

Notes

Four pages are missing from this issue;
the front and back covers,
both inside and outside.

There is a note on p. 9 that explains
The red square on p. 4 of the
1968 Fall issue.

BIG DEAL IN DES MOINES
 Reunion Program Features First Class Entertainment

IDEN JOHNSON IS REUNION CHAIRMAN



JERRY CUNCONAN
 Magician
 Friday - July 25 - 7:15 P.M.



PAT & IDEN JOHNSON
 2210 West 3rd Street
 Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Born at Mapleton, Iowa, Iden entered the Army on June 14, 1943, then received medic basic at Camp Berkeley, Texas. He shipped out from Camp Stoneman for New Caledonia during the summer of 1944, finally joining the 96th on Leyte, P.I.

After being shuffled around for a while, first as a rifleman, then medic in 383-D, Johnson worked out a transfer to 383-1st Bn. Hq. as a wire-linesman.

Iden married Pat after the war. They have three daughters, Cathy (17), Susanne (12) and Becky (10). In the meantime, Johnson received a B.A. Degree in Economics from S. U. I., Iowa City, Iowa.

He is a jobber salesman for Continental Oil Company in Northeast Iowa.



DR. WILBUR SCHAEFFER
 Busy Scientist - Banquet Speaker
 Saturday - July 26 - 7:00 P.M.



RALPH ZARNOW
 Dance Orchestra
 Saturday - July 26 - 9:30 P.M.



SHIRLEE KEVER
 Girl-Type Vocalist
 With Ralph Zarnow Orchestra

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TOUR Number 1

Two of the most highly respected magazines in the United States, *Successful Farming* and *Better Homes and Gardens*, are published by Meredith at the Des Moines locations. *Successful Farming*, the foundation upon which the company was built, is specifically edited for innovating, pacemaking, high producing farmers—those who manage the top one-third of the nation's farms and produce 82 percent of the U.S. agricultural output.

Located in a large, ultramodern plant in Des Moines, *Meredith Printing* produces the finished material for the Meredith magazine and book divisions, as well as contract printing for other publishers.

**July 25, 1969 P.M.
REUNION TOURS
of unusual interest**

American Republic is licensed in 48 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico...and presently ranks 11th in premium income among the more than 900 companies in its field.



American Republic
INSURANCE COMPANY
DES MOINES, IOWA

TOUR Number 2



The National Headquarters Building

The new National Headquarters Building of American Republic is progressive, pioneering architecture. It has been called elegant in its simplicity. The Company has chosen not to employ "decorative arts" to embellish its halls, walls and offices. Instead, the building "comes alive" through the use of fine contemporary art.

The collection of oil paintings and graphics was created by over one hundred artists considered to be among the best of our time. Included are major works

by Alexander Calder, Hans Hofmann, Barbara Hepworth, LeCorbusier and Andy Warhol. Good contemporary art, expressing our time and created by artists who have the courage to explore and experiment, helps lead the people of American Republic to continued provocative thought. Further, in our mechanized, computerized, automated, corporate world, the art that hangs throughout the building is a constant reminder of human values and the dignity of the individual.

TOURS ARE SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, JULY 25. Schedule of events has been arranged to provide opportunity for everyone to take both tours. Busses will load on schedule. One-half of the touring group will visit the American Republic Insurance Company while the other half of the group will be at the Meredith Corporation, then switch places. PLAN TO SEE TWO OF THE LARGEST BUSINESS OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.



PROFILE

Lt. Col. Robert R. Glenn
1464 Palmer
Plymouth, Michigan 48171

Colonel Glenn was Commanding Officer of the 921st Field Artillery Battalion during the Leyte and Okinawa campaigns. The speed with which his men operated gave the Japs the idea we possessed "automatic" artillery pieces. For example, the cannoneers fed their pieces so fast that their 12 guns belched out 868 rounds in twenty minutes to break up an enemy counter-attack on Catmon Hill.

The 921st was the first battalion to fire a mission on both Leyte and Okinawa.

