

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



Editor: David Allin, DMOR A&HHC 69-70

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website www.vietnamtripledeuce.org for current contact information.

Vol. 29, No. 3 September 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well I hope those of you who made the reunion had the great time possible when those who walked the walk in Asia get together. I missed another one, but I am getting better every day and am honored to be on the board of directors another term. With a lot better luck I'll be seeing you in Nashville at the next gathering.

I'd like to talk a bit about Nashville to those who haven't been there. To call it a boom city is a vast understatement. It has grown into a major southern city thanks mainly to the country music industry. While it has the usual traffic, congestion and noisy problems of any big city, it has maintained that attachment to country friendly charm. You will make as many new friends as you want in Nashville.

One of the best features of Nashville is Creativets. It is a very successful organization that helps combat veterans deal with PTSD through the arts. My first time with them created the song "Just As Red" that was played at the reunion. I confess to being hooked on their use of song writing, art, and music in general to deal with a vet's PTSD. The amazing list of songs written by the teams helping the vet is available on the Creativets web site and well worth your time to explore. Anyone who wants to look into Creativets more should call me at the number on this newsletter anytime. It was created by a combat vet and serves no one else. "Deeds"

Dick Nash, A Co. & HHC, 69

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I want to thank all those who submitted articles for the newsletter, and again ask for more. This is your newsletter, and we would all like to hear from you. Surely you have some funny or interesting stories from your time in Nam, or of how your tour affected your later life. The best way to honor your service and the guys you served with is to talk and write about them. We were there, we experienced the war in our own ways, and we will not judge you. Dick has made some good points about the next reunion in Nashville. If you have never been there, you will really enjoy all the city has to offer. Even if you don't care for country music. My favorite place to visit in Nashville is the Lane Motor Museum. It houses the most unusual collection of cars, bicycles, and motorcycles that you have ever seen. From an amphibious Corvair pickup to a motorized unicycle, there are some of the weirdest vehicles ever produced. There are some great videos about it on YouTube. I have met Jeff Lane, the owner, and he is a great guy who is just as interesting as his collection. Thanks to all of you who contacted me after the last newsletter to update your email and snail mail addresses. I think we are close to having our roster fully updated and correct. If your personal info changes, please be sure to let me know.

**David Allin, DMOR
A Co. & HHC, 69-70**

DUES DUE

If you are holding a paper copy of this newsletter in your hand, then you need to take a look at the address on the outside. Next to your name is a number. That number is the year through which your dues are paid up. If it is 2023, you are good for now, but you need to think about paying your annual \$10 dues to Jim May next year if you want to continue receiving the newsletter by mail. If you did not receive a copy of this newsletter by email, that means we don't have your current email address. You can correct that by sending an email to dnjallin@gmail.com. Those who choose to receive the newsletter strictly by email do not have to pay dues. Copies of all our newsletters, past and present, are available on our website, [Vietnam Triple Deuce](http://VietnamTripleDeuce.com)

PICARDI COLLECTION

Ron Picardi was in Alpha Company when Triple Deuce first arrived in Viet Nam as part of the 4th Infantry Division. He was one of the boat people, and he took part in the Battle of Suoi Tre. He has amassed a huge collection of photos, drawings, audio recordings, letters, and documents regarding his time in country, along with contributions from other veterans. It has over three thousand items. He sent me an SD memory card with his collection, which I copied and forwarded to Steve Irvine, our Vietnam Triple Deuce webmaster. Ron has already submitted his collection to the Texas Tech Vietnam Archive, and Steve has now added portions of the collection onto our own website. We are extremely

grateful for Ron's donation to our archives, and I have included some of his pictures below. You can contact Ron at rpicardi1@chartermi.net



Ron Picardi and friends, today.



