



# 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. 22, No. 1

Jan. 2016

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Steve Irvine B/68-69

Harold Metcalf

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello from the snowy Midwest. I hope all are coping with all these record weather conditions we have been subjected to this winter. I really don't see any options of course, but we have all dealt with tough weather before on both ends of the spectrum and I'm confident that VN222 vets get by in winter probably better than the average American. We all know how to make lemonade when dealt with a lemon situation.

Dan is always doing his job well by beating me and all of us up for stories for this newsletter. Thanks to all who have submitted them before, and I have a thought for helping him and Vera fill the next couple of them up. Like I said, we all have made the best of bad situations be it weather, bugs, dust, or other of life's problems, especially in Vietnam four plus decades ago. Without admitting to something that will put you in court, how about sending Dan one or more of those situations that you will always remember generating a great laugh to you and those around you. As you know, even Nam had its lighter moments, and a record of some of them would be fun to read, and good for Dan's blood pressure. His address is listed in this newsletter.

There is finally a site and dates for the next reunion in the news. Vegas in May (3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2017) will be a hoot. I haven't been there since the seventies, and fully expect to recognize nothing but the Hoover Dam. Much more detail about it will be coming in future newsletters, and this reunion site should generate a big increase in attendance from you guys in the western half of America, so get ready to go. Vegas is one of those places that specialize in reunions, so I fully expect a great time, and very reasonable prices once you get there. Stay warm, stay safe, and hang in there. Pitchers and catchers report in less than a month... **Dick Nash** A & HHC/69

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As promised in the last newsletter, here is what I did to observe Veterans Day. In a less than subtle manner I am challenging each and every Brother to submit your story. It doesn't have to be about a holiday. It doesn't have to be long. It doesn't have to be "spectacular" It has to be from your heart and your mind. Believe me the writing will be therapeutic for you and the reading and responding will help you Brothers.

Nothing compliments fresh, crisp, fall air better than football season. However November in Kansas was not crisp; it was bitterly cold.

A K-State report noted This year marks the 50th Anniversary for the Vietnam Veterans and with that being said, we are so honored to have 100 Vietnam Veterans as well as approximately 500 family members of vets present at the game.

Prior to the Thursday night (November 5) game, Briggs (a vehicle dealership) sponsored a tailgate party to show appreciation and say a big thank you for our freedom. Rambler's (a local steak house) catered the event which kicked off at 4pm, giving me plenty of time to grab a plate or two and fill up before the game which then started at 6:30pm

We were in Wabash Landing of Bill Snyder Family Stadium in Manhattan, Kansas. The Wildcats played No. 6-ranked Baylor University in a Big 12 Conference football game, losing 31 to 24.

. The partnership between the K-State football team and the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, was on display throughout the day as its command team appeared on the Powercat Game Day radio show, its Soldiers helped welcome the team on the field before the start of the game and its Soldiers did push ups in the end zone after each touchdown and extra point.

Other highlights included special on-field recognition of the Vietnam Vets as well as 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley troops as Fan of the Game and Hometown Hero of the Game.

Unfortunately family and friends not in attendance were unable to see the half time recognition since that time was used for advertising and other televised necessities. Our son, Nathan, was working at the game and our grandson, Royce, was in attendance so they were able to tell other family members of the festivities.

The following day

As the hangar doors slowly opened, hundreds of loved ones and members of the community jumped to their feet, wildly applauding and cheering as the men and women, who fought in one of the nation's most complicated and controversial wars entered, the room.

It was a much different reception than the one the troops saw more than four decades ago as they returned home from the Vietnam War

To show Vietnam-era veterans the gratitude and honor many didn't receive while on active duty, the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley hosted the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony on the post's Marshall Army Airfield, Nov. 6. More than 150 veterans from every branch of service attended the ceremony from as far away as Michigan, New Mexico, Texas, Wyoming and Indiana.

"I am humbled and proud to be able to preside over this ceremony, which is far different than what our brave Vietnam veterans came home to some 50 years ago," said Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general. "I am happy to say 'welcome home and job well done' to our returning service members."

Grigsby also congratulated and asked for a round of applause for the veterans' loved ones.

"Families are the reason we fight," he said. "They bear the heavy burden of their loved ones' absence, and we cannot do it without them."

The "Big Red One," or BRO, was the first division called to fight in Vietnam 50 years ago.