ELSIE AND THE COLONEL

Editor's Note: The following story was written by Colonel Glenn. He had been asked to relate some of the experiences which were involved with his military career, but he modestly omitted any reference to the lustrous reputation for leadership that he gained among the men who served in his unit, also, throughout the 96th Division.

THE WAY IT HAPPENED

Some people may say that it was just an accident, others will insist that I became an Artilleryman by mistake. Here is one version of how it came about.

When I enrolled at the University of Missouri my advisor asked whether I wanted to take Infantry or Artillery R. O. T. C. I answered neither, because I could think of better ways to spend my time. He informed me that I had to take one or the other. When I asked him what the difference was, he said that the infantryman marched and carried a rifle, while the Artilleryman rode a horse. So I chose the Artillery because they had a polo team and I liked to play. After completing the two years which were required, someone asked if I wanted to take two years of advanced training. I said yes. They made a mistake and gave me a commission before I graduated.

I was active in the Reserves and even went to the battery officers course at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in 1933. Later, I was offered six months duty with the CCC in the Black Hills of South Dakota, a place that I had wanted to see. That tour ended four years and six months later.

We went back to Missouri, then I started in the electrical contracting business. About two years later, a man came in and offered to me a job as traveling salesman for an electrical supply wholesaler dealing mainly in construction lines.

Just prior to WW II, I received a letter from Reserve Headquarters informing me that I had been selected for one year of active duty at Camp Roberts, California. I was afraid not to accept, for there were implications that those in charge could find something worse. The Japs hit Pearl Harbor only three weeks before I was scheduled to get out.

WITH THE DEADEYES

Someone put me on the 96th Division cadre. My first assignment was as Executive Officer of the 363d F. A. where I served under Col. Counihan. Some of the second lieutenants had come to Camp Roberts as recruits. I was on the board that had selected them for OCS; now they were wearing their gold bars. Later, I saw more than a few of these men killed on Okinawa.

I was transferred to the 921st F. A. while we were at Yakima, Washington and remained with them until the war ended. That was a real outfit. I gave all of the officers "superior" ratings, but Division would not accept that. I still think that the 921st was a superior outfit.

(continued)

Hard Times

After Okinawa, I was sent home by way of the 31st Division. Although I had completed 20 years in the Reserves, I was talked into organizing an 8" howitzer battalion at Columbia, Missouri. We were identified as the 816th F. A. Battalion. In 1950 we were called up and sent to Camp Polk, Louisiana. Just before we were to be sent to Europe, I was transferred to the 567th F. A. (all Black). They were the cast-offs from other units. That was a horrible nightmare for me.

One of the problems that I had was to keep the men on their feet. The battalion staff had to go out to help the battery commanders keep them up.

I had decided that a few problem men were nothing to worry about. But I was confronted with a situation in which there were no good non-coms and the men were worse.

One day I was out helping the battery commanders when I came across one of the men sleeping with his machine gun laying on the ground. I nudged him with my boot - not as hard as I wished. He looked up. I wanted to be sure that he was awake before trying to get him squared away, so I asked him if he knew who I was. He blinked at me and said: "Yes sir, I knows you, Colonel - you don't need no introduction." I wanted to laugh, but just walked away. He may still be there.

I was made Artillery Group Executive Officer. In December, 1951, I was transferred to the Training Center at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. My assignment was as battalion commander of a medium tank battalion until July, 1952, when I requested relief from active duty.

