

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

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Table of Contents

 President's Message	1
Editor's Comments	2
Best Reunion Ever	
Meet the Board and Officers	3
Note of Gratitude	4
New Finds	
Comments from Comrades	5
Gung- ho Joe	
Joe Dietz Memorial	7
Attention Bravo Men	
Lt. Massaglia Remembered	8
Crocker Reunion	9
Guest Book Hits	10
Photo Collage	13
2/22 Merchandise	15

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Please Visit Today!

Mario Salazar

President's Message

This is my attempt at adequately describing the Omaha reunion of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society and Vietnam Triple Deuce. I'm pretty sure that it is impossible to do it justice, but I'll try.

For you old reunion pros who have been to several it was one of the best as far as facility, rooms, and activities. The hospitality room was a good one, but just around the corner from it was a set of "overflow" rooms that small groups could use for those needed private moments, and another audio-visual room that attendees could use to view their computer saved memories. But even greater was the slide projector that so many used to view their personal slides from so long ago, some for the first time in almost four decades.

The one and only 22nd IRS business meeting was well accepted by the members, though the VN222 had to do two meetings to get their business done. Brevity was the byword of all the gatherings, but we didn't seem to leave much of anything undone. Awb, Bob, and the others who preceded Skip have done such an excellent job of organizing these things that all he had to do was follow their lead in a prompt, efficient manner that shortened everything, but got it done too. Of course his efforts with the power point presentations added a great deal and indicated a lot of work on his part. Great job by all.

Many wondered what was going on with our guests, the Crockers. I had left a tribute to **Captain David Crocker** on the www. Virtual Vietnam Wall in 1999. He was KIA on May 17, 1969 and the greatest leader of men us Alpha Company guys had ever met. A little over a year ago his brother, Tom Crocker came across my entry and three others and contacted me. Between the two of us we gathered seven members of the Crocker family and eight of us who served

under him to meet at Omaha for the first time in the 37 years since his loss. It was the first face to face contact any of them had had with the men who were with him in Vietnam. At times this was a very intense event, but the good things that happened to all of us far outweighed the bad. The 22nd family has definitely expanded, and we are all looking forward to the next reunion in Washington D.C. His widow, **Ruth Crocker**, will be escorted by at least the eight of us to the Vietnam Wall for her first visit and the first visit by most of us. Any of you other Alpha brothers who served with him and haven't joined us yet are sure welcome to. We'd love to see you too. For that matter, anyone who reads this is welcome to join us in this very big event in our lives.

Congratulations to **John & Brigit Lewis** and their support, and to Skip Fahel. It truly was the "next greatest reunion ever".

Dick Nash A/69

P.S. Judy & I want to wish each and every one of you and your family the best holiday season ever.



One of the busiest groups at the recent reunion was the 7 members of the Crocker family, who met with 8 Triple Deucers who served with **Captain David Crocker** in Alpha Co in 1969. Capt. Crocker was KIA May 17, 69 and this reunion was their first meeting with some of those who knew him then in the 37 years since. Many memories were rekindled and many more were made. The Triple Deuce family has definitely grown as a result.

Editor's Comments

Late fall in Kansas. A time of beauty. A time for reminiscing. A time for pheasant and deer hunting. Jerry Rudisill and Coy Thomas came to hunt pheasants with Jim Nelson. They all stopped by my office and we had a good visit. I am thinking they probably enjoyed Sharon's wonderful cherry pie without me! Jim's wife makes an extraordinary pie. The cherries are from their trees, the crust is tender and flaky, and if you stop by at the right time. . . there is ice cream to top it.

We are involved in the usual hustle and bustle of the holiday season. As I look at the gifts prepared for giving, I note how festively they are wrapped. I appreciate how much time and energy (not to mention money) was spent in selection of the contents. I anticipate what pleasure each gift will bring to its recipient when it is opened Christmas morning. This is much like the Triple Deuce. It is a great organization, many Brothers work behind the scenes to make it responsive to the members and it has much to offer those who join. Like the Christmas gift the true value of which becomes apparent when it is opened, the true value of our organization is recognized when a Brother participates. Anyway, that is how it seems to me.

Give yourself the gift of Brotherhood. Get involved in your organization.

Dan Streit D/69

Best Reunion Ever

I was one of the "Boat People" from Charlie Company Triple Deuce. I have attended four reunions of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society and each reunion has been unique. It has been great meeting the guys from Charlie Company such as **Chuck Gregg, Dave Ferguson, Lynn Dalpez, Joe Dietz**, etc. and our past CO **Captain George White**, but Omaha was special! Omaha brought a lot of first-time attendees - **Leroy Henning, "Mo" Johansen, Dan Merrill**, and all the rest of the members of my 3rd Squad!!! (Just to name a few.)