"These men are shining examples of the 'BRO' charge," Grigsby said. "Clearly they were brave, and responsible for the lives of their fellow Soldiers. They were on point, understanding that their actions mattered, that they were a part of something bigger than themselves."

Almost 2.6 million men and women deployed in support of the Vietnam War. More than 3,000 1st Infantry Division Soldiers were killed in action, including the commanding general, Maj. Gen. Keith Ware, whose helicopter was shot down over the jungles of Loc Ninh, Sept. 13, 1968.

"It's all about finally coming home," said John Moen, a combat medic from Plano, Texas, who served with the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team from 1966 to 1967. "This is the final cap. When I heard this event was going to occur, I figured this is the cap, this is the final 'I'm home.' And it feels that way. Just coming on post felt that way."

More than 58,000 Americans were killed in the Vietnam War and more than 300,000 were physically wounded, though Grigsby pointed out that far more Soldiers carry the "invisible scars" of war

"A welcome back from grateful Americans is just the beginning of a process that is needed to help troops cope with what they endured," Grigsby said. "That's not something our society knew how to help with as our Vietnam service members came home. Wounds, especially the ones not visible, didn't get the treatment they needed."

The general said society has improved in terms of veteran care, including behavioral health issues to traumatic brain injuries. Now, he said,

communities need to reach out to those impacted by the experience of war, from the remaining veterans of World War II to those who served in Vietnam - even those who serve in conflicts today across the globe.

"Our service members share bonds forged in combat, but they need to forge similar bonds with their communities to truly heal," Grigsby said. "We honor here the burdens borne by our brothers and sisters that served in Vietnam, full knowing that they were not embraced as they should have been when they came home."

Despite not receiving the care and consideration they deserved upon returning home, Grigsby said Vietnam veterans cared for one another and continue to care for veterans of all eras.

When Moen returned home from Vietnam, he said he immediately felt absolute repulsion from the public.

"And of course we stood out, because we were all clean-shaven, short hair, and everybody our age or around our age of course was now into the counter-culture, and they really didn't like us," he said. "They really didn't like us."

The veteran said the public response to his return gave him a very uncomfortable and unpleasant feeling.

"And there was nobody there at all to say 'welcome home,'" he said, "not a soul. Not my local VFW [Veterans of Foreign Wars], not my town, not my church, not my friends."

The experience was especially jarring for Moen, who watched as veterans from World War II and the Korean War came home to heroes' welcomes.

"It was very traumatic," he said. "It was like, 'wow, there's nothing for us.'"

The Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony was an opportunity for this generation to do right by Soldiers like Moen and his fellow veterans, Grigsby said.

"To the greatest generation, to the Vietnam veterans," Grigsby told the service members, "welcome home."

"You are dismissed." ([www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) the official site of the US Army)

Afterwards Vera and I toured the many displays, enjoyed visiting with other veterans as well as active duty servicemen and shared in the refreshments

On November 11, we journeyed to Berryton Elementary School which is southeast of Topeka (about 150 miles from home). In the Veteran's recognition assembly each veteran present Stated name, branch of service, time period and locations of service and what child in the audience was standing simultaneously to be recognized. Isabella, Graeson, and Rylea standing tall with radiant smiles did their Papa proud. After a short program of patriotic music and brief speeches veterans went to visit the classrooms of "their students". In each classroom I received hand drawn pictures, thank you notes and cookies and punch. I was asked numerous times for autographs and thanked for my service.

I must say it was one of the most rewarding few days I can remember. The recognition of the community, of my peers and especially of the younger generation gives me hope for the future of this country for which we fought. Anyway that's how it seems to this old soldier.

**Dan Streit, D/69**

# EVENTFUL YEAR

## CONCLUDES

2015 came to a wonderful close of events for the Regiment Society and already visions of 2016 are in our sights. For me personally it has been a most rewarding year starting with Skip Fahel and my invitation last January to join the 2/22nd Infantry Battalion during Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana's "TIGERLAND" As the place that prepared Skip and myself (and so many of you) to go to Vietnam, the three day field training exercise (FTX) on "Pee-Saun Ridge" brought back many memories. Seeing the Triple Deuce shoot, move and communicate under **LTC Rob Schexnayder**, CSM Rob Fortenberry, company commanders and NCOs became an excellent barometer to prepare them for the deployment elements of "Triple Deuce" find themselves on as I write this message. They and their families remain in our prayers daily for a safe return and an awesome "WELCOME HOME" at Ft. Drum, New York in the future. (NOTE; We are pleased newly retired former 2/22 commander LTC Rob Schexnayder has agreed to become our liaison to the command group at Ft Drum. He will keep us informed on activities and is a great "old goat squad" addition to the Regiment Society.