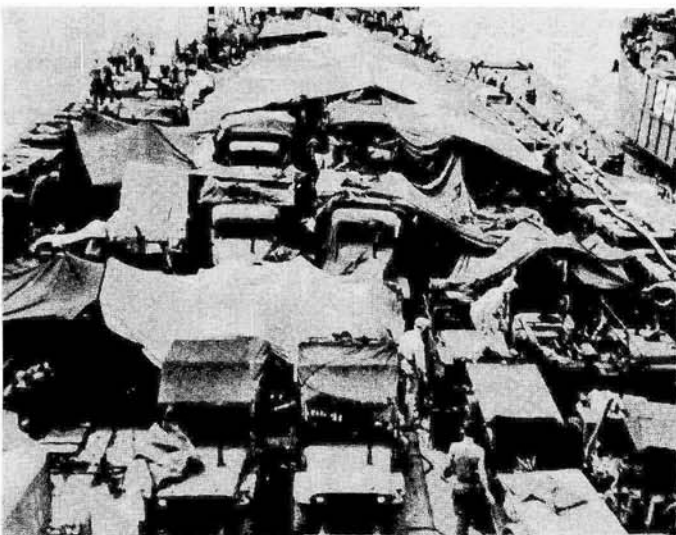
FOOT-LOOSE

My post-war civilian career had been with the General Electric Company, amounting to 17 years employment when I took an early retirement in 1966.

Since our children were grown and established, we sold our house and bought a 30' travel trailer and went on the road. This past winter we were parked near Edwards Air Force Base, California where our youngest son is stationed. His rank is captain. While in Viet Nam, he received the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Bob, Jr., is a major with the Third Air Division on Guam. Our daughter, Mrs. William W. Porter, and family live in Michigan.

As we roam around the country, we call our old friends, but never stay with them because we have our beds with us. Last winter we were in Florida. One of our next trips will be to Oregon, Washington and Canada. We expect to start East and may go through the Black Hills on the way to the reunion in Des Moines.

921st ON THE WAY TO THE TARGET

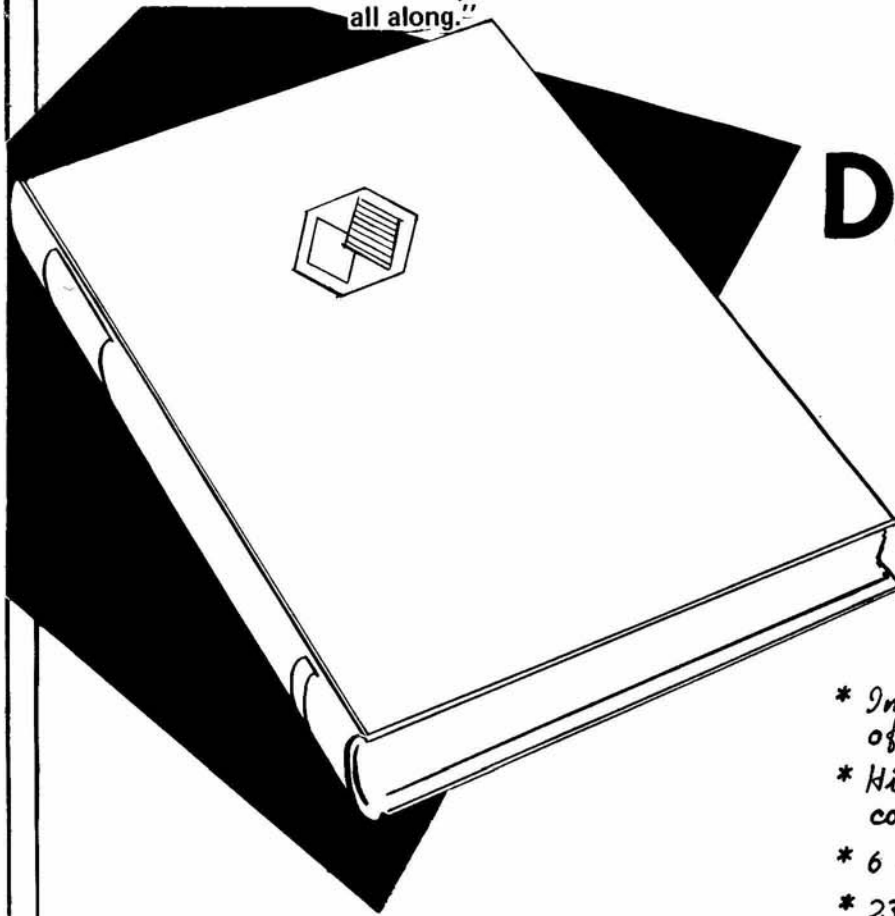


This picture, taken from the bridge of an LST, shows how the bulk of the 921st Field Artillery Battalion, as did many other battalions, traveled to the invasion of Leyte. More than a hundred troops lived topside among all these vehicles, trailers, equipment, cans of water and nearly 4,000 gallons of high-test gasoline. The men lived this way for approximately fifty days in the trip from Hawaii to the Philippines, leaving the ship only once for an afternoon of swimming on Manus Island in the Admiralties.

