight. I pulled the scouts back. They told me there were at least thirty Japs coming toward us with the leaders just fifty yards short of the knob. That number was enough to give us "heavy contact" so we began to withdraw.

The sergeant led half the patrol back into heavy brush for cover and I followed with the other men after a five-minute interval. I decided we could not get back to the battalion perimeter before dark and needed to find a good place to set up for the night. We moved along, still patrolling as we headed toward home. We came across a pair of Japs at close range and the scouts decided they were the same pair we had seen that morning. The scouts fired, bringing down one Jap, the other one got into the brush and disappeared.

This caused another delay while we made sure there were no more Japs nearby. It was now getting close to dark so we hurried down the last section of the ridge into some heavy jungle and found a good place, thick with underbrush, to set up camp. Our perimeter was set up by the time the sun hit the horizon. Night was coming rapidly in the draws and the jungle animals were settling down for the night. My patrol stopped digging and they, too, settled in for the night.

There was no supper for us, or breakfast either, except for those who had dropped a candy bar or maybe a small bag of dry cereal or crackers into his combat pack. The darkness increased. At almost full darkness I heard some of the men whispering far more loudly than they should and the platoon sergeant crawled over to them to shut them up.

While he was gone, probably only ten or twelve yards away, I looked around trying to see if I could spot anything. Suddenly, my hair stood up. Something had flashed outside our perimeter. I froze on the spot in the brush and it came again, a wavering, eerie, green light that disappeared once more. What in the hell could that be?

Then I remembered seeing a light like that once before. On my first deer hunt with my dad in Wisconsin we camped out overnight and a pale, green, flickering light in the forest scared me half to death until my dad explained it was caused by rotting tree stumps.

We settled down finally. As usual, the men were full of bullshit the next morning about how totally frightened the man closest to them had been and how they themselves never worried for a minute because they knew all about the rotting stumps and branches that created a will-o-the-wisp.

Will-o-the-Wisp: One common scientific explanation for such phenomena is that the oxidation of hydrogen phosphide and methane gases produced by the decay of organic material has been documented to cause glowing lights to appear in the air. Experiments, for example, done by the Italian chemists Garlaschelli and Boschetti, have replicated the lights by adding chemicals to the gases formed by rotting compounds. In 1993, Professors Derr and Persinger put forward a theory that earth lights may be generated piezoelectrically under a tectonic strain. This theory suggests that the strains which move faults also causes heat in the rocks, vaporizing the water in them. Rocks and soils containing piezoelectric elements such as quartz (or silicon) may also produce electricity, which is channeled up through soils via a column of vaporized water until it reaches the surface — somehow displaying itself in the form of earth lights. Other explanations associate will-o'-the-wisps with bioluminescence (e.g. honey fungus & barn owls).
From Wikipedia.com

In the summer of 1944, we were camped between a big anti-aircraft Battalion and the main airstrip. Our mission was to prevent the Japs from moving artillery close enough to be able to shell the airstrips.

About the 3rd of June I was ordered to take a combat platoon of thirty men to drive off a small group of Japs who were reported to be about five to ten miles out from our lines. This took a couple days of hard patrolling. We reached the general area and spent a few hours quietly searching until we found a flat spot away from the trail where a unit had recently bivouacked. It was plain to see that the Jap unit was much larger than we had been told. My small platoon was no match for a hundred and fifty Japs. We arrived at that figure as a minimum by counting the bed sites they had not bothered to camouflage.

After completing the count I took a squad out about a mile along the same route the Japs had taken. This convinced me they had headed toward their Headquarters on the other side of the island. Their tracks looked to be at least two days old.

When we returned I found the Platoon Sergeant holding a Jap rifle and helmet. He said, "One of the men found these on the edge of their perimeter. Looks like they had a deserter but if he had any ammunition he either took it with him or hid it better than he did this." The rifle was the old model 25 caliber with a very long barrel. We made a thorough search of the whole area but found nothing more.

The information gathered at their bivouac implied the Japs were not bringing new troops to the island. We were just seeing the same old units we had met before, but in greater strength than we had seen in the last three months.

We moved a half a mile back down the trail, moving very carefully. All the men had seen the size of the Jap unit. Nobody wanted to get ambushed by it. It was coming up dusk by then so we found a flat place where the foliage was particularly heavy, went past it a hundred yards, then circled back to it through the jungle slowly and quietly. There was no talking, all commands were given by hand signal, everyone closed up very tight.

If a canteen rattled or a rifle butt hit a tree trunk somebody got extra duty when he got back to the rear area. We bivouacked for the night in complete silence. No smoking. No talking. No cooking. No noise opening "K" ration boxes. The men divided up in buddy system, one to sleep, the other to guard. After dark anyone on his feet is a target and the standing order is to shoot any target. We spent a quiet night.

We returned to our lines on June 7th and a Captain watching us come in told us the allies had made a major landing on the coast of France the day before. The American part of the war in Europe had started.

Using the nearest field phone I called for a truck to carry us back to our unit area. While waiting for it I talked to the Captain first about the results of my patrol, then about the invasion of France. We discussed the enormous quantities of war materiel delivered to the beaches of Normandy, and compared that with the shirrtail sort of operation with which we had been whipping the Japs for over a year and a half. We had heard about a shoulder fired rocket launcher, primarily an anti-tank weapon but one that would have been useful against the bunkers the Japs were holed up in. There was also a trigger fired 60mm mortar and combat boots to replace the canvas leggings that caused so many of our men to suffer from jungle rot.



Al Manuel, George Isenberg, Ace Dawson, & Dick Campbell in the Company Area.

The truck arrived. We loaded a tired platoon and rode back to the battalion bivouac area in style. After I made my report to the S2 (Intelligence Officer) we chatted for awhile. I asked him, "Was there a celebration when the news of "D" Day came in?"

He said, "Not really. I heard a lot of comments like, 'Hell we've been at it for a year and a half. What's so great about this?'"

The reaction in the 2nd Battalion was generally subdued. We were pleased the invasion had finally come. All of us were well aware of the problems being experienced by the troops on the Normandy beaches having had the same problems, although on a smaller scale, when we made our landings on Guadalcanal and Bougainville. If your face is in the sand and machine gun bullets are whizzing just above your spine, it matters little whether the sand is in Normandy or the South Pacific. That was about the sum of it as far as we were concerned. Through the rest of 1944 and early 1945 we followed the European War through the hedgerows, the breakout, and the winter war.

Our war went on. Our next mission was to turn Bougainville over to the Aussies and begin the Philippine Campaign on the islands of Leyte, Cebu, Negros, and Bohol. In the late spring of 1945, the Americal Division was ordered to leave Bougainville and begin the mission of retaking the major islands of the central Philippines from the Japs.



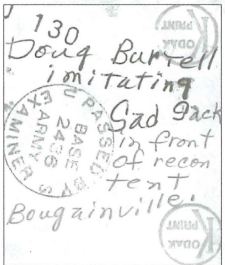
Old bomb crater near Hill 65

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Burtell's Li'l Blue Book on Bogie

Notes By Douglas A. Burtell, Reg't Recon & Intel Plt

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944



1Jan44—Went on 5 day patrol with Fijians and Col Matheson 7 mi beyond our lines. Gave Nips the slip twice and cut their commo lines. Picked up Native and little boy who were hunting pigs in Jap territory. Crossed hot water river—cause volcano (Mt Bogana) 6000 ft. Jungle in “Bogie” is the worst yet. But malaria is scarce. Japs I’ve seen are all fat, look in good shape. Col Matheson (Australia) was killed during a tank drive by 132 Inf. Was swell fellow and a wonderful soldier. I hated to see him go. I was on a 5 day patrol with him and Fijians who are excellent scouts. Bougainville situation different than that of Guady. Quiet except for patrols, of which I have been on ten. 1Mar44 I was made Corporal for 3d time. **MacCarten & Sevigny** also made it. Got drunk twice on cherry jack in “Bogie”. (NO MORE) Tonite 7Mar44, Japs are to make a last stand by attacking our lines. Two Jap Div will attack. Main attack is believed to come on our front. We are all sweating out the coming battle and our rotation home. **Glasow** from A.T. Co committed suicide, shot himself through head. Also one man from 37mm A.A.. cracked up and began shooting all over hell. He was hauled in after little struggle. Moved to new area and one of the new recruits was killed by falling branch. Haven’t had an air raid since 11Feb44. Now 7Mar44. Don’t think we will have any more now that Rabaul is neutralized. 2 Japs surrendered to “B” Co. 7 have surrendered to our Div. Unusual for the Japs! In Jan, our platoon rescued 40 sick and starved Natives from the hills. It was sure the most pitiful sight I ever saw. Last air raid killed Gen Hodge’s driver. 8Mar44 6:05 AM. Jap arty opened on our beachhead. Started two big fires. We are really pouring on them now. Think they will attack tonite or tomorrow nite. 11Mar44 Nips hit 145 Inf. Repulsed and up to now 1000 Japs killed all round lines. They have not hit our lines as yet. “C” Co killed 13 Nips on patrol yesterday (15



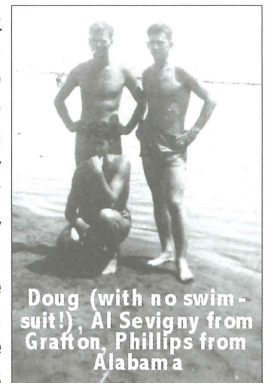
Mar 44). 16Mar44 **Jack Ogelby** wounded by mortar. Not serious. He’s fine. Engineers are making road to #600 Hill. Think we will push sometime in future days. 132 Inf 18 man patrol ambushed, 2 men got back. 17Mar44 Washing Machine over (no damage). Jap shell hit bomb dump, explosion. Saw Gen Harmon. 1325 Japs killed by count all around line. 22Mar44 Jap attack all petered out. All their arty knocked out. Went on patrol atop H400, hit Jap O.P. They threw “knee mortars” and grenades but no one was hurt. Killed one Jap. We registered arty and knocked O.P. out. We returned to our lines in the dark. Rough going, boy I was tired. F” Co had 1 KIA, 4 WIA. I left 250 and guided a carrying party up 600 to help bring “F” Co casualties down. Christ, what rough going it was at nite. I had casualty, but he pulled thru. The “Doc” we brought up helped him a lot. Plasma too. It’s wonderful stuff. “Doc” was new man, sure didn’t have the old spirit. Bitched ‘cause he had to go up 600 at nite. Just an old woman. Arty cooperation was excellent. I estimate we killed several hundred on Torkina River Crossing with arty fire. Boy, what a sight to see that arty hitting right on them. 2Apr44 Relieved by 1st Bn and went back to the Co. Had a letter from Fran and pictures, morale soared. 4Apr44 “Top” asked if everyone could swim (I think something is in the wind). 10Apr44

Going to work in the office for 10 days (Good rest). Jap 6 in arty threw in about 16 rounds. No casualties. 1 SBO destroyed. There won’t be much more of that. We are mopping up



