

The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

An Association of 2 Bn. (Mech) 22nd Infantry Regiment Viet Nam Veterans

Editors Dan & Vera Streit D 2/22 1969
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Together Then.....Together Again!.....Thanks for Being There...&...Welcome Home

Vol. 12, No. 2 June 2006

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Please visit today!
Mario Salazar

President's Message

Hello all,
This has been a very memorable quarter in the history of our organization. Unfortunately not all the happenings were good ones.

In May the active Triple Deuce lost three of our finest and an attached Colonel to a roadside-bomb in Iraq. This tragic loss has been felt throughout the VN222 family, and the efforts of Gary Hartt, Jim May, Rich Wylie, Clark Lohman and many others who actively sent condolences to the families of those lost are noted and praised. These efforts even resulted in a Vietnam Triple Deuce presence at two of the three funerals. Thank you all for being the kind of people you are.

We also lost Al Wetzel recently. "Big Red" was a very special leader of men, and his place in our history has been documented at many levels. I hope that his Alpha boys will gather in Omaha to pay him the tribute he deserves. We who followed would be glad to join you.

On the positive side, we are rapidly approaching the October 4th -8th next great reunion of the Vietnam Triple Deuce and 22nd Infantry Regiment Society in Omaha. Starting on Wednesday instead of Thursday should provide us with a longer list of accomplishments at the end of the weekend. Be sure to register as soon as possible to help the organizers get the much needed head count. If you're one of those still not decided, get a hold of any past attendee and get an earful of how much fun and good times you will have at one of these gatherings. If you don't know one of that bunch call me at 309 537 3536 (evenings). Remember ASAP.

Take care, and have a great summer. Hope to be seeing you in October,

Dick Nash
A Co. & HHC 1969

Editor Comments

By now you have had a chance to see the Locators Guide. Lon did a phenomenal job putting it together. Please use it as a resource for finding our missing Brothers and bringing them into the fold.

With that said, don't overlook another valuable resource. YOU. Keep your eyes and ears open you never know where you might meet another Triple Deucer. Perhaps you remember the introduction to Jim Nelson's article in our last newsletter. Let me refresh your memory. Jim wrote "from time to time Dan and I would cross paths at Jensen Café in Beloit, Kansas. I sometimes ate breakfast there and Dan and I would talk about farming, thistles or the weather. For about 15 years neither of us realized we each had served in Vietnam and in the same battalion. One day I sat down wearing a hat that said Dau Tieng. When Dan saw the hat his eyes got bigger and with a loud voice he exclaimed "Where did you get that hat?" I said I was in Dau Tieng" Needless to say our conversation grew to a different level. Jim introduced me to The Triple Deuce and encouraged me to attend my first reunion.

Just recently at a benefit breakfast for which our VFW Post is famous several guys were talking over the biscuits & gravy and waffles. I live in a town of about 3,000—you know the type, if you forget what you are doing someone else always knows. A guy I have known for a long time (he's a mail carrier, his aging mother lived next door to us—he was there often caring for her, my wife went to school with his sisters).. When he mentioned Dau Tieng, my ears perked up. Yes, he was one of us. I am giving him the same encouragement I received when I was "found".

Be in the moment. Locating a lost Brother can be the result of a purposeful effort ---or it can be coincidental. However it happens. . .it leads to the reunion of Brothers. . .our goal.

Dan Streit
D Co. 1969

A dark cloud indeed passed over Crossville and the entire US on May ninth. It is, indeed, with a great deal of sadness that I include below an excerpt from our local MOAA chapter newsletter:

COLONEL (RET) AL WETZEL

August 19, 1938 – May 9, 2006

Our former president, Al Wetzel, passed away May 9th. A memorial service was held May 12th at the First United Methodist Church in Crossville. Burial will be at a later time in Arlington National Cemetery.

Al was a Wisconsin native and is survived by his wife, June, a son, two daughters and 6 grandchildren.

The Upper Cumberland Chapter regards Allan as one of our true American heroes. Starting out his military career as an enlisted man, he qualified for and graduated from the United State Military Academy at West Point. He served two "hitches" in Viet Nam and was awarded (among many other decorations) the Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star, the CIB and three Purple Hearts. He joined our chapter in June 2000, served two years as Vice-President and three as President. During that time, the JROTC program at Cumberland County High School came into being and flourished under his leadership. His family has requested that donations be made to:

JROTC
c/o First United Methodist Church
PO Box 752
Crossville, TN, 38557

Submitted by **Awb Norris**
Bn CO Sep 67 to Feb 68

Loss of a Friend

The first time I met Capt. Al Wetzel; I had the feeling that A Company 2/22 had made a rapid improvement. The few months preceding his taking over of A Co, it was a disorganized group of leaderless individuals who had no idea of what was going on. Our CO. was a man named Coleman, who stayed buttoned up in the track

screaming on the radio every time he heard faint gunfire. Big Red Wetzel was a born leader, who listened to the older members of his company, learned rapidly, and made good command decisions. Although sometimes he had conflicts with his superiors, he always tried to make a decision that accomplished the mission with the least amount of jeopardy for his troops.

His courage was beyond the call of duty, and he led his men into harms way. Always in front setting an example for bravery and encouraging his men to follow. Just two examples of his leadership that I still vividly remember are contained below.