In October of 2005, I wrote to all the guys that were in my squad in Vietnam, (**John Mersinger, Gordy Weber, Patrick Walsh** and **Roger Rosin**) and asked them to join me in

Omaha for the 22nd Regiment Society Reunion. I thought the location was great, within driving distance for most of our squad members. I explained to them that we were not getting any younger and that we had already lost Marvin Brewer to heart problems; we owed it to ourselves to get together and reminisce about old times while we were still able. I wrote to Marvin's wife, Lois, and asked her to join us for the reunion in Omaha. It would have been a great chance for all of us to get to know each other, but unfortunately, she was unable to make it. As the months went by, each member of my squad replied saying they would try to make it for the reunion.

Well, the year passed by quickly and I was really looking forward to this reunion. Ken and Cam Schmidt, my wife, Eileen, and I left early in the morning for the drive to Omaha. (Ken is also an original from Charlie Company and lives in the same hometown as I do.) We arrived on Wednesday evening and I immediately went to check out the hospitality room looking for some familiar faces. It wasn't until Thursday afternoon that the 3rd squad of the fourth platoon finally got together. They all showed up and it was the first time the squad had been together again in thirty-nine years. Boy did we have a good time! Our wives got along as if they had known each other forever. The reunion was over on the 8th of October, and on the 9th it had been 40 years since we arrived via "The Walker" in Vietnam. I think my squad was the only one that came back 100%; everyone else lost guys along the way. Someone really watched over us.

We spent as much time together as we could, talking about old times as well as catching up on what each of us has been doing for the past thirty-nine years. Just to give you an idea of how much we had to catch up on, Saturday morning we went to breakfast together. After we were finished eating, our wives went to see the sights and the guys went to one of the smaller hospitality suites to talk about the things that happened in Nam. The nice thing was that no matter what we talked about someone would always remember a little more details about a particular person or incident that happened. When our wives returned to the hotel at about

5:00 that afternoon, they found us sitting at the same table.... still talking, it was great! I would be lying if all I told you all we did was laugh and tell stories; there were also some tears, especially after the Sunday morning memorial service when we had to say good bye and head back home.

If there is anyone reading this letter that has never attended a reunion, believe me you owe it to yourself to make the trip. I guarantee that you will not be disappointed. I want to say thank you to the people who organized the reunion. It was great seeing the guys from Charlie Company! Thanks again to my 3rd Squad members for coming to Omaha - it was the best reunion ever!!

Don Stoffel C 66/67
hoseman@charter.net

Meet The Board

Back Row : **Dick Nash**, President, Board; A,HHC Co. 69, **Joe Esser**, Officer, Secretary, A Co. 69 to 70, **Dan Streit**, Board and Newsletter



Editor, D Co. 69, **Lynn Dalpez**, Vice-Pres. Board, C Co. 65 to 67, **Jim Nelson**, Board, C Co. 67 to 68

Front Row: , **Mario Salaziar**, Web Site, HHC 65 to 69, **Jim May**, Board, Treasure, Prov. Co. 68, **Lon Oakley**, officer, Chief Locator, A Co. 69

A Note of Gratitude !!

I'm sitting here on a Monday nite and it seems like I just got back to the world! I know some of you weren't at Omaha but I think you need to hear also what I want to say to all of you who were in Omaha this weekend. I've put off for way too many years getting in contact with all of you until a few years ago when I found **LT. DICK NASH**. Yesterday, after I dropped **Lon Oakley** off at the airport I drove for 8+ hours to get back home to Minnesota. During the drive I laughed and I cried, but it was the best miles I've driven in 36 years!!! I knew I had a bond with all of you when I left Nam back when: but I didn't make it for life until I came to my first reunion. The gentleman from Wisconsin who is a WW II vet told me that "Once you make a reunion, You won't miss one". He's still coming at 88 years old and will be in Washington, D.C. in 2008 when we meet there.

Thank all of you very much for doing what it took to get me to Omaha. When it comes right down to it, I'll always have the men of the 22nd watching my back. I know now, having seen a lot of you this weekend, that we all still do live by the motto, DEEDS, NOT WORDS!