Recon Boys: Paul Hershey, Frank Maramer. Chet Root

now. Japs leaving everything behind. The last two Jap prisoners we captured died before we could get them in. Too bad, but the bastards deserve. Received my watch today (OK). 11Apr44 Our Reg rec’d 97 replacements. Rotation looks better. 16Apr44 My birthday to-day, 20 yrs old. Went out to Hill 250, will stay until operation is over. The gnats are terrific here (dammit!) We get along quite nicely with the colored boys. I met a few of their Sgts. Really hit the coffee



Doug (with no swim-suit!), Al Sevigny from Grafton, Phillips from Alabama

heavy. Chamely insists this be transformed into a historical document by entering his name: **Boyd C. Chamely** (what a character, aka Petit Souris) 19Apr44 **Col Garvin** leaving and **Col Gee** taking over. Officers throwing big party tonite. Men sure don’t like. The EM had to pitch a special big tent to throw party in. West Point officers sure as hell don’t impress us. Quite a clique. The trouble with colored troops is poor officers. They don’t care about the welfare of their men. Our men are helping them with instruction. 25Apr44 Landings made above Wewak and at Hollandia, New Guinea. Beer issue today, 2 pts Schlitz. 26Apr44 Went on 4 day patrol to recon vicinity 1111. Made trip in 2 days. I was 1st Scout first day. Found 6th Div shoulder patch. 30Apr44 Pay day today. 1May44 Put \$20 in soldiers savings. 5Mar44 Returned from 4 day patrol forward and reverse of 1000 and 1111. Took 3 rookies along, all took it good except one fellow. Issued 6 pts beer. 15May44 **Bob Kilpatrick** made rotation. 6Jun44 returned from 5 day patrol to find that the 2nd front opened at 8 am this morning. [last entry]

Artist Doug Burtell lives in Bowman, ND

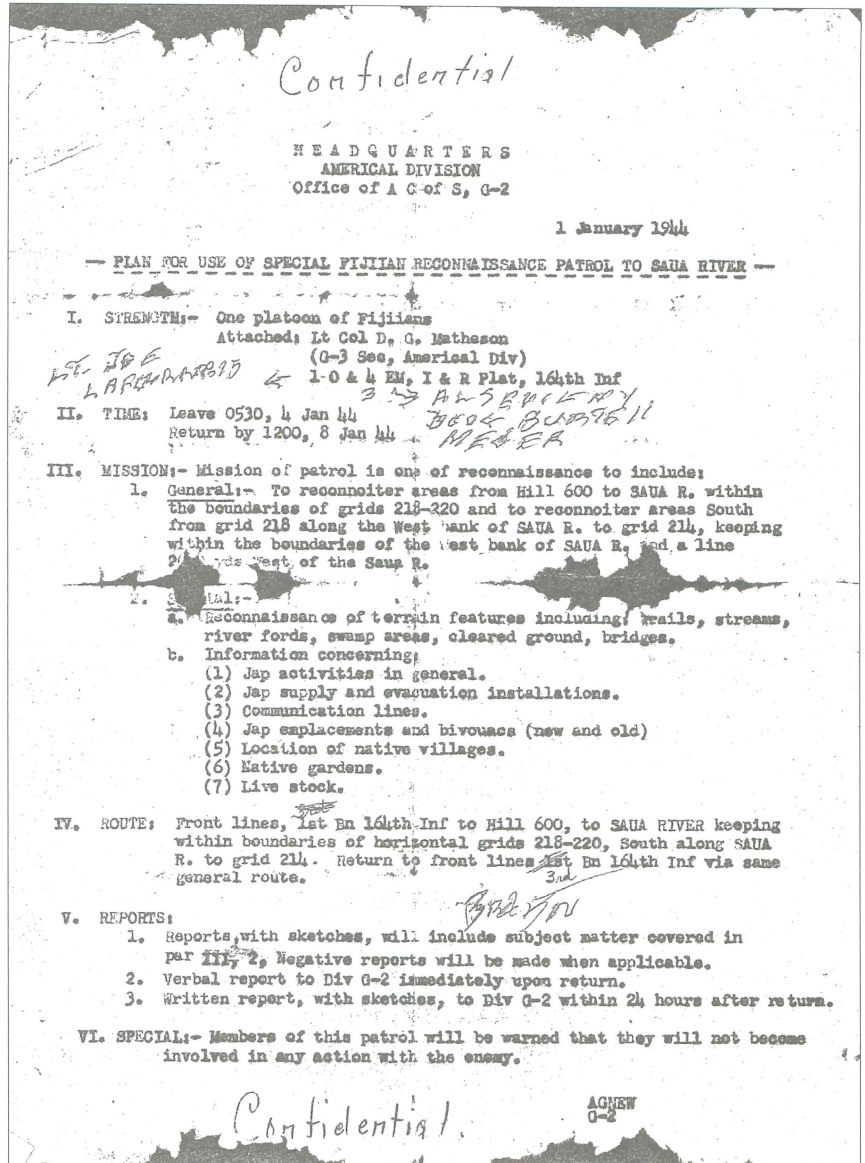
At right is a copy of the order that took the 164 boys on the adventure with New Zealander Lt Col Matheson. Below are the profiles of Matheson, and the Fiji officer mentioned in the diary, who died relatively young, only 4 years after attending the 164 reunion in 1962. In a letter home in 1944, Reg't Recon Officer, Milton Shedd, wrote, "We have interesting officers in our outfit – several New Zealand officers and the two Royal Princes, both Captains of the Fiji Islands. They are son [& nephew] of the present Fiji King – very superior individuals. Their education and intelligence is far above the average upper class of our society."

Lt Col Donald George Melbourne Matheson was born on 19Jul04 in New Zealand but later settled in Australia.

He enlisted in the AIF in April 1941 & was commissioned in June 1941.

Major Matheson formed the 2/3rd Cavalry Commando Squadron and commanded this unit on New Caledonia. He was seconded (attached) as a temporary Lt Col to the US Forces as a jungle warfare and commando instructor in the Solomon Islands.

He was awarded the US Distinguished Service Cross for his service on Guadalcanal in Dec 42. He continued to serve with US forces until he was killed on Bougainville on 30 January 1944. He is buried in Port Moresby War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea.



From the Gerald Sanderson collection

Back Row: Ross McNea, Gerald Sanderson, Leland Simek, Walter Trengen, William Pautzke. Front Row: Alden Tang, Howard Boltz, Ratu Edward Cakobau from Fiji Scout Battalion on Bougainville, Bill Nebo, Carl Garbe at the 164th Infantry Reunion, October 1962

Ratu (Prince) Sir Edward Tuivanuavou Tugi Cakobau, (21Dec08- 26Jun73) was a Fijian chief and statesman. Sir Edward commanded a Fiji Infantry Regiment in World War II, and was awarded the Military Cross. When Fiji became independent in 1970, Cakobau was knighted, becoming a Knight Commander of the British Empire. He was also a Freemason. Wikipedia.com

Ratu Edward was a cousin of Ratu George Cakobau who also served in Bougainville and became leader of Fiji; see his profile on Page 16.

Fijian Scout earns Victoria Cross London Gazette

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944



issue 36774, dated 31 Oct 1944,

VICTORIA CROSS: SEFANAIA SUKANAIVALU

Corporal, 3rd Battalion, Fijian Infantry Regiment

Born: 1918, Yathata Island, Fiji

Died: 23 June 1944, Mawaraka, Bougainville, Solomon Islands

Citation: On June 23rd, 1944, at Mawaraka, Bougainville, in the Solomon Islands, **Corporal Sefanaia Sukanaivalu** crawled forward to rescue some men who had been wounded when their platoon was ambushed and some of the leading elements had become casualties.

After two wounded men had been successfully recovered, this N.C.O., who was in command of the rear section, volunteered

to go on farther alone to try and rescue another one, in spite of machine gun and mortar fire, but on the way back he himself was seriously wounded in the groin and thighs and fell to the ground, unable to move any farther.

Several attempts were then made to rescue Corporal Sukanaivalu but without success owing to heavy fire being encountered on each occasion and further casualties caused. This gallant N.C.O. then called to his men not to try and get to him as he was in a very exposed position, but they replied that they would never leave him to fall alive into the hands of the enemy.

Realising [sic] that his men would not withdraw as long as they could see that he was still alive and knowing that they were themselves all in danger of being killed or captured as long as they remained where they were, Corporal Sukanaivalu, well aware of the consequences, raised himself up in front of the Japanese machine gun and was riddled with bullets.

This brave Fiji soldier, after rescuing two wounded men with the greatest heroism and being gravely wounded himself, deliberately sacrificed his own life because he knew that it was the only way in which the remainder of his platoon could be induced to retire from a situation in which they must have been annihilated had they not withdrawn. *Corporal Sukanaivalu is the only Fijian to have received the Victoria Cross.*



As told by Charles G. Ross, then-Lieutenant, Co E



While on **Bougainville**, Lt Charles Ross made friends with Captain George Cakobau* (see profile at right), then Commanding Officer of Company "E", 3rd Fiji Battalion, and the grandson of the King of the Fiji Islands. Ross volunteered to go with the Fijian Company E as an

observer on a combat landing. This was a "reconnaissance in force" by the 3rd Fiji Battalion, says Ross.

On June 23, 1944, as the Fijis moved through the thick jungle vegetation, they were fired upon by machine guns from strongly fortified bunkers, wounding several men and pinning down the rest. The Fiji platoon was so close that the Japanese threw hand grenades, some of which landed *behind* Ross's position.

Fijian Corporal Sefanaia Sukanaivalu twice crawled forward to rescue wounded comrades. On his third trip, he was killed. Although Ross did not personally see the heroic action, he heard about it immediately afterward.

Sukanaivalu's remains were recovered in October, 1944. They buried him in the military cemetery on Bougainville with full military honors. He was posthumously awarded the first Victoria Cross to be given to a British Colonial soldier in World War II.



*Ratu Sir Jioji "George" Kadavulevu Cakobau

(6 Nov 1912 – 25 Nov 1989) was Governor General of Fiji from 1972 to 1982. A great-grandson of Ratu Seru Epenisa Cakobau, the King of Bau who had unified all the tribes of Fiji under his reign in the mid-1800s and subsequently ceded the islands to the United Kingdom in 1874, Ratu Sir George held the traditional titles of Vunivalu of Bau and Tui Levuka and thus considered by many as Fiji's highest-ranking traditional chief. Ratu Cakobau, was appointed Governor General in 1972, becoming the first indigenous Fijian to serve as the representative of Queen Elizabeth. (Text : www.wikipedia.com)
1951 Photo by permission of Fiji Museum www.fijimuseum.org.fj

Armed Forces Radio: The Mosquito Network

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

Newspaper Article - Monday, Jul. 17, 1944:

This is a typical "commercial" on the **Mosquito Network**, a South Pacific branch of the Armed Forces Radio Service. U.S. Army doctors hope that the plug for Toujours Gai will lead G.I.s to use their insect repellent, which not only smells bad but is also considered sissified by many fighting men. The Mosquito Network consists of just five* of AFRS's 100 stations and 200 public-address systems now established, from Greenland to China. But its tiny 50-watt voices are very welcome in a lonely area where short-and medium-wave reception is uncertain.