Nearly 130 men occupied the hot troop compartments just below deck. On the tank deck below was more equipment, rations and 15,000 rounds of artillery ammunition. On top of the ammunition were 16 DUKW's and 12 howitzers. The troops crossed the equator twice aboard this ship en route to Leyte.

Bulletin!

"At least 500 subscriptions must be paid for before printing can be started. As of April 1st we have received payment for 254. If we do not reach the minimum quota by August 1st of this year, we will very likely have to abandon the project and refund all funds received. Are you holding up the detail? Now is the time to purchase the one for yourself and another for your grandchildren that you intended to do all along."



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COUPONS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE – This format is being used in order that you may be able to preserve important articles for future reference.

ED DAKAN 96th Inf. Div. Assn. P.O. Box 1254 Dubuque, Iowa 52001		MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		CLIP OUT AND MAIL TODAY	
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	TO INSURE PROMPT DELIVERY OF <i>Deadeye Dispatch</i> AND OTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE ADVISE THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS	
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SEND TO RICHARD KLASSEN 929 S. Myrtle Kankakee, Illinois 60901	Send FREE Roster for My Outfit	

STATEMENT

DEADEYE DISPATCH is the official publication of the 96th Infantry Division Association. All Communications should be directed to the Corresponding Secretary or Treasurer who serve as editors.

Aims are to promote activities of the Association and serve its members in every way possible. Your questions, pictures, anecdotes and suggestions are solicited.

If at any time fewer than 10 members are in attendance at a reunion, the Association will be dissolved and any remaining funds will be contributed to Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon.

ASK DAKAN FOR A SUPPLY OF DEADEYE POST CARDS, THEN MAIL THEM TO YOUR BUDDIES. YOU CAN HELP TO BUILD ATTENDANCE IN DES MOINES BY MAILING TO MEN ON YOUR UNIT ROSTER. FREE..... FREE..... FREE..... FREE..... FREE.....

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* * * * *

SNAFU

Mailing of the winter issue 1968 - 1969 DEADEYE Dispatch was delayed because of a short article on page 4 that was the basis for an unfavorable ruling by the Postmaster in Portland, Oregon. He refused to allow the newsletter to go into the mail at the third class rate unless the objectional item was obliterated.

Harold Roetker, who had done an excellent job of printing and who was not at all responsible for the trouble, had to find a way to make corrections on 23 mail bags full of newsletters.

1. Please try to avoid signing in on the large posters showing who is present and their unit. That job will be done by those persons who are working at the registration tables, mostly by Corresponding Secretary, Richard Klassen, himself, who wants to follow his own system.
2. Because your buddies will be trying to locate you in the hotel or nearby areas, it is important that you should report your room number or phone number. A bulletin board will be available in the registration area for messages.
3. Come early and stay late. It will be quite a thrill watching DEADEYES arrive, especially if they happen to be from your company and you can recall what they looked like 23 or more years ago.

PROFILE OF THE PRESIDENT



Robert Fitzpatrick 382-2nd BN. Hq.
 506 W. Madison
 Pontiac, Illinois 61764

Bob married Dorothy in 1952 in Pontiac, Illinois. They have two sons. He has a daughter by a first marriage and has attained the status of a grandfather.

Inducted into the army April 9, 1942 at Fort Hood, Texas, he took basic training with tank destroyers. Then he became a DEADEYE at Camp White, Oregon.

