Guadalcanal Campaign

On October 13, 1942, the 164th Infantry Regiment landed at Kokum Beach on the Island of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands chain, to reinforce the 1st Marine Division which was deployed along the Henderson Airstrip.

Just one day later on October 14, 1942, patrols from the 164th Infantry Regiment engaged Japanese patrols in defense of the Henderson Field Airstrip.

Landing craft seen of Guadalcanal!
Company K Hits The Beach!!

Wrecked B24 "Liberator" Probably At Henderson Field On Guadalcanal. Note The Field Ambulance In The Background.

One Of The Planes Of The Australian Allies -- An English Spitfire.
This Tank Was Used On One Of The Islands, Possibly On Guadalcanal.

Harry Dolyniuk, Earl Chase & Willard Williamson

After The Battle Of Guadalcanal In Late 1942.

These Soldiers On Guadalcanal Have Yet To Be Identified.

Some Company K Soldiers In A Shelter On Guadalcanal.
Jack Agnew
Washing Up And Filling Up His Canteen.

A Soldier From Company K With His Makeshift Shelter On Guadalcanal.
One Of Company K's Fortified Positions On Guadalcanal.

Camp On Guadalcanal Was Well Camouflaged With Only A Little Light Filtering In Through The Trees.
Another Camp Scene From Guadalcanal.  
Actually A Better Print Of  
The Photo To The Left?

Note The Gear Hanging In The Trees.

Unidentified Soldier From Company K.

On Guadalcanal.
Ralph Gaugler
On Guadalcanal.

Catching A Quick Shave On Guadalcanal.

Ralph Gaugler

Pvt Theodore J. Zagurski (On The Left)
With And Unknown Soldier From Minneapolis
On Guadalcanal
2Lt Steve Dubois, SSGT Paul Fischer & Cpl Felix Lafromboise
Photo Taken On Guadalcanal, Dubois And Lafromboise Were Native Americans From Fort Totten Who Were Assigned To Company K.

John Gunderson & Bud Boisen

Bub Boisen & Ralph Gaugler
Bud & Ralph Formed A Life Long Friendship While Serving On Guadalacanal.

Have Taken One Of His Malaria Pills. When Leah Met Him In 2001, He Still Had His Full Bottle. He Said That He Was Supposed To Take Them But Never Did.
Bud Did Tell Leah That He Suffered Through 5 Bouts Of Malaria.

Seen Here In The Jungles Of The South Pacific, Lt Col Baird Was One Of Only 4 Officers To Be With The 164th Infantry Regiment From Camp Claiborne, Louisiana All The Way To Japan.

Cpt Anton 'tony' Beer (Far Left) & Sgt Lawrence 'bud' Boisen (2nd From Right) Receiving Accommodations or Gallantry With 3 Other Soldiers From Minnesota. It Was A Pleasure For Leah To Meet Both Tony And Bud In September 2001. Tony Lived In Mandan At The Time While Bud Lived In Idaho.
Orville Dodge & Ralph Gaugler
Orville Writes A Letter Home, While Ralph Catches
Up On The News While They Were On Guadalcanal.

Sgt Herb Mack
Thank God That Herb Could Still Smile!

Pvt Bill Kostelecky
Bill Taking A Smoke Break.

Pfc Edward Feininger
Also Taking A Smoke Break.

“Smoke ‘em If You Got ’em!”
Pvt Carl Thomas
Hopefully Not On Smoke Break
As Well As He Appears To Be
Using A Gas Can For His Chair.

Pvt John Berger
John Has 'em' So He Is Smoking 'em'.

Ted Kessel
Ted Commented That This Sign Was Rather
Wishful Thinking When It Was Erected On
Guadalcanal,
As There Were Still Years Of Fighting Ahead.
Matanikau Offensive During The Guadalcanal Campaign
Ssgt Edmund Mahowald
Taking A Break At The Matanikau On Guadalcanal.
Although Edmund Survived This Campaign, He Would Later Be Killed In Action At Leyte, In The Phillipine Isklands.

Sgt John Clarys Wrote This Letter To His Sister Anna While Still On Guadalcanal, Before Being Evacuated To Fiji For R&R In March 1943. He Had To Be Circumspect In What He Wrote, However, He Does Say That It Was Warm There And Wishes For Some "Cold Weather That You Get There In Good Old N. Dak."

"All I Can Do Is Hope And Pray That One Day I Get Back There."

From the diary of LT Col Samuel Baglien of the 164th infantry regiment:
"On November 20 the regiment took up defensive positions at point cruz west of the matanikau. Due to terrain of jungle and ridges and the terrific heat, it is very difficult to get supplies, ammunition and water to our troops. They are taxed to exhaustion. Coordinated artillery, air and mortar fire does not dislodge the enemy. They have dug-in in the coral and in draws and are quite secure. Any exposure to our troops draws accurate enemy fire. Casualties are fairly heavy.
This situation continues on November 23 and 24. Advance is stopped, and positions are consolidated. Men must live on "C" and "D" rations and coffee, as movements draw heavy and
accurate enemy fire. Enemy light artillery appears to have been silenced by our air and artillery support. Snipers are active. Our planes continue to bomb and strafe enemy positions with unknown results. Our third battalion has suffered heavy casualties by artillery and mortar fire."

Col Baglien then lists the 54 soldiers of the 164th infantry regiment killed in action thus far in this battle.