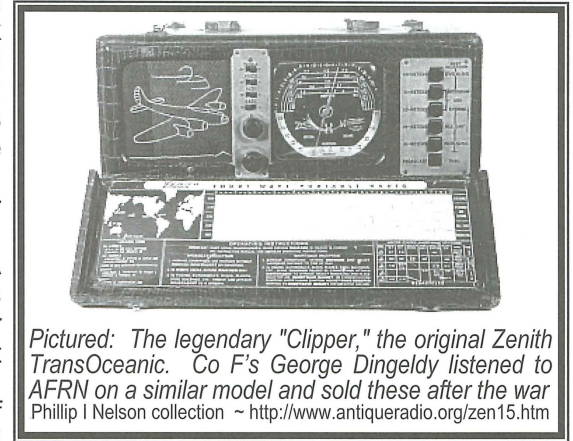
Ants in the Plant. Mosquito's first transmitter (Noumea) opened up last February. Built and operated by Major Purnell Gould, peacetime manager of Baltimore's Station WFBR, and his staff of former commercial radiomen, the network at first had tough going. "Juice ants" fancied the insulation around the transmitter wiring and ate it, causing short circuits; microphones had to be blown out twice a day with bellows because fungus sprouted from them. AFRS's biggest single problem was getting receiving sets for its soldier audience. Furthermore, ordinary radio sets were good for only about four months' service before they succumbed to the tropics.

The receiving-set supply problem has finally been licked. A compact plastic-sprayed set (all-wave, with considerable range) is so resistant to tropic damp that it can even be submerged under water for hours without damage. Other difficulties have been met with diesel powder, well-equipped studios, etc.

Mosquito's weekly broadcasting includes 13½ hours of U.S.-made AFRS transcriptions, 28½ hours of decommercialized U.S. network shows—flown in from the States. The rest is local material, ranging from the reading of war correspondence in the area to burlesques such as McGoo's Booze Hour ("Next time you visit your PX take home a handy family-size container of McGoo's Old Man in the convenient 60-gallon drum").

Lie Back and Relax. What such programs can mean to G.I.s was suggested recently by an AFRS man who had helped set up the India network. Said he: "I don't care whether you're a highly educated technical officer or the most ignorant draftee. You're sitting in nowhere after a hard day and you have nothing to read but a couple of old magazines you've read ten times. It's raining solidly, so there aren't any movies. The Indian radio is full of Urdu and Hindustani and that monotonous music which drives Caucasians crazy. So you go out and get yourself a bottle. This may sound silly or sissy or something, but when you turn on your set and hear good old corny Jack Benny and stuff like that, well, you might, just might lie back on your cot and relax."

* Guadalcanal, Munda, Nouméa, Bougainville, and one (unidentified) about to open.



Pictured: The legendary "Clipper," the original Zenith TransOceanic. Co F's George Dingeldy listened to AFRN on a similar model and sold these after the war Phillip I Nelson collection ~ <http://www.antiqradio.org/zen15.htm>



Above: 11May1945, Solomon Islands: Spencer M. Allen leads a group of Guadalcanal natives in the rendition of a hymn in pidgin. Allen was formerly associated with WGN Radio, Chicago. Caption ©2007 MFA Productions Photo: www.worldwar2database.com/gallery2/v/wwii1082.jpg.html

AFRS in the PACIFIC Theater

The eight Armed Forces Radio Services (AFRS) stations set up in the south Pacific were called the **Mosquito Network** of the American Expeditionary Stations (AES).

1. WVUS Noumea, New Caledonia (1000 watts, 975 kilohertz) - first station;
2. WVUQ Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands (1000 watts, 690 kilohertz) - second & key station;
3. WVUR Esperito Santo, New Hebrides (1000 w 1040 kz);
4. WVUT Nandi, Fiji (50 watts 660 kilohertz);
5. WVTI Cebu City, Philippines (500 watts 1340 kz);
6. WVTM Manila, Philippines (1000 watts 1300 kz);
7. WVUV Pago Pago, American Samoa (50 w 1270 kz);
8. Navy Radio Tutuila, Samoa (10 watts 1270 kz).

At Guadalcanal, the radio station studio and transmitter sites were in a coconut grove about one-half mile from Lunga beach. A dallas hut was divided into a control room and a studio. There was a large plate glass window and some sound proofing between the two rooms. AES staff dubbed their small studio shack in the coconut grove, Radio City, an ironic reference to the imposing headquarters of the NBC network in New York City. Local material included the Atabrine Cocktail Hour to encourage the taking of anti-malarials. On the evening of March 2, 1944, AES-Guadalcanal, first broadcast a test signal. Regular broadcasts started March 13 and lasted through 1946. Two days before this photo was taken, WVUQ broadcasted news of the German Surrender.

Sources: google.com/search; informaworld.com; afrts.dodmedia.osd.mil/heritage/heritage.asp; smec.org/start_of_afrs.htm [Mosquito Network info]

“Colonel Maggie”

Submitted to the *News*

by Frank Cullen, American **Vaudeville Museum**, vaudeville.org.



As you know, there were thousands of entertainers who, primarily through USO (United Services Organization) and the UK's ENSA (Entertainments National Service Assoc), entertained Allied troops beginning during WWII. Of those who could pay their own way, some did, and some like **Joe E. Brown** and **Martha Raye** went the extra mile--unauthorized miles right up to enemy lines.

"Colonel Maggie," as Martha Raye was called, did so in three wars. Noonie Fortin, a Vietnam Vet, wrote *Memories of Maggie*, a biography of Martha that was published in 1995 by Langmarc Publishing of San Antonio, TX. Raye did not want the story published until after her death.

During WWII, the Korean Conflict, and especially the Vietnam War, Martha went far beyond the overseas camp shows (those that had the benefit of lighting, microphones, and small music bands) that made newspaper and magazine stories or became the basis for TV specials. Instead of returning to the USA after each USO tour ended, Martha stayed on. During the Vietnam Conflict, Martha's military tours lasted between 4 and 6 months each, and almost always at her own expense. Her time in Vietnam totaled more than two years.

She trained as a nurse's aide, wore fatigues, stood in mess lines, squatted in latrines, and hitched rides to greet and spend time with the soldiers up front. With her she brought bottles of booze, cartons of cigarettes and a fund of dirty jokes to share with those who couldn't leave their posts to attend the USO shows.

From the time Martha (whose real name was Margy Reed) was three, the family vaudeville act included Martha, her brother, her father and mother -- the two youngsters became the meal ticket for the act. Because she never went to school, Martha was marginally literate; so she developed prodigious recall (in order to commit songs, sketches and full-length scripts to memory). Servicemen, years later, who turned out to see Maggie at Veterans' events, were astonished she remembered them by face and name.

Martha Raye was a great talent, on par with the better male physical comedians; a superior jazz singer; a capable tap dancer; and, as she proved in her later years, a good actor. Without the contortions she put her facial features through, she was attractive of face and no female movie star in the history of Hollywood ever had a more voluptuous figure from top to toes.

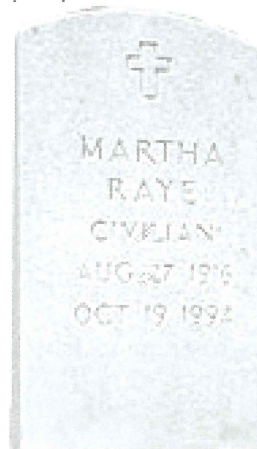
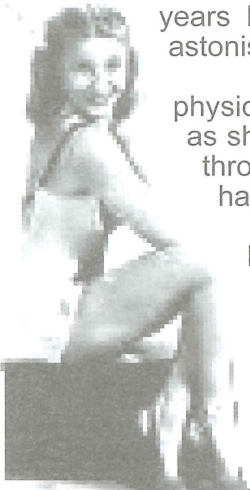
On the front lines, she had taken names and addresses to write to their loved ones back in the States. A commitment she followed through on religiously.

Sometimes there were attacks at locations where Maggie had "connived" to go. She cleaned and dressed wounds until the paramedics could arrive. **After that, she emptied bed pans and held hands while she comforted the wounded.**

For five decades of intermittent war, Colonel Maggie served faithfully. Her own life was a mess from cradle to grave. As were the lives of her parents and those other poorly educated performers who suffered through the last generation of vaudeville only to see network radio, talking pictures, and television destroy their careers---like rustbelt factory workers whose heritage and environment had not prepared them to cope in a new era. Her mother, sister, and brother died young due to alcoholism. Martha had abundant talent that adapted to her first adult gig (as a teenager) singing with a band. She was still a teenager when she became a comic movie star. Paramount Pictures rushed her from one movie into the next. She could act, dance, sing, do physical clowning, but all she ever knew was show business and show people. She went through 8 marriages, addiction to alcohol, pills, and scandals.

During Desert Storm, when she was invalided at home because her legs had been amputated and she had suffered two strokes and a seizure, she cried because she wasn't able to tour the battle stations. The best she could do was, as ever, open her house to any serviceman who wanted to say hello and thanks.

Martha Raye received nearly 30 service-related awards over the course of three wars. For 13 years, many veterans' groups petitioned several Presidents to honor her with the Presidential Medal of Honor. That salute to her service was "better late than never" when, in 1993, Pres. Bill Clinton awarded the PMOF to a very ill 77 year-old Martha Raye. She died a year later and was buried in the military cemetery at Ft Bragg, NC.



Martha Raye was an honorary member of the Special Forces. She received her cherished Green Beret and title of Lieutenant Colonel from President Lyndon Johnson. www.colonelmaggie.com

The Rules of the Game

By Richard Stevens, Colonel, U.S. Army Retired (Corporal, later Staff Sergeant, Co M, 164th Infantry Reg't, 1942 - 1945)



Rummaging through a box of old "stuff" recently, I came across a relic of my earliest Army days - - from the beginning of 1941 when most of the Army National Guard Infantry was entering a year of intensive active duty training. There it was - - a well-worn, soft cover, pocket-sized volume - - The Soldier's Handbook published by The Infantry Journal. Inside the front cover in my long-ago handwriting the owner is identified as "PFC Dick Stevens, Company M, 137th Infantry." I wonder whether any other veteran of the World War II era 164th Regiment ever owned a copy?

In the introduction, the publisher tells us three things: (1) that the material in the Handbook "does not apply to the soldier of merely one branch of the Army but is the information that every new soldier in practically every part of the Army must first acquire before he goes on to other special training." (Very soon the Army came to term this "Basic Training" which it structured into a "program" for "recruits." Meanwhile each National Guard unit provided this training to its own members as it went along.)

(2) that in the Regular Army a number of regiments presented a copy to each new member. (Q: Was it paid from the Company Fund?)

