

The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

An Association of 2 Bn. (Mech)

22nd Infantry Regiment

Viet Nam Veterans

Together Then.....Together Again!.....

Thanks for Being There...&...Welcome Home



Vol. 13, No. 3

September, 2007

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Editors Dan & Vera Streit D 2/22 1969

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**The Vietnam Triple Deuce
Website
www.vietnamtripledeuce.org**

Mario Salazar HHC 2/22 65-67

President's Message

Hello again to all from the sunny Midwest. Is it just me, or is May of 2008 beginning to race at us like a run away APC??? My goodness folks. it's under eight months to the Washington D.C. reunion! Not panic time, but definitely time to take a hard look at what we have to get done and ready or this huge event.

First and foremost you need to get your reservations made. Then there is the decision on travel mode to make. Land, air or sea? Gotta get after that pretty quickly. Then there is one of the most important of all. Have you lined up that buddy who's never been to a reunion yet? We need him badly, and he needs us. It's up to you in many cases to give him the motivation to sit down at a table with you for the first time in decades. As Awb has often said, "If everyone brings one, we're twice as big".

The Board has purchased the five permanent guidons for the Vietnam Triple Deuce. At the memorial service at the Wall in D.C. we will join the rest of the 22nd Infantry Regiment with our individual company colors proudly flying. It was decided to buy the entire set to make sure that all of the companies are represented at this, and all functions in the future. The cost was around a thousand dollars. There has been a lot of conversation about the high cost of these high quality flags, and many of you have offered to donate towards this purchase to lighten the burden to our financial status. Please feel free to do so at this time by sending your check or money order to **Jim May**, P.O. Box 665, Norridgewock, Me. 04957. Know that your help is greatly appreciated by this Board, and all members of VN222. Also of great concern is making sure that those of you who have purchased

your own Company guidons know that you are certainly welcome and encouraged to bring them and fly them along side of the VN222 banners at the Wall. We don't feel that there can be too many of these symbols of our Brotherhood in our presence at any time. Before and after the Wall service we will proudly display the guidons in the hotel hospitality room as a visual aid and rallying point for each Company's troops to gather around for the real reason for reunions-the gathering of old comrades in arms from so long ago.

Dick Nash
Alpha/Headquarters Co. 1969

Editor's Comments

What a summer it has been. Throughout the country the weather has been violent. A dear friend who lost everything in one of the Kansas storms still signs her e-mails

Life is short.

Break all the rules.

Forgive quickly, kiss slowly, love truly.

Laugh uncontrollably and never regret anything that made you smile!

It causes me to think just how short life is. Life is comprised of moments. Moments with family and friends. Introspective moments alone. Moments of joy and moments of sorrow. We have so many for which to be thankful. Topping my list, of course, would be time I spend with our grandchildren whether the activity is fishing, swinging, reading or playing Barbies. . .the moments are precious.

Likewise the times we share with our Brothers bring great joy. Whether it is the long telephone visits, the frequent e-mail encounters, the discussions over newsletter articles or time actually spent together. . .all are precious. This summer I was privileged to have one such an encounter with **Dick Nash**. While visiting relatives in Eastern Iowa I journeyed to meet Dick for a day of terrorizing all the fish on his portion of the Mississippi River. While the fishing was good, the camaraderie was even better.



The Washington DC reunion will be filled with moments. Moments of getting reacquainted Moments of support Moments of reminiscing. Plan now to be there for the moments with Brothers that will change your life.

Anyway, that how it seems to me.

Dan Streit
D Co. 69

JOIN US IN D.C. FOR THE 22nd INFANTRY REGIMENT SOCIETY 2008 REUNION...

Help the 22d Infantry Regiment Society and Triple Deuce Vietnam leadership locate our fellow brothers who need to be with us in D.C. NOTE: A special 22d Infantry Regiment wreath presentation ceremony will take place May 2, 2008 1-2:30pm at the Viet Nam Wall. DON'T MISS IT!

Reminder on important information

:Place-

Sheraton Premiere at Tyson's Co ner
8661 Leesburg Pike
Vienna, VA. 22182

Dates- May 1-4, 2008

Room Rate- \$109 plus tax
\$118.81 per night)

Reservations- 1-800-325-3535 and ID yourself

Reunion Schedule of Events

Wednesday April 30, 2008

Set Up and Early Registration

Hotel

0800-2200

Thursday May 1, 2008

Registration

Hotel

0800-2200

Golf Tournament

TBD

Hospitality Suite

Hotel

Friday May 2, 2008

Business Meeting

Hotel

0900-1030

Ladies Breakfast

Hotel

0900-1030

Memorial Service

The Vietnam Wall

1300-1400

Bus transportation to be provided

Departs Hotel 1100-1130

Hemingway Turkey

Hotel

1800-1830

Italian Buffet Supper

Hotel

1800-2100

DMOR/HMOR. Presentation

Hotel

2000-2100

Saturday May 3, 2008

Banquet

Hotel

1800-2100

Free time until Banquet

Sunday May 4, 2008

Memorial Service

Hotel

0900-1000

GUYS, NONE OF US ARE GETTING ANY YOUNGER. LET'S DO ALL WE CAN TO GET OURSELVES AND OUR BROTHERS TO THIS IMPORTANT REUNION. WE DESERVE IT.

Reunion Loan Program

No Excuses!

Reunion Attendance is Mandatory

Here's an outline of how the **Program** will work:

Funds will be available for lodging, reunion registration, and 22 IRS Reunion activities including tours, banquets, and incidental expenses. Incidentals include breakfast and lunch expenses.

No cash advances will be made. Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc. will pay all approved items directly to the provider. This does not include incidental expenses. The Treasurer will be responsible for incidental cost.

No bar expenses or room service charges will be considered as **Program** expenses.

The Member taking the loan and the Treasurer will agree to loan repayment schedules. There are no timetables for repayment and there are no interest charges.

The Board will, 12 months before the next 22 IRS Reunion, determine the amount that is to be allocated for the **Program** and the number of Members allowed to participate.*

Selection will be considered on a "first come, first served" basis.*

The identity of the Member taking the loan will not be announced or in any way made public.