Members of Company K who were KIA's are:
Pvt Elton L. Pederson, Pvt Marion Van Der Werff, Pfc Raymond E. Moore, Cpl Herman C. Dieder, 2Lt Rilie R. Morgan Jr., 1Lt William K. Pflugrath, 1Sgt Winifred B. Fischer & Pvt John J. Brucker

Father Kelly
Conducting Church In The Field, Probably On Guadalcanal.
1942
Graveside Ceremony On Guadalcanal Honoring The Brave Young Men Who Fell In Battle There During The Campaigns Of October And November Of 1942.
Winfred "Red" Fischer, Ralph Gaugler & Gordon Holt

The Grave Of
Pvt Marion Van Der Werff
Of Company K Of The 164th Infantry Regiment.
Marion Was Killed In Action On Guadalcanal.
Grave Of
Cpl Hermann C. Diede
From Co. K Of The 164th Infantry Regiment
Who Was Also Killed In Action On
Guadalcanal.

All Of The Graves Would Be Exhumed
And Transported To Either The Manila
American Cemetery, The National
Memorial Cemetery Of The Pacific
(Punchbowl) In Hawaii Or Back To The
United States For Reinternment

Cpl Herman C. Diede
Was The Youngest Man To Be Killed In
Action With Company K During The
Guadalcanal Campaign. Today He Is
Interned At The National Memorial Cemetery
Of The Pacific In
Honolulu, Hawaii.

So Many Paid The Ultimate Price To Defend Their Comrades In Arms. Elton L. Pederson Rests At The National Memorial Cemetery Of The Pacific At Honolulu, Hawaii.

Grave Of 1sgt Winfred B. ‘Red’ Fischer Was The Highest Ranked Enlisted Member Of Co. K Of The 164th Infantry Regiment.
To Be Killed In Action Of Guadalcanal.

The United States Stands Apart From Most Other Nations In Accounting For And Honoring Those Who Are Killed While In The Service Of Their Country.

1sgt Fischer
Is Interned At Fort Snelling, National Cemetery In Minneapolis, Mn.

2Lt Rilie R. Morgan Jr.
Was Brought Back Home And Interned Near Family At Crescent Cemetery In Grafton, North Dakota. Morgan Was Not From Dickinson, But He Served With Co. K During The Guadalcanal Campaign.
Pfc Raymond E. Moore
Was Also Brought Home And Rests Near Family At The Dunn Center Cemetery In Dunn Center, North Dakota.

From the Diary of Lt Col Samuel Baglein of the 164th Infantry Regiment:

"On November 25, the enemy is still maintaining a well dug-in defense in depth. Artillery and mortars are dislodging some of them. Our patrols are active and destroying some positions, but they are replaced during the night. Our combat strength is below 2,000. We have several hundred ineffectuals due to malaria, dysentery, shell-shock, hysteria and minor wounds. We feel the loss of Capt Panettiere, our brave medical officer. The Division hospital is congested, so we are treating many cases in our rear area. I am still worn out from yesterday’s scrap. The Nips located our CP today with their mortars, wounding three men. Looks like I’ve got to hunt a new hole."
On November 26, an enemy air raid dropped 20 bombs; some casualties to marines. Our artillery and mortars continue to bombard the enemy and our patrols are active. At 3:30 a.m. on November 27, an enemy air raid. No casualties. Our artillery and mortars continued to batter the enemy. They are replacing weakened positions rapidly, but they are weakening generally and there is not much likelihood of a counter-attack. Lt. Col. Hall, Third Battalion commander, was wounded and evacuated. Capt Ralph Knott was wounded and evacuated. Sent our Anti Tank Company in to relieve Company “A”. It was our only reserve. Another enemy air raid at 3:30 a.m. on November 28. At 6:30 a.m. an enemy sub torpedoed the U. S. S. Alcheba at Lunga Lagoon. The ship was beached to avoid capsizing. The cargo and crew were saved. Capt Hedstrom, Lt Preston and 14 enlisted men of this regiment were aboard at the time of the explosion, but were uninjured. The front line activity is limited to artillery and patrols. First Lt John A. Crawford died at the hospital at New Hebrides where he had been evacuated, wounded several days ago.

On November 29 at 3:00 a.m. another air raid; no casualties. Our continuous bombardment of enemy positions has caused some withdrawal. They are attempting to strengthen their positions. Coordinated artillery and mortar fire at enemy positions went on all afternoon. Our patrols are active. The enemy continues to fire mortars at our positions, effectively. We got together a makeshift Battalion to relieve the Second Battalion of the Eighth Marines. Capt Crook is commanding our makeshift Battalion.

At 4:00 a.m. November 30 another enemy air raid. No casualties. Our 81 MM mortars destroyed an enemy Anti-tank gun and emplacement. Mortars on both sides continue. We are killing and destroying Jap positions daily. It is hard grubbing, but we will get them out."

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Lt Col Baglein Lists 16 More Soldiers Of The 164th Infantry Regiment Who Were Kia's Over These Days.

2 Members Of Company K Were Kia's: Pfc Melvin O. Feiring & Ssgt Lester A. Ashbacher

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Pfc Melvin O. Feiring
Is Buried At Mountain View Cemetery In North Dakota
Longmount, Colorado Beside His Parents.

Ssgt Lester A. Ashbacher
Was Brought Home And Reburied At The
Dakota City Cemetery In Dakota City,
Nebraska.

The 164th Infantry Regiment would receive
the Presidential Unit Citation
for it's participation in the Guadalcanal
Campaign.
However, Guadalcanal was only the
beginning of the fighting for

Company K...
During March of 1943, after the Matanikau Campaign,
Company K along with the rest of the 164th Infantry Regiment,
were evacuated to Fiji for some much needed replacements
and some much deserved rest and recuperation.