On the boat to Viet Nam

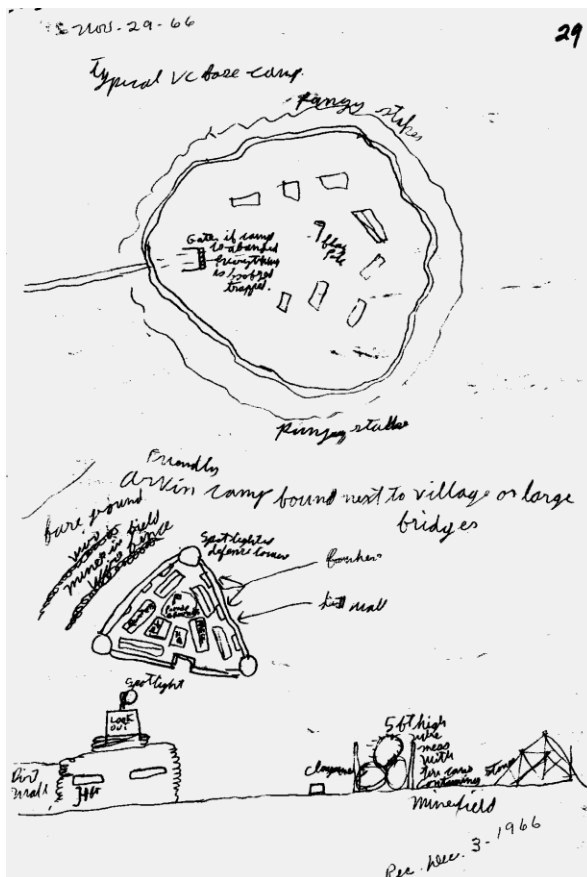




The New Camp Dau Tieng



Dau Tieng bunker building



Typical VC Base Camp



Rainy Season

DMOR/HMOR Photos

Does anyone have photos taken at the recent reunion of people being recognized as Distinguished or Honored Members of the Regiment? Mark Woempner would like to have copies. If you have any, email them to him at mark.woempner@gmail.com.

JOHN RADANOVICH



A 22nd Infantry soldier recovered from World War Two.

John William Radanovich was born in Mount Olive, Macoupin County, Illinois, on February 27, 1921, the third of seven children born to Mike and Mary Radanovich.

Radanovich was drafted into the Army on November 12, 1942. He stood six feet one inch tall, weighed 173 pounds, and had black hair and brown eyes. He had completed four years of High School, and his religion was indicated as Catholic. Radanovich was assigned to 2nd Platoon Company G 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry 4th Infantry Division as a Private First Class and rifleman from the 4th Infantry Division replacement pool on July 15, 1944. He was one of seven enlisted men assigned as replacements to the Company on that day. On July 19, his Battalion, as part of Regimental Combat Team 22, was temporarily attached to 2nd Armored Division as part of Combat Command A, in

preparation for Operation Cobra, the breakout from Normandy.

Radanovich took part with his Company in the breakout of July 25, the race across France with the 4th Infantry Division in August and September, and the first penetration into Germany in mid-September. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge in Headquarters 22nd Infantry General Orders Number 7 dated September 28, 1944, with an effective date of his award personally as September 1, 1944.

After pulling back into Belgium, the 22nd Infantry reentered Germany in mid-November in the Battle of the Hürtgen Forest. Radanovich's Battalion led the 22nd Infantry attack into the Forest on November 16, 1944.

Casualties were extremely high during the operation, especially among the officers and NCOs. Radanovich was one of four enlisted men in Company G promoted from Private First Class to Sergeant on November 29, 1944.

On December 1, 1944, Radanovich and his Battalion were advancing into the woods east of the village of Grosshau, Germany, when they were hit by a strong enemy counterattack at about 4:45 in the afternoon. A heavy firefight ensued, which lasted for about an hour. The enemy attack was stopped, and Company G dug in for the night. They came under almost continuous fire from German artillery and mortars. Radanovich's Company, at that point, was down to a strength of about 50 men. For the next two days, the 22nd Infantry suffered high casualties from enemy attacks, and on December 3 and 4, the Regiment was pulled out of the Hürtgen Forest to a quiet front in Luxembourg. For the next two weeks, the Companies of the 22nd Infantry were assembled and re-

organized, and an accounting of its men was made.