The Board has allocated funds for the DC Reunion. Enough funds are available so that anyone who wishes to attend this most important reunion should be able to do so. So, if you have been considering coming to a Reunion, but haven't because your budget won't allow for it, well here's your chance to come and visit with your Vietnam Triple Deuce Brothers. The funds we have in the Treasury are intended for this type of use and nothing would please your Combat Brothers more than to have you come to the Washington, DC Reunion and make the trip up to **The Wall** where we will honor our fallen Brothers.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the **Reunion Loan Program** should contact me.

*The Board has removed all restrictions on the number of Members who wish to take advantage of the **Reunion Loan Program**. This decision was based on the importance of making attendance possible to as many Members who wish to attend this most important Reunion.

Jim May, Treasurer
(207) 634-3355 Jlmay@tds.net

Men who have been to war

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed together, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades... Such good men."

Author Unknown-

Letter From Judie Evans

June 6, 2007

In May I received a call from a Judie Evans inquiring about a **Ronnie Lewis**. Judie told me that Ronnie, her childhood boyfriend, had been a Charlie Boat Original and was murdered in Washington State about a year after returning home. Judie said that it was important for her to speak with anyone who had been with Ronnie in Charlie Company. Judie said that Ronnie didn't talk about Vietnam and she knew that there was some part of him that she couldn't reach. Ronnie is gone, but the questions still lived in her. She asked for help. I contacted **Lynn Dalpez** knowing that he would do whatever he could to help. Lynn did just that.

The following is a letter I received from Judie. I called Judie and asked permission to put her letter in the Newsletter because I believe it is an example of how the long held emotions of the

friends and family members of those who served can best be reached through those of us who survive. Judie has joined both VN 222 and The 22nd Infantry Regiment Society as an Associate Member. I hope Judie, who lives in Oregon, attends the Fort Lewis Reunion in October 2009. I know she will be well received by the Members and their Ladies and I also know that she will be more comforted after spending time with Ronnie Lewis' Combat Brothers.

Jim May

Jim,

I hope this letter finds you and yours doing well.

I'd like to say thank you for the conversation last week and for you getting in contact with **Lynn Dalpez** about PFC **Ronald Lewis**.

Lynn phoned me on Tuesday evening 6-4-07 and we talked for over an hour about Ronnie and other men in his unit. I was pretty choked up and I had to keep fighting back the tears but at the same time it was a wonderful feeling to talk to Ronnie's fellow comrade who remembers part of his life. I had so many unanswered questions that have been on my mind for almost 40 years, things I needed to know of Ronnie. I kept closing down and running from my emotions because of so much pain in my heart from losing him. It took me many years to realize that what I was doing was wrong for me. I was strong enough to hide my feelings but I wasn't strong enough to face them. Perhaps finding out things I needed to know will put my heart at rest in some ways.

After Lynn and I hung up I sat here in my chair looking at Ronnie's picture for a while. He was in his battle fatigues and gear standing off to the side of a track. He looked so much older than 20 years old but he looked strong willed and determined. Ronnie Lewis was always my hero years before the Army presented him with medals; he was a wonderful young man. I was so lucky to have had him in my life.

Thank you so much Jim for your kindness and taking the time to have Lynn contact me. Lynn said a couple of more of Ronnie's comrades may phone me. I'd welcome all their phone calls.

Thank you for understanding, you and Lynn were both very easy to talk to about things.
Thanks again, Judie

GRAND OPENING BASE CAMP TWO TWENTY TWO

Forty-one years later, here they are, the "Brother's Forever"... gathering from ALL over the country in a quiet little town in Tennessee. It happened when **Bruce Blakeslee**, **Dwight Brenneman** and **Mike Ochoa**, (after Hartt's re-untie phone calls) they got together and ultimately bought a little place in South Pittsburg, Tennessee (right in the middle of the US, designating the club as a tribute to all Veterans.... (from all wars and conflicts).....(Bruce, Dwight, Mike and Ron Phelan are also building a "lodge" on the mountain there, almost completed...call for details)

Over the Labor Day weekend, the guys from the 2/22 got together once again! Back in 1967,.... who would have thought they would all be together in this part of the country, this place..... especially in 2007?



From left front to back left, pictured in the photo are: **Terri Casto** (PA), **Dwight Brenneman** (FL), **Mike Ochoa** (FL), **Mad Doc Matz** (TN), and **Rich Holte** ND....**Bruce Blakeslee** (FL), **Joe Fraser** (CT), **Larry Hansen** (KS), **Louie Gross** (MI), **Rich Wylie** (PA), **Ed "Fast Eddie" Davis** (NJ), and **Gary Hartt** (OR). Not in photo but there for the opening...**Mike Rupolo** (NY), **Ron Phelan** (NY) and **Ken Gengler** (MI).

They came from all over the country, joined by wives and significant others and met the local veterans. Everyone there had another of lifes "special time" to reflect and enjoy each other.... another time spent Together Forever".... Many thanks to all that have contributed memorabilia to the "club"...and many thanks to all that have traveled so far to visit. Looking forward to lots more "get-togethers" in the near future Anyone needing directions to get to the Base Camp..., please call: Base Camp(423)-837-6335), or Dwight (941)716-0558, Bruce (561) 906-5384, or Mike (941)928-4124.

A True Story

Some forty years ago I served in Vietnam with the 25th artillery 2nd Artillery 2nd of the 77th. Our base camp was Dau Ting Vietnam from 1967 to 1968.

My main purpose after I was drafted into the army was to go and fight for my country. I was 24 years old when drafted. I had some advantages. I was a Eagle Scout which helped in service and I was not married. After my training at Ft. Knox, KY I went to Ft. Sill, OK for AIT training on 105 Howitzers. Now we will get into my discovery. I have pictures of my discovery.

I wanted a Vietnamese hat to take home. For some reason they were very interesting to me. I came out of the field to base camp Dau Tieng for 3 days to rest up from all the death and hell out there. It was like nothing I'd ever seen. I went over to talk to the Vietnamese girls for the next 2 days and to 3 other girls that washed out pots and pans. One Vietnamese girl was Mi Lynn. I asked her to get me a hat like papason. She said "give me money I bring for you tomorrow". "Tiny the cook pick them up the next day to work in the mess hall." When Mi Lynn arrived at the kitchen she gave me the hat. It was not the same as papason's hat. I had noticed that their hats were different. I told Mi Lynn "number ten thousand" and I threw it back to her. . She said "Louie I bring you number one hat tomorrow" and she did. I held it up to the sun. It was o.k. so I looked inside at the top of the hat. What I found was a little mirror. Guess what?