On the night of February 4, 1968 Alpha sent out an ambush patrol. To his thinking the selected position was entirely too far from the night lager, and although he protested the site with Battalion he was overruled, and the patrol set out for the site. When the ambush patrol made contact with a numerically superior force and the red flare went up he knew his troops were in trouble. Without the slightest hesitation he sent out a relief group and instructed me to accompany them. Capt. Wetzel led the relief force. How we got there is still unknown, because we went at break neck speed in the APC's, and the next day at daylight we tried to retrace our path for rescue and could not penetrate the trees and vegetation for quite some time. Once we arrived at the site and made contact with the patrol we were at arms distance with the VC in total darkness. Once we got the dead wounded and survivors accounted for, He gave the instruction to "follow me" and promptly disappeared. He had fallen into an abandoned well. Fortunately it was not very deep and he told me later there were dead enemy in there with him.

Capt. Wetzel was despondent the next couple of days over the men we had lost, and took it as a failure of his leadership. He also told me he had recommended me for a bronze star the next day (I never got it).

At the battle of Tay Ninh City Capt. Wetzel single handedly held off the Viet Cong for what seemed like hours, after all his men at the wall were killed. He was visibly shaken, and mourn-

ful of the loss of men, and especially upset over those who were missing. He buttoned himself in the track, and even refused to talk to the Brigade Commander or anyone else. I finally talked him into letting me in, and tried to console him while treating his wounds caused from "Willie Peter." on both arms and hands. Years later before the San Antonio reunion I received an e-mail from him, telling me how he had never thanked me for that night. It was still bothering him 34 years later. He received a Distinguished Service Cross for that action, and there was no one more deserving than him.

I only served 4 months with Capt. Wetzel before transferring back to Headquarters Co. The last thing I remember when talking to him before leaving, he expressed his concern over a promotion to Major, and felt like he might get passed over. Apparently he got the promotion. He retired as a Colonel some years later.

Capt. Wetzel called me by name when I saw him for the first time in 34 years, and said I was the only medic he still remembered by name other than Doc. That still leaves a good feeling in my heart for this man who was my leader, and later my friend. Those like me who owed him a debt that could never be repaid will miss him.

Denny R. Head
A2/22 (Mechanized)
3rd Brigade 25th Infantry Division
San Francisco Calif. 96268

Department of Defense. Identifies Army Casualties

The Department of Defense announced the death of four soldiers who were supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. They died on May 18 in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained on May 18, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their HMMWV during combat operations. Killed were:

Lt. Col. Daniel E. Holland, 43, of San Antonio, Texas

1st. Lt. Robert A. Seidel III, 23, of Gettysburg, Pa.

Sgt. Lonnie C. Allen Jr., 26, of Bellevue, Neb.

Pfc. Nicholas R. Cournoyer, 25, of Gilmanton, N.H.

Holland was assigned to the 352nd Civil Affairs Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. Seidel, Allen and Cournoyer were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Memorial service of Lonny C. Allen Jr

I attended the memorial service of **Lonny C. Allen Jr.** He was a 2-22 Inf Bravo Co exactly the same as me 38 years ago. He was attached to the 10th Mountain Division where I was with the 25th Div. It was an honor to attend, I told his wife that all the 222 Deucers sent their condolences. She was really torn up, a tall probably 6' 2" German girl. Her Aunt was there and I explained to her that I was in the exact B Co 2-22 Inf except 38 years earlier .. I left the web sites of the 22nd Inf and the Triple Deuce with her in case later they wanted to click on and read some stories. I also talked to a coach of his that had coached him since he was about ten and he said he was a natural in everything he tried. The gentleman that walked the wife in thanked me for my service in Vietnam. I thanked him very much. The Capehart Chapel was overflowing with friends and relatives, the Rolling Thunder Motorcyclist were there.

Clark L. Lohmann
B Co 2-22 Inf Mech 67-68
Omaha, Ne 68117

Memorial Service for PFC Nicholas R. Cournoyer

On Sunday 28 May I traveled from my home in Maine to Laconia, New Hampshire to attend a Memorial Service for **PFC Nicholas R. Cournoyer** (pronounced corn-y-A). When I arrived at the funeral home I was approached by a young man who identified himself as a reporter with the Union Leader Newspaper. This is a Statewide Newspaper and known for a more conservative approach. He asked if I would provide him with a brief story as to who I was and why I was

there. I explained that I represented all the Members of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society and the Vietnam Triple Deuce and that I was there to express our collective condolence to the family and friends of PFC Cournoyer. I was also there to bring the family and friends a message that their son's memory would never be forgotten and that he would always be honored. I went on to say that we, collectively, wanted the fallen heroes of this war to be treated with the honor they earned and deserve and that we, collectively, would see to it that this generation would be treated better than ours was.

The reporter thanked me for my time and I moved to the entrance where I found four members of the local Army National Guard unit standing as an informal guard. They told me they were there to be certain that no trouble makers disturbed the service. I thanked them for their presence.

As I walked down a short hall way I kept repeating to myself what I was going to say to PFC Cournoyer's parents. I had been rehearsing what I wanted to say for the past 200 miles. I didn't want to pause or confuse myself because I knew that if I did I would get choked-up and make matters worse. As I approached the room where the coffin was displayed I saw three 10th Mountain Division patches. I felt more assured knowing that there were Triple Deucers on hand.

As I introduced myself to Mr. & Mrs. Cournoyer and began to tell them who I represented I could see a blank look on both their faces, until I said "...Vietnam Triple Deuce..." Upon hearing "...Triple Deuce..." Mrs. Cournoyer pointed at her son's Flag draped casket and said, "Triple Deuce, that's Nick's Unit." She then asked if it was the same "Triple Deuce" and when I told her it was my presence now made sense to her. Both she and Mr. Cournoyer understood that some Veteran from a long past war was there representing many other Veterans and all wanted to honor their son. I assured them that their son would never be forgotten and that his memory would always be honored.