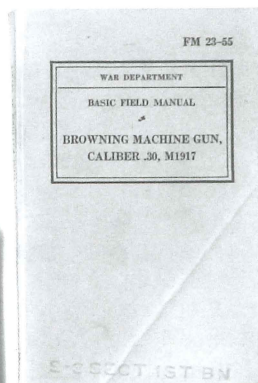
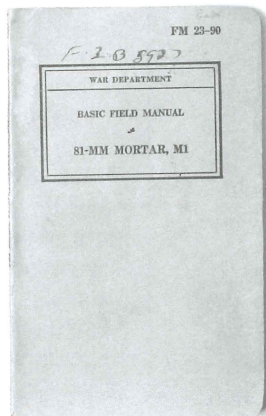
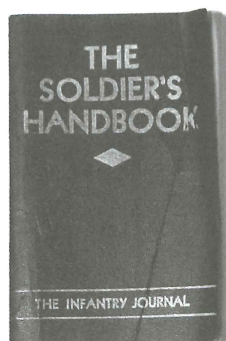
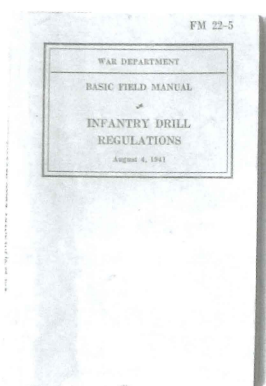
(3) that some National Guard regimental commanders gifted new soldiers with a copy (Q: During the Depression? It was published in 1934. Mine was 1940 2nd Rev Edition.)

Before and during that full-time training year of 1941, the vast majority of training in National Guard Infantry line units was conducted by noncommissioned officers. Pre-1941, there were weekly drill nights, a yearly summer camp. I learned how to roll and to assemble a full pack on the floor of the office of a small filling station in my home town. My platoon sergeant was the manager - - he taught me, one on one. No Regular Army soldier could have done a better job, as teacher or learner. And so it went - - in the 137th Infantry, in the 164th Infantry, in the National Guard.

I bought my Soldier's Handbook in response to an advertisement (Infantry Journal? Army Times?) and studied it, used it as a reference. Few of my buddies did the same. But hey, by May 1941 I was a squad leader. No more K.P. No more Latrine Orderly. Corporals did other joyful things. A wise old college teacher of much later expressed it this way, "What knowledge is of most worth?" And here it is again, that well-worn little book.

In that turbulent U.S. Army year of 1940-1941 the War Department published a wide array of Basic Field Manuals for Army use. In the Infantry companies in which I served then and during WW II, (137th Infantry, 164th Infantry), single copies were distributed to commissioned supervisors, who used and shared them as necessary.

Nowadays, as we all know well, nearly everything is available through some e-bay service.



But, could I find some of those field manuals of long ago - - the ones which circumstances caused me to know best? Of course - - anything I want, copies in good condition. Sitting before me on this table, as I write, are some old friends.

FM 22-5, Infantry Drill (known in the ranks as "the IDR"), August 1941. Those of us who experienced it remember well how drastically Infantry Drill changed on 1 Sep 39. We, who had painfully learned and endlessly practiced what came to be called "the old drill", rapidly became proficient in a new one.

FM 23-55, Browning Machine Gun, Caliber .30, M1917, 1940. When the Dutch freighter *Maetsuycker* carried the 164th's 3rd Battalion from Melbourne to Noumea in 1942, I did some hitches up on the aft yardarm on submarine watch - - with binoculars and my platoon leader's copy of FM 23-55 - - learning about indirect fire direction, my new "M" Company job.

FM 23-90, 81MM Mortar, MI, 1940, When I was assigned to be an instant 81MM mortar gunner in 1943 (the thing was completely foreign to me), the platoon leader loaned me his field manual to study (and the squad leader did what he could to drill me).

Individual Army training is very different now, of course, than it was before and during World War II. But one thing has never changed. The key player remains the non-commissioned officer. As I recently observed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri - - during a show and tell for some of (to borrow a Marine Corps term) the "Old Breed".

Remembering Peter Baldino, Co C

KIA Bougainville - 29 August 1944

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944



Peter Baldino trained with the 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division, California Army National Guard. He transferred into Co C, 164th at Ft Ord, Calif, and traveled with the unit to New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Fiji, and Bougainville. On Guadalcanal, the entries in his diary are a little longer, with a bit of info about offensive and defensive actions, but not very specific. On Fiji, he mentioned the quarantine for diphtheria and was retrained as a cook; a stove blew up and he spent quite some time in the hospital with 2nd & 3rd degree burns. On Bougainville, Pete's diary describes working one day on/one day off in the kitchen, but he occasionally went out on patrols. The entries about combat activities are vague, as if less important than "better thoughts" of home and friends. The writing is more sprawling than in earlier months.

One thing did not change: Each and every day, he wrote to family and friends and received letters and packages from them. He logged each letter or package, both incoming and outgoing. These notes are *not* included in this synopsis, but the number of entries indicates that he was well loved by friends and family and was a caring son/brother/uncle/friend in return.

The remaining short notes *from the last year of his life* are listed below. The names and dates of the movies are included, as they are historically interesting and may trigger memories in readers who were there.

From the Peter Baldino Diary:

Fiji: 26 Aug 43: Took sick with malaria. Was sent to 142nd General Hospital. 27 Aug Feeling pretty good. Saw "Night to Remember". 28 Aug. Sick all day. 29 Aug Sick all morning & afternoon. 30 Aug Feeling pretty good. Saw "Flight for Freedom". 31 Aug. Feeling better. Payday. (I was redlined). 1 Sep. Feeling fine. Spent evening at Red Cross event.. 2 Sep Wrote letters, saw "Night in New Orleans". 3 Sep Feeling fine. 4 Sep Discharged from 142nd Hosp. 5 Sep. 1/2 day in kitchen. 6 Sep Worked all day in kitchen. "Flight for Freedom". 7 Sep Day off. Company went on all day problem. 8-15 Sep Alternate days on & off. Saw "Lucky Jordan", "The Falcon's Brother", "Secret Enemies" 15 Sep Took sick with malaria. Went to 18th Gen Hosp through 27 Sep. Saw "Spitfire", "Chatterbox", a "Musical Show" special put on by Americal Div; "Dr Kildare's New Assistant". 27 Sep Discharged from Hospital. 28 Sep Worked all day in kitchen. Saw "Burma Convoy" in town. 30 Sep Day on. Paid \$10 partial payment. 1-14 Oct Alternating days in kitchen. Saw a western movie, "All Through the Night", and "the Major and the Minor", "Salute for Three", "Submarine Alert", a USO Show, and Patriotic Pete Carnival. 14 Oct Took sick with malaria, went to 18th Gen Hosp until 24 Oct. . Saw "Sky's the Limit", "Edge of Darkness", "Margin for Error", "Alaska Highway", "Reunion in France", 245 FA band, "Hit the Ice"; 24 Oct Discharged. 24 Oct Preparing to leave for maneuvers 25 Oct Pulled out at 0300 for 10 day maneuvers at Singatoko some 105 miles from Suva. Arrived at 0830, set up camp. 2 Nov spent out in the hills. We worked with 245th Artillery. Rained most of the time, it sure was hot. Nov 3 Pulled out for Suva; 4 Nov cleaned equipment 5 Nov Saw "Action in the North Atlantic"; 6 Nov "Dixie Dugan"; 8 Nov "They Came to Blow Up America"; 9 Nov "Mutiny on the Bounty" 10 Nov Was a guard for funeral of an American soldier who died here. 12 Nov Saw "Presenting Lily Mars"; 13 Nov "China"; 15 Nov Saw "Two Tickets to London"; 23 Nov "Escape to Glory"; 26 Nov "This is the Army" 27 Nov Pulled out at 0300 for 4 day maneuver. Returned 30 Nov 1000. 3 Dec Saw "I Dread It"; 6 Dec "Young Ideas"; 9 Dec "In the Navy"; 10 Dec "The Constant H...?.."; 11 Dec "Three Hearts for Julia" 19 Dec Pulled out of Fiji on the USS Fuller.

25 Dec Arrived in Bougainville. 26 Dec Moved to front lines 11 Jan Moved out on reconnaissance patrol. 15 Jan Had an air raid; 17 Jan Moved out on combat patrol. Contacted enemy. Had a few casualties. 21 Jan Had an air raid; 22 Jan Had an air raid 26 Jan Had an air raid; 27 Jan Muster 28 Jan Work Detail; 29 Jan Had an air raid 30 Jan 132nd Inf made a push east of the Torokina River. Casualties were slightly heavy. Tanks and flame throwers were used. 10 Feb Paid \$10. Had an air raid. Saw USO Show. 11 Feb Had air raid 12 Feb Went to see tank demonstration 14 Feb Saw a USO Show 26 Feb Stringing barb wire. 27 Feb Received Good Conducted [sic] Medal 1 Mar Payday. Payed \$248.70. Japs are attacking different parts of the lines. Mostly in 37th Div area. 2 Mar Worked on defensive positions 5 Mar Wrote Home. Sent Easter Greetings & \$200 Money Order. 8 Mar Japs used Artillery against us for first time. 9 Mar Japs still using artillery. Attacked 145 Inf. 300 Japs killed. We've had 17 killed, 205 WIA. 15 Mar Attended Mass 17 Mar Activity still going on Hill 260. We are using flame throwers against the enemy. 18 Mar One Jap plane flew over our area at 4 am. No damage. 22 Mar Received communion; 29 Mar Attended mass 30 Mar 3 men from Co picked to go home 31 Mar Payday. \$38.35 3-6 April Co want as an outpost on Hill 600 7 April Returned to perimeter 9 April Easter Sunday 12 Apr "In Old Oklahoma" 16 Apr K.P. "Wintertime"; 19 Apr "Whistler in Brooklyn" Red Skelton; 21 Apr "Reveille with Beverly" 27 Apr Issued 6 bottles of beer and 3 Coca-Colas 28 Apr Saw "Madame Curie"; 2 May "Gangway For Tomorrow"; 3 May "Hi Diddle Diddle" 6 May Received 6 bottles of beer 9 May Training. Listened to 139th Inf Band and saw "Hiya Sailor" 13 May Inspection; 14 May Sent on patrol duty. 26 May Saw "Government Girl" 29 May "My Kingdom for a Cook" 30 May Memorial Day. Had services. 3-6 June Went to Rest Camp. Saw "The Last Angel"; 9-13 Jun Saw "Thousands Cheer" and "Man From Down Under"; 14-30 Jun Saw "Riding High" 22-27 Jun Sent on patrol to Hill 1111. Saw "Going my Way?", "Miracle of Morgan's Creek" & "No Time for Lane";

Remembering Peter Baldino, Co C, KIA

28 Jun Saw "What a Woman"; 20 Jun Mae West "The Heat's On". 1 Jul Saw fights at Division 4 Jul. Went swimming, saw ball game, and saw "The Heavenly Body" 5-6 Jul "Adventures of Mark Twain" 7 Jul Training; 8 Jul K.P. 9 Jul Saw "Never a Dull Moment"; 12 Jul Saw a USO show band "Swingtime Johnny"; **13-19 Jul Sent out on outpost duty.** Saw "The Phantom Lady", "Up In Arms"; 20-24 Jul Saw "Broadway Rhythm" and boxing. 27 Jul - 9 Aug QUOTE "Sent out in front of 37th Div fighting the Japs. Received letters from"
10 Aug Issued beer and Coca-cola. Saw "Standing Room Only", "Two Girls and a Sailor"; 12 Aug "Campus Rhythm"; 14 Aug Saw "See Here, Private Hargrove"; 16 Aug Jack Benny & Carole Landis, USO Show; 19 Aug "the Adventures of R...." Received 2 letters and pictures from Julio.
20 Aug Wrote to Aunt Laura & Mr & Mrs J Scampino

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

21 Aug. Wrote home to Mary Baldino. Bought Xmas gifts for Mom, Pop (\$18.75), and flowers for family.

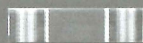
22 Aug Saw Division Finals, 8 bouts.