That's how Charlie would signal to another Charlie at the other end of the rice patty to take out our most feared weapons like the M-48 tanks, our 105's or APC's. When they got to the spot on the road Charlie would set off the land mines to take it out. I would always get off the truck and walk along side whenever I saw Charlie take off his hat and wave it.



One day I took the hat to our 1st LT and said "I've got something to show you". It was getting dark so I got my flashlight and the Vietnamese hat. I said "you hold the flashlight and I'll hold the hat. You shine the light on the center of the hat" so he did. I tipped the hat so the light went back and forth across his eyes. I said "See that's how Charlie uses his hat with the mirror to signal like Morse Code. That's how the V.C. are blowing us up on convoy". He said "Lewis that's crazy. Put that hat away and don't bother me with your petty ideas again". I just told some of my buddies. I don't think they paid much attention either but I sure did. I know it saved my life and some of the others that listened to me. Hope you enjoyed my true story. I still have the hat after forty years.

Judson E. Lewis
Vietnam 1967-1968
25th 2/77 Artillery
Dau Tieng, Vietnam

Judson is a friend of **Jim Nelson**
C Co. Sep. 67 to Jan 68

Requesting Replacement Medals

For those brothers that were at Soui Tre 40 years ago, (March 21, 1967) you were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for that battle. It does not show up on your DD214 because it was not signed until Sept 23, 1968. We were all home by then. You can apply for a "Correction to DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty". What this will do is correct your DD214 to show you were awarded the Pres. Unit Citation. Most everyone I have talked to are unaware of this. The Pres. Unit Citation is the second highest award America gives, the Congressional Medal of Honor being the highest. This is something that you earned, the Government will send you this Medal and update your DD214. You need to fill out a "Requesting Replacement Medals, Awards, and Decorations". This is form SF180. You can get these from the VA or online at <http://members.aol.com/forv ets/htomr.htm> Fill out the paper (about 3 min.!) Letting them know you never recieved this Award. Send a copy of the Pres. Unit Citation, print a copy of it from the Triple Duce and mail in.

Also, this form SF180 is that same form to fill out to update your DD214 and to "Request" any Medals you never recieved. If you need help in filling these out, my e-mail is horod1930@comcast.net and my phone (evenings) is 360-533-0608. For people e-mailing me put in the "Subject" box, SF180... That would help me considerably I would be more that glad to help you.

Jim Neeley
C Co. & 4th ID, Dec. 65 to Sep. 67

Deeds Not Words

A Humorous Memory

Hi guys,

The below message is from Capt **Martin Kuchesky** (the A Co. Commanding officer after Capt Both.) As **Don Wyatt** of C/2/22 reminded me, CAPT. KUCHESKY served when the 3 line companies each had a Polish CO. there was Bilencowski(sp) in Bravo and **Frdyrikowski**(sp) in Charlie Co. When they would want one another over the radio it was not ALPHA 6 calling CHARLIE 6, but ALPHA SKI calling CHARLIE SKI. so for a couple of month in mid 1967 it was the US ARMY with Polish commanders. Capt Kuchesky served as A/2/22 CO from late April to mid- August 1967.

TO: **GARY HARTT** (and other A/2/22 soldiers)

FROM: **MARTIN KUCHESKY**

"Unfortunately I will be unable to the reunion referring to 25 ID Lexington, KY reunion) this year due to conflicting family activities. Had the timing been different, I would have been eager to join you troops. My best to all the men. I am proud to have been able to serve with you (troops).

NOTE: You can bet money I will get him to the Wash DC reunion next May, along with many other guys.

Gary Hartt A/2/22

New Finds

Name: **Jeffery U. Dryer**

215 Coombs St.
Napa, CA 94559

Phone: 707-688-7522

Email: jeffreydryer@yahoo.com

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

Comments: Jeff would like to contact **Watts, Vargo, Gentry** and **O'Day**.

Name: **John L. Esposito**

11 Spicewood Road Apt. D
Norwalk, CT 06854

Phone: 203-216-5226

D Co. 25th ID, 1969 to 1970

Name: **Terry M. Hackman**

1730 Berna Rd.
Akron, OH 44312

Phone: 330-645-6281

Email: hackmanakron@aol.com

HHC, 25th ID, Oct. 67 to Oct.68

Name: **Paul S. Steffy**

54 Hazard Ave. Unit # 301
Enfield, CT 06082

Comments: Paul would like to contact **Gary Beaman, Lt. Fahey** and **Tracy Slater**. Paul writes, "I would like to thank **Dean Springer** for finding me."

Name: **Claude I. Davidson**

111 N. Chapel Rd.
Hollister, CA 95023

Phone: 831-637-4952

B Co. 25th ID, 67 to 68

Name: **Kenn Smith**

426 Arch St.
Catashqua, PA 18032

Phone: 610-264-7682

Email: crucible1@hotmail.com

C Co. 25th ID, Nov. 68 to Nov. 69

Name: **Chester J. Malczewski**

7736 Elmgrove Dr.
Elmwood Park, IL 60707

Phone: 708-452-6179

Email: mmalczewski@msn.com

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

Comments: Chester would like to hear from anyone who served with him.

Name: **Joseph E. Williams**
1118 Annelle Drive
Florence, SC 29505
Phone: 843-669-3095
B Co. 25th ID, Jan. 69 to Dec. 69

Comments: Joe would like to contact **Sgt. Choate, Jimmie Robinson, Henry Fugate, Steve Irvine, Bill Sable** and "John."

