TOGETHER AGAIN!

AMERICAL DIVISION
2001
REUNION CLEVELAND

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REUNION 2001
Cleveland, Ohio
June 21-24, 2001

MEMORIES FOREVER
Dear Fellow Veterans, Families and Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to come to our hometowns of Cleveland and throughout Northeast Ohio for the 2001 ADVA Annual Reunion. The reunion is over but our memories will last forever! To capture that special weekend for those who attended and for those who could not attend, we have published this special Reunion Memory Book. We hope it will bring you many long hours of pleasure, pride and reflection.

Sincerely,

THE REUNION COMMITTEE:

Art Boessneck
721st Ordnance
World War II

Don Boito
3/82nd Arty
Vietnam

Bernard Borowski
Hq, Americal G-5
Vietnam

Greg Chave
C Co, 1/6th, 198th LIB
Vietnam

Jim Crum
B Co, 2/1st, 198th LIB
Vietnam

Jim Hural
3/16th Arty
Vietnam

Vic Jasinski
1/46th, 196th LIB
Vietnam

Ron Oliver
335 Trans Co.
Vietnam

Tom Schubert
4/3rd, 11th LIB
Vietnam

Paul Stiff
23rd MP Co
Vietnam

Dave Taylor
C Co, 5/46th, 198th LIB
Vietnam

Larry Watson
A-1/5th & C-1/52nd
198th LIB, Vietnam

Clint Zimlich
57th Engineers
World War II
Over 350 Americal vets attended the 2001 Reunion. With family and friends present, our reunion grew to over 530 attendees! The reunion registration desk, supervised by committee member Art Boessneck (721st Ordnance - WWII), was also supported by vets of the 23rd MP Company - Vietnam, who had the largest turn-out of any division unit, as they met for the first time since the Vietnam War.
"REUNION" MEANS ... "CHILLIN"

(Favorite Spots: Lobby Bar, Ornate Hotel Lobby, Courtyard and Tower Club Hospitality Room)
(Top) ADVA National Commander Ron Ellis presents an Honorary Membership to Mary Kay Lane, mother of 1LT Sharon Lane, Americal nurse (312th Evacuation Hospital). 1LT Lane was the only service-women killed by direct hostile fire in Vietnam (June 8, 1969). A small service was conducted graveside on Thursday morning with Mrs Lane and reunion committee members. (Left) Statue of 1LT Lane outside Aultman Hospital (Canton, Ohio) where she received her nurses training. The gravesite is also located in Canton. (Right) Memorial Service conducted by the 23rd MP Company – Vietnam at the hotel (see separate section in Memory Book for 23rd MP’s).
(Above) “Missing Man Table & Honors Ceremony” conducted by reunion Co-Chair Larry Watson prior to Friday night dinner: “... and we remember, all of us who served with them, and called them comrades, who depended on their might and aid, and relied upon them, for surely, they have not forsaken us.”

Committee members (Left) Bernie Borowski (HQ, G-5, Vietnam) and Clint Zimlich (57th Engineers - WWII) prepare for the annual memorial service at the Coast Guard District Headquarters, at dockside, Lake Erie.

(Left) Bagpiper plays “Amazing Grace” at memorial service. (Above) Co-Chair Dave Taylor: “Perhaps this solemn occasion may seem rather impersonal against the backdrop of this city with people working and living their lives, busy in many tasks, certainly not thinking of us on this dockside. But in reality, this is a splendid memorial for those we honor. After all, why do soldiers make the sacrifices they make, if not so free people can live in peace?”
ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

(Above) Annual Executive Council Meeting

(Left and Above), Annual ADVA Meeting. Ron Ellis, National Commander leads the meeting.

(Above) Frank Anton, Americal helicopter pilot relates his experiences as a POW for 5 years ... 1968 - 1973, to a standing-room only audience.
Veterans Administration administer a free "Wellness Check" to American vets. The service was available free of charge Saturday afternoon of the reunion.

National Pro-Football Hall of Fame, Canton, Ohio. 98 vets at the reunion took the tour.

National Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland, Ohio. 116 vets at the reunion took the tour.
"WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE ..."

The "Old Guard" - World War II

132nd Regiment - World War II

ADVA Eastern Region Chapter
... AND YOUNG"

ADVA Great Lakes Region Chapter

1st / 1st Cavalry

Charlie Co., 1st / 6th
Alpha Co., 1st/20th

Charlie Co., 1st/46th

Bravo Co., 2nd/1st
Soldiers & Spouses, Recon, 4th / 3rd

Charlie Co., 4th / 3rd

Echo Recon, 5th / 46th
"... WE FEW, WE HAPPY FEW"

Gunfighters!
“But we in it shall be remembered; We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother”
FRIDAY NIGHT

(Above Left) vets and guests socialize during dinner, making the most of their short period of time together.

