



164th Infantry Regiment Publications

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6-1998

## 164th Infantry News: June 1998

164th Infantry Association

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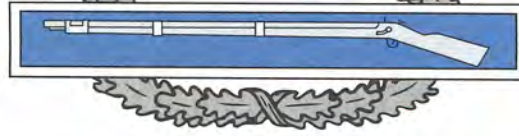
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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



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

Vol. 38 • No. 5

June 1, 1998

## FIJIAN KAVA BOWL

The Kava Bowl was presented to the 164th Infantry Reunion at Valley City, North Dakota by Ratu Edward Cakobau, the Prime Minister of the Fiji Islands. Mr. Ratu Cakobau led the Fijian Scouts on Guadalcanal and Bougainville.

At the Valley City reunion prior to addressing the members present, Ratu dressed in his native costume and conducted the Kava ceremony. The 164th members enjoyed the ceremony as it brought back memories of Tra-la-la and Frangipani flowers in the native villages in Fiji. The native ceremony involves the use of the Kava plant or root and water. Generally the Kava is squeezed and worked in the Kava bowl until it is the color of grayish milk. The Kava plant is used by the Fijian natives to relax and calm jangled nerves.

The lead Fijian in the Kava ceremony fills a half Coconut



(Photo credit Paparazzi Ken Schouss)

A) Kava ceremonial bowl and coconut shells presented to the 164th Infantry Association at the 1962 reunion in Valley City, N.D. Ratu Edward Cakobau, Prime Minister of the Fiji Islands was guest speaker at the banquet and presented the Kava bowl to the association. The inscription on the bowl states Presented to the 164th Infantry Association from the Fiji Military Forces October 13, 1962.



(Photo credit Paparazzi Ken Schouss)

Ralph Gaugler, Bismarck, "Bernie" Wagner with eyes closed is remembering Kava; Tra-la-la, water melon and the Fiji Islands. Jim Fenelon, Marshaltown, Iowa. Picture was taken at Fraine Barracks in Bismarck.



(Photo credit Paparazzi Ken Schouss)

Jim Fenelon, demonstrating a poor technique in drinking Kava. Linda Dunn holding Kava bowl.

shell and passes it to the people sitting crossed legged on the floor mats. One must take the shell in both hands and drink it down while the people clap hands and chant Kava Kava. The coconut shell cannot be set down as it has a sharp point on the bottom. Enough Kava and one is very relaxed and more than willing to Tra-la-la eat watermelon and return to camp wearing Frangipani blossoms.



Russell Opat Collection

Ratu Edward Cakobau, Prime Minister of the Fiji Islands, conducted the Kava ceremony and presented the Kava Bowl to the 164th Infantry Reunion, Valley City, ND, 1962.

We have shared the incommunicable experience of war.

In our youths, our hearts were touched with fire.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

Memorial Day Address, 1884 1



# LETTERS



## To The Editor:

October 30, 1997

Gentlemen,

I read an article in my copy of ADVA, July through September 1997 issue concerning the 164th Infantry News.

I served with HQ Company, I & R Platoon of the 164th Regiment on Cebu in the Philippines.

Please send me information about 164th Infantry Association and the 164th Infantry News.

Sincerely,

George T. Kuczko  
1259 Durham Drive  
Wheaton, IL 60187-8815

(Sent George a Book, Directory, Newsletter 4 November, 1997)

Dear Ben,

Enclosed is a check for \$15.00. Please apply to dues and the 164th book. The V.F.W. steered me toward the Americal Newsletter and Jim Buckle of Mass. steered me to your address. It's never too late; thanks for your prompt replay. Enclosed is a 54yr.-old snapshot entitled "Beer Ration Day on Bougainville." All members of the same platoon.

The good old days,

Bob Shea  
Dog Co.

Dear Ms. Kemp:

Enclosed is a check for \$2.40 for a copy of the Membership Directory for my dad.

Oliver M. Settingsgard  
3166 Lori Circle  
Simi Valley, CA 93063-1053

Will you also check your records. He sent you a check on July 13, 1997, for dues and a raffle. I assume they are for 1998; if not, let me know.

Thank you,

Annmarie Settingsgard  
(daughter)

Feel like I am a member as I have "lived" with you guys my whole life!

(Ed. note) Annmarie no doubt has heard all our stories.  
Annmarie, thanks for your loyalty.

February 14, 1998

Dear Ben:

My husband, Bob Todd, is a member of the 164th Assn. He's in the soldiers' home in Orting, Washington, and would like a copy of the membership directory. Would you also send him a copy of the Memorial Dedication Book?

I enclosed \$10 to cover the cost of the two.

Robert Todd #307B  
Box 500  
Orting, Washington 98360

Thank you,

Mrs. Bob Todd

April 27, 1998

Dear Ben,

Received the 164th pin. Many thanks. You did not need to send me one of yours; and at any time if you want it back, please let me know. I have already worn it with pride on many occasions.

Just returned from a 164th band reunion in Las Vegas hosted by Ray Ellerman and his wife Vickie (also a vet). Not many left—only LeRoy Bushing and wife and Chuck Bell and his wife from the old guard came. Many others could not make it because of health problems. A few widows of those that have passed on came. Three of us so-called younger guard came with wives.

It was a great time looking at photos and hearing stories - and listening to some great music from local musicians.

Again many thanks and take care.

Verdinal T. McKean

From: David L. Corey  
847 W. Finerty Rd.  
West Branch, Mi. 48661-9530  
To: 164 Infantry Ass.

Sec. Ben Kemp.

Enclosed a check for Life membership and a 164th Regimental Crest Lapel Pin.

Also some time ago I believe I read in one of the News letters that for \$30.00 you could have your name on a brick, I believe it would be at the cemetery. If there is something to this, would you please advise. Thanks.

Yours truly

David L. Corey

8 Feb. 98

Dear Ben:

I'm not sure when my last payment was sent in. I'll send this just in case I'm delinquent. Congratulations on a super Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Alfred Shillum

(I was in Co's I and F during Guadalcanal)

Ben

Thanks for a great issue. It is my No. 1 reading material. I need the address of North Dakota Veterans Hospital. I have reading material to contribute.

I have never been to the state but I know and love the character of the men I served with in the 164th.

Milton Olan

N. Miami Beach

995 N.E. 170th St.

Miami, FL 33162-2587

Mr. Earl H. Johson

Lakeview Terrace

RR 1 Box A-25

Grand Coulee, WA 99133-9801

February 2, 1998

Dear Ben

I received the list last week. Thanks.

As to Richard (Dick) Stout; yes, he left a wife behind. I corresponded with them with Christmas cards for years, with a letter now then in between. Also visited their home a couple times on my way back to South Dakota. I never knew her any way but as Margy. I suppose that was short for Margaret.