Name: **Eugene M. Hansmeyer**
120 Holm Rd.
Esko, MN 55733
Phone: 218-940-3767
Email: lilahansmeyer@aol.com
B Co. 25th ID, May 68 to May69

Comments: Gene writes, "Anybody remember Trang Bang North of town, crazy area. Christmas 68 outside Dau Tieng dug in by the Catholic Church expecting VC attack in Ben Cui Rubber? Working with 101st Division at NVA attack and with the RoK's and the sniffer dogs?" I spoke with Gene and he would like anyone who remembers any of this to call him, (218) 940-3767. I also asked about the RoK's because, to my knowledge, the Koreans didn't come into our AO. Gene said he wasn't sure, but hoped that someone would call him to discuss this. If anyone remembers Koreans in our AO, please let me know. **Jim May**

Name: **Billy Arflin**
207 Northridge Drive
Anderson, SC 29621
Phone: 828-768-2445
A Co.,25th ID, 1969-1970

Guest Books Hits

Name: **Bruce Swander**
Email: bruceswander@hotmail.com
Date: 06-21-2007
Phone: 410-729-4539

Comments: Trying to locate anyone from Bravo that knew SP4 **George Haddox**, KIA 13 Jan.

1967....am doing some background research for a historical group from his hometown. Please email me at above address.

Name: **Douglas Ray Lyall**
Email: Lyalldp@aol.com
Date: 6-29-2007
Phone: 304-258-8189

Comments: Looking for **Dr. Goldberg**, Bravo 2-22 1968. Please email with info.

Name: **LTC ROBERT YATES**
Email: robert.yates@us.army.mil
Date: 07/11-2007

Comments: Looking for information on a SP4 **James Essary** who was KIA in Binh Duong (?) 17 Jan 67. HOR was Niangua MO. I am considering a literary project and would like to get the specifics of that incident and any other info on the soldier. Thanks

Name: **Sally Kraus**
Email: bn-kraus6936@x5-corp.com
Date: 07/13/2007
phone: 781-658-2687

Comments: I liked your site.

Name: **Jim Neeley**
Email: hotrod1930
Date: 07/17/07
Phone: 360-533-0608
C/2/22 66'-67'

Comments: C-2-22 Boat People Reunion is in Centrailia, Wa July 28th. For those brothers that were at Soui Tre 40 years ago, March 21,1967, you were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for that Battle. It does not show on your DD214 because it was not signed by the President until Sept 23, 1968. We were all home by then. You can apply for a "Correction to DD214, to show you were awarded the Pres. Unit Citation. Most everyone I talked to are unaware that they have this Award. The Pres Unit Citation is a Unit Citation and is equal to the Distingust Service Cross, which is the second highest Award America

gives, only thing higher is the Congressional Medal of Honor. This is something that you earned and belongs to you. The Government will send you your medal and update your DD214. You will need to fill out form SF180. You can get this thru the VA or online. Fill out the paper, letting them know you never received this award, takes about 3 min. to fill out. Make a copy of the Pres Unit Citation from the Triple Deuce Home page and mail to the address shown. If you are coming to the Reunion, I will have copies of the form and the Citation and can help you fill this out if needed. Any questions, e-mail me...PS If you want to get this online, e-mail me for the address, commit box doesn't allow the address.

Name: **Lynn Dalpez**

Email: dalpezc222@yahoo.com

Date: 08/01/2007

Comments: We had a ball at our Westcoast Charlie Company mini-reunion. The Old Man himself attended, our beloved former CO Capt. George C. White III. Also, our beloved XO in training, and later on Charlie Company CO, **Roger Frydrychowski**. It was great to be with those men again. We will do a write up for the NL about it. Thanks for attending everybody. Lynn

Name: **Lt. Roger Frydrychowski**

Email: graypros@aol.com

Date: 8-13-2007

Comments: It was an honor and a real pleasure to join the men from Charlie Company at the reunion in Centralia, Washington. Since returning to Virginia I have had a difficult time describing to family and friends the depth of my feelings and what it meant to me. I don't seem to have the words to fully express myself. I have always considered the two year period during which we served together in Charlie Company a most significant part of my life. This reunion will always be one of the most cherished moments of my life.

I sincerely look forward to future opportunities to meet again with the Centralia crew and with

other men of Charlie Company and Recon with whom I served. I hope we will have time together so that I can learn about your experiences, lives and families over the last 40 years. Charlie Company was extraordinary only because of the men in the Company, you, were exceptional. I urge you to continue your fellowship and bring in other Chargin Chuck veterans. Many at the reunion described each other as brothers. Because of your shared experiences you are truly brothers and family. Rank being what it was back then, our experiences were often different. So, though I may not deserve the status of brother, for that time in our lives I was and remain extremely proud to have been what Army slang refers to as your OLD MAN.

Roger-Lt. Fry

Name: **Lynn Dalpez**

Email: dalpezc222@yahoo.com

Date: 08/18/2007

Comments: Listen Frydry...you are very much a Brother to us. Understand soldier? Heck, I have very close Brothers now that used to be Colonels. Ain't that right Awb Norris? We loved having you with us,, and being the VP of the VN222, Inc. I hereby order you to return next year...it would not be the same without you and George White. As for Magnet's comment below...how do you think we found the enemy all the time? We got lost, is how. I guess some habits are hard to break. Hahahahaha Dalpez, out.

Name: **Peter Gaworecki**

Email: webmaster@22infantry.org

Date: 08/24/2007

Phone: 315-727-0861

Comments: Today, 24AUG07, lead elements of the 1BCt-10thMTN began their 2nd deployment to Irag. 100 - 150 men were on the first flight out this morning. Most of 2-22 will leave in early September. Wish them well and keep them in your prayers.

Comments from Comrades

Name: **Peter Gaworecki**
771 Village Blvd.
South, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
Phone: 315-635-8003
Email: webmaster@22ndinfantry.org
Pete is a Associate member 1/22 Vietnam Vet.

Name: **Van D. Karg**
21644 746 Ave.
Dassel, MN.55325
Phone: 320-275-3453
Email: vljarg@hutchtel.net
C Co. 4th ID, slept. 66 to Aug.67

Comments: Van writes, "Hope to see everyone at future reunions."

Name: **Jim Neeley**
419 S.Clark
Aberdeen, WA 98520
Phone: 360-533-0608
Email: hotrod1930@comcast.net
C Co. 4th ID, Dec. 65 to Sep. 67

Comments: Jim would like to locate **Tom Demotta**.