(Above Right) Cocktail hour in the courtyard. (Above Right) 23rd MP Company vets, Dale Meisel, “Big Mike” Ackerfeld and Ralph Stiles share some laughs after dinner. Meisel unfolded the American flag seen on the next page, prior to dinner. The flag flew at division headquarters, and was displayed for the first time since the Vietnam War. (Left) Americal vets get their dinner photos, with waitress included.

(Above Left) From left to right: Gina Watson with husband Larry; Dave Taylor with wife Susan. As reunion co-chairs, Watson and Taylor are happy that in 2002, they just pack their bags!
(Above and Right) Over 100 of the world renown (and Cleveland based) "Singing Angels" provided 40 minutes of musical entertainment after dinner. Music of the sixties and seventies, show tunes and patriotic music stirred the hearts of all the Americal vets. Included was a "sing-along" where children went out into the audience to get those "old" vocal cords moving! Concluding the performance was the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" ... a special salute to the Americal WWII vets.

(Left) "What So proudly We Hail ...". The American flag which flew over division Headquarters in Vietnam, brought back by The 23rd MP Company's Dale Meisel, and unfolded for the first time since the Vietnam War, became a big hit for photo sessions with vets from both wars!
SUNDAY NIGHT

(Above) Cocktail hour in the courtyard before dinner ... “getting to know you”

(Above) Reunion committee members relax at dinner.
(Below) Medal of Honor recipient James Taylor (Left) with
ADVA National Chaplain Perry Woerner and his wife Jo.

(Above) Gary Noller presents special award to active duty
SFC Anthony Greene, of the 10th Mountain Division, who
is retiring. Greene served as the ADVA’s Web Site Master,
despite his busy schedule while on active duty.
ANNUAL BANQUET

(Above) Bill Bacon (Right) presents special ADVA Award to Medal of Honor Recipient James Taylor, recognizing all the MOH recipients from the Americal Division, both WWII and Vietnam.

(Above) COL John Insani at the podium after presenting the Silver Star to Tom Waterbury, Echo Recon Platoon Leader, 1st/20th, 11th LIB. Standing with Waterbury is his wife Anita. Behind Insani is LTC (Ret) Bill Honjiyo, Waterbury’s Battalion Commander who resubmitted for the award when learning he never received it at the St. Louis ADVA Reunion, 1999.

(Above) National Commander Ron Ellis (Left) presents the first “Lifetime Achievement Awards” to WWII vets Jim Buckle and Joe Chin. Bernie Chase, absent due to illness, also received the award.

The “Soldiers of History” prepare for their special presentation honoring the history of the American Soldier. Their 40 minute presentation ended with “God Bless the USA” and “God Bless America” ... bringing everyone to their feet.
THE 23RD MP COMPANY
June 2001 ... Together Again For The First Time Since Vietnam!

"I cannot tell you the good this has done for my mind and spirit..."
23rd MP Company Group Photo - Americal Reunion 2001
("We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young")

Wheel Cover From the 196th Brigade
(The Army is still looking for it!)

"Oh, say can you see ..."
(Vic, Tom, Randy and Paul)
MAKING CONNECTIONS

Waiting for the troops to sign in:
(Left to right) Rich Merlin, Ron Sheaffer and Tom Packard.

Vic Kornaski and Randy Teal

Dutch DeGroot "Big Mike" Ackerfeld Ralph Stiles

Jerry Loughman and Al Feser

Dick Sommer & Ron Sheaffer
John Biliti, Kerry Landers, Mark Alumbaugh, Vic Kornaski

Wes Haun, Paul Stiff, Ron Sheaffer

Brian Mulcrone, Jan and Dutch DeGroot.

(Above) Dan Thorlton, Ron Chronister, wife Connie and Ernie Huerta.

(Right) Lanny Davis and The Timberlakes
MAKING CONNECTIONS

Bob Moore  Paul Stiff
Wes Haun  Tom Packard  Dale Meisel

B.J. Crowley and son Ben, both proudly wearing Americal MP pins.

Dan Robinson and Rich Merlin

Vivian and Tom Carter ... proud reflections.

Jan Sudbury and Melissa Zugelter
"Why them and not us? I cannot say why the hand of God touched these 13 men ... but in the Gospel of John, Christ says. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"

-- Dale Meisel

"They served in order that others might live and be free.

Thirteen patriots, that served with honor and dignity, and loyalty and love for their country, their countrymen and their families.

Maybe they didn't say it everyday; maybe they didn't always wear it on their sleeves for all to see. No matter, because it showed in their hearts. And it continues to show in the faces and hearts that I see before me today."