So if you send 164th news to Margy Stout 115 South Nelson Street Dillion, Montana 59725 I am sure she will receive it.

Yours in Comradeship

Earl H. (Pinky) Johnson

April , 1998

I joined the 164 Infantry in November 1943 in Fiji Island and served on Bougainville, Leyto, Cebu and Negros.

I was in on Negros on May 24, 1945.

I was discharged November 1945.

I am enclosing a check for \$6.00 per year for the membership and paper.

John Creamer

613 Omega

Longview, TX 75601

Ph. #903 757 5472

Ben!

Happy to receive News Letter & Application.

I joined Tank Co., Harvey, ND, in 1947. Activated in 1951, trained Camp Rucker, Ala., joined 1st Calvary Div. in Korea June 5 with 70th Tank Bn. Rotated in November 52. Rejoined Tank Co. in Harvey, was 1st Sgt. until 1955, when I was transferred out of state by my employer.

Thanks,

Tom English

Gentlemen,

I served in Co. "D," 164th Infantry through Bougainville, Leyto, Cebu, and Negros. My MOS was heaving machine gunner. I would like to join the 164 Association. Please send instruction.

Thank you,

Robert Shea

555 4th St., Lot 52

Vero Beach, FL 32962

Phasing Out

Dear Jim,

Thank you for the "164 Inf. Regt. Korean War Remembrance." I will give it to Pat Carr, who was with Co F. during the Korean War. After the members here have looked it over, it will be placed in the local museum with the rest of Co "F" material and will be taken care of for future generations to see.

We decided not to have any more reunions. It was not an easy decision to make. Little did I know in Feb. 1941 that I would be the one to write the last reunion letter in 1998. It leaves one with many thoughts of the years gone by.

There are only four of us here from W.W. II. Geo Aljets, Pat McCrary, (they are in nursing homes here), Art Schoens who has a lot of health problems, and me. I try to keep going. There aren't many Korean Vets here either.

Let's keep in touch, and I hope to see you at the 164th reunion. If you get up our way stop in.

Don Herman who stopped in was with Co "F" Korean War. He was really interested in the Korean History. He took your name and address, and I'm sure you'll hear from him. What is the cost of Korean War Remembrance?

His address:

Don Herman

18001 110th Ave.S.E.

Renton, Wash. 98055

Will close for now. Wishing you God's Blessings.

Your friend,

John Paulson

Carrington, N.D.



Co. "F" 164th Infantry Association

Carrington, N.D. 58421

**Dear Association Member,**

We held our Co."F" 164th Reunion committee meeting on Feb. 16, 1998 at the Vets Club. After much discussion, it was decided that due to declining membership we would discontinue our bi-annual Co."F" reunions.

We have \$700 in the bank which will be donated to the Carrington Cemetery Assoc. for upkeep of the veterans plot and other maintenance.

The beautiful 164th insignia and shield that Charlie and Ruth Farmer made and donated at our last reunion will be fastened to the top of our official rosters of World War II and Korean wars of Co."F". We still need a roster of Korean war members.

Art and Betty Schoen donated the W.W.II roster and many other pictures and stories which are in frames under glass. These are placed in the Foster County Museum where they will be well cared for in the years to come.

If you have any questions please contact:

Pat Carr 427 3rd St. N. Carrington, N.D. 58421

Ph: 701-652-3043

John Paulson 80 2nd Ave. N. Carrington, N.D. 58421

Ph: 701-652-3305

Wes Kahl 310 S. 2nd. St. Carrington, N.D. 58421

Ph: 701-652-3511

The 164th Inf. Regiment will hold their annual reunion on Oct. 9 - 10 - 11 th 1998 in the Radisson Inn in Bismarck, ND. For more information contact:

The 164th Infantry Association

Box 1111

Bismarck, N. D. 58502-1111

In closing we thank you for the great support you have given us throughout the years and we wish you GOD's Blessings.

John Paulson  
Secretary



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BISMARCK  
JULY 12, 1937

Order -7

Major Heber L. Edwards

Adjutant General

State Capitol Building

Sir:

You are hereby directed to report to Henry G. Owen, Acting superintendent of the State Hospital For Insane at Jamestown, North Dakota, and to place yourself at his disposal and that of the State Board of Administration with such help as the Acting Superintendent and the Board of Administration and yourself may deem advisable to thoroughly rid the institution at Jamestown of bed-bugs and lice, & cockroaches.

Your particular service will consist of guarding the inmates at the state hospital and keeping them from escaping while they are temporarily taken out of their sleeping and living quarters while their rooms and beds are being deloused by chemical gas. This will mean night watches.

You are hereby ordered to report to the Acting Superintendent this evening, July 12, at 7:30 P.M.—after first conferring with the Board of Administration and secure at Jamestown, North Dakota, such assistance in restraining such insane patients as a joint conference may deem necessary.

You are hereby ordered not to return to Bismarck until you can upon your word as an officer, assure me that not a louse or bed-bug remains in the State Asylum at Jamestown, North Dakota.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allen Sanger".  
Governor

WL dr



## K COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP

Paul Ebeltof, Dickinson, ND, reports the funds establishing the Scholarship Fund in memory of the Men in K Company, 164th Infantry, has been growing steadily. Contributions from former members, relatives, and friends have been added to the original fund.

This spring two scholarships were awarded. The awards were small, but the recipients were very happy to receive the funds as the financial assistance provided the means for the two individuals to finish their college work and receive their degrees. One award went to a relative of a deceased member of K Company WWII and the second award went to the present member of the N.D. National Guard.

The K Company Scholarship is a worthy cause. Anyone wishing to make a contribution can send it to K Company 164th Infantry Scholarship Fund, Dickinson State University, Dickinson, N.D. 58602. A contributor making a donation will receive a receipt as the college has a tax-exempt status. For more details contact Paul Ebeltof, P.O. Box 927, Dickinson, N.D. 58602.



# Bougainville

Mark Durley joined the 164th Infantry 15 May 1943 in the Fiji Islands as a 2nd Lt. Durley stayed with the Regiment through Bougainville, Philippine Islands, the occupation of Japan, and returned to Seattle and was phased out 7 December 1945 as a Major and the last man from the 164th as the Regiment was deactivated.

Durley is the official historian for the Americal Division Association (ADA). He is conducting research about the Bougainville campaign by acquiring books and official documents including a trip to New Zealand. (Ed. note: He probably took the trip to escape "El Nino" and the high tides in the Pacific that are battering California.)

At the present, Durley is finding it difficult to gather information on the "outpost line" on Bougainville in late 1944. The 164th manned such positions along the Numa Numa and East/West trails and, in some instances, were met by stubborn opposition from the Japanese.