Name: **Clarence F. "CJ" Simpson**
16 Scotch Pine Dr.
Medford, NY 11763
Phone: 631-447-1744
Email: cacie1@optonline.com
A Co. 25th ID, Dec. 65 to Dec. 67

Comments: CJ would like to locate **Roger Newkirk**.

Name: **Morris L. Johanson**
579 Shanklin Road
Onalaska, WA 98570
Phone: 360-410-7279
C Co. 4th ID, Dec. 65 to Oct. 67

Comments: Moe would like to locate **James Jett, Mousy Demotto** and **Grover Henderson**.

Name: **Judie Ann Evans**
P.O. Box 227
Brightwood, OR 97011
Phone: 503-622-3275

Comments: Judie was the girlfriend of **Ronald, "Ronnie" Lewis**. Ronnie, a Charlie Company Original, was murdered in 1967 after returning home. Judie would like to hear from anyone who served with Ronnie.

Name: Terry A. Shepherd Sr.
2107 Lake Park Trail, #8
DeSoto, MO. 63020
Phone: 636-586-7103
B Co. 25th ID, Mar. 68 to Mar. 69

Comments: Terry would like to contact **Mike Campy** from Washington, **Murry Stevens** from Florida and Doc. (He does not state the Medic's name.)

Name: **Nick J. Docsanes**
1124 Woodland Avenue
Centrallia, WA 98531
Phone: 360-736-3552
Email: pam.46@Comcast.net
C Co. 4th ID, Dec. 65 to 67

Comments: Nick would like to locate **Ken Brown**.

Taps

David W. Fettig, B Co. 2/22 1st Platoon
I received a letter today from the mother of David W. Fettig informing me that he died in June 2005 of cancer. I called her with our condolences and offered her, his wife, and children the possibility of coming to the reunion. Dave was one of our squad leaders for four months.

Dean Springer
B Co. Sept. 67 to Sept.68

FORT DRUM VISIT

12 JUL 07 – 14 JUL 07

Once again I found myself heading down the driveway at 2:30 AM beginning the 500-mile drive to the Syracuse Airport where I would meet **Awb Norris, Ed Schultz and Skip Fahel**. When I arrived I found that **Pete Gaworecki** was there and was visiting with Awb, who was the first of the three to arrive. Ed arrived next followed by Skip. I went to retrieve my vehicle from the parking garage and when I returned to the pick-up area I was presented with a set of door magnets. I hope that the photo is clear enough so that the reader can make out what these door magnets signify. In the event the photo isn't clear I'll describe the door magnets. There are two 22 Infantry Regiment Crests, one at either end of the magnets. The heading on the magnets read, **22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT**, followed by **DEEDS, NOT WORDS**, followed by **STAFF CAR**. What a hoot! We placed the magnets on my vehicle and they remained there



during our entire visit.

First stop was the Plainville Family Turkey Farm Restaurant for lunch. Lunch revealed two points. First, Pete knows where all the good eateries are within 100 miles of Syracuse. Second, Infantry Types can't do math. One retired Colonel of Infantry announced what the individual contributions would be to cover the bill and tip. After the money had been counted three times it became apparent that counting it again would be futile because the retired Colonel of Infantry had divided by six with only five present.

Well, that settled, we were on our way to Ft. Drum. Pete cautioned me not to drive above 74 mph. He said that the State Police were tolerant of that speed during daylight hours on clear days. It was agreed that Pete would take point, with Awb as his passenger, and the rest of us would follow in the **Staff Car**. We entered I 81 where Pete immediately left me in the dust. After about 20 minutes I thought we had caught up to him at a construction slow down area and began to follow along at 74 mph. Pete began to exit the highway, so I followed. Skip announced that this wasn't the correct exit and that we were not following Pete, but a vehicle similar to his. We got back on I 81 and finally caught up to Pete. At least we agreed that it was Pete. Again we exited the highway and followed Pete into a gas station. After a few minutes of waiting behind Pete, Ed got out to say something to Awb only to return with the news that the car we were now behind wasn't Pete's. We did catch up to Pete and Awb at the main gate where they had been waiting for us for some time. The lesson in this is not to follow Pete on I 81 because he has little regard for the speed limits and because 30 percent of all the cars on the roads in this part of New York look like Pete's.

I must add that my reputation as a Scout was severely damaged during this episode.

Ft Drum is a secure post with very specific requirements to gain entry. And, just like in our day, the methods are constantly changing. We jumped through all the hoops and made our way to the Ft Drum Inn where Awb and Ed were provided with rooms and Skip and I were provided with private cottages. Once settled in we made our way back to Watertown for our dinner engagement with **LTC Sullivan, CO, MAJ Friant, S-3, CPT Morano, FSO, CPT Payne and CSM Smith**. Dinner was fine with lots of talk about what the Battalion has been doing to prepare for deployment and what we would be doing during our visit. Awb presented LTC Sullivan with a VN 222 Guidon. LTC Sullivan thanked us and told us that he would bring the VN 222 Guidon to Iraq. I'm looking forward to seeing a photo of the Guidon in Iraq.

After dinner our guests went off to get some sleep so that they would be prepared for the busy day ahead. We went to Awb's room for impromptu cocktails. After drinking up much of Awb's gin while discussing the up-coming day's events we decided that we should get some rest too.

We had a light breakfast at the Ft Drum Inn and headed for Battalion HQ. Once there we performed our usual inspection and then had a brief meeting with LTC **Sullivan**, MAJ **Friant** and CSM **Smith**. The plans that had been discussed on the previous evening were confirmed. Our first stop was the 10th Mountain Division Memorial Site. At the center of the site is a statue of soldiers climbing a mountain. The soldier on top of the mountain is carrying an M-1 rifle and is dressed in WW II attire. This figure is reaching down to help the soldier who is still climbing. That figure is carrying an M-16 rifle and is dressed in attire that is in use today. We were told that the Memorial site had been expanded so that all of the 10th Mountain's Battalions will have room for their Memorial Sites. We were taken to the spot where the 2/22 Memorial will be erected and we were shown artist's renditions of what the 2/22 Memorial will look like once completed.