Your friend"
Lumpy"
Ken Schulte A69/70

New Finds

Name: **John J. (Joe) Coffee**
936 Roger Dr.
Urbana, OH. 43078
Phone: 937-484-3755
Email: jdejanco@ctcn.net
A Co., 4th and 25th ID 12-65 to 9-67

Name: **Ted Collins**
1799 East US Hwy 10
Custer, MI 49405
Phone: 231-757-4982
Email: tedcollins357@msn.com
A Co. 2/22, 25th ID, 12-65 to 9-67

Name: **Christopher F. Hale**
1215 Poplar Ave
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: 360-424-1828

cjandcats@peoplepc.com
B Co. 2/22 25th ID 6-68 to 6-69

Name: **Kenneth D. Johnson**
13900 Sunset Trail
Pine City, MN 55063
Phone: 320-629-4641
2/77 FO Attached to A Co. 4th ID, and
25th ID, Sep.66 to Sep. 67

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

Comments: Paul can not remember any names of the men he served with but would like anyone who remembers him to contact him.

Name: **Gurney E. Mosley**
3120 NE 158th Ave.
Portland, OR 97230
Phone: 503-408-3585
Email : churchguy04@aol.com
11 Bravo with B/2/22, 1969-70

Name: **John R. Cresong**
P.O. Box 87
Glen Fork, WV 25845
Phone: 304-682-4895
Email: jrcwvet@aol.com
B Co. 25th ID, Aug 67 to Apr 68

Name: **Lawrence D. Mason**
26124 NW Reeder Dr.
Portland, OR 97231
Phone: 503-621-0453
Email: vielarmas@myway.com
C Co. 4th ID, Oct 66 to Feb 67

Name: **Timothy LaWarre**
8065 Windover Way
Titusville, FL 32780
Email: tlawarre@cfl.rr.com
Hq/2/22/4 1966 to 1967 Bn Maint

Name: **Charles Lynch**
2003 Wedgewood Ave
Alexandria, LA 71301-3836
A Co. 2/22 3rd Platoon
Oct. 68 to Oct. 69

Comments from Comrades

Name: James N. Pitts
7250 Creekridge Rd.
Richmond, VA 23231
Email: SunDwnJim@aol.com
Phone: 804-795-9073
D Co. 2/22, 25th ID, 69 to 70

Comments: Jim writes, "Cannot remember the names of the guys who served with me. Would like to contact anyone who remembers serving with me on a Tank Retriever in D 2/22, (M) , 25th Inf in Tay Ninh and Fire Support Base Wood III."

4th Infantry Division Logo

For those of you interested in merchandize (shirts, hats, mugs, etc.) with the 4th Infantry Division logo on it, you may want to visit the following site. <http://www.cafepress.com/4infdiv>
Please note: The site is not sponsored by the Ivy Association, 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, Vietnam Triple Deuce, or the U.S.Army. I pass it along for your info only.

Mad Doc
Bill Matz
B /HHC, 4th ID, 65 to 67

Gung-ho Joe in Memoriam

Joseph Arthur Dietz of Naples Florida, and formerly of Portland Oregon, passed away Sept. 7, 2006. Many of our members knew Joe and his wife **Marcy** very well, and along with those of us fortunate enough to have served side by side with Joe, will miss him very much. I need to tell the membership a story about Gung-ho Joe, the nickname we gave him ourselves, his Chargin' Charlie Company, Triple Deuce Brothers, that will shed some light on what kind of man, and soldier, he was.

I first met Joe in front of the Portland Oregon Armed Forces Induction Center on December 10, 1965. We were reporting for active duty in the US Army, after being drafted into service by the US Selective Service Board...I think that's what it was called...you know, the guys that

sent us the infamous "Greetings" letter. About a couple of dozen guys or so reported that day with Joe, including my buddy, and society member **Steve Cowlthorp**. We all shared consecutive serial numbers.

Joe, being the oldest (23, I believe. I was 19.) was placed in charge of our records, and the airplane flight itinerary that would take us all to Fort Ord, CA., for Basic Training, or so we thought. We did go to Fort Ord, but only to finish processing all the way into the Army, and then we had to wait around while others were processed in, and went to basic right around us, while we wondered what in the heck was going on with us? Joe was in charge of the barracks floor that we stayed in during this waiting period. In my mind, during this time, he was one of the "old guys"...having been married and all that stuff that 19 year old punks like me denied that we would ever do. Four years difference in age is a big deal at that time of life. I thought he was kind of bossy, actually. Turns out I was right! Hahahaha!

As it turned out, we were sent to Fort Lewis WA to do our Basic Training with Charlie Co., 2nd Bn. (Mech.), 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. What actually happened was that we were permanently assigned to an active duty Infantry Battalion right off the bat, without any training at all, and the rest of that deal is the beginning of the history of the Vietnam Triple Deuce. Oh sure, we did Basic Training, but with Armored Personnel Carriers and .50 cal. machine guns. Not the normal thing for green recruits to be playing with. And, the training did not stop until we received our combat leaves around August and September of 1966. After Basic we did Advanced Infantry Training, then Unit Training, then Advanced Unit Training, then just plain old training, training, and more training for 9 months or so.