23 Aug Wrote to Julia,

The diary ended with that comma. An unfinished thought. An intent to come back and finish.. The next entry, written in a different hand, states simply "Died 29 Aug, 1944"

A note written by Pete's Brother states, "August 29 1944, Pete died while being sent out on front line, while in a fox hole with several other men, a grenade was thrown, he bravely shielded the other men, he taking full impact of the explosion, saved men's lives, he being the only casualty."

From the 164th Operations Report: "On 29 August, at dawn, Co C, on Block O, was attacked frontally by an estimated 15 enemy--following a half hour's concentration of knee mortars and grenades. The tenacity of the block broke up the Japanese attack. The enemy retired and removed most of his dead & wounded, however, three bodies were found. The block's casualties were one man KIA, 5 WIA".



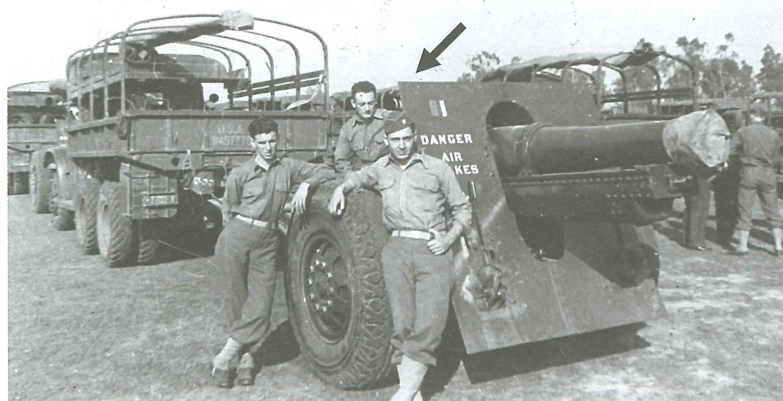
THE WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL

Peter Baldino

Private First Class, U.S. Army
Service # 32105091
164th Infantry Regiment, Americal Div

Entered the Service from: New York
Died: 29-Aug-44
Buried at: Plot A Row 10 Grave 101
Manila American Cemetery
Manila, Philippines

Awards: Purple Heart



Hi, is there anyone who remembers Peter Baldino? Any information would be great. He was my father's brother, killed in action, and is buried in Manila at the American Cemetery. Shirley, your kindness is bringing a lot of joy to my father. Once again thank you, my father also thanks you -- he is 82 years old a great patriot. The package I'm mailing to you contains photos, letters, and his diary. Also I will send out the 50 dollars and 10 dollars for shipping. Hope you like what you see and that someone remembers my uncle. **Harry Baldino (LM)***, 12 Bedell Ave, Hemp, NJ Email: baldino.harry@gmail.com

Remembering Martin Clemens

Guadalcanal Coast Watcher

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

Lone hero on Guadalcanal and pillar of the community (17 April 1915-31 May 2009)

By Anne Latreille a Melbourne writer

WARREN FREDERICK MARTIN CLEMENS, who played a lone yet key island role in preventing Australia and New Zealand from being cut off by rampaging Japanese forces in World War II - to the extent that he was dubbed a "living icon" - has died. He was 94.

Clemens, a Cambridge-educated Scot who was marooned on the strategic island of Guadalcanal when it was occupied by vast Japanese forces, took to the hills with trusty Melanesian "scouts" and provided vital intelligence to United States forces that eventually retook the island in a famous and bloody battle.

All the while, Clemens, who had been sent to the Solomon Islands by the British Colonial Service as a cadet and then became district commissioner and coastwatcher on Guadalcanal, cannily evaded Japanese sweeps to find him.



Once the US Marine Corps had landed to defend the Solomons - whose strategic importance was such that had they fallen, Australia would have been cut off from her Western allies and open to immediate invasion - he and his islander 'scouts', often working at night, provided information on the challenging terrain and on the likely movements of the Japanese. This was an intelligence service second to none.

As a volunteer in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Defence Force with the rank of major, he had the longest combat service of any officer in the Southern Pacific Command, yet never wore a uniform and carried no military identification. In 1942, he was awarded the British Military Cross and the American Legion of Merit for heroism on Guadalcanal. And, for his contribution to the first great Allied counter-offensive of the Pacific War, he was dubbed a "living icon".

"Solomon Islanders owe Clemens their freedom and liberation".

--Dr Derek Sikua, Prime Minister of Guadalcanal

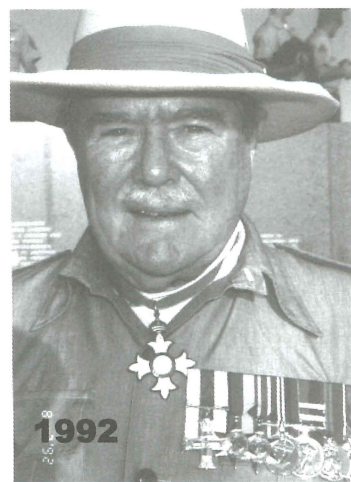
When he descended in August 1942 from his small mountain-top [watch over Lunga Point and Henderson field] he was gaunt, bearded, dressed in rags, and barefoot - a far cry from the immaculate, genial presence who would argue in 1947 in favour of reserving the Gaza Strip for Palestinians, and who was to defuse major disagreements between Greeks and Turks on Cyprus in the 1950s. Still later, he became well known in Melbourne for his support of good causes, particularly the education of young people and helping the disadvantaged. He joined the Colonial Service in 1938, and his lengthy and heroic posting to the Solomons was followed by stints in two other trouble spots - Palestine (1946-47) and Cyprus (1948-49, 1951-57 as district commissioner, 1959-60 as defence secretary). Offered a posting to Burma, he decided instead to move to his wife's holdings in Australia. On arrival in 1961 he took Australian citizenship and leapt into community activities. His door was always open to anyone in search of an opinion - His summing up of a difficult situation was invariably understanding, prudent, accurate, candid; his advice was highly valued.

Everyone he interacted with was soon at ease, energised by his bright, optimistic personality, warmth, dignity. At parties and social gatherings he was invariably at the centre of an animated group, in latter years with a glass of the best Scotch whisky parked on his walking frame.

In 1993 he was awarded an Order of Australia for service to the community; he also published *Alone on Guadalcanal*. He prepared the manuscript in the 1950s but could not find a publisher until 1998, when the Naval Institute Press in Maryland in the US heard about it by chance. It is in its third printing.

In 2003, his exploits on Guadalcanal became available to a much younger generation with the release of the "Rising Sun" episode of the popular *Medal of Honor* video game. Three years later, at the age of 91 and at a time of great unrest in the Solomons, he sent an encouraging email to the islanders: "I am sure you can turn things around. We made something out of nothing during the war. Do it again."

Representatives from Britain, the Solomon Islands and the 1st US Marines flew from the US and Canberra to attend his funeral at St John's, Toorak. Clemens' wife, Anne, died earlier this year. He is survived by his children Charlotte, Victoria, Alexandra and Mark, and nine grandchildren. [End]



Clemens: Friend & Historian

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

Based on Information Submitted by Australian Peter Flahavin, Modern Day History Hunter



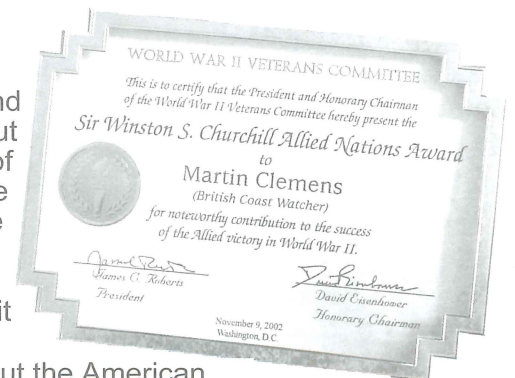
SEATED: **Martin Clemens**, British Coast Watcher, 2007
STANDING L-R: **John Innes**, Guadalcanal Historian;
Wilbur Bewley, G Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines...the sentry at Ilu River who brought in the wounded Jacob Vouza;
Peter Flahavin, Modern Day History Hunter

Peter Flahavin is getting set for his ninth trip to Guadalcanal in November 2009. He's definitely too young to have fought there, but he knows the terrain and all the battles. He's done a fascinating job of matching his present day pictures to photos taken in the exact location during WWII. He seems know *everybody* with an interest in the War in the Pacific, and he shares his knowledge with his friends and with the internet world. His impressive companions in the photo at left are evidence of his influence.

Peter writes:

I first met **Martin** in 1998. He was a great guy. It was a privilege to have known him.

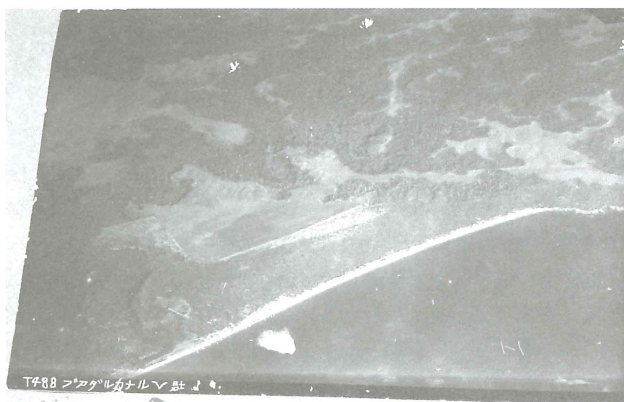
John Innes is an Aussie who has lived on the Canal since 1993. He owns a computer business, but his passion is the battle and he escorts tours and individuals around. There isn't much he doesn't know about the battle. I first met him there in 1995. If you ever go there, John is the man to show you around.