Next we proceeded to the training and testing area where today's 11Bravo's are tested for the EIB. The site is composed of fifteen separate testing areas; we visited two. CSM Smith was our guide. He had the testing cadre demonstrate how a candidate is tested for proficiency. Not only is absolute proficiency required, but the soldier must demonstrate this proficiency in a limited amount of time. We watched a demonstration of a hand held anti tank weapons and the radios that are used today. The anti tank weapon is a bit more involved than the LAW that we are all familiar with. However, the radio is light years ahead of the PRC 25's that the RTO carried in Vietnam. They have a bit more range, are much smaller and lighter and are capable of secure transmissions that only CRYPTO equipped radios were capable of in our day. We were all very impressed with the NCO's at this testing site.

Next it was back to Battalion HQ where LTC

Sullivan had gathered all of the Officers in the Battalion for a question and answer session. Awb introduced himself with a statement that it was 40 years ago this September that he took command of the Battalion. He went on to introduce Ed, Skip, Pete and me and told the gathering what we positions we held in Vietnam. Then each of us told the assembled Officers what we believed to be essential to their success in Iraq. This was followed by questions and answers and a general discussion on what we had learned and how these young men and women might make use of our experiences.

This session was very rewarding for me. I visit with the Active Duty Troops for two reasons. One reason has to do with deploying Troops the other with returning Troops. I believe that each of us can provide the Active Duty Troops with information that we have, information that is not taught in any of their training. All of us did just that in this session. I came away from that meeting knowing that what was discussed would help these Officers, NCO's and Soldiers in Iraq.

Now it was on to lunch. Each of us had been asked, weeks in advance, which Company we would like to spend time with. Awb visited with Alpha Company, Skip with Bravo Company, Ed with Charlie Company and Pete with Delta Company. Delta is the Weapons Company. I selected, as you might imagine, Echo Company, the Support Company. I sat with CPT **Bolarinwa**, referred to as CPT B by everyone, 2nd Lt Scribner, a recent graduate of West Point, Chief Warrant Officer **Murray** and Sgt **Rodriguez** with members of the CST. CST was new to me, so I asked and was told that as the mission of the Support Company continues to evolve responsibility for convoy security has changed. No longer are elements detached from the line companies to provide this security, it is now the mission of the Convoy Security Team, all members of Echo Company, to provide convoy security. What I found was that the members of this Team are truck drivers who have been trained as convoy security specialists. They man 50 Cal and 30 Cal MG's that are mounted on armored HUMVEES. Sgt Rodriguez is an enthusiastic young man who understands his mission and, as I learned later that evening, has the respect and support of the

Soldiers he leads. I was so impressed with Sgt Rodriguez that I recommended he be promoted. After lunch I went to visit with the Medics. Skip had already made his visit with them. These young Medics are, as our Medics were and are, the most unassuming and modest men one can imagine. It embarrasses them to be thanked for doing what they do. It is good to know that the Soldiers are in the good hands of the Medics of 2/22, 10th Mtn.

Our next stop was to bring the VN 222 Guidon to the Commons where the Dining Out would take place later in the evening. CSM Smith was



rehearsing the color guard when we arrived and assured us that he would keep a watchful eye over our Guidon.

It was off to the PX and then back to our rooms to prepare for the Courage Ball. When we returned to the Commons that evening we found that the VN 222 Guidon had been placed in the 1st position, at the head of the Company Guidons. We took our places with those we had visited with earlier in the day. I had the chance to talk with other members of the CST and quizzed them on the 50 MG. I ask one young man if he had an extra head space gauge put aside and he told me that he did and that he could also use ID tags (Dog Tags) placed together to establish the headspace set up. Again, these men have Truck Driver MOS's and have taken on this new role with professionalism and vigor. They are a credit to the Triple Deuce.

The party began with the introduction of Spe-

cial Guests, yes us. We were asked to stand and give our names and what position we held when we were in Vietnam. Pete Gaworecki got the loudest applause when he announced himself as "Grunt." Filling the Battalion Punch Bowl, the one that has "MECH" inscribed on it, was the next order of business. This tradition is always meaningful and, together with the Fallen Comrade Ceremony, are very moving. Once the punch had been "assembled" we, the Vietnam Triple Deuce Guests, we invited to come forward to sample the concoction. It was, as I believe Ed said, different. Toasts were made and dinner was served. I enjoyed my dinner with CPT B, CPT Elfenger, Lt Scribner and CWO Murray. I visited the other Echo Company members who were present and came away knowing that these Soldiers and their families are prepared for the upcoming deployment.

After dinner **Major General Oates**, CO, 10th Mtn. spoke to the assembled. Before he spoke he asked that an enlisted person from each company come forward for the purpose of giving special recognition to someone in their respective company who deserved to be so recognized. Each had that special person stand and come forward to receive an Excellence Coin given by General Oates. I thought this was a very thoughtful thing to do. I was also impressed by the demeanor that exists between a PFC and a Two Star in today's Army. They both treat each other as professionals. The EM were relaxed and the General was cordial. General Oates went on to make a few pointed comments about



the upcoming deployment and thanked the families of these Soldiers for the sacrifices they will be making.

The evening concluded with more impromptu cocktails at Awb's room where we marveled at how well we had been treated and how rewarding this trip was.

The morning found us back in the Staff Car heading back to the Syracuse Airport. The ride was uneventful because we were not following or should I say attempting to follow Pete.

A special note of thanks to our hosts in 2/22 10th Mtn will appear in the 22 Infantry Regiment Newsletter.

Jim May

CBO MINI-REUNION CENTRAILIA, WA JULY 26-29, 2007

The much-anticipated Charlie Boat Original's Third Annual Mini-Reunion was held in Centrailia, WA at the end of July. Gail and I had been invited to attend when we were in Omaha for the last Big Reunion, so we took advantage of the invitation and flew to Seattle. **Roy Harbour** and **Bo Baran** thought they were in contention for the much coveted "Traveled Furthest" Trophy, but since Maine is on another planet, they had no chance of winning. Their trips, respectively from Tennessee and Hawaii were measured in miles while our trip from Maine was measured in light years. I accepted the Trophy, made some humble remarks, then popped the top and drank the beer that the Trophy held. This certainly wasn't the high point of the trip, but I thought I'd get my bragging in right up front.