The Morning Report of Company G for December 13, 1944, indicated eight enlisted men as missing in action on December 1, 1944. Radanovich was one of those men. Only one of those eight ever survived. Radanovich was never reported by the Germans as a prisoner of war. In December 1945, the War Department issued a presumptive finding of death for him. While studying unresolved American losses in the Hürtgen Forest, a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) historian determined that one set of unidentified remains, designated X-2754A Neuville, recovered near Grosshau in 1946 possibly belonged to Radanovich. The remains, which had been buried in Ardennes American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium, were disinterred in June 2021 and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

Anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence and DNA comparisons, were used to determine whether the remains were indeed that of Radanovich, and on May 11, 2023, that finding was made. On July 24, 2023, the Department of Defense announced that Sergeant John W. Radanovich would be coming home.

Radanovich's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Sergeant John W. Radanovich was laid to rest at Union Miners Cemetery in Mount Olive, Ill. on Saturday, August 12, 2023.

Michael Belis DMOR
SGT C 1/22 1970-71



CARDS AND LETTERS FOR PAPPY

Hello, I am asking a favor from everybody who gets the Triple Deuce newsletter. My brother James (Pappy) Papczynski fell in his garage 3 weeks ago and laid there for 12 hours before a neighbor came to help him. He was in the hospital for 1 week until they transferred him to a re-hab place to do physical therapy on him. He had no feeling from knees down, but through PT he is gaining the feeling back. They said he had a mild stroke.

I live in Sumter, SC and I am unable to visit him, but I do call him every night. We talk from 30 minutes to 1 hour. We have a great conversation since he doesn't smoke or drink any more.

His wife died 4 years ago and he really was depressed.

Okay, I will get to it: I was wondering if some of you could send a letter or get-well card to him, since he does not have a computer with him. Just to say hi, and to tell Jim how they got his address. Send it to:

James Papczynski, Room 105
Life Care Center
802 US Highway 20
Michigan City, IN 46360

The desk phone # is 219-872-7251, just ask for James Papczynski, Room 105
The stroke did not hurt his memory, or talking, etc. I am just trying to cheer him up.
Thank you so much.

Sincerely
Lynn Hudak
2745 Circleview Drive
Sumter SC 29154-4602
lynncancersurvivor@gmail.com

JOE ESSER and the MAUI FIRE



That's Joe sitting in the ramp hatch

One of Nash's Nitwits, Joe Esser, lives in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii. Joe was our platoon RTO, before becoming acting squad leader of my squad under Dick Nash. When we first heard about the fires on Maui, several of us Nitwits tried to contact him, but due to the fires, we were not able to do so. Eventually he was able to get cell service and updated us. He was fortunate that his house was only slightly damaged by the fires, and he and his family are safe. Joe and his wife Carmella joined the rescue efforts being conducted by their church, which also escaped major damage. The VN222 board unanimously voted to send Joe a check for \$500 to use as he sees fit in the rescue and recovery efforts. Recently Joe took time from his efforts helping others to send Jim May the following email:

Aloha Jim,

I want to acknowledge and thank you for your generous check sent to me. I promise that I will put this money to much-needed relief to help our community.

My home was unaffected by the Lahaina Fire. We lost power, cell coverage and internet connection. Our mail service has been restored and now we are allowed to travel outside of the Lahaina area and return. Prior to that, we could leave but were not allowed to return to Lahaina or our home. When Carm & I drove to the other side of the island, we saw some of the destruction and our chests were tight and we had to fight back the tears. Without power or cell, it was several days before we started to become aware of the magnitude of the destruction. I had a Pastoral Council meeting scheduled for that evening. When my pastor called me early that afternoon, asking me to cancel our council meeting, it sounded like the hillside fire was bringing smoke into our classrooms again. Later the power went down, so we thought, we've been through this before (down power lines); hope it doesn't take as long as last time. Communication from the authorities to those of us in the affected area was poor, to say the least. Everyone outside of the affected area knew what was happening; they had power and TV coverage. We couldn't communicate, and family & friends couldn't find out if we were OK. It wasn't until a neighbor, who had walked into Lahaina town and taken pictures, and who then came over to me showing me the destruction, that we knew it was massive. He even discovered dead bodies lying at the ocean front with their dog next to them. Then the fearful thoughts started: my friends, my church, our community! A miracle, our church survived even though it was totally surrounded by fire and all

around was destruction. We lost half of our parish school buildings and our convent to fire; the remaining school structures were condemned.