After arriving at Fort Lewis we were broken down into Infantry Squads. Joe was my Squad Leader and it stayed that way until I left the Triple Deuce around the end of April 1967, in War Zone C, South Vietnam. Joe was my boss throughout it all. He has put me on K.P. many times. Guard duty as well. He even sent me into VC tunnels, and had me walk point from time to time. He yelled at me to shut up a thousand or so times. So why do I love and miss him so?

What follows is my favorite example of how much, though we did not know it at the time, Joe worried about us being killed or maimed in combat. I believe his worry started on Dec. 10, 1965. His sister, Kathleen "Kathy" Claeson, recently told me that he wrote home all the time about his concerns for us, even in the early days of training, "These kids are going to get themselves killed over there. What am I going to do?"

It was Jan. 1967 in War Zone C of the Vietnam War, somewhere around the famous Iron Triangle area. We had been quickly traveling back and forth over a trail that we had carved out of the jungle by the goings back and forth. We knew this was not a good idea at all, but orders being orders, back and forth we went and paid the price for doing it. We got hit by a good sized command detonated mine that blew up our Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) with all of us inside it. Needless to say, we had a lot of injuries including Steve Cowlthorp having his back broken. The enemy had been watching us and planned the whole thing very well...and not just that day either. We lost 16-18 APCs during Jan. 1967 in Charlie Company alone. (I have heard different counts.)

As for myself, my bell was rung big time. My head hurt bad and so did my back that had an abrasion on it that was bleeding a little, but all in all, I came out of it okay. As I was coming out of it, a man was bending over me asking me if I was okay—did I need any help? I looked up to answer him and about flipped out right then and there. I could barely see that it was Joe Dietz. He had blood all over his face and pieces of his glasses were sticking out of his face. He looked like he was going die or something to me. "Holy cow Joe, how about you!?" As per usual, Joe's concern was for us, before himself. That was the day I forgave Joe for putting me on KP, guard duty, yelling at me to do the right thing, train hard, pay attention, etc. That was the day that showed me what kind of a man I was working for—the very highest caliber a person can be—looking after his men, before himself. Joe did certainly agree with the rest of us that getting blown up together is a bonding thing indeed.

We didn't lose anybody that day, but won, if one can call it that, many Purple Hearts including Joe's, which embarrassed him because he

didn't think his wounds were all that bad. That helped me decide to not put myself in for one either, or even go see a Doctor to make sure that I was okay. That was a mistake, but I still do not want a Purple Heart for that day anymore than Joe did, and he was injured worse than I was. I was finding myself thinking more like Joe everyday that I matured as a Combat Soldier under Joe's wing. I understood that day why he never let up on us. Why he always toed the line as a Squad Leader should. He was very worried that we were going to be killed and he always looked for ways of preventing that. Unfortunately, later, we lost **Merrill McKillip** (KIA Feb. 10, 1967), which devastated Joe along with the rest of us. I know he always wondered what he may have been able to do to prevent Merrill's death. I also know that he always wanted to join us in our antics, but kept on playing the professional Infantry Squad Leader role to the maximum for us...to help insure our survival as best he could.

Later on, in June 1967, he lost another squad member, **Ed Lukert**. With that loss, he faced the same painful question he had asked himself about Merrill, "What could I have done to prevent Ed from being killed?" Now, Joe is with Merrill and Ed.

Joe died peaceably at home, with his ever steadfast wife, Marcy, at his side, after a long illness. Joe was buried with full military honors and laid to rest at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell FL, on Sept. 12th, 2006. Ironically, and fitting in my mind, his funeral service was held on Sept. 11th at the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, in Naples FL., with Dr. Tom Harp officiating.

He is survived by his wife Marcy Dietz of Naples FL.; a daughter, Lorea (Donald) Ware of Lexington KY.; his sister Kathleen Claeson of Beaverton OR.; and two grandchildren, Trey and Chandler Ware of Lexington, KY. He was also reunited with four members of his Infantry Squad before his passing; **Ed Fagan**, **Jim Frost**, Steve Cowlthorp, and myself, as well as many members of our Platoon, Company, and Battalion at the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society reunions that we attended together.

Joe's military awards include: The Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, a Good Conduct Medal, Airborne wings,

the Vietnam Service Medal with three Battle Stars, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and he participated in winning our unit's rare Presidential Unit Citation for valor, as well as the unit Cross of Gallantry. His post war awards include The Order of the Silver Rose, and the Triple Deuce Coin of Excellence. He was one of the very first to receive The Order of the Red Ant, a lighter side of life award that is awarded by Triple Deucers, to Triple Deucers, for all the unrewarded deeds they performed while in service of The Vietnam Triple Deuce, an association of veterans of the 2nd Bn. (Mech.), 22nd Infantry Regiment. Joe was a member of The Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc., the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, the American Legion, and the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. ...quite a feat for a draftee serving just two years in the US Army.