Mrs. Cournoyer told me that Nick always wanted

to be a soldier from the time he was a little boy. She said he was proud of the uniform and his unit. As the Cournoyer's were thanking me and expressing their gratitude for my attendance I noticed that were both wearing US Army pins on their shirt collars. I thought, "What fine people." I know where their son got his courage.

I walked around the funeral home looking at the photos of PFC Cournoyer and his friends, both his civilian and Army friends. It was easy to see that he was a fun-loving rough neck, just the guy you'd want with you if things got tough. There were a series of photos taken with another soldier, a dark haired man who is shorter than PFC Cournoyer. If anyone reading this knows who I'm describing, please introduce me to that soldier when I visit Ft Drum after the Battalions return.

The three Triple Deucers present were CPT Abraham, SFC Aker and SGT Clark. They were very cordial and I want to thank them again for being there for the family and for making a fine presentation of themselves. They also made my visit more comfortable.

Karl Bergeron, a Walker Boat Triple Deucer and one of the Original Medics, had planned to attend the Memorial Service with me, but a nagging illness prevents him from any travel. Karl asked that I express my condolences for him and I did.

I hope to see Mr. & Mrs. Cournoyer at Ft Drum later this year.

Jim May

1st Lt. Seidel Remembered

1st Lt. Robert A. Seidel, 23, was a platoon leader assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division (LI), Fort Drum, N.Y.

A native of Emmetsburg, Pa., Seidel was commissioned as an infantry officer after graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in May 2004. Following the Infantry Officer Basic Course,

Seidel was assigned to Fort Drum in May 2005.

His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Iraq Campaign Medal, Ranger Tab and the Parachutist Badge.

Seidel is survived by his parent, Robert and Sandra Seidel, of Gettysburg, Pa.

Richard Wylie had planned to represent the Triple Deuce at the memorial services but due to job commitments was unable to do so. Richard and Gary Hartt had contact with the family to express appreciation and condolences on behalf of the organization.

Gary Hartt

A/2/22 12/65-9/67



History of the Challenge Coin

The history of the Military Coin seems to depend on whom you're talking to and when. The "oldest" story goes back to World War 1 when the coin was called a "Challenge Coin." It seems that a relatively wealthy lieutenant was assigned to one of the newly formed flying squadrons. He decided to order medallions struck in solid bronze carrying the squadron emblem and give them to every member of the squadron. He carried his medallion in a small leather sack around his neck. A few weeks later, this pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was captured by a German patrol. To discourage his escape, they took all personal identification from him except the

leather pouch around his neck. He was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night he donned civilian clothes and escaped. However, he had no personal identification.

The escaped pilot avoided German patrols and reached the front lines. He crossed no-man's land and stumbled into a French outpost. They had been plagued with saboteurs masquerading as civilians. Not recognizing the American accent, the French prepared to execute him. Just in time the pilot remembered the leather pouch with the medallion and showed it to his captors. They recognized the squadron insignia and delayed the execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron it became a tradition for all members to carry their coin at all times. It evolved into a "challenge." A challenger would drop his coin on the bar and challenge all others in attendance to produce their coin. If anyone at the bar could not produce his coin within a few seconds, he had to purchase a drink of choice for the challenger. If the challenged member produced his coin, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued throughout the war. Could be truth or fiction...?

According to one legend, the original coin check was done ONLY by the senior man present who did it for the sole purpose of ensuring each man's team spirit. The activity was to check morale. The "challenge" coin is still in existence for many of the current day units, especially Airborne and Special Forces organizations. Variations on the coin challenge are present throughout the military forces today. There have been many attempts to establish a set of rules for the coin challenge to ensure uniformity. Regardless of any "coin challenge," most prefer to carry their coins not only to show their pride for their unit, but also to save money on drinks they may have to buy if caught without it.

The majority of coins today are called "Coins for Excellence." Commanders and senior enlisted personnel, within a unit, will use the coin to recognize

special contributions or exceptional service within the specific unit. In addition to active personnel owning coins, they have also been presented to friends and other soldiers at the close of joint training as mementos. They are all cherished items to retain.

An Encouraging Note

Our brother, **Charles Paul Pohlman**, died in combat on Feb 10, 1967. In March 2003, Kay's son, Jim, found an article written by **Lynn Dalpez** in the Vietnam Triple Deuce newsletter. The article was about the day our brother died. This was the first time that we had heard any details about the events of that day. It was quite a shock. We emailed Lynn, who responded immediately with such warmth and concern for our family. Just knowing what happened that day and knowing that our brother was remembered that fondly by his Brothers means more to us than words can express.

We traded emails with Lynn for some months and wanted very much to attend the 22nd IRS reunion the Kansas City, but couldn't quite make a decision. The decision was made for us in April of 2005, when we received an email from Nancy Temple, whose father, **Dan Morris**, served with our brother. She related things her father had told her about Charles and sent copies of some pictures he had.

It was then that we realized that we had to attend the reunion and meet Lynn, Dan and the other men who had served with our brother. In May, 2005, we had the honor of attending the 22nd IRS reunion in Kansas City. This is a long overdue thank you to all the people who made us feel so welcome. That weekend was one of the most indescribable times of our lives. It was filled with hugs, laughter and tears. Meeting Lynn and Dan along with **Roy Harbour**, **Joe Dietz**, **Dave Ferguson**, and **Ed Fagan** who also served with Charles was wonderful. Everyone, even those who never knew our bother, was so kind and treated us as if it was an honor to meet us. The truth is, we were the ones who had the great honor of meeting a group of incredible individuals.

We are looking forward to the next reunion. Hopefully more of our sisters will be able to come with us. Get ready! There are seven of us! We would like to encourage other family members to attend the reunion. It will be an experience you will never forget.