After being discharged in the fall of 1945, Fitzpatrick operated his own trucking company for three years. From 1949 to 1951 he managed an auto supply store in his home town.

His second hitch in the service was the result of a call up in 1960. That time was spent with the MP's at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

He became a policeman in Pontiac, Illinois in 1965.

Rev. Jack H. Bredfeldt 381 - Cn
 St. John's Lutheran Church
 Elkton, Minnesota
 R. 2
 Dexter, Minnesota 55926



This picture was taken from a position close to Catmon Hill early in the campaign on Leyte. Bredfeldt, in the rear, shirtless and with butch haircut, has forgotten the names of the other men in the picture. They were from 381 - G for which he was acting as observer.

Originally from Davenport, Iowa, Bredfeldt joined the Division at Camp White, Oregon. Rev. Bredfeldt became a minister after the war, married wife, Hazel, then after language study in Paris, France, went as a missionary to French Equatorial Africa.

During the subsequent 10 years four girls and two boys were added to his family.

DANIEL W. MILLSAPS, JR.
 115 Fifth Street, S.E.
 Washington, D.C. 20003

Div. Hq. & Hq. Co.

(Drawn by Arthur Foreman enroute to Okinawa)

Originator and first editor of the DEADEYE DISPATCH, Millsaps was principal contributor of pictures and text for the feature article about General Easley starting on the next page.



Editors of the newsletter have been working on various sources of information to develop a series of articles concerned with places overseas that left indelible memories among DEADEYES. The plan is to print pictures and stories to describe the changes that have occurred during the years since the Division was there, also to report whatever traces of the campaigns still show.

SPECIAL REQUEST

If you have any first-hand experiences to tell about General Easley or Colonel May, write to Dakan. He is preparing an anthology for use in forthcoming issues of the newsletter about each of these famous DEADEYES.

EASLEY FAMILY - 1944



INEZ, CLAUDIUS M. EASLEY, JR., THE GENERAL
 At the Railroad Station in San Luis Obispo, California

Mrs. Easley and son, Claudius, Jr., "Sandy", Ret. Col., Army live in Washington, D.C. The biographical sketch of the General was composed by Mrs. Easley.

TRAILER PARKING AT THE REUNION

If you need to know about trailer parking facilities in Des Moines, send your inquiry to Iden Johnson, Reunion Chairman.

EXTRA - EXTRA - EXTRA

4 - 8 - 69

Officers of the Association have negotiated a contract with Graphic Publication for reprinting the Association history. You can still reserve a copy if you order right away.

SEND IN YOUR REUNION RESERVATION

A MAN CALLED EASLEY

More Than Anything Else, He Wanted A Winner



CLAUDIUS MILLER EASLEY was born 11 July 1891 at Thorpe Spring, Texas, the son of Alexander Campbell and Claudia Miller Easley.

He attended grade school and high school in Waco, Texas, then graduated from Texas A. & M. College, (now Texas A. & M. University) June, 1917.

Easley was commissioned in the Regular Army, July, 1917, after several years in the Texas National Guard, some of which was commissioned federalized service.

He married Inez Wickline of Woodville, Texas, 13 October 1917.

Service schools attended were: Company Officer's and Advanced Classes of the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia; Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Army War College, Class of 1940.

While serving in the 31st Infantry Regiment in Manilla, Philippine Islands he established a new world's record in rifle marksmanship, January, 1924, and the record stood for three and one-half years.

During a period when Easley had duty with various infantry regiments in the United States, he served four years (1930 - 1934) on the faculty of the Infantry School as an Instructor, Weapons Section.

(Continued Next Column)

Continuing The Story of The 96th Infantry Division

OVERSEAS REPORT

Another Look After 25 Years



96th INF. DIV.
ASSN.



DEADEYES
LEYTE - OKINAWA

Special
News
Dispatch



Easley Story (Continued)

He commanded the Infantry Rifle and Pistol Teams in the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio in 1937, 1938 and 1939. Those teams won the National Team Match in both 1938 and 1939, which was the first time that the infantry had won in two consecutive years.