As for high points, there were many, in fact, the Mini-Reunion was a series of high points for me as well as others. One that comes to mind happened when I asked **Tom Ellis** to list his address on a pad I carry with me. Tom took the pad and saw that **Lance Crum's** name, and before making a mark on the pad said, "Lance Crum is here! Where?" I pointed to Lance who was sitting grinning at Tom and I had to get out of the way because one of those very special mini-mini-reunions was taking place. Makes me

smile just to think about those old Buddies greeting each other after all these years. I finally got to meet Captain White. I've been hearing about **George White** from the CBO's for years and now understand why he is held in such high regard. George White, like many of the other former Commanders who are active in VN 222, cared about his Men and they knew it. The mutual respect displayed between George and the CBO Men at this Mini-Reunion was inspiring. I believe that George came away from the Mini-Reunion knowing that the Men he lead all those years ago respect him today because of how he treated them in Vietnam.

This and subsequent Newsletters will carry stories about the CBO Mini-Reunion. **Lynn Dalpez** has provided a fine description about events during the Mini-Reunion. **Jim DePree** is writing about the importance of attending Reunions and Captain George White is writing the definitive story of Soui Tre. George was Charlie CO during the Battle of Soui Tre and finds the "official" After Action Report to be lacking. (Lacking is my word; George's was much more emphatic!) I don't know if anyone will submit the story about the near catastrophic events that took place in the EM Club, but if you ask **Rich Miller**, when you see him in DC, what happened I'm certain he will tell you. Speaking of DC, I hope that George White brings his slides. George has some of the finest photos I have seen.

I had the honor of meeting more Triple Deucers, some of whom I have had a lot of e-mail correspondence with over the years, some I have sent shirts and hats to and some I had never been in contact with before this event. I am pleased to report that the numbers of found Triple Deucers continues to grow and that the enthusiasm to keep finding more Vietnam Triple Deucers is as strong with the CBO's as it can possible be.

Tango Yankee to the CBO's for the invitation and for allowing me to share in their Special Event. And, a Special Thanks to **Nick and Pam Docsanes** for opening their home to all the Mini-Reunion attendees. Gail and I hope to see you all in DC in May.

Jim May

The Inside Track

By: The Kool-Aid Kid

Chargin Charlie's West Coast Reunion
July 27,28,29 2007
Centralia, Washington

I should have known what I was in for when I checked into my room with my Squad Brother **Steve Cowthorp**, and we were assigned room number 113. Steve and I have consecutive Army serial numbers, and have been blown up together in said 113, only that was an M-113. Close enough. Furthermore the proprietor had a strong Middle Eastern accent and had the rooms set up for an Infantryman. No amenities such as a fan in the bathroom, room service, and the sheets smelled of bleach. Perfect! If he would have thrown in a few sandbags we would have been completely at home.

Our hosts were **Nick (Doc) Docsanes** and his charming wife **Pam**. They set up a wonderful event for us including a birthday party for Nick one day, the main reunion the next day, and a good-bye breakfast the last day. Pam was also responsible for getting the Queen of all Red Ants to appear in person at our award ceremony. The Queen has promised to attend all future events with us. She is about 2 feet long and kept her ample rear-end raised up in the air in anticipation of chomping on her favorite snack. Triple Deucers! By the way, Doc was not a medic. We started calling Nick "Doc" back in Basic Training before we even knew what a medic was, because the first part of his last name sounds like "Doc". Nick has a mint condition 60's Vette and a mint 60's Ford Fairlane 500 red convertible that looks as good as **Dan Morris's**, and I quote one of the wives, "Little red Nissan."

Thank you Pam and Nick for providing the venue for the very best of memories. (I listed Pam first because you know damn well she did all the work. Hahahahaha!)

Assisting the Docsanes's was **Cheryl and Wil Dahlke**, and again, I'll list Cheryl first for the same reason as above. Hahahaha! Wil just stands around looking pretty as he always did. I know. I stood behind him in line during training a million times. "D's, fall out to your right!" Dahlke, Dalpez, and oh! **George Dahl** was there too and he stood in front of Wil for those millions of times. Anyway...Cheryl put together a great folder for us with our group picture, The Queen Ant's picture, individual pictures of us all with our addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, and some other photo's of the event.

Thanks a million Cheryl and Wil!

Some highlights for me...

- Number one, as always, was being reunited with our Combat Brothers, and meeting the ones that we haven't seen since those days across the pond. The Old Man himself attended, our CO through the toughest of times in Vietnam, forever our Captain, **George C. White III**. Also in attendance was out XO throughout our training in Fort Lewis, and later took over command of Charlie Company in Vietnam, **Roger Frydrychowski**, who will always be Lt. Frydry to us. (How many times have we said, "Watch out! Here comes Frydry!" Hahahahaha!)

Both George and Roger spoke to us at our banquet, as well as swapping war stories and catching up with us on what we all have all been doing these past 40 years. George showed us his slides and filled in a lot of gaps in our minds about what in heck happen here, and there, and so on. Both George and Roger assured us that Charlie Company's performance in the war was 2nd to no other Company in the war, yet went unheralded. Chests swelled, and so did some tears as they finished their talks. These two men were our favorite officers through it all because they always treated us with respect and made in obvious that they cared very much about our welfare throughout training and during the intense combat situations that Charlie Company always found themselves in. Besides that, they are just plain old cool guys to be around--then, as they are

now.

- The presentation of a TC helmet that was signed by us all and given to George White by **Richard Miller** on behalf of "George's Men". It was the perfect gift for George except that it was a small, but it fit **Pattie White**, George's better half, perfectly. I am sure that George agreed with us that Peggy is the CO of his home anyway, so it worked out for the best after all. Great idea Rich!

- Meeting **Nita Chambers**, the widow of our fallen Brother **Johnny Chambers**. We will make Nita a lifetime member of The Triple Deuce, Inc., and bring her to Washington DC with us next May for the 22nd IRS Reunion. We are so very happy to have you with us Nita...we need you with us. Thanks so much for coming.

- **Don Wyatt** say something! Anything! Everybody loves to hear Don's classic Tennessee drawl, and really do not care if they can understand him or not. I also like the fact that I have a fellow...uh...slender Brother to share the brunt of the abuse that all the fat boys gave us. Hahahahaha! We can still wear our uniforms boys! Hahahahaha!

- **Dan Morris** asking, "Was she talking about my Vette? My Vette ain't no Nissan!"