Durley will welcome any information: personal and about units manning the "outpost line" in the period of May, 1944, to December, 1944, on Bougainville. If you have any information or documents, please forward them to:

W. Mark Durley, Jr.  
360 Second Street East  
Sonoma, CA 95475-57711  
Tel- 707-935-7003

*Editors Note: This is a very commendable project as Bougainville is often referred to as the forgotten campaign. The 164th lost many good men KIA and wounded in the Bougainville operation. Here is an opportunity to tell the story of the 164th in that phase of WWII. Durley stated that he will reimburse contributions for postage costs and will guarantee return of all documents. Durley lives in Sonoma, CA, in the great wine country of California. Maybe with information and documents furnished to him, he might open a keg of vintage wine. It would be nice to have California wine at a 164th reunion.*



*"Jap Debris"  
after the battle for  
Henderson Field.*

*If you are not riding the wave of change, you will find yourself beneath it.*

*Anonymous*

# BEAUTY CONTEST BOUGAINVILLE.



*(photo credit: 161 Sig Photo Co. 29 May 44)*

*Judges hold the winners of a beauty contest sponsored by the 164th infantry, Americal division on Bougainville. At left, Major H. F. Flannery, of Jamestown, N.D. holds a picture of Miss Shirley Perims of Los Angeles, CA, who was chosen as the "Battle Queen of the 164th"; and at right T/Sgt. Maurice R. Olson, Grafton, N.D. holds a picture of Estelle Tolty of Oklahoma City, OK, chose as "Sweater Girl."*



## A.W.O.L. 1998 / CURRENT DUES

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>
Lewis A. Borsheim	Cummings, ND
Clement J. Fox	Felton, MN
Arthur Johnson	Belle Plaine, MN
Alice Kelly	Jamestown, ND
S.J. Klava	Dothan, AL
John P. Meyer	Fargo, ND
Robert P. Miller	Bismarck, ND
Inguald MyGlowd	Grent Falls, MT
Stanley Nelson	Minneapolis, MN
Stanley A. Peterson	Las Cryees, NM
Robert G. Spillum	Edmonds, WA
Betty Sullivan	West Saint Paul, MN
Howard White	Bowman, ND

Reported by Ben Kemp  
Secretary Treasurer.



# Touched By Fire

"Doug" Burtell while reading the book Touched With Fire' The Land War in the South Pacific by Eric Bergerud, found the name of a Marine he had shared a fox hole with 55 years ago.

Bergerud writing his book interviewed many men that had been on Guadalcanal. Cliff Fox, a marine, was one of those named in the book. Fox told about an army unit arriving on Guadalcanal and young army boy from Army Intelligence sharing the same fox hole October 13, 1924, during the shelling by two Japanese Battleships. Fox could not recall his last name other than "Doug."

Burtell, while reading the story told by Fox, recalled the incident. Burtell called the author of the book and was able to locate Cliff Fox at his home, Incline, Village, Nev. The two fox hole buddies, fifty five years later, had a happy reunion in Nevada. Burtell tracked Cliff Fox, ex-marine, by contacting Eric Bergerud, author of Touched With Fire.



*Doug Bertell at right is reunited with Cliff Fox after 55 years where they met in a fox hole at Guadalcanal amidst bombing by the Japanese. Pictured with Burtell from left are: Ellie Fox, Cliff Fox and Doug's wife Cecilia. This photo was taken at Incline Village, Nev., by Marlene Mrnak.*

Burtell said he was saying Catholic prayers and Cliff Fox was reciting Lutheran prayers during the Battleship shelling. Evidently both prayers worked as they survived to wear fancy cowboy hats and marry beautiful women.

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## [Excerpts From Orchids in the Mud Continued]

### JAPANESE INVASION PLANS

On 18 May 1942 the Japanese 17th Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Harukichi Hiyakytake received the following order from the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters in Tokyo: "The army will attack key positions on New Caledonia, Fiji Islands, Samoan Islands, and Port Moresby in order to establish a strong, durable defense and cut off communications between Americans and Australia." The Japanese Second Fleet (consisting of four divisions, two destroyer squadrons, as a nucleus and equipped with two battleships, ten heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and 32 destroyers). The navy was to cooperate with the 17th Army in the invasion of New Caledonia, Fiji Islands, and Samoan Islands. The Japanese southward expansion into New Guinea, the southern Solomons, and to New Caledonia was postponed by the Coral Sea battle in early May 1942.

### FRENCH POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

In May 1942 there was some Colonial French political upheaval which did not affect our troops in any way. Troops were ordered not to visit Noumea or to express themselves politically in any way. There was some evidence of local intrigue but no indications that the political situation would present any difficulties with the military defense.

### THE ISLAND MILITIA FORCE

Early in June 1942 a New Caledonia militia force was formed comprised of white French Colonials and a few-half castes; rifles, ammunition and certain articles of clothing were issued to them. The regiment made efforts to train these small groups, but due to a variety of reasons involving temperament, and economic problems of the individual citizen, the training was not considered successful. Some measures were also taken to organize the Kanaks into troops. This was considered to have been comparatively successful especially by the "peep troops." Their troop "C" was entirely of well disciplined Kanaks. Unfortunately they couldn't leave New Caledonia for Guadalcanal. This was a tremendous loss to the "peep troops."

### BRAND NEW LIEUTENANTS

The activation of the "peep troops" and the provisional artillery and numerous other units created a marked and serious shortage of junior officers. In June 1942, with the permission of Gen. George C. Marshall, Gen. Patch organized, in Noumea, an Officers Candidate School at Camp Stevens.

*(continued on page 8)*



## KOREA

The war in Korea is sometimes referred to as the "Forgotten War." In Minnesota the Korea conflict will not be forgotten.

A memorial for Korean Veterans will be dedicated at 2 p.m. Sunday, September 13, 1998, at the State Capital grounds, St. Paul, MN.

To build the Memorial, the Korea veterans exceeded their goal of \$300,000. All excess funds will be used for any construction overruns and for dedication expenses.

For information contact Minnesota:

Korean War Vets Chpt.#1,

P.O.Box131842

Roseville, MN. 55113

(Source V.F.W. Post 5555)



*New Caledonia natives hunting and bringing home their kill to feed their families.*

## Recognizing Korean War Veterans

The National Park Service staff and millions of visitors at the Korean War Veterans Memorial need your help. Stories from Korean War veterans about their service and family members' descriptions of the home front are needed to help ensure that the "forgotten war" is never forgotten again. Please mail all responses to Michael Balis, Oral History Coordinator, KWVM, National Capital Parks-Central, 900 Ohio Drive S.W., Washington, DC 20024-2000.

A Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library, sponsored by the National Korean War Veterans Association, will be located in Tuscola, Ill. This site was selected because of its central location and proximity to major traffic arteries. The four-gallery museum—133,080 square feet—will cover: Korea, 1950-53; a Gold Star tribute; Korea Today; and temporary exhibits. Projected opening date is June 25, 2000. For details, contact Lynnita Sommer, Museum Administrator, Douglas County Museum, 700 S. Main St., Tuscola, IL 61953-1822. Tel.: (217) 253-2535.

The Department of Defense is already planning the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Korean War. It will be handled by the International Commemorations Committee of the Army International Affairs Office. Events and activities are scheduled to be launched on Memorial Day 1999 and continue until Veterans Day 2003. Numerous steps will be taken to publicize the contributions of Korean War veterans. The VFW will play a major role in this celebration. We will keep you posted on developments.



*Native women and children on Bougainville, 1944.*



*"Kanaka" native and his daughter using their outriggers canoe to supply water to 164th outpost in New Caledonia.*

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*One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth forever.*

Ecclesiastes



(Continued from page 6)

The men of the division made application, most were seasoned noncommissioned officers usually platoon sergeants with the rank of staff sergeant. They were screened by their company officers, and later by a specially appointed 132nd Infantry Board of Officers, led by Maj. Harry Berger.

The candidates were given a six week course at Camp Stevens, then were assigned to company units of a different regiment and given specific duties as junior officers. The officer candidate served alongside current company officers and were evaluated by them. Out of a total of 385 officer candidates, only 36 were from the 132nd Infantry.

Two classes were graduated: the first on 18 September 1942 provided 15 junior officers for the regiment. The second class graduated on 19 October 1942 and provided 21 junior officers for the regiment. Within one week to three months the newly commissioned officers would be leading men against the Japanese in Guadalcanal. The newly commissioned officers from the 164th Infantry were fighting the Japanese within days of graduation.

During the Guadalcanal battle a high percentage of the newly commissioned officers were wounded or killed in action. In general these officers provided outstanding leadership and were assets to the regiment.

### INCREASED JAPANESE ACTIVITY

Early in May 1942 enemy submarine reconnaissance of the island began which led to a redistribution of infantry troops. The defense plan of the airport at Plaine des Gaiacs remained unchanged. The Regimental Command Post, Regimental Headquarters Company, and Service Company remained in their former area in the vicinity . The Second Battalion took up the defense of Guara Bay. The Third Battalion maintained its defense of the northeast coast. Disposed in this manner the entire north two thirds of the island was protected to the extent of a delaying force only.

### PREPARATION FOR THE INVASION

During the balance of June, and all of July 1942, a field training program was set up for the entire regiment for the purpose of developing greater proficiency with weapons and the execution of tactical problems designed for small units. Problems of reconnaissance, raids, marches, and attacks by day and night were practiced.

Small regimental units observed submarines and reported enemy aircraft. In addition, aircraft, surface vessels and Japanese submarines were reported by others. Finally, unidentified surface ships were repeatedly reported several miles to the north and Japanese four motored reconnaissance planes were observed over Poughe.

### WILL THE JAPANESE ATTACK?

Throughout July 1942, there were numerous reports of unidentified surface ships, submarines, and enemy aircraft in the area west of Poughe. For example on 3 July 1942 the Australians reported a submarine inside the reef, at Poughe.

The New Caledonia gendarmes were alerted to seek out possible enemy agents that may have landed by submarine. On 5 July 1942 Gen. Patch informed the Americal Division that "two Jap aircraft carriers and thirteen warships appeared in the lower Solomon Islands yesterday."

On 6 July 1942 "lights and flares" were dropped from planes at Guraco Bay. Finally on 15 July, whales were seen in the area of "Japanese submarines" and large tree stumps were identified. Moreover, one unidentified ship was investigated and found to be a huge log. The tension in northern New Caledonia eased.

On 26 July 1942 Gen. Patch ordered U.S. Forces to take control of the French Radio at Touho. This later created a near "international incident." As "scare reports" of Japanese invasion subsided, the French radio equipment was returned to the Colonial French. After World War II Japanese coast watchers' radio equipment was found in a hidden cave on the northwest coast of New Caledonia.

On 28 July 1942 messenger pigeons were assigned to the men on coast watching duty. They had four crates of pigeons to use should the Japanese invade New Caledonia.

During July, in the Koumac area the French Colonials and the Kanaks formed a militia. They were equipped with the Springfield .03 rifle and trained by Capt. Raymond Daehler's men. The Kanaks made excellent soldiers. Each was given a limited supply of ammunition. Some would use the ammunition to hunt deer. The deerskin brought in a good price and produced a livelihood for them. During the Kanaks uprising in 1984, many of them had the Springfield .03 rifle and used them in their freedom fight.

(Continued on page 10)

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*Twilight has always seemed like God's indrawn breath, a pause in the progression of time.*

Emile Richards, *Rising Tides*

(Mire Books)



# Eleanor shook his hand



Photo by: Jim Fenelon

2nd Lt. Eli Dobervich, Crosby Ironton, M.N.-  
in Guadalcanal-1942

Sometimes you can have a Brush with Greatness when you're walking down the street.

Or, as in the case of Eli Dobervich, it can come when you're flat on your back.

Eli, of Devils Lake, N.D., was serving with North Dakota's much decorated 164th Infantry Regiment on Guadalcanal in World War II when he came down with malaria.

So he was evacuated, high fever, hallucinations and all, to a base hospital in the Fiji Islands

It's understandable, then, that one day he thought he was hallucinating when he writes, "this lovely lady was sitting by my hospital bed, holding my hand and comforting me.

"Although it is nearly 55 years ago," he writes, I remember what she said in her gentle way: 'Franklin sent me to thank all of you boys..

"Later, I asked our nurse if I was dreaming .

"No, you were not dreaming,' she said. "That really was Eleanor Roosevelt, President Roosevelt's wife.'

"So that was my brush with Greatness, unexpectedly and fleeting as it was. She really was a great lady and deserves a special place in history for what she did for all of us then. In such a personal way, she told us that the president of the United States and his wife really cared about us."

Nice story, Eli. Thanks for writing.

Source: *Bob Lind-Fargo Forum*, Oct. 13, 1997



Walking the wire, Oct. 1942. E. Co. position, 1/2 mile from Henderson Field. Every morning a designated soldier had to walk along the barbed wire to check if the Japs had cut the barbed wire and infiltrated the 164th defense line. Generally a tense duty as no doubt the Japs were watching.

## MILITARY ACTIONS COVERED BY THE CIB

Since 1941, four wars and seven other military operations have provided Army infantrymen the opportunity to earn CIBs.