Last assignment prior to joining the Ninety Sixth Infantry Division was as Commanding Officer of the 325th Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Division.



ON THE FIRING LINE WITH TROOPS OF 382

At Camp Adair, Oregon Brig. Gen. Claudius M. Easley, assistant division commander, supervised training of the infantry and the marksmanship training of the entire Division. With Easley, marksmanship was a passion and after a while privates stopped being startled when they found a brigadier general coaching them on the fine points of his art.

General Easley had become one of the world's finest rifle shots during the years before the war. Day by day the sharp-shooting Texan insisted that men of the 96th be satisfied with nothing less than bull's eyes.

The name DEADEYES came into circulation in the early days of the Division, but it was not identified in print by that name until November, 1944, when an impressive record in combat offered evidence that the men knew how to handle their shooting irons.

(Continued Next Page)

THE GENERAL AND THE LIEUTENANT

By Daniel W. Millsaps, Jr.

It was a great day on the range at Camp Adair, Oregon, when "Speck" Easley came down the line and observed "Maggie's Drawers" red flag. He shouted: "Who fired that miss?" A young lieutenant just out of Fort Benning's miracle school answered: "I did, sir!"

The General-to-be, (He was not as yet wearing his star) stopped and began teaching the young lieutenant how to shoot using the bone method that had been responsible for the General's Army Rifle Teams winning so many medals before World War II.

Before a month had passed the lieutenant had learned how to shoot and he had become the General's first aide-de-camp. The lieutenant was Dan Millsaps.

I was certainly pretty green, having known nothing before OCS other than literature, art and the social graces of a young man from aristocratic South Carolina. The military and its psychology was very foreign to me. General Easley, a very sensitive teacher under the rough and tumble exterior which he presented to the staff and troops, took me on. I admired him greatly from the start for those qualities of strength which I thought I lacked. And he never failed me, or the troops and the Division. They were his every thought - to see that they were well trained strong and ready. I like to think that I had a small part. My job was not all pomp and ceremony, for I worked my you know what off getting the big barn-like club ready for the officers of the 96th while I was his aide. He was overseer all the way, meantime teaching me all of the military lore that I could absorb.

Perhaps I gave him something that he thought he lacked, but I was on the best receiving end. Through the trip from Hawaii to Leyte we kept in touch, although at that time I had graduated from being his aide and was assigned to the 382d Infantry staff. At Eniwetok we went ashore for a drink and he asked me if I would return to the Division staff and eventually take over the newly authorized Information & Education Officer post, so we could get some news of the 96th to the outside world and also get word around to the troops within the Division.

From that little cocktail trip the germ of the DEADEYE Dispatch was fertilized. It was born later with mimeographs and other equipment we "borrowed" from the air force unit down the road on Leyte. (I had stayed with the 382d until we were fairly secure, then went back to Division Headquarters.)

(Continued Next Page)

BOOSTER

Mrs. Easley has attended every reunion since the one in Kansas City, Mo. in 1960. Her enthusiastic interest in activities of the Association has been reflected in the Ladies Auxiliary of which she is a member of the Board of Directors.

She was elected as the first President of that group at the reunion in Dallas, Texas.

Greetings to all DEADEYES:

3 March 69

Many of you have told me of your admiration for my husband, General Easley. He admired and respected you, too, for many were the times that he commented in his letters to me about the courage and gallantry of the men of the Division.

"Position entails obligation, not privilege", was one of the maxims by which he lived. It was that deep conviction that compelled him to be at the front instead of back at headquarters.

Thank you for your friendship.

Inez W. Easley
3601 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

THE GENERAL AND THE LIEUTENANT (Continued)

Later, after the rigors of the Leyte and Okinawa landings, the General and I, when there was time, visited frequently, discussing not only the military situation and plans, but reminiscing about the good old days.