- **Jim "Dupes" Depree**, one of our Squad Leaders, was showing his slides at the banquet when one came on screen that everyone pointed out as, "That's Dalpez!" So I went over and took a look at it. It was a picture of a bare naked soldier shown from the rear holding one of his butt cheeks while two other guys were looking on. I looked and looked and knowing all along that they were right. It was me! Never trust a Squad Leader.

- The 2.9 mile, 45 minute caravan to the Eagles Lodge for the banquet. Yep, as Triple Deucers do, we got lost. Twice! We didn't have any spotter rounds to help us. But some small sized replacement found our path for us...and Magnet will never let us forget it!

-**Norm (Magnet) Nishikubo** who we finally got to meet face to face and learn of events that happened after our tour ended. Norm assured us that our replacements carried on the highest traditions of Charlie Company including their big day at the Battle of Soui Burt. Soui Tre and Soui Burt. I'd say that Charlie Company has had enough of Soui anything! Norm's wife **Linda** came too. You remember her great work on our newsletter is past years. Great to finally meet you too Linda. Norm, we all appreciate the work that you have done for us all over the years. We sure hope you return with us next year, and bring along some more replacements. We won't be mean to you guys anymore...well...there is the C4 joke that we might pull again...for old times sake. Hahahahaha!

- The honor of MCing the banquet. A dream come true for me. I finally got to put my big mouth to good use. Hahahahaha!

- **Van Krag**, I kept looking and looking at you thinking that you look like a guy I used to know. It hit me on the drive home. You ARE the guy I used to know! Funny how memory works isn't it. Remember names and forget the faces. Remember the faces and forget the names.

- **Tom Canfield** it was great to have you join us. It was a good thing that you did too, else we would have bugged you with red ants until you did. We will keep you posted on our local events too. Hope to see you soon.

- A couple of balloons popped at the event that reminded me that I am not alone with this dealing with the past thing that we are doing. It appears that 35 out of 35 jumped right straight out of their shoes. Number 36 simply dug a foxhole. In 4.2 seconds.

- After 40 years I put a PRC25 radio on my back once again--another great idea from Rich Miller. Can't say as I enjoyed it, but something happened when I put the darn thing on. Memories I guess. I feel those straps again and don't feel like talking on the phone.

- Playing golf with Steve Cowlthorp and **Leroy Henning**. We didn't do too bad either, after taking our senior citizen and veterans discounts that is. And being cultured Charlie guys, we were very careful to not hit our balls into the beautiful lawn down the middle of each hole... except for when we had the famous Triple Deuce mad minute that is. Balls all over the place then! Hahahahaha! Oh....**Jim King** was AWOL from the event.

- We will be seeing one name on The Wall in DC, that was with us as well. A very much alive and kicking **Low Kimes**. What would it be like seeing your name on that wall?

- A special thanks to **Dick Ramsey**, Silverdale, WA.; for coming to the event and helping some of our Brothers wade through all the VA red tape.

- We awarded nine new Orders of the Red at the reunion as well. I nailed the Old Man and Frydry myself. They are good huggers by the way.

All agreed that we had the time of our lives and we all committed to leaving no man behind in our quest to find all of our surviving Brothers and getting them to join us, as well as the Vietnam Triple Deuce, and the 22nd Infantry Reg. Society.

Those in attendance were:

Francisco (Bo) and Deborah Baran, Hauula HI.; **Gary Begin**, St. Michael, MN.; **Jerry (Butch) and Liz Berge**, Kittitas, WA.; **Marcus Burk**, Beaverton OR.; **Tom Canfield**, Vancouver WA.; **Steve Cowlthorp**, Gresham, OR.; **Don (Crowdaddy) and Julie Crawford**, Mossyrock WA.; **Lance Crum**, Lakewood WA.; **George Dahl**, Woodbury MN.; **Wil and Cheryl Dahlke**, Bremerton, WA.; **Lynn Dalpez**, Beaverton OR.; **Jim (Dupes) Depree**, Burlington, WA.; **Nick (Doc) and Pam Docsanes**, Centralia, WA.; **Jerry Dwinell**, Redding, CA.; **Tom Ellis**, Creswell, OR.; **Arnold (Arnie) Freeman**, Othello WA.; **Chester (Roy) and Patti Harbour**, Cunningham, TN.; **Leroy and Ann Henning**,

Yakima WA.; **Morris (Moe) Johanson**, Salkum WA.; **Van Karg**, Dassel, MN.; **Lou and Jean Kimes**, Everett WA.; **Jim King**, Ferndale, WA.; **Harry (Mick) Lawrence**, Inchelium, WA.; **Larry and Vicki Mason**, Portland OR.; **Dale Merritt**, Republic, WA.; **Richard (War Hoop) and Chris Miller**, Portland OR.; **Art Mills**, Klamath Falls, OR.; **Dan and Mary (Cook) Morris**, Seabeck, WA.; **Jim (Hotrod) and Della Neeley**, Aberdeen, WA.; **Norm (Magnet) and Linda Nishikubo**, San Gabriel, CA.; **Roger (The Kid) Rosin**, Wild Rose, WI.; **Patrick Walsh**, Friendswood, TX.; **Don (The Voice!) Wyatt**, Erin TN.;

Our honored guests were:

George and Pattie White, Newbury Park, CA.; **Roger Frydrychowski**, Richmond, VA.; **Jim and Gail May**, Norridgewock, ME.; **Dick Ramsey**, National Service Officer from Silverdale, WA.; and **Cindy Winters**, Aberdeen, WA., a close friend of our special guest.

Our very special guest:

Nita Chambers, Aberdeen, WA.

We all hope that we will all return next year and that we find even more Charlie guys to come and join us. Spread the word, that's all it takes. We all know that because some Brother reached out to us to get us off the fence to attend. Now it is our turn to do the same for others. You know the drill. "Hey buddy! We're gett'n the unit back together!"

Lynn, The Kool-Aid Kid, Dalpez

V.P. The Vietnam Triple Deuce, C/2/22

PS: Microsoft word gives no spelling suggestions for Frydrychowski. I found that interesting. Especially since I sure as hell got spelling instructions for Frydrychowski!

See you in D.C.