Fran Greenwood stanandfran@irtc.net
Kay Ingram kayingram@hotmail.com

Charlie Boat Original Located

Larry Mason
26124 N.W. Reeder Road
Portland, OR. 97231
503-621-0453
viclarmas@myway.com

Larry is a Charlie Boat Original. He was a track driver for us and went through all the training at Fort Lewis with us.

I was at the Vietnam Moving Memorial Wall that was here in Portland, Oregon, over the Memorial Day weekend, looking up the names of my fallen Brothers that I could not find on the wall. Next to me a man asked to find **Pohlman, Charles Paul**. I about fell over.

I said, "You are a Triple Deucer, aren't you?"

He said that he was and we quickly compared notes. We should get him to join us soon, and he said he would like to join us at our mini Charlie Reunion at **Dan Morris's** home this coming August. We will work on getting him to Omaha as well.

So, we are now up to 6 Charlie Company originals in our Portland group. . . and counting.

Like the rest of us, Larry remembers some Charlie Originals, but not all. . .yet. In fact, he didn't remember the little mouthy RTO for 3rd Platoon. . .probably just as well, huh? Haha-haha!

We are so happy to have reunited with Larry. A very bright spot to an emotional event. Thank you Lord for sending Larry to us.

Lynn Dalpez
C Co. 4th ID 65 to 67

2/22d INFANTRY "ADOPT A PLATOON" UPDATE 6-1-2006

Just a quick update on activities of A Company 2/22d Infantry deployed in Iraq. (see below)

As background for those just catching up with ADOPT A PLATOON initiative...

Over the past seven months many of you as friends and those in the 22d Infantry Regiment and 2/22d Viet Nam Association have provided food, DVDs, books and other quality of life items to Capt. **James Kleager's** A 2/22d Infantry. They asked and you responded. DEEDS NOT WORDS!

Their job is not done yet but rotation is getting closer and they prepare to hand the mission over 1/22 another 22d Infantry sister battalion. My personal thanks to all of you who have been players to help in this initiative. Here is my 6-1-2006 update on the program.

Hello fellow ADOPT A PLATOON participants.

I got this reply note from 1st Plt Ldr A 2/22d yesterday (Memorial Day) and wanted to share it as they start into a late summer or early fall rotation back to the "world." They are operating north of Baghdad. I know many of you are still working with Cpt Kleager's wife (Katie) to provide articles for Welcome Home Packages. If you are still interested...she could use the help my friends. Her email is on this message also!

FOR ALPHA 2/22 1969 guys...I got word from special friend yesterday who visited THE WALL in D.C. for us and said a prayer at Cpt Crocker's spot. Memorial Day never passes without my gratitude to that man who gave his life leading us all in the right direction to get home. I know his family is so very proud of that. May he continue to rest in peace.

Lon Oakley
A Co. 1969

*From: Ryan Wilde <wilde_81@yahoo.com>
To: Lon Oakley <ldo82288@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: LEST WE FORGET
Date: Tue, 30 May 2006 04:50:19 -0700 (PDT)*

Thank you for the kind words on Memorial Day. I am sharing with the troops. Good to know we're thought of, especially by those who've gone before us. It's been

awhile, so I owe you an update for sure. We're nearing the end of our deployment. Unfortunately, right after I came back from leave we lost several good men, one of them a PL in Bravo Company and also a friend of mine. I believe it was on CNN. We had a good memorial service for them, one deserving of the outstanding soldiers they all were. Aside from that, we've got a few more weeks of patrolling left and then, in what I'm sure was not coincidence, we hand this over to our sister battalion, 1-22 IN, 4th ID. Boys are looking forward to getting back home, as am I. They've worked hard, to say the least, and deserve as much a break and then some as the Army can give them.

Thanks again for all the support. Look forward to hearing from you again, sir.

Ryan

Half My Worth

created by SAVAGE GRACE

**Sometimes I often wonder how I'll make ends meet.
Without a penny to my name and living in the street.
Will happiness avoid me and love be never found.
Has life chose to ignore me as I walk above the ground.**

**If you pay me half my worth
It's twice what I deserve
From the very sound of it
I know it sounds absurd
If you stop and dwell on it
I'm sure that you'll agree
That money isn't everything
At least it's not for me**

**There's so much more to life that money just can't buy
Pull up a chair if you care I'll attempt to tell you why
There's God in all His glory and Christ His only Son
Then for most the Holy Ghost for us the battles won**

**All this makes no difference now there's nothing left to do
I made my peace with God above His love will see me through
So look inside your wallet how much did it cost
For Christ to die for all ours sin nailed upon the cross**

Guest Books Hits

Name: **Jose Victor Vecera**
Email: jose.vecera@dcma.mil
Date: 02-27-06

Comments: Wonderful site. Brings back many memories. Not all good. But glad to have served.

Name: **Jim Beckypayne**
Email: jim_beckypayne@yahoo.com

Comments: I am trying to find info. on a few of the men I served with in 1969-70. Company C, **Rodney Dixon**-my 50 gunner online and with CO (Kentucky?) **Doc Alcock**-Medic

I would be very happy to get any info or a method of how to get info.

Jim AKA Rat

P.S. What was the name of the main fire base in the Bolo woods area?

Name: **Les Reynolds**
Email: lesreynolds77@msn.com
Date: 3/20/06

Comments: I came over to Vietnam in Sept. of 1966 from Fort Lewis WA. on a boat. I was in the 1st platoon, C company, 2nd of the 22nd (mech) Inf. Div. My platoon sergeant was the late and great Otis Lewis. I too participated in that great day of revenge at FRB Gold on March 21, 1967

Name: **Jim Papczynski**
Date: 5/12/06

Comments: One of our B Co. Boat Originals needs some info. **Paul Engle** (66-67) got a fractured skull from his track. The V.A. wants to know what hospital patched him up in Nam before he can have future treatment.