I was on my way from my part of the headquarters to see him on that fateful day when I heard the news of his death by sniper fire when he was down with the troops. He never had been an armchair general by any means, and although there was more need from the morale standpoint than military for him to visit the troops in the line of fire, he frequently went forward. And he did a hell of a lot of good for the Division. He was a dedicated soldier, the type of which I wish we had more today, so long as we have to be engaged in an unwanted war.

AT THE END (Copies from DEADEYE DISPATCH, 21 June 1945) By Pfc. John J. Archibald

He didn't look much like a general up there, or at least not like many guys think generals look. He was up there Tuesday, in the front lines, where he could actually see what was going on - so he'd know how tough things really were. He was up to far, most people would say, even his doughboys. But those doughboys also admitted that it was a good feeling to see the man that was directing you up beside you.

Suddenly there was the roaring of a machine gun on an opposite hill, a fusillade of metal scorched the air about the General, and there was a cry from Lieutenant John Turbeville, his aide as one of the slugs struck his hand. Down went the small group desperately scrambling for cover but the tough little general refused to bow to the slant-eyed enemy. Instead, he called for a machine gun crew of his own and defiantly held his unprotected position so as to direct fire.

But the Jap knew that the little American was a foe to fear. Maybe he didn't know he was a general, but there's something more to a great man than stars and eagles, and even the blood crazed savage behind the Nambu could see that. He fired again. Bullets hit General Easley in the forehead, and then there was quiet.