World War II: Dec. 7, 1941–Sept. 3, 1945  
Korean War: June 27, 1950–July 27, 1953  
Laos: April 19, 1961–Oct. 6, 1962  
Vietnam: March 1, 1961–March 29, 1973  
Dominican Republic: April 28, 1965–Sept. 1, 1966

Korea DMZ: Jan. 4, 1969–Open  
El Salvador: Jan. 1, 1981–Feb. 1, 1992  
Grenada: Oct. 22–Nov. 21, 1983  
Panama: Dec. 20, 1989–Jan. 31, 1990  
Persian Gulf War: Jan. 17–April 11, 1991  
Somalia: June 5, 1993–March 31, 1994



## Combat Badge Recognizes Grunts Only

For 55 years, the famed Combat Infantryman's Badge has been a coveted symbol of recognition for U.S. Army foot soldiers. Just recently, a new group of GIs who battled Marxist rebels for more than a decade in Central America finally became eligible for it. All CIB holders are qualified for VFW membership.

The individual must be in an exchange of small arms fire on at least five occasions. They must also have been in actual battle under authorized hostile fire pay. Each CIB must be recommended personally by a commander and approved at division level.

One DMZ vet, Maj. R.M. Cheek, remembered what his platoon sergeant told him: "You'll get your CIB along with your Purple Heart." Requirements concerning the number of days and firefights were waived if an infantryman was killed or wounded as a direct result of action.

### '70% of Fighting and Dying'

Many combat veterans have been engaged in extensive, long-term, close combat and are not qualified for the CIB. Excluded are artillerymen (including forward observers), armored cavalry recon troops, tank crewmen, military police and combat engineers. Combat medics, of course, rate the Combat Medical Badge if they were assigned or attached to small infantry units in combat.

In World War II and Korea, roughly one of every 10 Army Medal of Honor recipients (excluding Air Forces) did not qualify for the CIB.

In Vietnam, the 716th Military Police Battalion lost 27 KIA and 44 WIA while engaging the enemy during the Tet Offensive of 1968. The unit was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for its heroic performance, but officially none of its members qualified for the CIB.

As Eric C. Ludvigsen wrote in *Army*: "The CIB was created for infantrymen in infantry units at a time [1943] when they were doing 70% of the fighting and dying, a proportion that has not changed much despite the ever-increasing application of technology to war, and is likely to increase in infantry-oriented, low-intensity conflict."

### Original 'Fighter Badge'

Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair, then the Army Ground Forces commanding general, was instrumental in creating the CIB. He originally recommended that it be called the "fighter badge." It was established by a War Department circular issued Oct. 27, 1943. The CIB was designed to enhance morale and the prestige of the "Queen of Battle."

Then Secretary of War Henry M. Stimson said: "It is high time we recognized in a personal way the skill and heroism of the American infantry."

Sculptor Trygve Rovelstad designed the attractive badge. Along with the CIB came the blue infantry shoulder chord and blue disk backing for enlisted infantry branch insignia.

CIBs have been available to combat infantrymen in four major wars and seven other military actions. What was true of WWII still applies to El Salvador and future actions—this prestigious; award is for grunts only.

Source: *VFW Magazine*, April 1998



(Continued from page 8)

## MARINES INVADE GUADALCANAL

On 7 August 1942 the 1st Marine Division successfully invaded Guadalcanal, Tulagi and adjacent islands. The captured airfield was named Henderson Field and was put in use for Marine and Navy aircraft. Troops of the Americal Division were anticipating their deployment there.

On 14 August 1942 a B-17 bomber crashed on the beach southwest of Poom. A series of regimental patrols were sent out to find the downed B17, which was eventually found.

## READY FOR THE JAPANESE INVASION

Following the Midway Island battle on 3-4 June 1942, and the Japanese loss of four fighting carriers, the Imperial General Headquarters forever discharged the Japanese 17th Army and the Japanese Second Fleet commanders from the objective of taking New Caledonia, Fiji Islands, and the Samoan Islands.

On 18 July 1942 the American Defense Force was alerted again. Intelligence reports indicated enemy air reconnaissance at the north tip of the island. On 19 July 1942 the Second Battalion was moved to Koumac to defend the Koumac airport. How well the men remember the Koumac caves. On 23 July 1942 continual enemy air reconnaissance was reported. A strong suspicion was held that enemy spies on New Caledonia were communicating with the Japanese. To improve secrecy the coastwatcher radios were taken over from the French by personnel of the regiment.

On 28 July 1942 the trawler "Jack Cam" piloted by Master Glacrian was turned over to the regiment to be used in connection with the supplying of outposts that were difficult to reach by land routes. Later the trawler Crystal Star came under regimental control. Cpl. Markiewicz received training to operate the small boat and to replace the trawler's engineer.

On 29 July 1942 the north sector of the island was designated and the regimental commander named as sector commander. On 31 July 1942 unidentified ships were reported in the vicinity of the east coast. Operation of all remaining French radios was taken over by the regiment and radio personnel was replaced by regimental personnel. Army telephone operators replaced French operators in the local government telephone exchanges in order to make the island communication system secure and available to the military defense. The change in operators was made with the sanction of the local authorities.

## THE HEPATITIS EPIDEMIC

During the months of April, May, and June 1942, a large epidemic of infectious hepatitis occurred; approximately 80 percent of the troops were infected. The medical department attributed the epidemic to hepatitis virus infected serum from the yellow fever vaccination given in March and April, 1942.

(Continued on page 15)

## DEDICATION STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The dedication ceremony for the stained glass windows in the Father Tracy Chapel, Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, North Dakota, will be held June 14, 1998 at 1300 hours (1 PM). A reception will follow the ceremony. The 188th Army band will provide appropriate music for the ceremony and at the reception.

The Tracy Chapel will be open at 8:00 AM for Catholic Mass conducted by Chaplain Brian Donahue, Fargo, North Dakota and Chief Chaplin Jeff Franko, Major, NDARNG will conduct Protestant services at 9:00 AM.

Major General Keith D. Bjerke extends a cordial invitation to all former members of the 164th infantry to attend the dedication ceremonies. Through Major General Bjerke's office and the Chaplains and the Chaplain Assistants, North Dakota National Guard invitations have been sent to Governor Schafer, members of the North Dakota Legislature and various other dignitaries.

Two of the stained glass windows in the Tracy Chapel dedicated to the 164th Infantry were funded by individual members of the 164th Infantry Association. Forty-five association members contributed \$2300 plus to the windows. The names of the individuals making a contribution will be placed on a plaque in the Tracy Chapel.

Members of Father Tracy's family have been invited to attend the dedication ceremonies.

## TRACY RELATIVES

In a telephone interview with Winnie Tracy, Father Tracy's niece, she said the Tracy clan was from St. Paul, Minnesota is planning to attend the dedication ceremony at the Tracy Chapel in Camp Grafton, North Dakota.