Any one remember the name of the Hospital in Tay Ninh, Cu Chi, Dau Tieng, 12th Evac sound familiar?

Thank you for your time and trouble.

Pap

Name: **Paul Williams**
Email: fishfinder47@hotmail.com
Date: 5/13/06

Comments: I was transferred into the Triple Deuce, 4th Inf. Div. Mech. In Dau-Tieng around Aug. 1967, from the 1st Bn. 5th Inf. 25th Inf. Div. Bobcats, where I spent time after arriving in country the first of April 1967. I was only in the 4th Div. a couple of weeks before the 25th Inf. Div. had taken over the Div. and the area, so I spent the rest of my tour in Co. A 2nd Bn. 22nd Inf. 25 Inf. Div. till the last of April 1968. Somewhere around the last of March, my track hit a landmine. I lost my hearing for over two weeks and part of my memory. I cannot remember any names except one, **John (Tex) Bergeron** from Houston, Tx. I had the pleasure of spending a weekend with him while I was stationed in Ft. Hood TX. Since I left the army, I have not had any contact with him, nor have I met anyone that was in my units in the last 39 years. So I would just like to say HELLO to all my brothers in all my units and WELCOME HOME. This is first time signing in on this guest list and the second time on any guest list.

Name: Sgt. **Tommy Miller**

Email: ratit@atlanticbb.net

Comments: Hi. I was in 222 Recon in 66-67. We started down south and then went north. Live in Romney WV. Know **Bill Lambert** and **Lt. Murphy**. Was there that fatal day. To all I served with always good to hear from you. It changed all our lives some better and some worse but was one hell of an experience. **Pete Petterson** was the first killed by friendly fire but woke us up and changed our lives forever. Was at Dau Tieng for base camp when went north. We were not at base camp much we ran S and D next to Cambodian border. Would stay out for weeks at a time. Like the Red Ant we did get bitten enough. Talk again later.

Name: **Douglas Ray Lyall**

Email: lyalldp@aol.com

Phone: 304-258-8189

Comments: Looking for **Captain Malcolm Wait**, CO Bravo Company October 1968.

I was with 2nd platoon 4th squad B Company. I arrived in country June 22nd 1968, glad to have served in a unit with so much firepower. Does anybody know anyone that was wounded that did not receive a Purple Heart?

Name: **Christenia McGarvey Colvin**

Email: Nightshade79@yahoo.com

Date: 5-24-2006

Phone: 970-314-7775

Comments: I am looking for men who served with my father, **James P Papczynski**. They called him **Pappy**.

Name: **Michael "Little Doe" Keown**

Email: gofigure@mchsi.com

Date: 5-25-2006

Phone: 217-728-7162

Comments: Just checking the web site again. Really like the looks of the Challenge Coin. Thanks, be looking forward to ordering one in the future.

B,C,D Triple Deuce, Feb. to Nov. 70.

Name: **Jim Papczynski**

Email: jim.papczynski@sullair.com

Date: 06-07-2006

Comments: Making a 2/22 1966,67 display with a M37. Any one got one of the little C ration packs of cigarettes for sale or know where I can get one? Need one for the helmet band.

Thanks,

Pap

Name: **Larry Watson**

Email: watson03@duo-county.com

Date: 06-08-2006

Phone: 270-378-4501

Comments: B-222 VN 11-67-11-68 I missed the reunion due to 5 heart attacks but will see you at the next one.

New Finds

Name: **Paul Guetter**

E-mail: paulguetter@earthlink.net

2nd Bn, 77th Arty, 25th ID Sept.66 to Sept. 67

Name: **Robert J. Bergeron**

Phone: 218-437-8253

C Co. 4th ID, Sept. 66 to Mar. 67

Name: **Pasquale H. (Pat) Cruciano**

E-mail: phcruciano@rcn.com

C Co. 4th ID & 25th ID July 67 to March 68

Comments: Pat would like to contact **Frank Day, Rufus Dudley, Tom Lupe**

Name: **Wayne Dobson**

E-mail: FD1201@aol.com

Phone: 918-324-5518

B Co. 4th ID, 65 to 67

Name: **Vance Gustafson**

Phone: 503-325-2842

Comments: Vance would like to contact **Richard "Doc" Byers, Mitch Moor, Orville Rickard, Terry "Doc" Huff.**

Name: **Terry M. Hackman**

E-mail: thackma@ned.rr.com

HHc, 35th ID, Oct 67 to Oct.68

Name: **Howard W. Lewis**

E-mail: 1864@midwest.net

Phone: 618-937-2052

B Co. 4th & 25th ID, Nov. 66 to Dec. 67

Name: **Douglas R. Lyall**

Address :P.O. Box 269

Berkley Springs, WW 25411

Email: lyalldp@aol.com

Phone: 304-258-8189

B Co. 25th ID June 68 to June 69

Comments: Doug would like to be in contact with **Darryl Nordin**. Doug was wounded and never received his PH. He didn't ask for help, but I am. If anyone remembers when Doug was wounded, contact him. **Jim May**

Name: **Daniel McDonald**

1200 East 6th South

Mountain Home, ID 83647

Email: eagleseyevet@hahoo.com

Phone: 208-587-7785

A Co. 25th ID 1968 to 1969

Comments: Daniel would like anyone who remembers him to contact him. Daniel writes, "Thank you, this is the best thing I have done since coming home."