I will always remember the strength and courage of Joe Dietz to my dying day, which I hope and pray, that I can face with the dignity and faith in God, as Joe Dietz, a true American hero, has done—even though Joe would pooh-pooh such a notion as him being an American hero, as true heroes do. I am so lucky to have even known him, not to mention spending the toughest parts of our early adulthood together. For those of us that have served with him, he shall always be our Brother in arms. God's speed my Brother. R.I.P. God willing, I'll see you again one day.

Lynn William Dalpez
C 65/67

Joe Dietz Memorial

We had a real nice memorial service in Portland, actually, Beaverton Oregon, for Joe Dietz. I gave his military service accounting--told some war stories about Joe and our squad. It went very well and the family was very happy to hear about all the stuff Joe did that he, of course, never talked about.

We had about a dozen local vets there. We carried in the colors and did the fold the flag ceremony. I then had the honor of presenting it to Kathleen, Joe's sister. Not a dry eye in the house, including mine, but overall it was a celebration of a great guy, and a true blue American

war hero.

Anyway, I came away knowing that Joe wants me to stop crying over him and get back to work for my Brothers. So that is what I am going to try and do. But Joe is out of luck if he thinks I won't shed a tear from time to time while thinking of him.

Lynn

Attention Bravo Men

I have pictures of my whole squad, **Jerry Pierce** included. When Jerry left I took his helmet for good luck. It worked pretty good until October the 4th 1968 when my track hit a mine. I was flown to the 12th evac. Cu Chi were I stayed 25 days. I think I told you I had a lawsuit in Federal Court to get my Purple Heart. I just received a letter of support from the **CO Captain Waitt**. If anybody knows **Darrell Nordin**, he was the driver that day. My original squad, Jerry Pierce, **Santos Salazar**, **Bruce Campbell**, **Eugene Hansmeyer**, **Darrell Nordin**, and **Julius McManus**. Then came **Arlo Bullerman**, **Steve Truax**, **Jackie Lawes**, **William Cunningham**, **Raymond Womack**, a guy named **Curly**, and a guy we called **Wolfman**. Call me if you like, I'll do what I can for ya. 304-258-8189 **Doug Lyall**

Julius Mc Monos (Rifleman)
3902 W. Strathmore Ave
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Jackie Lawes (Rifleman)
1301 Jamestown Rd.
Morgantown, NC 28655

Steve Truax (Rifleman)
7181 Langley Meadow RD.
Staley, NC 27355

Eugene Hamsmeyer (50 Gunner)
120 Holm RD,
Esko, Minnesota 55733

Bruce Cambell (Squad Leader)
112 Parh St.
Statesville, NC 28677

Sam Polloch (Platoon Sgt)
O.O. Box 124
Tropic Utah 84776
Doug Lyall
PO Box 269
Berheley Springs, WV 25411

Lt. Massaglia Remembered

The following is from an e-mail sent by Gary to the membership, a response from family and from a couple other Alpha guys.

Gentlemen,

It is my sad duty to report the passing of a great soldier and friend. I had the good fortune to speak to him on 2 occasions by phone. It was difficult to talk to him by phone, because of his post stroke condition. **Lt. Massaglia** came to Alpha Co. in early 1967 and replaced **Lt. Smith** in the 1st platoon. He was a good leader, very personable and cared for his men. Later in 1967, he commanded the mortar platoon of A/2/22. Below is a message I received from his son. It was in response to a letter I wrote him. Lt. Massaglia was awarded the Silver Star for his excellent command actions on March 19, 1967 in extracting A/2/22 from a bad firefight in which the acting CO, and 4 other men were killed and many wounded including me. I knew he had a son but do not know much else about his personal life. Capt Both has told me he felt that **Vic Massaglia** was one of his best officers. He, **Lt. Van Etten** and **Mike DeCamp** (KIA 9/4/67) were tops on my list and I am sure the sentiment is shared by most of the grunts of A/2/22.

Gary Hartt A.65/67.

Dear Gary Hartt,

I am writing you on behalf of my father, Captain **Victor Massaglia**. He passed away May 31st, 2006 from heart disease. I am certain he would have appreciated your letter a great deal. His time in the military, and Vietnam specifically, were some of his favorite moments of his life. I know this because he told this to a VA psychologist during an appointment to review his eligibility for PTSD (post traumatic stress syndrome) disability. Dad thought combat was fun and exciting. The psychologist disqualified him for PTSD, of course.