Wilbur Bewley served in G Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, and was on the Canal, New Britain and Peliliiu. He lived in Sun City, AZ, but sadly died in May 2008 on the eve of another trip to Melbourne. One of his last communications was to tell Martin he was sorry he couldn't make it out. He was all set to come in April 2008 and he, John, and I were going to visit the set of the HBO "THE PACIFIC" miniseries then filming in the hills an hour west of Melbourne. Wilbur was a BAR gunner and I was looking forward to getting a photo of him with a BAR on set...sadly, it wasn't to be. Wilbur had cancer from the A bomb tests in the '50's.

As he put it, "The Japanese Government tried to kill me for 4 years, but the American Government has been trying for 50 years...they will win in the end!"

The aerial photo (below) was taken from one of the Japanese flying boats from Tulagi. It and other Jap aerials were captured by the Marines at the Jap HQ in August '42. Martin swiped them from the files as souvenirs when he left in December '42. The difference is there is no track down the length of Edson's Ridge that the Marines later bulldozed.



Navigation over here is Kukum. No enemy landing craft and docks.

Other souvenirs in Martin's bag were a Japanese 150 mm shell and the bowl that belonged to General Kiyotake Kawaguchi, the Commander of the 35th Infantry Brigade that landed reinforcements on Guadalcanal in Aug/Sep 42. In the Battle of Edson's Ridge on 13 Sep 42, his forces were defeated with heavy losses & forced to retreat. Kawaguchi was relieved of command during preparations for another attack in October 1942. He was evacuated from the island and sent back to Japan. (The 164th didn't get a chance to "meet" him!)



[Editor: More of Peter's work was on Pg 31 of the Oct 08 News.]

OCTOBER 42 BATTLE AREA TODAY - EAST OF EDSON'S RIDGE

By Stan Gajda, Friend of Australian Peter Flahavin (Modern Day History Hunter)

The jungle line is still the same. The grassy field between the jungle and the river is now planted with coconuts. It is a very large grove.

Walking about in the grassy field you can easily find bits and pieces of Jap gear on the ground. I did the place twice with a metal detector but cartridge cases are pretty rare. In the corner where large numbers of Japs were slaughtered about five large mass graves were dug by boring holes and blasting out craters with explosives. The bodies were then buried in these holes.



In the early 1970s the Jap war grave people came and excavated all these graves. They never filled in the holes after them. One hole in particular is about 20 ft across. All these holes are full of water. In the spoil from the big hole I found a Type 100 rifle grenade launcher that fires the smaller smooth-bodied grenades. I have it here and it is a good relic. Other small items are also in the earth around these grave holes. The US line was just inside the jungle line and the pits where the 37mm guns were and other holes are still there. There is still some barbed wire strung out in front of this line attached to pitons.

In one place we had a good reading from the metal detector and found a piece of aluminium from a Jap plane. In another place we found a US Jerry can full of bullet holes. In the jungle behind the lines here and the original access track can be discerned and followed. Searching in the jungle around this track reveals all sorts of junk hidden in the dripping wet undergrowth. I skewered my trouser pants on a short star picket in there. In the grassy field about mid way from the corner and the present road there is a very large hole which must be an excavation; it is not a bomb crater. This is full of water and also much junk.



There were unused rolls of barbed wire, a jeep trailer and a water trailer and a reasonable 50 cal 200 round drum magazine that I can remember. There is a (modern) wire fence running east-west from the corner.

If the fence is followed west for about a mile, there is the wreck of a Betty right next the fence. The Grassy Knoll is about one mile SW of the Corner. This is where the US troops had an OP anticipating the Jap attack.

When the Japs came this knoll was in the middle of their drive to the corner and the US troops took off and ran back to the corner. The US artillery must have had this knoll registered because when the Japs set up two 70mm guns on top and began firing the US guns fired back immediately with their 155s. I have been up there and had a look around.

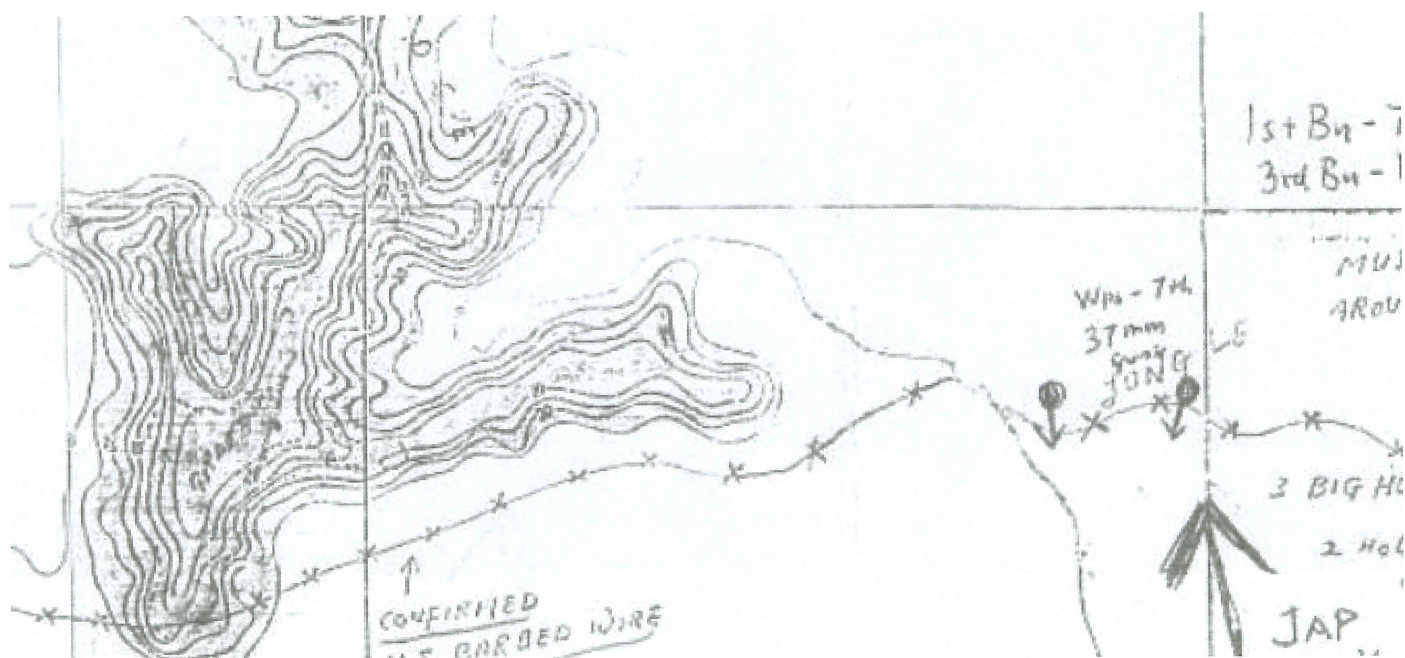
I saw an unexploded 155mm HE shell at the base of the hill. On top right in the place where one would place artillery I had two really big readings which outlined something about the size and shape of the 70 mils. We tried digging but the ground that day was rock-hard. I told my SI companions what was probably there and suggested that they have a dig some time. Later my English friend informs me, he went to have a look and he found a dirty great hole up on that hill. Nobody wanted to say anything and the land is/was owned by an MP and he was most emphatic that he won't let any more visitors up on that hill!

How did I get up there you might



ask? I just parked nearby, put all my bush gear on and went for it. I pushed on through the kunai grass without stopping and when I did stop for a breather near top and turned around there were three young SI guys right behind me and I didn't even know! They followed me around all through my expedition to the Grassy Knoll. The other gun is probably still buried up there just like the one was buried at Hill 27.

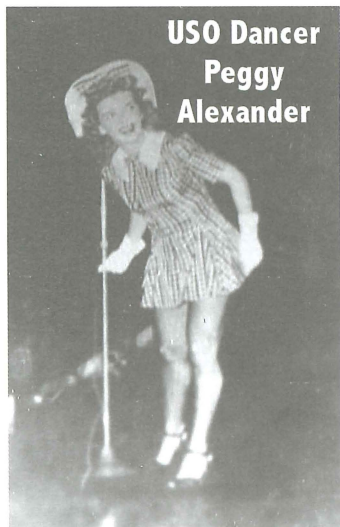
And that is about all I can tell you about my personal experience visiting the Oct 42 battlefield.



DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Dear Bernie: Last time I gave to the Scholarship fund was some time ago. Here's \$100 to pass along to the students.
Jennie K Bennett Welander, Apache Junction, AZ

I have been in contact with your Editor who has been helping me do some research about my dad, **Bert Johnson**, who was a member of the 164th, **Company G**. Please find enclosed a check for \$50 for a lifetime associate membership in the 164th. Thank you and sincerely, Vicki Johnson-Nelson, Portland, ND



**USO Dancer
 Peggy
 Alexander**

Doug Burtell sent in this picture of the star of a "darn good USO show" on Bougainville. The USO started in early 1941 and had its last curtain call on 2 Jan 48, after 428,421 performances by 7,736 entertainers, for 130 million service members. **Peggy Alexander**, Brooklyn, held the record for the most miles travelled by an entertainer – 250,000 mi during 8 USO tours. Yup, more than Bob Hope or Joe E Brown. Info on her current whereabouts was not available on the internet.



Above: Medics **Ross McNea** and **Gerald Sanderson** inspect the fatal wounds of an enemy soldier near the Torokina River, Bougainville, March 1944



New member **Aloysius Moszer, Co A**, traveled from Bismarck to Washington, DC, in March as part of the Roughrider Honor Flight. The photo at right was taken at the Bismarck Airport when the group returned from the 2-day whirlwind tour of the WWII Memorial as well as other memorials and monuments. Life Member **Harry Renschler** was also on the Flight

Company G Reunion, Valley City, 25-26 June 2009



Front--Dave Lokken; 2nd row-- Lois Riedman (Joyce Dahl's sister), Diana Vagle, Dolores Otto, Joyce Dahl, Mary Wagner, Ruth Kerbaugh; 3rd Row--Mary Ann Winkler, Leila Lehmann, Dorothy Olson, Pearl Pritchert, Bernie Wagner, Walter Kerbaugh; 4th Row--Owen Wallace, Tony Griffin, Vince Olson, Noel Pritchert; Back--Rhiny Weber, Gerald Sanderson, Ernie Janisch, Tom Vagle, Eddie Otto, Francis Dahl Photo by Jim Drong

DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Fellow Comrades: I was with **Co B** when we landed on Bougainville and moved directly to the front lines. Before we moved out to the Philippines, we had a platform built in a river with 8 and 18 foot levels. When we were not busy, we could go down to the river and play in the water. I dived off the 8' level and as I hit the water, something hit someone dived off the 18' level at the same time I went off the 8' level. I've had back problems all these years, but I do not qualify for help from the VA. I'm wondering if there's anyone from our outfit who witnessed this. I guess there were no records kept. I was 86 on June 23, 2009. I was a S/Sgt when I got out of the service. Sincerely,
Wayne (Red) McDowell, 901 S 15th St, Mattoon, IL 61938



Above: platform at "Dakota Dip", from the Geo. Isenberg files.