Name: **Daniel F. Michalec**
Email: tarmdan_83@yahoo.com
Phone: 605-996-6403
A Co. 25th ID, Jan. 69 to Jan. 70

Name: **Roger D. Rosin**
Phone: 920-622-4072
C Co. 4th ID & 25th ID, Sept. 66 to Sept. 67

Name: **Donald W. Ryan**
Phone: 631-588-3464
HHC 4th ID, Dec. 65 to Aug. 67

Name: **Dennis Luiz**
9822 Coral Dr. SW
Lakewood, WA 98498
Phone: 253-503-4599
A Co. 2/22, Mech Inf. Sept. 68 to Aug. 69

Comments: Dennis would like to hear from anyone that remembers him. Dennis writes, "Very good to hear from Vietnam Vets of the 222."

Name: **Victor Diver**
Email: vicd2@winco.net
B Co. 2/22, 25th ID, Nov. 69 to Nov. 70

Name: **Jose H. Flores**
1 Elm St-Unit 108
San Carlos, CA 94070
650-595-8442
A Co. 2/22 Boat Original

Name: **Allen O. Francis**
6936 Hopkins Rd.
Mentor, OH 44060
HHC, 25th ID, 1968 to 1969

Comments: Allen writes, "Fine job, keep up the good work. I'm active and have been for 25 years with Mentor V.F.W. Post 9295. I've also been active with my good friends at Chambers Det 555 Marine Corp League."

Name: **Patrick L. Kanan**
7160 W. 9th Place
Lakewood, CO 80214
303-231-0842
plkanan@comcast.net
Recon Plt., 25th ID, Oct. 67 to Oct. 68

Name: **Michael F. Kush**
10862 Burr Oak Way
Burke, VA 22015
703-919-1509
michael.kush@capgemini-gs-com

Name: **Joseph Spado**
203 9th Avenue West
Ashland, WI 54806
715-685-9687
spado@mac.com
B Co. 25th ID, Feb. 69 to Feb.70

Comments: Joe would like to hear from ANYONE!

Name: **Marvin P. Peterson**
2417 290th Ave.
Ada, MN 56510
218-784-7589

Comments: Marvin writes, "Would like to hear from anyone who remembers me."

Name: **Victor Diver**
13117 W. Todd School Rd.
Glasford, IL 61533-9542
309-389-4950
vicd2@winco.net
B Co. 25th ID, Nov. 69 to Nov.70

Name: **William Sabel**
W 2639 St.Charles Rd.
Chilton, WI 53014-9624
920-849-9443
D Co. 25th ID, 1969 to 1970
Bhsabel@aol.com

Name: **J.R. (Ron) Hall**
5895 Mockingbird Lane
Pinson, AL 35126
205-681-8181
hall8181@bellsouth.net
HHC, 25th ID, Aug. 69 to Aug.70

Name: **Edmond J. Murrell**
P.O. Box 281
Fairview, OR 97024
503-347-4329
Charlie Co., 4th ID, Aug. 65 to Sept.67

Name: **Larry S. Watson**
3455 Johnson School Rd.
Columbia, KY 42728
270-378-4501
watson03@duo-county.com
B Co. 25th ID, Nov 67 to Nov 68

Comments: **Larry** writes, "Thanks for everything you guys have done."

Name: **Paul H. Williams**
2438 Millye Street
Kingsport, TN 37664
423-245-2148
fishfinder47@hotmail.com
A Co. 25th ID, Aug 67 to Apr 68

Comments: Last night I received a very welcome call from **Jose Flores**. He does not have email but he told me he would call back with his son's email. The call was not the usual 2 hour one as his cell phone was dying. First his address and phone.

Jose H Flores age 63
1 Elm St- unit 108 (a condo)
San Carlos, CA 94070

Land line phone—650-595-8442

Comments: First I would like to thank my good friend **Bill Schwindt** for his locating help. I and the rest of the A/2/22 boat originals really appreciate your help. I owe you at least one beer.

In our phone call, Jose told me the following. He was and still is a resident alien and a citizen of El Salvador. He was drafted earlier than the other guys and because of his status as a non-citizen and resident alien, the ARMY could not send him to Vietnam as an individual replacement. He would not have the necessary security clearance or something like that. He was drafted in the early fall of 1965 and did Basic Training at Fort Ord and then was shipped to Fort Polk for AIT and mortar training. He was shifted around to several Army bases and then the Army assigned him to A/2/22 around the time the rest of A/2/22 was doing AIT. So according to **JOSE**, the Army sent the 4th division to Vietnam and not him individually. Anyway his tour was up a little earlier than the other guys because his 2 years were up. I did not get exact dates. When he was drafted, all his family was in El Salvador except for his brother. He did not let his family except for his brother know he was in Vietnam.

He like many of us has had nightmares, flashbacks, etc. He has had a succession of jobs and is now retired. He has a 90 year old mother requiring 24 hour care in El Salvador and spends about 8 months a year down there. He told me he owns a ranch or some property in El Salvador. He wants to come to the Omaha reunion if at all possible, the only thing that would keep him is if he is in El Salvador in OCT 2006. He remembers **Bruce Blakeslee** and **Mario Salazar** and spoke fondly of them. He also remembers **Joe Fraser**, **Lou Gross**, **Larry Hansen** and **Dwight Brenneman** (but I had to describe quiet **Dwight** to him).

He is married and has at least one son. This is about all I can remember. Oh he said that Mario called him when Mario got to Oakland but Mario was anxious to get home to Columbia at the time. So no connection was made at that time. So Mario now you have to come to Omaha with both **Mike Ochoa** and **Jose Flores** coming to their first reunions.