Winnie stated that the following Tracy relatives will possibly be in attendance; nephew Jim Tracy, wife Maryann and daughter Tara, nephew Patrick Tracy and wife Barbara, grandnephew Timothy and wife Gaylene.



Ship-to-shore communications to direct naval gun fire onto Japanese positions. U.S. Destroyer off Guadalcanal 1942-43. U.S. soldier with walkie-talkie on shore. Very effective method for hitting enemy positions.





# Last Roll Call



*I thank you for the love you each have shown, but now it's time I traveled on alone.  
So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must, then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It's only a while that we must part, so bless the memories within your heart.  
I won't be far away, for life goes on. So if you need me, call and I will hear.*

*Author Unknown*

**Gerald Viesteny**

Casselton, N.D. (28, Apr. 97)

**Henry L. Carmin**

Ayr, Neb. (21, Nov. 97)

**Roger A. Nauman**

Fairbault, M.N. (8, Dec. 97)

**Edward Splysicrfer**

Edegley, N.D. (20, Jan. 98)

**Albert Sevigny**

Lengby, M.N. (30, Dec. 97)

C Company

"Al" Sevigny was one of Five Sevignys that served in "C" Company from Grafton, N.D. There were two sets of brothers Albert, Henry, and Camille were brothers. The other sets of Sevigny brothers were Roch and Woodrow. Of course, this relationship made them cousins. The Sevigny clan had a total of a dozen Sevignys from the Grafton, N.D., community in WWII. They were all related as first cousins or brothers. They all spoke fluent French. Albert Sevigny's knowledge of French landed him a unique spot in New Caledonia. In New Caledonia, a former French Penal Colony, the primary language was French. There was a need for a French-speaking individual from the Regiment to act as liaison with the Free French Government. Albert was ordered to report to Gendarme Lear, a French police officer stationed at Piata, New Caledonia. Gendarme Lear had a colorful background as he had retired as a Sgt. from the French Foreign Legion. "Al" Sevigny rejoined the Regiment on Guadalcanal. He arrived on the USS Alchiba AKA-6 which was torpedoed off Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, December 1942. "Al" Sevigny was assigned to the I & R Platoon (Intelligence & Reconnaissance) generally called Recon Platoon.

**Richard G. Stout**

H. Company Dillon, M.T. (23, Oct. 97)

**Max W. Foerster**

1951 Graduate University of North Dakota  
N.D. State Adjutant 1952 to 1956  
For Disabled American Veterans  
D Company- Purple Heart & Bronze Star  
Fargo, N.D. (18, Feb. 98)

**Fred Pagelhopf**

M. Company  
Chaska, M.N. (22, Feb. 98)

**James E. Nelson**

Drayton, M.D. (23, Mar. 98)

**Joseph Burgad**

Napoleon, N.D. (17, April 98)  
E. Company-Life member of the DAV, Wounded in the Philippines, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, President Branstad School Board for several years. Buried in Veterans Cemetery, Mandan, N.D.

**William "Bill" C. Meline**

Hillsboro, North Dakota (April 17, 1998)  
Meline was born May 31, 1905, near Soderhamn in Haslingland, Sweden. Bill Meline, with his parents, brothers and sisters, arrived in the United States in 1913. The family eventually settled on a farm near Hillsboro, North Dakota, located in Trail County. Bill attended local elementary schools ending his formal education upon the completion of the eighth grade.

In 1923, Meline joined the regular Army. He served with the Third Infantry at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. This unit known as the "Old Guard", currently serves in the nations capitol and is most well known as the Guardians of the Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers. In the Army, Bill excelled in rifle marksmanship and qualified to compete at Camp Perry. There he was successful in winning the highly coveted President's Medal.

Bill became a Captain in the National Guard on February 10, 1941 when the 164th Infantry Regiment was called to active duty. After the 164th Infantry arrived in New Caledonia it became part of the newly formed Americal Division.

The 164th Infantry was sent to Guadalcanal, Soloman Islands to reinforce the embattled First Marine Division. The Korean War broke out and Bill volunteered to go back on active duty. Meline saw action in Korea and at the conclusion of his tour of duty, he returned to Hillsboro, North Dakota. Meline concluded his military service in National Guard units in Hibbing and St. Cloud, Minnesota. Meline retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1958. A splendid and dedicated service from an immigrant boy from Sweden.



# Membership Status

## Male

590 Members  
174 Life members  
400 Current members  
14 Not current  
Report from Ben Kemp- Sec./Treas.

## Female

42 Members  
12 Life members  
28 Current members  
2 Not current

## New Members

Vernon H. Buck ..... Emporia, KS ..... 6 Feb 98  
Anti Tank Co. March '42-July '45  
  
James A. Bunce ..... Minneapolis, MN ..... 17 Feb 98  
Francis Byrn ..... Scottsville, KY ..... 21 Mar98  
John D. Chepmer ..... Longview, TX ..... 5 Apr 98  
James P. Curran ..... Worcesfere, MA ..... 22 Mar 98  
Francis E. Dohl ..... Sidney, MT ..... 8 Feb 98  
Erling A. Dohl ..... Hettinger, ND ..... 24 Feb98  
Harold S. Eberle ..... Angeles, WA ..... 8 Feb 98  
Tom English ..... Fargo, ND ..... 28 Feb 98  
Roy Fries (LM) ..... Warren, MI ..... 13 Jan 98

Daniel Hoisler(LM) ..... Devil's Lake, ND ..... 29 Jan 98  
Jerome L. Johnson (LM) ..... Jamestown, ND ..... 3 Feb 98  
Edward J. Keller ..... Anamosa, IA ..... 21 Feb 98  
Clinton R. Knofl (LM) ..... Lenexa, KS ..... 24 Feb98  
George Kuczko ..... Wrepton, IL ..... 19 Jan 98  
Stanley Lee ..... Seattle, WA ..... 17 Feb 98  
Edward C. Otto ..... Willmor, MN ..... 4 Feb 98  
Nat Rogan Sr. ..... Los Angeles, CA ..... 6 Feb 98  
Robert A. Shea ..... Vero Beach, CA ..... 23 Feb 98  
William P. Welonder (LM) ..... Umpville, OR ..... 2 Feb 98  
David A. Lokken ..... Rogers, ND ..... Feb 98

## New Life Members

Robert Carter ..... Valley City, N.D. .... 09 Jan. 98  
Joe Cuellar ..... Corvular, N.M. .... 09 Mar. 98  
Melba Evanson ..... Minneapolis, M.N. .... 21 Mar. 98  
David L. Corey ..... West Branch, M.I ..... 21 Dec. 97  
Roy Fries ..... Warren, M.I. .... 13 Jan. 98  
Otto E. Heath ..... Anaheim, C.O. .... 26 Mar. 98  
Daniel Heisler ..... Devils Lake, N.D. .... 29 Jan. 98

Jerome L. Johnson ..... Jamestown, N.D. .... 3 Feb. 98  
Albert Olenberger ..... Rapid City, S.D. .... 2 Feb. 98  
Gordon Otteson ..... Bismarck, N.D. .... 26 Mar. 98  
William P. Welander ..... Umatilla, O.R. .... 2 Feb. 98  
Clinton P. Kraft ..... Lewexa, K.S. .... 24 Feb. 98  
William T. Breenahan ..... St. Augustine, FL.