His passing was a little bit of a surprise. He had been suffering from major health problems since 1989, when he had surgery for an aneurysm.

Later issues involved a major heart attack (1994), quadruple bypass surgery (2000), stroke (2000) and lung cancer (diagnosed 2003 and treated thereafter.

He underwent a colostomy in late March of this year to treat diverticulitis. There were many other health issues and hospital stays. He passed away at Teague Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas, while taking a nap. I had spoken to him by phone early in the day. We promised each other steak and lobster dinners when he got out, which seemed eminent. He had repeated to me on several occasions within 6 months of his death that he really no longer wished for the doctors to take extraordinary measures to extend his life. Dad was ready to go.

The stroke made it very hard for him to speak, listen and read. His sense of humor and general good nature were not affected :^) Before the stroke, Dad liked to tell war stories after a few beers. Some were sad, some were exciting and many were rather gripping. Had I had the foresight to get him to write the stories down, or transcribe it for him, the world would be a bit richer. His faculties got better and he always lived by himself, with occasional help from me and his friends. The VA attributed the lung cancer to AGENT ORANGE exposure he endured in 1968, in quadrant III of Vietnam. I have my doubts, since he was also a heavy smoker for 40 years. He did, however, get full disability for it, and all the radiation and chemotherapy he wanted. By and large, the care lavished upon my father by the VA was quite good, despite the long lines and waits once in a while. However, they do a poor job of informing vets about AGENT ORANGE related illnesses and how to obtain service for them. I truly appreciate that section of your letter.

Your letter would have been quite meaningful to him. He was pretty sad when he was RIFed in 1973 or '74 (I don't remember). His army buddies were a big part of the experience he enjoyed. I was too young to know him while he was in the Army, but your description of his leadership style applied to his professional life after the service. He managed and opened Radio Shacks here in Central Texas for much of his life. Dad was a good and popular manager, with a sense of humor, but a strict adherence to standards that made him predictable and likable. Thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,

Chris Mackey (Youngest son of Vic Massaglia)

Guys, I thought I would share Jack's kind words about Lt. Massaglia

Hi Gary

This is a sad letter for me as I was his M113 driver... **Lt Massaglia** was my favorite officer in the Army and I have spoken of him very often when asked about the war... He will be missed... I just got your phone message about the reunion as I have been traveling in New Mexico and just returned yesterday... I will not be able to make the reunion this year but please give my regards to everyone and keep me informed as you have... I enjoy reading the emails about everyone... I am retiring next year and we are heading out sailing again to explore the Sea of Cortez and thru the Panama Canal to the Dominican Republic (2 year trip) where we are building a retirement home... I will have email on the boat and do not want to lose touch... Hope all is well.

Jack Conrad

SPEICAL REUNION WITH CROCKER FAMILY

Members of Alpha Company Triple Deuce 1969, lead by current Vietnam Triple Deuce President **Dick Nash**, welcomed seven family members of KIA **Captain David Crocker** to the 2006 Omaha Reunion. Also present to greet the Crockers were former "TO THE ALPS" command track driver **Ken "Lumpy" Schulte**; combat medic **Dan "Doc" Michaelic** (with wife Marylin), former command track RTO and current Triple Deuce Secretary **Joe Esser**, former Third Platoon squad leader **Lon Oakley** the current Triple Deuce Chief Locator and another former command track RTO **Bill Lipp**, and **Bud Puskaric** and **Daniel McDonald**.

Crocker was Alpha Company Commander from November 1968 to his untimely death in May 1969 at the hands of the enemy. Ruth Crocker, widow of Cpt. Crocker who lives in Mystic, CT, was joined by her nephew Alan Crocker of Houston, Texas; brother and retired Colonel John Crocker USANG of Diamond Springs, CA; brother and retired LTC Tom Crocker and his wife Kathie of Seneca Falls, NY; along with sister Dotti Penny and her husband Dave of Brudenell, Prince Edward Island, Canada..

The family had made contact with former Alpha 1969 vets over the past year and made the commitment to attend the reunion to meet with the men who were on the ground with Capt. Crocker during his leadership tour with the company. This was their first face to face contact any of Captain Crocker's men in the 37 years since his loss. Of special significance during the visit was the opportunity of family members to talk with "Lumpy" and "Doc" who were the first to come to the aid of the fallen Crocker.

The family arrived early, attended every major event, and spent hours visiting with Alpha vets and other Triple Deuce association members looking at pictures, slides and other memorabilia from that time period. The family was also accompanied by a large picture frame featuring a West Point photo of Crocker and letters from family members for reunion attendees to review.