In June we dedicated the 22nd Infantry Regiment Memorial Monument on the National Infantry Museum's "WALK OF HONOR" at Ft Benning, Georgia. The monument to honor our fallen Brothers will stand forever against the elements and again my heartfelt thanks to all for their contribution of time, talent and treasure to make it happen. It is quite the site to see my Brothers.

It seemed we no sooner got the monument dedicated when it was time to switch gears to our 2015 Syracuse NY reunion in September. My thanks again to **Pete Gaworecki**, Dawn Esposito and the men and women of the 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry Battalion for conducting a

moving and informative reunion for us and a memorable visit to the battalion at Ft. Drum.

In December I was blessed with a visit to San Antonio by three former Vietnam Alpha Company Brothers who assisted me in "sprucing up" the 2/22 Triple Deuce Paver (dedicated in 2003) in the Courtyard of Heroes at the Alamo complex. (see the story in newsletter). A superb effort by three of "Nash's Nitwits" and a second platoon Brother to end the year and honor the Regiment.

The first order of business for 2016 is to announce the site for the 2017 22nd Infantry Regiment Society reunion. I reviewed the proposals introduced at our business meeting in Syracuse and have decided Las Vegas, Nevada has the facilities and meets the cost parameters under which we operate. Again I appreciate the effort and research done on all proposals.

Picking the reunion site was a tough decision but in an effort to begin to think of the Regiment Society's future it is my intent this site will attract more of our younger veterans and active duty soldiers to join our current group of veterans. Society First Vice President **Mark Woempner** will serve as reunion host and will begin to publish additional details and event schedules. We will look to keep official reunion activities to a minimum to allow maximum use of time there to view not only all that Las Vegas has to offer but also the surrounding history of the area. Target date for reunion planning purposes is 4-7 May 2017. Our Honorary Colonel and CSM of the Regiment will join myself and former 1/22 and 2/22 "new era" commanders to encourage max attendance at the reunion. Help us get the word out and I will see you there!

**Lon D. Oakley Jr.** A 169  
President 22nd Infantry Regiment Society

## ADVICE OFFERED ON PROSTATE ISSUE

In a recent phone conversation with **Don Carpenter, Charlie Co., July 1968 to April 1969**, we discussed a few items that are important to VN 222; the most important area we discussed regards a new procedure that is being used for the treatment of prostate cancer and the need for a competent VSO to help in dealing with the VA. I asked Don to write up what he knew about the procedure so that other Members would have the opportunity to learn from his experience. Don's message follows:

December 14, 2015

"I appreciated the conversation this morning. I do have some maps that I received from a friend of mine. He was associated with a Province Chief in Hau Nghia Province." (I have messaged Ben Anderson so that he and Don can discuss how best to use these maps.)

### *"Agent Orange and Vietnam Veterans:*

If you were in Vietnam, you are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange or some other herbicide. There are at least 14 different diseases that are presumed to have been caused by Agent Orange. Therefore, you do not have to prove what caused one of these diseases. One of the most common is prostate cancer. (My Case) You should contact a VSO (Veterans Service Organization) to help you with your VA claim. You need documentation from your doctor to show a diagnosis." (Don assumes that a non-VA doctor has diagnosed the condition.) "The claim should be made as soon as possible. The VA benefits are payable from the date of the claim. The VSO will help you. If you have one of the diseases, you should find a local VSO. Some of these can be found on the Internet. Disabled American Veterans is one. (DAV). But, do your homework first!

I will tell you that there are other physical problems that you may suffer from and do not know

it. (PTSD, tinnitus, hearing loss, etc.) It is a good idea to contact a VSO locally and let them educate you regardless of your present condition. I hope this was helpful.

Respectfully,  
Sgt Donald Carpenter"

In a subsequent conversation Don provided the following information regarding the new prostate treatment:

The treatment is known as Proton Therapy. It is not conventional radiation treatment. There are three locations in the Country where Proton Treatment is being used. However, the number of locations is increasing. You can become familiar with this treatment by searching for Pro-Cure on the Internet. The procedure is explained, in detail, and where it is being offered is constantly updated.