## NEW MEMBERS/NEW LIFE MEMBERS

One of the many arduous duties while serving as Vice President of the association is to chair the membership committee.

It is my pleasure to welcome the new life members and new members to the 164th Infantry Association. The cost of membership is minuscule compared to the price you have paid to be eligible to Join the 164th Association.

Secretary Kemp has told me of several surprise applications for membership. One individual who lives in North Dakota and had served in the Regiment In WWII. Just joined the 164th Association stating he didn't know we even existed. Some of our new members learned about the organization when they joined the American Division Association and the Guadalcanal Veterans. Others have discovered the 164th Association while cruising the Internet "Chat Rooms".

The point that I wish to make is, there are a lot of eligible people that are potential members for the 164th Association. It would be appreciated if each member would check the membership directory for names of friends that have served with you. If you know of someone that you have served with and they are not listed In the membership directory please make us aware of this and personally invite them to join the 164th Association.

Reviewing the list for the last roll call, highlights there is a need for new members to carry on the comradeship of the 164th Association for a few more years. Our ranks are getting thin, we wish this were true of our bodies! We aren't as lean and mean as we were fifty-seven years ago.

Looking over the delinquent 1998 dues list' the membership is small, only 13 members are AWOL.

Again. welcome to all the new members and I hope to see you in Bismarck at the 53rd Annual Reunion.

Sincerely,

Ralph Gaugler

Vice President

Chair Membership Committee

# The Wheel

A. K.A-Tiller

By Gordon St. Claire

October 1942, while stationed on Guadalcanal, I was driving a jeep along the coast near the east end of Henderson Air Field. I noticed a Higgin's boat beached. An artillery shell had hit the front end and the boat was swaying back and forth with the waves. I also noticed a wheel turning as the boat swung back and forth. It took me an hour or so to remove the wheel from its steering gear. Why I ever removed the wheel is a mystery to me. What I planned for it was not quite decided yet. I placed the wheel in the jeep with other equipment such as EE8 field telephone and hand grenades and roll of telephone wire. There it remained forgotten.

Colonel Baglein was ordered back to the states in Dec. 1942. Being a good friend and also his personal chauffeur, he called me to help him pack his personal belongings. I remember the very words he used when he called, "Slats (I was slim and trim at that time) would you come down and help me pack, I'm getting out of this rotten place!" So I helped. He would go into his tent and bring uniforms and other items to be packed. He had four wooden crates in which to pack all of his belongings. We packed three of the crates quite easily. The fourth had some extra space. While he was in the tent looking for more stuff to pack, I was leaning against the jeep waiting for more items. I happened to notice the wheel. So I sized up the situation and figured the wheel would fit nicely in the bottom of the fourth crate. I neatly covered it with some of the Col.'s uniforms, and completely forgot about it. The war continued on.

1943-I had a nice stay in the Fiji Islands. It was in Bouganville 1944 that I was lucky enough to have my name drawn out of a hat for a trip back to the good old USA. My good buddy and neighbor from my hometown of Fargo, Kenny Lindberg, was also picked to go home. We were shipped back to Guadalcanal and from there we boarded the Isle de France back to the USA, arriving in San Francisco in July of 1944. Kenny was also responsible for my meeting a nice lady, who eventually became my wife of fifty-three years. Kenny and I were sent to Fort San Houston for reassignment. Kenny was then sent to Fort Benning and I was sent to Camp Blanding in Florida as training cadre. After being in Camp Blanding for a couple of weeks, I got a telephone call from camp headquarters. It was a good friend from Hillsboro, ND, Colonel Sam Baglein. He had been assigned to Camp headquarters and after looking through the records of training cadre, he had spotted my name. Colonel Baglein invited me and a good buddy from Casselton, ND, Red Kilpatrick, to join him and his family for dinner and refreshments. The Colonel and his family lived in Stark, Florida, a little town bordering the camp. We had a few glasses of buttermilk and a delicious dinner served by Mrs. Baglein.

It was about this time that the wheel came back to refresh our minds of things passed. Before Red and I were ready to leave, the Colonel said, "Slats", just a minute, and he



*Gordon St. Claire holding the Tiller from a Higgin's Boat that had been beached near Henderson Air field in 1942.*

disappeared into the closet only to reappear with the wheel from the Higgin's boat. I guess when Mrs. Baglein unpacked the crates, she couldn't figure out why her husband would bring back a wheel from over seas. The Col., knowing that I would pull a few tricks every now and then, knew immediately who was responsible for the mysterious wheel. The Col. gave me the wheel and I've carried it around moving from state to state for the last fifty some years. While in Minot, ND, for our fifty-second reunion, I talked to Jim Fenelon who had an interest in the wheel and a few ideas as to what it could be used for. The wheel/tiller will be placed in the Military Heritage Center, University of N.D. at Grand Forks.

*Ed. note: The wheel/tiller is the steering apparatus for a landing craft called a Higgins boat. The tiller is 26 inches in diameter and weighs about 7 or 8 pounds. There are 6 spokes for the Navy coxswain to steer the Higgins Craft to the beach. One spoke has 3 grooves on it. Apparently this spoke is used to center the tiller. A check at a local lumber yard—the alleged experts believed that the tiller was made from walnut wood. A close examination revealed that the tiller was manufactured by the A.S. Burman Co., Chicago, Ill. No date but must have been before 1942 as St. Claire liberated the tiller in October 1942 while on Guadalcanal. Probably the best place for the tiller is in the Military Heritage Center, University of North Dakota, along with other documents of the 164th.*



# 53 RD ANNUAL REUNION/164TH ANNUAL REUNION

On May 5, 1998, "Bernie" Wagner, President, 164th Infantry Association, held a planning meeting for the 53rd Annual Reunion of the 164th Association at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck, North Dakota. The reunion dates are set for October 9th, 10th, and 11th, 1998 at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Twelve members of the reunion committee were present. President Wagner made the following committee assignments; Ewald Heisler - Treasurer, Frank Weisgerber and Neyl McClure - Registration, Don Robinson- Chairman for catered meals and special events, George W. "Woody" Gagnon- Memorial Services, Vernon F. Fetch - Special Guests, Ben Kemp - Color Guard and Transportation to Vet's Cemetery, and Jim Fenelon Editor and Publicity.