The highlight of the reunion for men of Alpha 1969 came at the Saturday evening banquet where the group presented Ruth Crocker with a special signed 1969 combat photo featuring many of those who served with Capt. Crocker. In addition, special permission was obtained from the Viet Nam Triple Deuce Board of Directors to present Ruth Crocker an Honorary Order of the Red Ant in recognition of Cpt. Crocker's devoted service to his men and the nation.

The Sunday morning memorial service gave Alpha Triple Deuce 1969 vets and Crocker family members a final opportunity at the reunion to pay tribute to Cpt David Crocker. Names of 22d Infantry Regiment soldiers, who paid the ultimate sacrifice for God and country, were presented in a moving multi media presentation prepared by 22d Infantry Regiment President **Skip Fahel**.

As the Crocker family readied to depart, Triple Deuce Board member Dan Streit informed them that they had been granted Associate Membership to the Vietnam Triple Deuce for 2007 by an anonymous donor. Hugs were exchanged between Alpha 1969 vets and Crocker family members with promises to meet AT THE WALL in Washington D.C. at the Spring, 2008 reunion.

Lon Oakley A/69



Ken Schulte presenting **Ruth Crocker** a framed picture of the cover of the Welcome Home Brother locator booklet signed by the Alpha vets who served under Captain Crocker in 69.

Guest Books Hits

Name: **Norman Butch Petit**
 Email: nam66tunnelrat25th@charter.net
 Date: 8-23-06
 Phone: 423-247-1898

Comments: It is an Honor to sign this Guest-book with a Unit that Walked that BAD Walk in War Zone C and D with us in 1966. Great Web Site and We, The 1st Bn 5th Infantry Regiment Class of 1966 Salute you for the JOB you Guys did while over there... GOD BLESS The 2nd Bn 22nd Infantry 25th ID out of Cu Chi.

Name: **Donald M. Stout**
 Email: txdon32@classicnet.net
 Date: 9-20-06
 Phone: 214-448-3631

Comments: I served with the 2-22 from 11-67 - 11-68 and had the joy of the Tet offensive. Received two (2) Purple Hearts. One on March 18 1968 and the other on July 4 1968. Nice way to celebrate you country's birthday.

Name: **Jeff Meriam**
 Email: j.meriam@mchsi.com

Date: 9-29-06

Comments: Served Aug 67 to Dec 67 with C Company 2-22 as Charlie 26 when wounded and became unfit for field duty. Had two reasons for popping in, today hello and to ask if anyone remembers an incident.

Second platoon was moving through light jungle alone in Nov. or early Dec. I think, when a branch whipped up over the 50 shield and whacked me on the head. Lost helmet, got knocked off track, etc. Shortly after, a fire piss ant nest fell in the lead track. If anyone remembers this incident, please email me. Thanks

Name: **Chris Smith**
 Email: hallel2@yahoo.com
 Date: 9-30-06

Comments: I was with the Triple Deuce from 1989 to 1991. Thirteen years later I re-enlisted into the Texas Army National Guard 36th Infantry and went to Iraq. The only training that I got that kept me alive was from my training at 10th Mountain. God Bless the Triple Deuce and God bless all Blue Cords.

Name: **Jim Neeley**
 Email: hotrod1930@comcast.net
 Date: 9-9-06
 Phone: 360-533-0608

Comments: We had our second reunion C222 last Aug. I just want to thank **Dan** and **Cook Morris** for putting this together. And also thank the Dahlkes for putting all the pictures and addresses together and mailing them to everyone. They all did a fantastic job getting us together. It was great to see everyone. Hope more of you Charlie Company brothers will come next year.

Name: **Russ and Judy Olmsted**
 Email: rjto@hevanet.com
 Date: 9-18-06

Comments: Thanks to **Lynn Dalpaz** for his part at the memorial service of **Joe Dietz**. What a wonderful tribute he gave. Thank you, also, to each member of the color guard. You are a special bunch of guys. Does anyone have information regarding the Agent Orange quilt that travels with The Wall? We would like to make a block in memory of our friend, Joe. Please e-mail at above address.

Name: **Bernard Sylvester**
Email: jimsy147@verizon.net
Date: 10-08-06

Comments: Just another Nam Vet checking out the web site, have a friend at work who was with the 2nd of the 22nd. His name is **Lawrence Derosa** if any would like to get in touch with him e-mail me. Jim Sylvester Nam 67-68

Name: **Skip Fahel**
Email: eqf15@aol.com
Date: 10-11-06

Comments: If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation that was shown at the Memorial Service in Omaha, please send 5.00 dollars to the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, co **Martin Oelklaus**, Post Office Box 3258, Independence, Mo 65055-8258

Name: **Jonathan Clemente**
Email: jonathan_clemente@yahoo.com

Comments: Comments: I am looking for anyone from B-2-22 Inf (M) who can recall events surrounding the capture of a major VC hospital complex for Tay Ninh War Zone C in the vicinity of XT597457 on or about 1700hrs on 30 December 1966.