A simple explanation of the treatment is that it pinpoints the problem areas and deals only with those areas. Surrounding tissue is not disturbed.

Don's points are all important, especially the one regarding dealing with the VA only through competent VSO types. The last edition of the Newsletter carried an article regarding the establishment of a directory of competent VSO's. Bill "Doc" Matz is gathering that information. If you are familiar with a competent VSO, please get that information to Doc Matz so that others will be able to get the help they need in dealing with the VA.

**Jim May**, HMOR  
Prov. Co., 1968

## WEST POINT VISIT A SAGA OF FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FOOTBALL

October 9<sup>th</sup> found **Pete Gaworecki, Charlie Co., 4<sup>th</sup> ID, 67-68**, and me at the US Military Academy at West Point visiting Nick Loos. Nick is the eldest son of **COL Mike Loos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion CO, FEB 2009 to MAY 2011**. For those of you who have been reading these Newsletters you will recognize Nick's name from previous articles regarding our visits to Ft Drum. Nick and his brother, Nate, were always present to lend helping hands at Fishing Derby's and for many other events. Nick is now in his first year as a student at USMA. Pete and I were invited to visit the campus and to attend other events, including the football game between USMA and Duke. Attending the football game turned out to be a good excuse for holding a tailgate party. Tailgating means eating and, again, those of you who read the Newsletters know that Pete is second to none in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society when it comes to eating. As such, Pete has the complete tail-gaiting kitchen. His Jeep was filled to capacity starting with a large pole supported tent, tables, grills, and utensils. I'm a bit ahead of myself here, so I'll re-start with our first contact with Nick.



Pete and I met up at the motel we were going to stay at in Newburg. Once we got through the gate we quickly found Nick waiting right where he said he'd be. After appropriate greeting Nick presented both Pete and me with a bag full of presents, all done in the West Point theme. Our first stop was at Nick's quarters. Nick's Company is **B-2**. They just happen to be having a cook out in the Quad and Pete and I were encouraged to join in. It was during this part of the visit that we were introduced to **CPT Jeffrey Fearing** and **SFC Scott Brinkerhoff, B-2's Tactical Officer and NCO**. I was surprised at the relaxed nature of the interaction between the Plebes, Upper Classmen and Officers. I expected a more rigid atmosphere, but those days are long in the past. The interactions were formal with respect for rank and position evident, but gone are the "sir sandwiches" and the bracing.

After Pete has his fill of burgers and hot dogs we went up to Nick's room where we met some of his classmates and other friends, to include **Will Butler, Army Brat, son of COL Bill Butler, Tristan Littlejohn form Colorado, Tanner Goudeau of California, Josh Kim, from Georgia and Mike Catena**. Nick took us on a brief tour of the immediate area pointing out many of the historical building and statues that the campus is filled with making USMA a very impressive setting.

After Nick made formation we headed for town and a real meal. Pete and I dropped Nick off back at his quarters and headed for the super market. We had no idea how many of Nick's friends would show up for tailgating, so we filled a shopping cart to beyond capacity with everything from breakfast items for before the game to all sorts of grilling items for after the game. That done, we went back to our motel and got some rest.

In the morning our first stop was at a Dunkin Donuts where we picked up a couple of boxes of coffee. It was during our wait that we met the **USMA's Asst. Women's Volleyball Coach**,

**Sarah Lusk.** Sarah invited us to attend the Army -Navy Women's Volleyball game that would be held that evening. More about that later.

Pete and I went to our assigned parking lot and began to unload and set up Pete's tailgating array. We were not alone. There are many West Point Alumni who attend these events and they were more than happy to welcome new-comers to the event. Once we got set up, Pete began to cook, he wasn't waiting for Nick and his friends to show up. Pete and I ate Pete's rendition of the McMuffin which were better than what one gets at McDonalds. After a while Nick came along and Pete began to cook again and Pete cooked until these young men had their fill. It was getting near game time, so we had to put much of Pete's equipment away. We also had to move the tent back. It was then that I understood why the tent was so big that it fit over and around the Jeep with room to spare. That done, we made our way to the stands. Nick and friends were going to sit with their company.

The game was, from the point of view of the West Point fans, uninteresting. That's all I'll say about that. What was interesting was a visit with Triple Deuce, 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn Old Friend, Brian Retherford. Since I last saw Brian he has earned his Master's Degree and is now teaching at USMA. That tour will end next Spring and Brian hopes to be transferred to the Asymmetric Warfare Group in Virginia where COL Mike Loos is the Commanding Officer.