GARY HARTT A/2/22(12/65-9/67)
503-632-6955

Name: Jim Hartdegn
11515 N. Fantail Trail
Casa Grande, AZ 85222
Phone: 520-836-1107
jhartdegn@hotmail.com
B Co., 4th ID & 25th ID 1967

Comments from Comrades

James F. DePree
112 N. Cherry St.
Burlington, WA 98233
360-708-8873
j.depre1@juno.com
C Co. 4th ID & 25th ID, Oct. 66 to Sep. 67

Comments: Jim would like to contact **Daniel Ochs**.

James D. Nelson
RT. 2 Box 13 A
Jewell, KS 66949
jimandsharon@mfire.com

Comments: Jim writes, "Enjoy all the reunions."

Thomas J. Petro
2784 Center Hill Rd.
Bowling Green, FL 33834
863-773-6827
tpetro@hotmail.com
Recon Plt, 25th ID, Aug.67 to Aug.68

Comments: Tom would like to contact **Richard Rafter** and **Gary Harville**.

William E. Stefvater
3407 S. 10th St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220
920-684-5271
williamestiefvater@yahoo.com
HHC, 25th ID, Oct. 69 to Oct.70

Comments: Bill would like to contact **Reuben Martin**, **Jacky Clement**, **Leonard Parker** and **Rudy Esquivel**

Charles E. Weidner
18531 Center St.
Castro Valley, CA 94546
510-537-2732
weidner@slac.stanford.edu
A Co. 25th ID, Jan. 70 to Oct. 70

Comments: Charles would like to contact **Robert Rankin**, **James Bird**, **Henry Smith** and **Doug Ryan**.

Ronney R. Akins
111 Bellevue Ave.
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-722-4552
akinsron@yahoo.com
B Co. 4th ID & 25th ID Nov. 66 to Nov.67
Comments: Ron would like to contact **John Lewis**.

Wilber L. Dahlke
371 N.E. Waaga Way
Bremerton, WA 98311
360-692-5640

cdahlke@msn.com

C Co. 4th ID 1965 to 1967

Comments: Wilber writes, "New Find" Original.

Francisco Baran

53866 B Kam Hwy
Hauula, HI 96717
808-293-2999

Charles Jones

12141 St. Mark St.
Garden Grove, CA 92845
crbutchj@aol.com
A Co. 25th ID, Oct. 68 to Oct. 69

Comments: Butch would like to get in touch with **James Terrell, Sandy Purdy** and **Robert O'Toole**.

Gerald Marceaux, Jr.

P.O. Box 160
Broussard, LA 70518-0160
337-201-1625
frenchie25th@yahoo.com
D Co. 25th ID, 1969 to 1970
Comments: Gerald would like to speak with anyone who was in Delta Co.

Joseph A. Dietz

2614 Tamiami TR. Box 516
Naples, FL 34103
239-514-7657
jad516@Webtv.net
C Co. 4th ID, 1965 to 1967

Comments: Marcy writes, "Joe is bedridden at home still very weak. Hospice is involved. He (Joe) is very alert, in no pain amazingly and enjoys talking to those who call and visit. Thanks for all the cards and prayers!"

Edward M. Fagan, Jr.

155 W. 68th St.
New York, NY 10023-5808
212-799-7014
C Co., 4th ID, 1966 to 1967

Comments: Ed would like to get in touch with **James Kelly** of Alpha Co.

William E. Noyes

1035 Hazel Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008
trplducen@aol.com
B Co. 25th ID, 9-68 to 9-69

Comments: Bill writes, "Our battle cry, whenever we would roll to the rescue of a Wolfhound unit was in contact, 'better late than never.'"

Roger H. Cote

1785 Winding Ridge Circle
SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909

321-952-9102

rhc.esq@earthlink.net

Alpha Co. 4th ID & 25th ID, Jan 67 to Jan 68

Comments: Roger would like to contact **Russell Whiggs**.

Information Wanted

Charles Webb, the nephew of **Brooks Michael (Mike) Scrivner**, KIA 12-17-68 would like to hear from anyone who knew his Uncle. **Mike Webb** was in Delta Company. Charles can be reached at cwebbusa@yahoo.com

"WELCOME HOME"

When you guys say welcome home, brother, it is really touching! It comes from your hearts! And felt clear out here in Washington. I happen to be the wife of **Dennis E Luiz** who served in A CO. 2/22, Pennie!

I did not realize what would happen by just signing my husband's name in a guest book! It has literally turned his world around! He has been so excited by hearing from and talking on the phone to so many of you. And the welcome I got really made him happy too! And to know that there is a reunion we can't attend, well, it is like dangling candy in front of a baby!

Since we have been in touch with some of you, we have made new friends over the internet and by phone. We want to, at this time, say a big thanks for the renewed memories, some good and some not so good! The biggest thing is we have all made it! I will say I have always, being raised a Navy brat, had a great sense of pride in the military. But now, with things the way they are in this world, America is still the greatest place to live! I love to watch the older vets when the military marching band comes by. How they stand, so tall, even though they may be hurting! They have the pride of American in them!!! So we all know, this is the land of the free because of the brave!

Feel free to contact us.
DENNIS AND PENNIE LUIZ
WELCOME HOME
BROTHER
LUIZD_P@MSN.COM

Omaha October 4-8, 2006
22nd Infantry Regiment Society
& VN 2/22 Reunion



After the Ambush (by Jim Nelson)
Coy Thomas C Co. 67 to 68, Austin Kreeger C Co. 67 to 68

Thanksgiving Battle Part 2

Memories fade—the date of the ambush was Nov 24th not the 25th as I wrote in the previous newsletter.

The morning of the 24th dawned with a lot of anticipation. The ground attack that I expected did not happen. At that time I did know that B. Co. had contact the 21st and again the 22nd.