Urho Tuomikoski, Fred Elling, Wm Welander, Edwin Rauma

Editor; Ruth Rauma posted a notice on the Americal Website, so I contacted her! Here's a short note from her:

I found one photo of my dad **Edwin Rauma**, with some buddies. I was lucky enough to find that their names were written in pencil on the back. My father was born 1910. I searched ancestry.com and did find a **William P. Welander**, birthdate 1917, ND, enlistment Feb. 10, 1941 in Valley City, Nat'l Gd. I hope some of this limited

information may help link the unit that my father served with. Thank you for any help. Ruth Rauma, Las Vegas, NV
Editor: Yup, that's our **Bill**, and I gave Ruth his address to write to him. We located an obit for Urho, so Ruth also contacted his daughter, **Mary Vee Tuomikoski**. We also would like to ask Assoc member **Gary Hultman**, from Eleveth, MN, if he'll help us with some newspaper research from Edwin's hometown (Gary, please email me!). Three possible connections from one internet posting. Amazing!

Dear Editor Olgeirson: My husband, Tony Hannel (9/27/14 -11/06/08) would thoroughly have enjoyed the March issue of *The 164th News* - 'Life on Bougainville', and I regret that I cannot enjoy it with him. I read it thoroughly and thought again and again how they lived through the year on the island and especially the ambush he was involved in. In 1985, we were in Guadalcanal with veterans to break ground for the memorial that was dedicated in 1992. Tony often was reminded of that event and the tour which you led. We appreciate your efforts and capability to continue *The 164th Infantry News*, and all you do and have done for all of us. Thank you! Olga Hannel* San Carlos, CA



Above Photo came from Blake Kerbaugh. Chuck Walker identified the guys: **Red** was an enlisted friend from my home town of Pembina; he was with the 37th Div. **Chet** was with the company a very short time, he had arthritis and was evacuated. **Harry Mork** was my Ex Off in Easy Co. (1st. Lt.). **Pete Sherer** was one of the best. A Jap machine gun tore up his knee. **Tooter Roush** left Easy during the early Bougainville days. I don't remember his first name. He was a Lt, as was **John Landdeck**. John took over Company F and was killed in a Jap mortar barrage back of Cebu City. (On Cebu Island.) In Bougainville, all of Easy officers were leaders! All were aggressive. Milt was one of those; a smart man who learned the routine quickly. Long range patrols were hard work, but Easy men didn't complain. Many should have been officers. E Co was a team with everyone involved.

Your editor apologizes for the tardy issues of 2009. It seems like we went from "Frozen" to "Flood" to "Fall" at lightning speed. And working full time sure cuts into my retirement schedule ☺

NEW MEMBERS!

Walton S. Olson, (WWII) Hqs Co 2nd Bn (1939-43), 223 Beechwood Ln, San Antonio, TX 78216
Leighton Winkle, (WWII) Co L, 755 McKee Road, Irvine, KY 40336

MEMBERS WHO RENEWED FOR LIFE!!

Gena M. Capps (LM)*, 425 Howard Circle, Lincoln, AL 35096 [compliments of her father **SGM Joe Castagneto, Co A**]
Lawerance Castagneto(LM)*, 300 Coronada St, Enterprise, AL 36330 [compliments of his father **SGM Joe Castagneto, CoA**]
Noelle Castagneto (LM)*, POBox 64, Warrior, AL 35180 [compliments of her grandfather **SGM Joe Castagneto, Co A**]
Nikole Morrison (LM)*, 320 Covert Lane, Billings, MT 59105 [compliments of her grandfather **SGM Joe Castagneto, Co A**]
Nicholas Coyle (LM)*, 2065 Woodland Dr, Apopka, FL 32703 [compliments of **SGM Joe Castagneto, Co A**]
Bary Pfaff (LM)*, 1756 Alan Dr, Penngrove, CA 94951 [son of **Wally Pfaff, Co G**]

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS* (identified by *)

Moszer*, Jerome, 4111 Lockport, Apt 312, Bismarck, ND [brother of **Aloysius Moszer, Co A**]

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS JOINED FOR LIFE!!

Vicki Johnson-Nelson (LM)*, 14666 1st St NE, Portland, ND 58274 [Daughter of **Bert Johnson, Co G**]
Duane W. Kramer (LM)*, HCR 35, 91 Curlee Rd, Roundup, MT 59072 [son of MSG **Edward Kramer WWII Co G**]
Eugene Kramer (LM)*, 2035 180th Ave, Mora, MN 55051 [son of MSG **Edward Kramer WWII Co G**]
Jeffrey Kramer (LM)*, 15146 Angela Neal Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078 [son of MSG **Edward Kramer WWII Co G**]
Kathleen D Maruska (LM)*, 809 6th Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102-4459 [daughter of MSG **Edward Kramer WWII Co G**]
Gerald J Parmantier (LM)*, 390 S Balm St, Yamhill, OR 97148-8618 [Grandson of **Raymond Shinnick, Hqs Co 2Bn**]

ADDRESS CHANGES

Beverly Bjerketvedt*, 807 Inman St Apt 103, Henning, MN 56551
Harold Bjornstad (LM), 3351 Cape Hatteras Dr, Eugene, OR 97408-9245
Margaret Brown*, 1021 N 26th St #45N, Bismarck, ND 58501
Finley Clarke (LM), PO Box 743, Houlton, ME 04730-0743
Carl E. Doversberger (WWII) Co A, 5795 Skyline Dr, West Linn, OR 97068
William Hagen (WWII) Co B, 1500 7th St S Apt 30, Moorhead, MN 56560-3459
Evelyn Hager Hill*, 17767 Layton Path, Lakeville, MN 55044
Shirley Hess*, 4400 W Creekside Dr Apt 204, Sioux Falls SD 57106-5266
Bob Hintz (Tank), 1505 9th Ave NW Apt 9, Mandan ND 58554-1633
Milt Kane (LM)(K), 103 Holmes St E, Box 118, Detroit Lakes MN 56501
Victor Lander (57th Engr)*, 2431 NW 41st St Apt 3413, Gainesville FL 32606-7408
Donna McLaughlin (LM)*, 710 12th St N, Fargo, ND 58102
Ken Nellerroe (LM), 6013 Parsons Pond Dr, Ooltewah, TN 37363-8792
Don Oster*, 523 Arnold Ave S #58, Thief River Falls, MN 56701-3599
Dwight Petty, 1110 E Westview #209, Spokane, WA 99218
James Powers*, 3206 Rivershore Dr, Moorhead, MN 56560
Gerald Sanderson (WWII) Medic, 108 10th St SE, Rugby, ND 58368
Ellenora Schultz (LM)*, 1600 Mapleton, Bismarck, ND 58501

AWOLS AWOLS AWOLS AWOLS

Anchukaitis, Melanie
Anderson, Morris
Angles, Debbie
Berntson, Harland
Biberdorf, Ron

Buehrer, Judith
Burd, Joyce
Cobb, Doris & Jim
Coon, Judy
Cuprak, Grant

Dahlen, George
De Sautel, Aurel
Fox, Timothy
Giersweskie, Nancy
Helgeson, Gary

Henderson, Denise
Juvinal, John
King, Ginny
Larson, Alys Mae
Lee, Vernon,

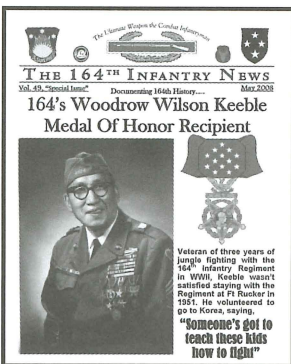
Leger, Ethyl
Lindseth, Bonita
McKay, Malcolm
O'Toole, Patrick
Penman, Richard

Sinner, George
Sutton, Rosemarie
Thompson, Mike

"Your 2009 dues are due now. If you want to continue to receive the 164th Newsletter please pay them now. The cost of mailing the Newsletter is rising & we can't afford to continue to send it if you do not pay your dues. No second notices will be sent out. Thank you!" Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Drong

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

"The Man Called Chief"

Woodrow Wilson Keeble



The Man
Called Chief by Merry H. Helm PG. 26

Author, radio personality, & videographer Merry Helm has published a book about the life and heroic acts of

Woodrow Wilson Keeble.

Email: 52pianos@cablone.net

Mail: 420 8th Ave S, Fargo, ND

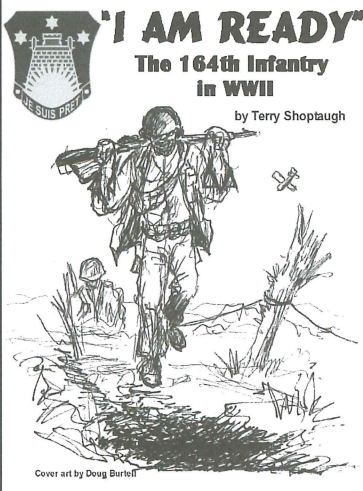
Google: "The Man Called

WANTED: Any info: 164's Merrill's Marauders
WANTED: Stories and Photos from '44-'45
 Leyte~Cebu~Filipino scouts & military~Tank support~Japan
WANTED: Patrol logs, Journals, Unit Rosters

Coming in October: ~Reunion Pictures & Events~
 ~Stories from Leyte & Cebu (send some in)~Your letters to the Editor~
 ~ Stories from folks who have found us on the internet~

**Needed: Unit photos from
Camp Claiborne.
I have only Companies
A, E, G, K, L, H3**

Got the Dues Blues?
Why not upgrade to Life Membership for \$50?



164's Book: "I Am Ready"*

Dr. Shoptaugh's manuscript draft on the history of the 164th in the Pacific War has been completed! NDSU Press is now reviewing the manuscript for possible publication as a book. This will take some time, so NDSU has kindly agreed to allow members of the 164th Infantry Association to get an advance look at the manuscript. Further details about this will be available at the reunion.

If you have questions, please contact
Shirley: Editor164InfantryNews@hotmail.com.

*The Fine Print: Title and Cover Art are yet to be determined. These are examples only.

Last Roll Call

164th Infantry Regiment

James P. Curran (WWII) Co P, 27 Jan 09
Neil Dahl, Co G, 15 Aug 09
Frank Dempsey (WWII) Co P, 3 Jun 09
Cooper T. Holt (WWII) Co L, 1 May 09
Walter Victor Johnson (WWII) Co D, 9 May 09
Alton N. Koppang (K) Co L, 2 Jan 09
George B. Laughlin (WWII) Co F, 20 Jul 09
Leonard Ratzlaff (WWII)(K) Co G, 18 Feb 09
Edwin Rauma (WWII), 3rd Bn, Aug 78
Hilbert Swanson (WWII) Svc Co/H1/Co E, 12 Mar 04
Uro Tuomikoski (WWII), 3rd Bn, 4 Dec 06



Alton Noel Koppang, 83, Bismarck, died 2 Jan 09, at his home. He graduated from Mayville High School and served in the Army National Guard from 1950 to 1952. He received a Bachelor's degree in education from Mayville State and a Master's in educational administration from UND. He retired from the ND Department of Public Instruction in 1990. He is survived by four children: Angie, Chris, Lorraine, & Kathy; 12 grand- & 6 great-grandchildren.