Well, it was back to the parking lot and the re-assembly of Pete's kitchen where a serious attempt was made to cook and eat as much of the food we'd brought as possible. A serious dent was made, but we still had plenty left. That's a good thing. Better to have more than not enough. The crowd was thinning and it was our turn to pack up.

We proceeded to the gym where the volleyball game was going to take place. We were greeted by Coach Lusk's husband, who we'd met at the Dunkin Donuts. The crowd was very enthusiastic

and was being led by **LTG Casen and BG Thomson** who were literally running the floor encouraging the Cadets to show their school spirit. Pete and I were included in the 'High-Fives' that LTG Casen was spreading around as he ran from one end of the gym to the other.

I won't attempt to describe what went on for the next two hours other than to say that the game went to a tie-breaking 5<sup>th</sup> set. That set was a tooth and nail battle until the very end when West Point won. Army beat Navy and there is nothing more important in all of athletics at USMA than Army beating Navy.

It was late and Nick had to get back to his quarters so Pete and I said our goodbyes outside the gym and headed back to our motel.

We had a very busy and very enjoyable visit with Nick and his friends. I am confident that the Army is producing a well rounded group of future leaders. These young Americans understand that what they are preparing for is the defense of a way of life that surpasses any other ever offered to mankind. I am proud to stand among them.

**Jim May, HMOR**  
Prov. Co 1968

## **MAGNET SHARES SAD NEWS**

After an 11.5 month battle against cancer Linda passed away shortly after 08:00 P.M. January 22. The family and I are not having a grave site service for her. Instead Linda's body will be cremated then interred. At a later date a Celebration of her Life will be held. Please no flowers nor donations to my family. Instead those who wish to make a donation should do so in Linda's name to the City of Hope.

**Norman Nishikubo**  
6802 N. Rockhold Ave.  
San Gabriel, CA 91775  
[magnetc222@earthlink.net](mailto:magnetc222@earthlink.net)  
C Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Sep 67 to Aug 68



## Reminder This Will Be Your Last Newsletter if the year on your mailing label is 2015 or prior

If you have any questions you can contact me at  
[D222@nckcn.com](mailto:D222@nckcn.com) or 785-738-2419 (Home)  
or 785-738-8750 (Cell)

Make check for \$15.00 payable and mail to:  
Vietnam Triple Deuce  
P.O. Box 665  
Norridgewock, ME 04597

If you are unable to pay dues, let us know  
and your membership will continue

## PAVERS SPRUCED UP DURING A Co. VISIT

As many of you remember from our 2003 22nd



Infantry Regiment Society San Antonio Reunion, there is a Vietnam 2/22 paver located in the Courtyard of Heroes (Gallagher House) at the Alamo.

This week Alpha Company Brothers **Ken "Lumpy" Schulte**, **Joe Goike** and **Oscar Rosalez** visited it again. As seen from the picture above it could use a "sprucing up" so this week

that will be one of our missions. So proud that Lumpy, Joe and wives came down South to visit. Great times with great brothers in arms.

Lon Oakley Jr A/69



President 22nd Infantry Regiment Society

## TAPS

**Gerald (Geri) E. Picard** (aka Pixie)

Holyoke MA

A Co. 25 ID, Feb 67 to Feb 68

Died Nov. 4 1984

Gerald was awarded the Silver Star for action 15 July 1967, died 4 Nov 1984 at age 39 from PTSD-associated suicide and is buried in the Punch Bowl on Oahu, Hawaii.

By Brad Hull

## NEW FINDS

**Earl L. Snowden**

5 Clearview Drive

Blue Eye, MO 65611-8100

417-779-4152

[snowdencjs@yahoo.com](mailto:snowdencjs@yahoo.com)

Charlie Co., 25th ID, Sep 68 to Aug 69.

Would like to locate **Jimmy Davidson**, **John Hank**, and **William Lee**. He has provided Service Numbers if needed.

# HELLOES & COMMENTS

Name: **J.E.Kasprzak**

Location: Oxford N.Y.

Email: [kasp164400@gmail.com](mailto:kasp164400@gmail.com)

Phone: 6078435163

Was nice to see you all again at the reunion hope to make the next one too.