Thanksgiving Day Nov 23, Third Platoon B. Co. entered the contact area. There had been artillery and air strikes. A firefight lasted 30 minutes. C. Co. went in to destroy bunkers. By this time everybody knew this was a bad place. The hot air smelled. Sgt. Kay had told us about this odor. Something like rotten eggs and burnt straw. Others described it as a fishy odor with a rotten sauce. If there were no villages in the area this made the hair stand up on the back of ones neck. This odor was the enemy and they were near!

After being relieved from the cramped quarters of the 50 cal. turret, I went to my foxhole to the left of track 34 and opened a C ration can with my P38. At the same time Sgt. Kay with his squad leader **Jim Frost**, a 19 yr. old buck sergeant, came over and told us to put out more wire, 15 more claymores and dig another u shape fox hole for another M60 machine gun.

As **Ted Angus**, **Tom Bernardi**, **Jerry Rudisill** and I worked, two new replacements came over to me and said Frost had sent them over and I

would tell them what to do. Not knowing what to say, and never having given an order before, I told them to get behind that big log over there and shoot any gooks that might suddenly appear in the tree line. One hour later I looked over there and they were still watching every leaf move. We had a Thanksgiving meal that day.

November 22 is best described by Dean Springer,

“The lager had bad vibrations from the time that we arrived. 1st Platoon, Bravo Company went on recon to the northwest of the larger site. We had gone approximately one klick when our lead truck took an RPG straight on. Then all hell broke loose as the ambush unfolded. We immediately had 4 men wounded and our front line pinned down with pinpoint fire. Terry Clark was my new RTO, his first day on the job. We were moving up to our front between machine gun bursts that was very intense. Terry always reminds me how I laughed at him when he had his helmet shot off. I’m sure his eyes were as large as his helmet. I watched a branch shot out 6 inches from my face. Once we realized we had come into a base camp, we called for reinforcements.

I had a very tall and strong soldier named Tarkenton who three times went to the front line and carried a wounded man back. For this, I recommended him for a Silver Star which was unjustly denied. As I was in my track directing mortars, my 50 machine gunner Angel Rivera took a round to the head. As he lay at my feet his hand slowly reached into his pocket. I helped him take out a rosary which he clung to as he did to life.

Finally Skip Fabel arrived with his men and they laid down enough covering fire for us to withdraw. At this time another act of bravery happened as the driver of the track that took the RPG climbed back into it and drove it out, even with the shrapnel in his hands and bleeding profusely.

On the way out, I spoke briefly with Lt. Mylnarski (a close friend of mine) of C. Company. I did not realize that would be our last conversation.

The next day (Terry Clark’s second day as RTO) we were security for the dustoffs when a large piece of shrapnel hit the radio on Terry Clark’s back and ruined it. We need to get Terry to recount all of his close calls while he was there.

I’m sure that Terry, John Cresong or Roberto Willars (one of the wounded) can add their version to this story.”

All of this was going on during new air strikes and artillery on the other side of the perimeter.

The night of the 24th I described in the previous article. The morning of the 25th it was 0800 hours and Sergeant Kay was yelling at us to get ready to go on a sweep. To the front everybody was to carry extra ammo. To the left was the Skies Raders track. Lt. Mylanarski was easily distinguished with his pale complexion and dark black mustache. He carried a shot gun slung around his neck. I stopped shoveling and watched him disappear around the back of the track.

That morning he had given a fifth of scotch to the nine member ambush patrol after they had gone out with a couple of tracks to provide the back up while the communists were buried in their own fox holes. The fox holes were nearby where they had launched their 24 mortars.

November 25 the artillery shells sounded like jet planes going over until they hit. I saw **Capt. Allison** confer with Sgt. Kay. As it turned out he was going with us. He and **Lt. Col. Awb Norris** were with the troops. 3rd Platoon C. Co. entered the tree line in file, the point man was sent in ahead. We would stop then continue, stop then continue. It must have been a half an hour when we passed what I called Boot Hill, Dodge City, Kansas where in the cemetery they buried the outlaws with their boots on. The enemy mortar squad had been buried with hands and feet sticking out of the ground. When we came back the next time, the enemy had dug up their dead and buried them again in perfect rows of dirt mausoleums 4 ft. tall.

Shortly after returning to the lager site AK and machine gun fire erupted. Lt. Mylnarski had walked down a jungle trail and was ambushed. Second platoon couldn't reach him. First platoon went in and a fierce firefight started. **John Lewis** was on the 50 cal. When a RPG glanced off the front of his APC. Sgt. Kay was conferring with Capt. Allison and came back and told us we were going in and to load up with all we could carry. **Lt. Van Patton** and **Lt. Mylnarski** were both isolated at this point.

Lt. Skip Fabel of 3rd Platoon B. Co. was on our right as we moved into the jungle. The noise of the battle was so loud you couldn't hardly hear anybody. Several of our tracks were coming with us and we, the infantry, were to protect them from RPG fire.

We waited while wounded were being carried out. I found a small crater to hunker down in as rounds were coming by us. As I looked to the front two soldiers came running out of the jungle. They grabbed a third man whose hand was bloody and told him to get back or else. They all disappeared to our front into the firefight.

I looked around and saw everybody seemed calm and collected. There was none of the swearing that the movies always show. I know it sounds unreal but it was just another day with my rifle which I called "Twink".

James D. Nelson
C Co. 2/22 25th ID
Sep.1967to Jan 68

Reunion Dates: October 4-8, 2006

Location; Omaha Marriott Hotel

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1-800-228-9290**

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Chicken)**

Ladies Brunch: \$20.00

**Registration forms are on pages 15 and 16.
Watch upcoming newsletters for additional infor-
mation**

**Please note the new contact email
for the newsletter editor,
Dan Streit D 69
D222@nckcn.com**