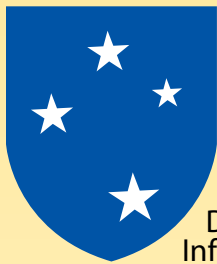


The Americal Lineage



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. Redesignated 1 December 1954 as Headquarters, 23rd Infantry Division, and allotted to the Regular Army. Activated 2 December 1954 at Fort Amador, Canal Zone. Inactivated 10 April 1956 at Fort Amador, Canal Zone. Redesignated 25 September 1967 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 23rd Infantry Division, and activated in Vietnam. Inactivated 29 November 1971 at Fort Lewis, Washington.

In World War II the division was only known as the Americal Division. In the Cold War the division was only known as the 23rd Infantry Division. In the Vietnam War the division was known by both names, but it was primarily known as the Americal Division.

The Americal Legacy

Sixty-seven years have passed since the Americal Division was first activated in 1942. We know the lineage of the Americal Division, but what is its legacy?

In November 1945 returning World War II veterans formed an organization they named the Americal Division, Inc. The name of this organization was later renamed to the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA). We know the history of the ADVA, but what is its legacy?

A legacy is a gift that one leaves behind for the benefit of generations that follow. It is a bequest passed on from a predecessor that may benefit the recipient for many years. What will the Americal Division and the ADVA leave as a gift for the many generations that will follow?

The legacy that will be left will be that left by the members of the ADVA. No one else will do it. If the members of the ADVA do not do it, it will not be done. It is now the time for the ADVA to create its legacy and the legacy of the Americal Division.

A Call for Immediate Action

The current ADVA membership ranges in age from about 60 years old to more than 100 years old. The time to establish the Americal legacy is now. And it is urgent that you give your full support to this worthwhile effort

Commander David W. Taylor formed the Americal Legacy Committee earlier this year. The committee members include present and former officers of the ADVA. They are committed to developing and executing a plan that will be the pride of all Americal Division members. A central element of the plan is



the erection of fitting monuments to all who served in the Americal Division and 23rd Infantry Division.

The initial action of the Legacy Committee is to design and build a fitting memorial to be erected at the Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, GA. Officials at the museum have sent a call to all infantry divisions to be represented on the Walk of Honor. The Americal Division will be one of the first units with a new memorial on the museum grounds. Plans for the Americal Division monument are well under way and need your immediate support.

The Committee

The Legacy Committee is composed of the following members: Roger Gilmore, National Adjutant, Chairman; David W. Taylor, National Commander, Rich Merlin, Past Far West Chapter Commander; Wayne Bryant, Product Sales Director, Lee Kaywork, Southeast Chapter Commander; and PNC Gary L. Noller, Editor-in-Chief.

The committee had its first live meeting at the June 2009 reunion in Shreveport-Bossier City, LA. The most common mode of communication is through e-mail messages. The committee communicates regularly and sometimes several times a day. The committee is dedicated to taking all necessary steps to create and complete the Americal monument in the immediate future--- months, not years.

The Design

The monument to be erected at Ft. Benning will be made up of several parts. The platform of the monument will be a decorated shield-shaped concrete slab approximately 20 feet by 35 feet. A three panel stone wall approximately 10 feet high by 18 feet long will be erected along the straight edge of the shield. Two benches and a stone pedestal will be placed in front of the wall. A raised horizontal

three feet by five feet shoulder patch insignia with complete the design.

The wall panels are composed of gray granite with black granite overlays. Distinctive full-color unit insignias are prominently displayed on the panels. A brief history of the division in each of the three eras of activation is carved into the stone wall. Visitors will get a concise synopsis of the dates, locations, units, missions, and achievements of the Americal Division and 23rd Infantry Division.

The pedestal will recognize the valor of Americal Division soldiers who were awarded the Medal of Honor. The detail will include the recipients name, unit, date, and location at the time of the action. Eleven Americal Division soldiers received the Medal of Honor in Vietnam, one soldier received it in World War II.

One bench will recognize the creation of the Americal Division shoulder patch. The other bench will recognize the creation of the name Americal. The inscriptions on the benches will include the names of the soldiers credited with creating the Americal name and the Americal patch.

The large shoulder patch insignia will be raised above the surrounding platform and will be in full color. A plaque will describe the patch and explain the significance of the motto "Under the Southern Cross".

Fundraising Is Underway

Fundraising for Legacy Committee projects is now in progress. A silent auction at the 2009 reunion resulted in over \$2,000 in funds. A commemorative Americal Division knife is now available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale of the knife will go to the legacy fund.

In November 2009 the committee mailed a 2010 Americal Division calendar to all ADVA members with an appeal for donations to the legacy fund. And the committee is making a direct appeal to all ADVA members and interested members of the public to contribute generously towards the work of creating the Americal legacy.



Underwriters Are Needed

The committee is seeking significant donations to help underwrite the initial project. Donations of \$5,000 or more will receive special recognition. Major donors will be given credit for underwriting the portions of the monument. The following components are available for underwriting: The platform, each of three panels of the wall, the two benches, the Medal of Honor pedestal, and the raised shoulder patch insignia, and the inscriptions and decorations.

As of October 1, 2009 the South Midwest Chapter has indicated that it will underwrite the Medal of Honor Pedestal with a donation of at least \$5,000. Major donations are also being made by the East Chapter and the Southeast Chapter.

Why Should We Do It?

It is hard to estimate the number of men and women who served in the Americal Division and the 23rd Infantry Division. Perhaps it was as many as 200,000. It is a known fact that over 5,000 were killed in action. They deserve to be honored with lasting monuments to their valor, courage, and sacrifice.

No one else will do this but us. It will not be done by the government. It will not be done by the Army. It will not be done by a museum or by a civic group. It is up to us and to us alone to see that the legacy of thousands of brave Americal soldiers is established. It is our duty. It is our obligation.

What You Can Do

You can support this project and the projects to follow by providing generous financial support to the legacy fund. Urge others that you know to do the same. There is no amount too large and there is no amount too small. Your donations are appreciated very much. Don't give until it hurts, give until it feels good!

Do not let the Americal Division and the 23rd Infantry Division be left out. We owe it to all who were lost while wearing the Southern Cross shoulder patch. And we owe it to ourselves. **Please act now.**