Outside help started to arrive, and restaurants were grilling their remaining food to help feed us. We started daily mass at our parish mission church in Kapalua. Our Ohana from the surrounding islands arrived to help. The Knights of Columbus from Oahu, with the support of the national council, delivered food and supplies. We unloaded four 70-ft ships and started distributing food and clothing to displaced people from the hub we set up next to our mission church. Then we started to hear the stories from our friends and parishioners.

They lost their homes, they lost their businesses, and their employment because their company burned down, and we learned how they were able to escape the flames. When we would see friends & people that we recognized, we all hugged each other, happy that they survived. Now we learn of those who did not survive. We have coordinated the ability of funeral arrangements at Parishes on the other side of the island or our mission church.

Our mission moved to help those upcountry who also experienced fires. We delivered all our clothing supplies to them as our requests were fulfilled. Now we have started to set up temporary classrooms for our students next to our mission church. We were striving to get them in school as fast as possible. They needed to see their teachers and friends again, and counselors have been on hand to help the students & teachers. Our school lost half of the student population due to relocation, but we picked up the same amount from other students enrolling. We succeeded and now have them in school two days each week as we alternate grade classes each day, six days

each week. We are negotiating to set up a temporary school site until a new school can be rebuilt in the coming years.

Help and support continues to arrive from the mainland. There is a very strong sense of community and Aloha in Lahaina and the islands.

Now the toxic cleanup needs to start, temporary housing must be built, and life is starting to return to our side of the island.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Joe

We were all tremendously relieved that Joe escaped most of the terrible destruction of those fires, and we wish him well in his aid to the survivors. Joe asked that anyone who wishes to help please donate to the Maui Strong Fund:

<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund>

Dave Allin, DMOR
A Co./HHC 1969-70

WISH TO CONTACT

I am looking for friends with whom I served in Bravo Company in 1968 and 1969. Their names are John B. Bailey, Gail E. Hutton, and medic Larry Howard. I have medical problems with the VA. Thanks.

Tom Kreckel
kffarm@windstream.net

YESTERDAY'S GONE

They say you can never go back, and in the case of our little corner of Viet Nam, that appears to be very true. Our former Area of Operations has changed dramatically. The Crescent and War Zone C are now mostly submerged under a reservoir made by damming up the Saigon River. And Nui Ba Den, the Black Virgin mountain, once the scene of vicious battles for the peak, is now a tourist attraction, with an aerial tram to take you to the top instead of helicopters. It kind of makes you think.



Satellite view of our AO today. Nui Ba Den circled in yellow, Tay Ninh and Dau Tieng in red



Nui Ba Den Tram



Núi Bà Đen Peak

**Dave Allin, DMOR
A Co./HHC 1969-70**

HELLOS & COMMENTS

GUEST BOOK HITS

NEW FINDS

TAPS

EDWARD FAGAN

Ed died on June 15, 2023, of Stage IV cancer and Alzheimer's. Ed was in Alpha Company in 1966-67. He attended his first Triple Deuce reunion at San Antonio, and his wife says that he really enjoyed reuniting with his old buddies and other vets. It turned his life around. Instead of always grieving for the ones who had died over there, he rejoiced in the ones who had survived, like him. He was a retired social worker and opera singer.

PHILLIP ZABLOCKI

Phillip Zablocki, Alpha Company, 1968-69, died on August 3, 2023, at a local hospital after having been admitted through the emergency room on July 31st. He had been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia two years ago. He had done very well until mid-July of this year, when it was determined that treatment was no longer working to Phil's benefit.