The ladies program will be led by Lone Towne and assisted by Donna Kjonaas and Lorraine Kemp. Lone and her committee have a fine entertainment program arranged for the ladies luncheon along with twenty-five special surprise gifts for the ladies attending.

The tentative plans for the 53rd Annual Reunion will open with registration at 1 PM, Friday, October 9, 1998, with an attitude readjustment hour from 5 - 6 PM and a dance that night. The music will be provided by members of the 188th Army band. Hopefully the music at the dance will be amendable to the music that the association members danced to in the 40's and early 50's.

Saturday, October 10, 1998, registration will open at 8:00 AM, a continental breakfast will be served. The Memorial Service starts at 9:00 AM, posting of the colors, last roll call and taps, all wives and guests are welcome to attend this event.

The annual business session, Secretary/Treasurer reports, committee reports, election of officers and resolutions will be under way by 10:00 AM. Refreshments will be served at the men's luncheon that will follow the close of the business meeting. If any of the members have any resolutions or subjects for discussion at the business session, please forward them to President Bernie Wagner or Ben Kemp, Secretary/Treasurer.

Lone Towne stated the ladies luncheon will start at 12:00 noon and should be finished by 2:00 PM on Saturday with the entertainment and special gift presentation.

- 5:00 - 6:00 PM Saturday, attitude adjustment period.

- 7:00 - Midnight, Banquet, entertainment, dancing and company pictures

- 7:00-10:00 AM Sunday, Breakfast---Auf Wiedersehen

Information about religious services is available at registration desk. Transportation will be available for those that desire to visit the Veterans Cemetery and the 164 Infantry Memorial.

The poem Fighting 164th by Howard G. Van Tassel, has been placed on the chapel wall at the cemetery along with his picture and a list of the 164th KIA's. This is a very impressive tribute to the 164th. Howard G. Van tassel, while serving in I Company on Guadalcanal composed the poem while in a fox hole. He sent the poem to his mother, who had it published in the local newspaper in the Whapeton Breckenridge area. Many thanks to "Bernie" Wagner and Ben Kemp for all the work they have done in resolving this dedicated mother.

In your plans to attend the 53rd Annual Reunion in Bismarck, you might want to consider visiting some of the points of interests in the area. State Capitol guided tours are available on the hour, free of charge and lasting roughly 45 minutes. From the capitol observation deck one can see, approximately 35 miles of the beautiful rolling prairie and the mighty Missouri River, on a clear day. If you want a guided tour of the Capitol on Saturday afternoons this can be arranged.

The next high point is the Heritage Center on the capitol grounds with no admission, self-guided tours. This is truly an interesting collection of the various cultures in North Dakota well worth seeing.

The Custer House and Fort Lincoln will be open for viewing if enough people want to see the place where "Brevet Major General" Custer led the 7th calvary to the Little Bighorn and received a haircut from the Great Sioux Nation.

If you are inclined to take a chance with Lady Luck the Prairie Knights Casino is 44 miles south of Mandan, North Dakota on highway 1806 the Lewis and Clark area when they traveled up the river and wintered in North Dakota.

Final details on hotel room costs and registration data will be in the September issue of the 1 64th news.



"Fire one" - H. Company 81 mortar crew near Point Cruz, Guadalcanal. Nov. 1942.



"Coffin Corner," right flank of 2nd Bn., 164th, right flank of Col. "Chesty" Puller' marine, 7th Marines. Burying detail after the Oct. 23-24, 1942, battle. The Japanese attacked at night screaming "Banzai, you die." Approximately 155 dead Japs hurried in this hole dug by shovels of the 164th. Not a pleasant job as the dead had been lying there for a day or two in the hot tropical sun.



# Can You Help?

164th Infantry - Medical Battalion

My Father is, Genarino Errichiello, is currently undergoing chemo-therapy for cancer and I am trying to piece together the facts of his war experience.

My father entered the army in April of 1941 and was discharged in September of 1945. He went overseas with the 121 Medical Battalion and later served in the 164th Infantry.

If you knew my father I would appreciate hearing from you. Call or write:

David Errichiello  
34 Alden Road  
Weymouth, MA 02188  
Telephone: 617-340-9182

**Also if you'd like to, you can reach these people at their below addresses.**

164th Co. A. Terry Dailey, claygov1@grove.net, P.O. Box 83, Haysville, NC 28904, (704)389-4128.

Anyone, 164th, B Company, Nick Ostapchuk, njhaller@aol.com, 582 Romona Street, Rochester, NY 14615-3232.



*Lt. Col. Arthur C. Timboe, Devils Lake, N.D., with 3 native scouts, Guadalcanal. In the background can be seen a Japanese warehouse that contained a supply of rice. Apparently some type of barter was underway as the lead scout has a pipe and apparently a can of tobacco.*



*Capt. Kieth and Major Yancy, medical officers, 164th. These medical officers tended the wounded on the Koli Point operation, Guadalcanal, Nov. 1942. The doctors had to walk along with the rest of the Infantry. The MDs carried out their duties under very trying conditions in the jungle.*



*Photo By: Ray Patton-A. Co.  
Last night it was a Jap troop ship. Nov. 13/14-'42, Point Cruz, Guadalcanal. Members of A Co. 164th watching the demise of Jap Ship.*

*Beer Ration Day On Bouganville D Company 164th Infantry. (l to r) John Cross, Brooklyn, NY; John Marcos, Chicago IL; Bob Shea, Hartford CT; and Herb --, NM. (Memory Slipped on the last name of Herb(maybe it was the beer or the 56 years; it has been a long time!). Bob Shea (a new member is from Vero Beach, CA. He served in the 164th Infantry from 1943-1945. Thank you, Bob, for the association and the picture.*



*(continued from page 10)*

Throughout the occupation of New Caledonia, cooperation both from the government and citizens increased. The good-will of the Kanaks was due to the discipline enforced in areas around military installations, with particular attention to property rights and customs of the residents be they French Colonials or Kanaks. The major cause in establishing goodwill was the gratuitous medical treatment willingly given to large numbers of Kanaks, the French Colonials and other Islanders by the regimental surgeon, Dr. John V. Belmonte, through his battalion aid stations.

## THE NEW ZEALAND BOMBER PILOTS

Shortly after the regiment's arrival in New Caledonia, the airfield at Koumac was destroyed. This was done because the Japanese were aware of its exact location. Moreover the airfield was located in an area impractical to defend. However, early in July, with plans being made for the Guadalcanal operations, the field was ordered rebuilt. From the airfield the New Zealand Air Force flew Lockheed Hudson Bombers as patrol planes. They flew out of Koumac for hours of patrol duty over the Coral Sea. Many soldiers would hitch rides as a tail gunner.

FINIS NEW CALEDONIA

NEXT STOP GUADALCANAL