Leonard A. "Buzz" Ratzlaff, 85, passed away 18 Feb 09 at his home in Mesa. He served in the US Navy from 1941-46. In college 1948-49, he was named All Conference as an Offensive End and was the top scoring champion.. In 1951, he was called to serve in the 164th Infantry, and the 2nd Division in **Korea**. He received various medals, including the Bronze Star. He served in the ND National Guard for twenty seven years and retired as a Major. Wives Lois and Lorna preceded him; he is survived by children Terry, Barbara, Susie, & Tom; 11 grand- & 8 great-grandchildren.



Walter V. Johnson, 86, passed away 9 May 09 at the Fargo VA Hospital. He joined Co D, serving as heavy mortar crewman in the Guadalcanal & Northern Solomons. He was discharged in Dec 44, having earned a Bronze Star & Purple Heart. He is survived by wife, Mona, sons Victor, Boyd, & Chris; 5 grand- & 2 great grandchildren.



Hilbert Swanson, 84, died 12 Mar 04 in Dickinson. After earning a Bronze Star & Purple Heart with the 164th, he became a successful lawyer & businessman. He was preceded by his wife, Ardith; survived by children David, Kathrine, & Joanna; 11 grand-; 9 great-grandchildren.



James P. Curran, 84, died at his home in Worcester, MA, surrounded by his family, on 27 Jan 09. He leaves his wife of 24 years, Denyse; son, James; daughter, Katherine; seven grand- and 11 great grandchildren. He was a 164th Infantry Association member.

Frank D. Dempsey, was born on November 16, 1924 and passed away on Wednesday, June 3, 2009. He was last known to be living in Riverside, Illinois, and he was a member of the Association. Does anyone know anything more about him?



George Laughlin, 86, died 20 Jul 09 in the hospital at Glendive, MT. He spent a year in the CCC, joining Co F in Carrington just before the regiment mobilized for the duration of WWII. After the

war, he worked for the Rural Electric Association and the Bureau of Reclamation. He was active in the Legion, VFW, and the 164 Assoc. He is survived by his wife Marilyn; son Leo; two daughters, Carla Ann & Roberta; three grand-, 1 great grandchildren.



Cooper T. Holt. Past VFW National Commander Cooper T. Holt passed away at his home on 1 May 09 at age 85. He was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1956. At 32, he was the youngest Commander-in-Chief in the history of the organization. After serving as Commander-in-Chief, Holt was appointed Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office in August 1963 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1989. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and served overseas with Company L, 164th Infantry, Americal Division. He earned the Asiatic-Pacific Theater ribbon, Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze star. He leaves his wife, Betty, daughter Cynthia, one grand- & one great-grandson.

~ More... Last Roll Call ~



Neil DuWayne Dahl, age 73, ND died 15 Aug 09 at The Lutheran Home at New Rockford, ND where he had been a resident since 2005. He served in the Army National Guard from 1953-61 and is interred in the ND Veterans Cemetery.

Survivors are wife, Sonja, daughters Karlene, Kristie, Kathleen; son DuWayne, 7 grand- & 1 great grandchild.



Urho K. Tuomikoski, 92, died peacefully 4 Dec 06, at his home in Minn. He was drafted into the U.S. Army on 29 Apr 41, & served with 3rd Battalion, 164th Infantry, which entered the Guadalcanal campaign on 13 Oct 42. He received commendations

from the First Marine Division, Navy Presidential Unit Citation with a star, and a Combat Infantry Badge. They were also in combat on Bougainville, Leyte & Cebu, Philippine Islands, and received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star. Urho returned to the US on 7 Jun 45. He worked as the Clerk of Municipal Court. He is preceded by wife of 49 years Vivian; survived by his daughter, Mary Vee.



Edwin A. Rauma died August 1978. He served in the Army Reserve from 29 Apr-15 Nov 41 and in the Enlisted Reserve Corps from 16 Nov 41-22 Jan 42, entering active duty on 23 Jan 42. He became a corporal, rifleman, & medic, participating in the Guadalcanal Campaign with the 164th.

He received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Navy PUC, American Defense Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal w/1 bronze battle star. He was discharged on Oct. 13, 1945. His is survived by daughter, Ruth Rauma,

Associate Members

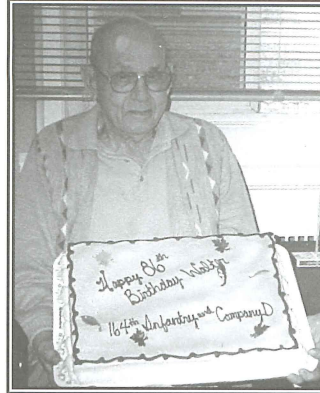
Agnes H. Privratsky (LM)* passed away at her home in Dickinson on 23 April 2009. She was the widow of **Wenzel Privratsky, Co K**. They are survived by children Jim, Susan, Kathy, Donna, Mike, & Jan; 12 grand-, & 6 great-grandchildren. She was an Assoc. Life Member as is her son, Jim



Letters

Shirley: My mom (**Agnes H. Privratsky**) passed away at home in Dickinson April 23, 2009. She was the widow of **Wenzel Privratsky, Company K**, 164th Infantry (WWII), Dickinson, ND. Mom took a great interest in the 164th due to their involvement and friends they met with over the years. She helped Leah Calbreath of the Dickinson Public Library getting contacts and information for Leah's 164th Infantry Project. Mom enjoyed reading your newsletter and felt it kept improving every issue. Enclosed is a memorial (\$100) to honor my mother. Sincerely, Jim Privratsky (LM)*, Dickinson, ND

In our Thoughts & Prayers



It is with saddened heart that I send the memorial folder and tell you of my husband **Walter Johnson's** death May 9th, 2009, at the Fargo VA Medical Center. Thank you so much for your call inquiring about my dear husband, Walter. He had been in failing health since March of 2008. Due to the flood in Fargo, he was evacuated to the VA Center in St. Cloud, which was very hard on him, then back to Fargo. I

would like to continue getting the 164th Infantry News as I know a lot of the "fellows". I am enclosing some pictures, including one of his 86th birthday last year with a 164th Infantry cake. The Memorial Service at the Veterans Cemetery in Mandan was beautiful. Sincerely, Mona Lyngstad Johnson*, Rugby

Others we've lost



Karl Mauldin, 22 Mar 12 - 1 Jul 09, took time out of his acting career to serve in WWII, and later portrayed Gen Omar Bradley in *Patton*. Born Mladen Sekulovich, he often imposed this real last name upon other characters in movies & TV shows in which he appeared, including "The Streets of San Francisco".

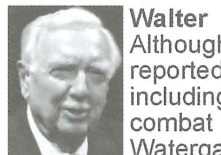


Actor **James Whitmore** died of lung cancer, 6 Feb 09, in his Malibu home. Whitmore benefited from the G.I. Bill after he served in the US military during WWII and was a vocal advocate of the New GI Bill. He won Tony and Emmy Awards and was also nominated for an Oscar.



Edward Peter Leo McMahon, Jr When the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, McMahon had finished college and flight training and had orders to join the Marine carrier program (Corsair) on the West Coast.

His orders were cancelled and he returned to civilian life. He was recalled into the Marines for the Korean War, arrived in Korea Feb 53, and flew 85 artillery-spotting missions in the Cessna OE Bird Dog before returning home in Sep 53. He joined Johnny Carson's Tonight Show in 1962, but remained active in the Marine Reserve, retiring as full colonel in 1966. <http://www.militarymuseum.org/McMahon.html>



Walter L. Cronkite, Jr. (4 Nov 16-17 Jul 09) Although he didn't serve in the military, he reported military events from 1937 to 1981, including bombing in WWII, Nuremberg trials, combat in Vietnam, death of President Kennedy, Watergate, and the Iran Hostage Crisis. He was known for extensive TV coverage of the U.S. space program, from Project Mercury to the Moon landings to the Space Shuttle. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for being the "the most trusted man in America" because of his professional experience & demeanor.

"And that's the way is..."



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 MOORHEAD MN 56560-3105

65 Years...And the Guard is Still Important Asset in Flood Fights



SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 11, 1943

1943 - 2009

EXPANDED FLOOD COVERAGE

The Forum
 FRIDAY March 27, 2009
 of Fargo-Moorhead

YOUR SOURCE FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE SPRING FLOOD INFO
 Check out the F-M Flood Information tool on the homepage of www.inforum.com for the most recent flood-related headlines, blog posts and forecast information.

FIGHT OR FLIGHT

AREAS OF SOUTH MOORHEAD, FARGO EVACUATED
 OTHERS URGED TO FORTIFY FLOOD WALLS

A North Dakota Guard unit had just returned from Iraq, another was serving in Afghanistan, and yet another was preparing go to Kosovo. Yet, the flood waters called, just as they did 65 years ago when the 164th left Fargo and other statewide communities to defend world freedoms.

Truth: the more things change, the more they stay the same!

Guard Unit Worked Long Hours With Little Rest During Flood

Forty consecutive hours of work slopping through muddy floodwaters, two hours of relief, then back for another 24-hour stretch was the grind 16 men of Company C went through when Fargo's state guard unit was called out for its first job—and it was a major one—to assist in flood evacuation work.

Shifts of 24 hours were common among the 39 Company C men who helped persons evacuate their homes when the Red river silently crept higher last week. They took great amounts of supplies, merchandise and equipment from business places.

ed the 24 hours were first since has
 Lieut. Quintin Nelson and Second Lieut. Houston Galyen.
 The men were Sgt. L. Swanson,

AUTHORIZED BY MAYOR
 Permission was granted to Mayor Fred Olsen to call out the Fargo unit of the guard. Captain Runsvold said, "The State Guard was not only to be used in case of an invasion but also to aid the citizens of the state in case of a disaster which we have just had in Fargo. The state guard can be called out within an hour if the situation demands it and we are more than willing to serve the community."

Company C was formed Dec. 26, 1941, to take the place of the now famous Company B, 164th infantry. It was formed by Capt. Porter Talcott, now captain in the intelligence department of the state guard, First Lieut. T. W. Morris, who later was captain, but since has moved to California;

- Guard Involvement Statewide March-June 2009**
- 36 Rescue Missions**
 - Over 60 People evacuated with Guard Assistance
 - 27 Cities/Communities assisted**
 - over 2,400 Soldiers & Airmen
 - 60,000 lbs salt spread by UH-60s**
 - Amount 181 million people would consume in a day
 - 63,079 Flight Miles**
 - 2.5 times around the world
 - 10,920 Miles of Dike Patrolled**
 - NY to CA round trip twice
 - 4.3 Million Sandbags Emplaced in Bismarck/Fargo**
 - Stacked vertically equals 1,720 Empire State Buildings
 - Weight equivalent to 360 - '747 jets'
 - 10,152,000 Gallons of Water Pumped**