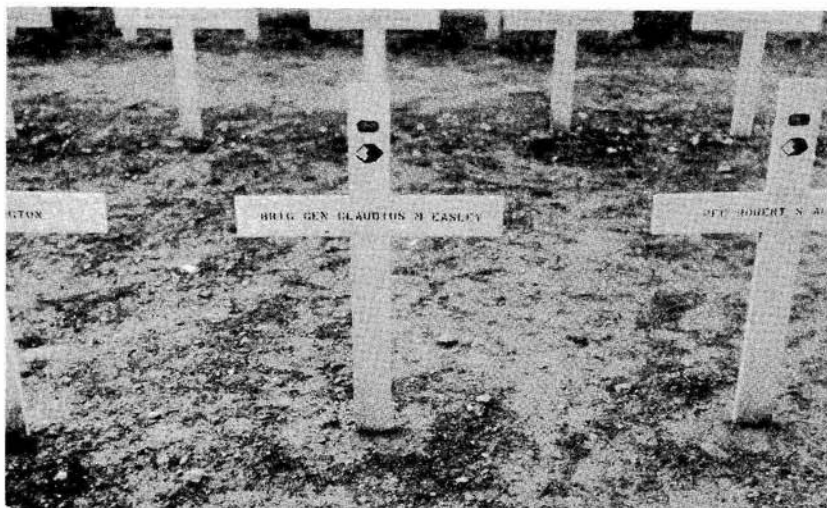
TODAY

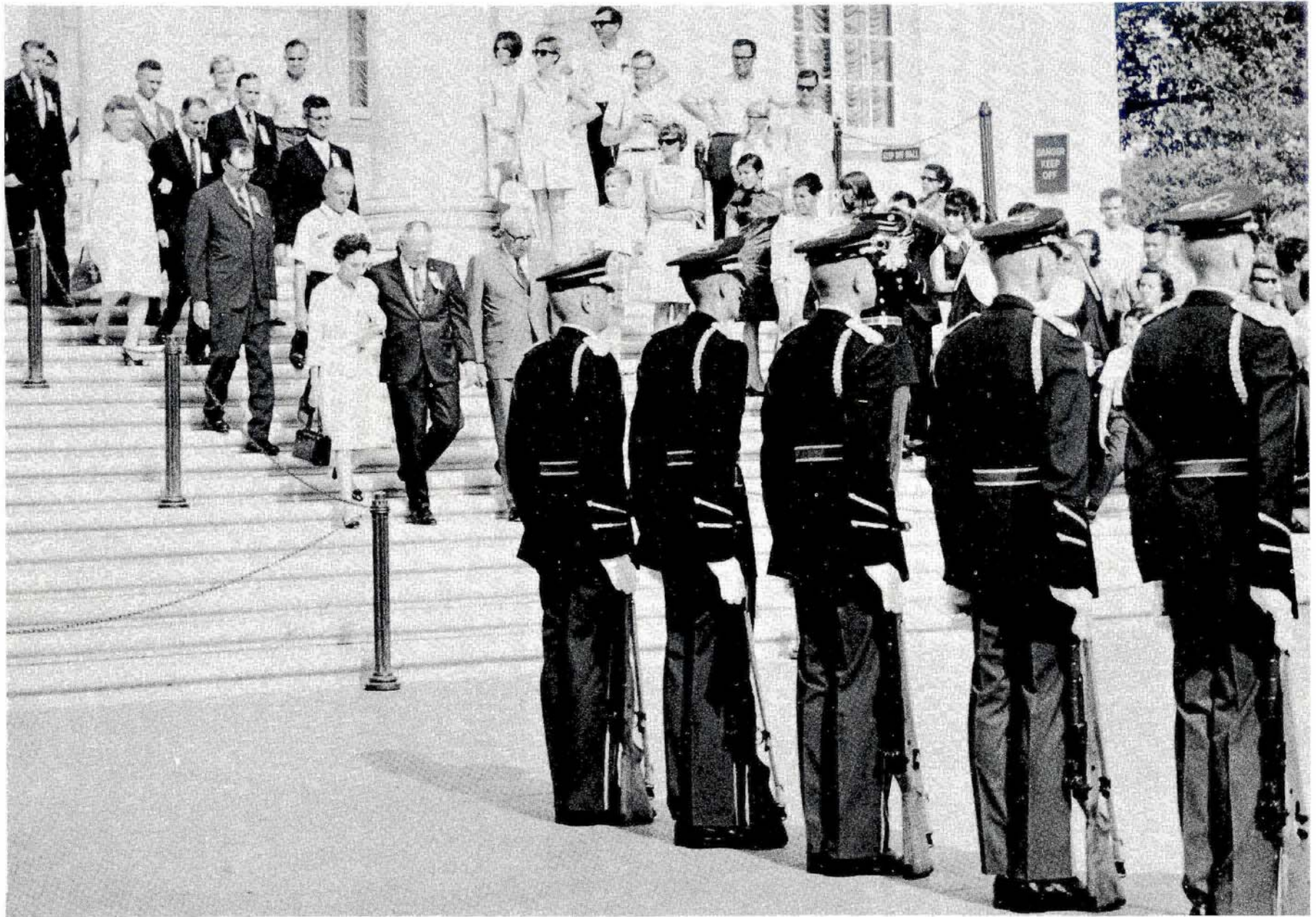
The Association has received reliable information to the effect that the stone marker still exists on the spot where General Easley was killed. Located in a desolate part of the island where tourists seldom go, the site has been neglected and the metal plate which bore the inscription has been taken by vandals.

GRAVE ON OKINAWA

Along with 1600 other DEADEYES, General Easley was buried in the Division Cemetery

His re-interment was in Arlington National Cemetery on 23 February 1949.





NINETY SIXTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS PLAQUE, ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, 17 AUGUST 68. Of those who asked to be invited during the reunion in Chicago, this delegation participated in the historic event. Descending the steps from the Memorial Amphitheater are: (Front to Rear) Robert Fitzpatrick, Pontiac, Ill.; Mrs. Inez Easley, Washington, D.C.; Jacob Fisher, Baltimore, Md.; Paul Bauer, Altamont, Ill.; Ed Biggs, Plainfield, Ind.; Mrs. Norma Bauer; Ed Dakan, Dubuque, Iowa; Clarence Rogner, Saginaw, Mich.; Claudius M. Easley, Jr., Washington, D.C.; Sherman Deckrow, Chicago, Ill. Following the ceremony in front of the Tombs of the Unknowns, the plaque was placed on prominent display in a case in the Trophy Room, along with plaques from other famed fighting outfits.