-- Rev. Kerry R. Landers
... AND WE REMEMBER

† Private First Class Jerrold Patrick Smith, 23, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, died February 29, 1968.
† Sergeant George Adolfo Mussenden, 24, New York City, New York, died February 29, 1968
† Corporal James Austin Rider JR., 21, Seattle, Washington, died May 13, 1968
† Sergeant Charles Irvin Miller, 22, Ann Arbor, Michigan, died May 13, 1968
† Sergeant Alvin Eugene Wiles, 21, Knoxville, Tennessee, died May 13, 1968
† Specialist Fourth Class William Charles Fenton JR, 20, Wallingford, Connecticut, died March 26, 1969
† Sergeant James Alford Landrum, 26, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, died July 29, 1969
† Specialist Fourth Class Edward Joseph Halbert, 20, Steelville, Missouri, died July 29, 1969
† Specialist Fourth Class Bobby Riddle, 21, Selma, Alabama, died August 18, 1969
† Sergeant Vincent James Musco, 22, Schenectady, New York, died August 18th, 1969
† Private First Class Donald Richard Barrett, 23, Indianapolis, Indiana, died August 18, 1969.
† Specialist Forth Class Richard Dell’ Arena, 22, Egg Harbor, New Jersey, died April 1, 1970
† Specialist Fourth Class Stephen Michael Traynor, 22, Keego Harbor, Michigan, died February 4, 1971

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"
1st Platoon, 23rd MP Co., Duc Pho

2nd Platoon, 23rd MP Company, '68-'69
3RD Platoon, 23rd MP Company

23rd MP's

23rd MP's - Chu Lai
... SO LITTLE TIME!
IN CLOSING ...

When I think of the word "Pride" ...

... this is what I see.

To My fellow MP’s:

There is more than one way to show up for a reunion. So here I am! Best regards to all my fellow vets!

Sincerely,

Tom Platts

(23rd MP Company Veteran)
McLaren Vale SA 5171 – AUSTRALIA
It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood;

Who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again ... who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause;

Who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt

PHOTO CREDITS:
Grateful acknowledgement is given to those who provided photo support for this Memory Book. They saw in their own eyes the vision you have shared on these pages:

Al Bornkamp, Tom Packard, Ron Sheaffer, Dick Sommer, Paul Stiff, Dave Taylor, Randy Teal, Judi Tergeson (Classic Reunions)
AMERICAL DIVISION
OPERATIONS, CAMPAIGNS, BATTLES

World War II 1942-1945

GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN
2nd Battle of Henderson Field
Battle of Koli Point
Kokumbona & Pohia River
Point Cruz & Matanikau River
Mt Austen
Gifu Ridge
Final Offensive
Bonegi River
Tassafaronga

NORTHERN SOLOMONS CAMPAIGN
Perimeter Line
Hill 260
Hills 165, 155, 500, 501
Mouth of the Torokina
Advancing the Outpost Line
LEYTE
Jas - Valencia - Palompon
Samar Island
Balicasag, Capul, Narajo Islands
Capute Island, Buricos, Ticao Islands
SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES
Cebu island
Talisay Landing
Cebu City, Go Chan Hill, Hill 27
Babay Ridge
Bohol Island
Negros Oriental Islands
Palimpinon Heights
Balabulas
Northern Mindiniao Island

Vietnam 1967-1971

COUNTEROFFENSIVE PHASE III
Wheeler/Wallowa, Muscatine
Chu Lai & Duc Pho
LZ Baldy
TET COUNTEROFFENSIVE
Task Forces Barker & Miracle
Da Nang & Lo Giang
COUNTEROFFENSIVE PHASE IV
Norfolk Victory
Burlington Trail - Base Bronco
Tien Phuoc - Da Nang
Quang Tri - Kham Duc
COUNTEROFFENSIVE PHASE V
Tam Ky & Quang Ngai City
Champaign Grove & Golden Fleece
COUNTEROFFENSIVE PHASE VI
Wheeler Wallowa & Burlington Trail ended
Vernon Lake II & Hardin Falls
Fayette Canyon & Russell Beach
Chu Lai - Binh Son - Tam Ky
TET 69 COUNTEROFFENSIVE
Lamar Plain - Que Son
Hiep Duc & Hill 102
WINTER - SPRING 1970
Tam Ky - Pineapple Forest
LZ Bayonet - LZ Fat City
Hiep Duc
SANCTUARY COUNTEROFFENSIVE
Frederick Hill & Kham Duc
COUNTEROFFENSIVE PHASE II
CONSOLIDATION

LINEAGE

Constituted 24 May 1942 in the Army of the United States as Headquarters, Americal Division.
Activated 27 May 1942 in New Caledonia. Inactivated 12 December 1945 at Fort Lawton,
Washington. Re-designated 1 December 1954 as Headquarters, 23rd Infantry Division, and
allotted to the Regular Army. Activated 2 December 1954 at Fort Amador, Canal Zone. Re­
designated 25 September 1967 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 23rd Infantry

LOOKING BACK ...

As events in our two wars became history, the record often necessarily surpassed
individual efforts that went into executing the entire mission.

Discrete events and accomplishments are lost as figures in black and white on
some report that is skimmed and filed.

But each of us treasures some moment we consider unique, perhaps because it
was part of our own, more personal mission.

Such is this record; happenings which are, alone, small fractions of the whole.
Events that could only happen at our own particular place in time and which
will be remembered only by two separate groups of people, two generations ...
who worked together in a quest for freedom.