Name: **Michael H. Pounds**
Email: c222_34@msn.com
Date: 10-21-06

Comments: This is my new email address cuchimadmanmike@yahoo.com

Name: **Clark K. Hamm**
Email: conradbrein@aol.com
Date: 10-25-06
Phone: 484-764-5866

Comments: Thank you for all the information. God bless all from the Triple Deuce you saved many American lives that day in March. See you bro. Clark Hamm

Name: **James Cuthbertson**
Email: jcbmc@comcast.net

Date: 10-27-06
Phone: 804-360-5265

Comments: We were with you guys at Cu Chi Mechanized to boot. I was with the 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf, 2d Bde, 25th Inf as a Plt Ldr, Company Commander and S-3(Air). I wasted my youth from December 1966 to December 1967. It was a great year and by the way, we were winning when I left. Great website guys. Keep up the good work. Hoorah

Name: **Michael H. Pounds**
Email: cuchimadmanmike@yahoo.com
Date: 10-30-06

Comments: Well if you are reading this you can thank Mario. I appreciate each and everyone of you for putting up with me at the reunion. Hopefully in DC I will be more social.

Name: **Michael J. Moore**
Email: mmoore56@netins.net
Date: 11-01-06
Phone: 641-623-2699

Comments: Looking for anybody that remembers or has pictures of **Dale Moore** B Co. 2nd Bn. 22nd Inf was in country Sept 22 1966 to Feb 19 1967 (KIA) by hostile small arms fire.

Name: **John D. Nenninger**
Email: jdnenninger@yahoo.com
Date: 11-01-06

Comments: Served with Bravo Co from Sept. 69 to Aug. 70 Anyone remember Captain Timmins?

Name: **Lynn Dalpez**
Email: dalpezc222@yahoo.com
Date: 11-09-06

Comments: Happy Veterans Days Triple Deucers and all Veterans of The United States of America. Those of us in the greater Portland Oregon area will be getting together for a Vets Day Parade and then we will go to our national cemetery, The Willamette Cemetery, to honor our fallen Brothers. We will be contending with

the famous Oregon rain, but old Grunts, like new Grunts, don't let a little thing like rain hold us back.
Uh-uh. Wishing you all the very best of days.
Lynn

Name: George Walker for **John Warner**

Date: 11-15-06

Email: dadof8g@comcast.net

Comments: Dear Mario thanks a ton, I kept your letter and will ask my daughter to show me how it's done. John Warner was a SPC 4 and served from 1967 to 1968, I did not delve into why or how he was blinded, but he did have a Purple Heart on his hat, so possibly from wounds, I only spoke to him for a short while, he was very happy to hear that I might be able to contact someone from the 2-22 and I must say I am proud to help in any way John's address is **164 Main St. Mantua, New Jersey 08051**, he does not have a computer or a phone, but I will try to come up with some kind of arrangement to get him on the phone, if someone wants to talk to him, or they can email me and I will get the info to him.

Thanks again to you and Mike and keep up the good work, I have enjoyed reading about your outfit and the men in it.

George G. Walker SR

Name: **George Winkle**

Email: onceagain1@mail.ru

Date: 11-21-06

Comments: Very good site. I got a lot of helpful information here. I'll use it. But many spam in guestbook. Thank you. With warmest regards.
George

Name: **Donald Keith Kruse**

Email: donkruse@peoplepc.com

Date: 11-14-06

Comments: I was with company A Triple Duece from July 68 to July 69.

I was a 50 gunner for months also a track driver for several months, I was driving when we ran over an arty round and **George Kellam** was killed on Feb. 5-69. I have a bronze star for what I believe was the battle of Dau Tieng. I have

blocked most of this stuff out. I was 50 gunner when we ran over a mine and Straub, the driver, lost his leg. If anyone remembers this please e-mail me. I would like some names and dates please...love you guys DON KRUSE.

If indeed one picture is worth a thousand words. . .the following should speak volumes. The pictures came from many sources (including but not limited to Lon Oakley, Donald Gass, and others who sent them by e-mail) in addition to the ones I took

As always, the reunion was awesome. I hope I have captured a bit of the flavor for those unable to attend. For those who participated in the actual event. . . I hope you can identify a Brother or yourself caught in the process of having fun and sharing memories. Dan