Posted on: Wednesday - Nov 4, 2015

Name: **Allen D. Sperry**

406-381-7899

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C Co. 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Feb 68 to Feb 69

## GUEST BOOK HITS

Name: **Bill Noyes**

Location: Campbell California

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Phone: 408 3741541

Just a hearty Hi to all 222ers, and to report we are finally getting some healthy rain here. Mucho Gracias to all you Draftees, long ignored, of VN vintage. Just watched another PBS VN program that manages to not mention or quote a single one of you!

Posted on: Monday - Nov 2, 2015

Name: **Kirk Olsen**

Location: Austin, MN

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HHC 67-68

Hope everyone had a great veterans day. I spent my day visiting veterans at our local rest homes had a good time doing so. It is an honor to be able to visit with WW II vets and also Korean vets. Hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Posted on: Monday - Nov 16, 2015

Name: **Dick Nash**

Location: Illinois

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Phone: 309 537 3536

Happy Thanksgiving to all. One of my greatest thanks is for this organization and what it has done for you and me...

Name: **Jimmie Robinson**

Location: Birmingham, Alabama

Email: [robinsonjimmie@bellsouth.net](mailto:robinsonjimmie@bellsouth.net)

Phone: (205)527-3631

Stayed with BCo. 2/22 2 Platoon 25 Inf Div 1968 to 1969 in Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh. Give a shout if you remember me. Known as the Frag-man

Posted on: Sunday - Dec 13, 2015

Name: **Lynn Dalpez**

Location: Beaverton OR

Email: [dalpez222@gmail.com](mailto:dalpez222@gmail.com)

Phone: 503-8483901

Happy Holidays Triple Deucers, and your families. Doing fine here. Following the Doc's orders...kind of. I admit that I have crawled into my foxhole, but it is a very comfortable one. Have a great New Year.

Posted on: Wednesday - Dec 16, 2015

Name: **Jerry Cupp**

Location: Colorado Springs Co

Email: [firstsgtjerry@yahoo.com](mailto:firstsgtjerry@yahoo.com)

Phone: 719-260-6740

Served with A Co 2Bn 22 Inf (Mech) from Dec 1965to

Aug 1967.Served at Dau Taing was part of the guys

who built the Bunkers in ACo's area .Was in the Battle of Soui TRE.

Posted on: Sunday - Dec 20, 2015

Name: **David V. Rodgers**

Location: Ransomville , NY .

Email: [dvr222@twc.com](mailto:dvr222@twc.com)

Phone: 7167913106

Served in HHC? D Co. Battalion Maint. and C Co. 68-69. Been looking for some one that was at The Battle of Dau Tieng in The Deuce...Merry X Mas.....

Posted on: Saturday - Dec 26, 2015

Name: **Dwight Ricketts**

Location: Germantown, Md.

Email: jrdr7@verizon.net

Phone: 3015400234

I was a medic. We spent all night carrying the wounded to the hospital. The next morning we cared for the KIAs mostly on the airstrip. Proud to have been a medic for the best unit in Nam.

Posted on: Tuesday - Jan 5, 2016

Name: **Raymond Lee [corp Lee]**

Location: near Joliet or Morris IL

Email: [leejoyce2@yahoo.com](mailto:leejoyce2@yahoo.com)

Phone: 815-603-5492 331-725-8196

Feb 67 till Feb 68 B Co I think 3rd plat I was with **Dobson Willie Smith, lisbicky, Talusec, Berg,** who I stay in touch with, also we met once with **It Fahel** . We are close to a lot of guys like **Ware** and **Valenec** who we have never seen. Would like to here from anyone who knows any of us.

Looking for **Pichon**.

Posted on: Monday - Jan 11, 2016

Name: **John McCambridge**

Location: 4935 Castaway Lane

Hoffman Est, IL 60179

Email: [rmccamb2@hotmail.com](mailto:rmccamb2@hotmail.com)

Glad to join your sight. Member of Alpha Company May 68-69

Was squad leader and Platoon leader> **Captain Crocker** was Company Commander

Posted on: Tuesday - Jan 12, 2016

## TRACT TURNED INTO SCRAP

Jim - Babble??? You haven't even begun troop! It always helps to get it out with another vet. One who's been close to a fire fight or perhaps in one. We were mechanized so we never humped mountains, but we would ride to as far as we could, the company would dismount at say a rubber plantation and sweep the area. We would stay in a clearing with our mortars sited in ready for any contact the line platoons made. So I had it pretty easy! Just had to watch out for mines planted in the soft dirt. As you know there were only so many roads to use and we generally used the same ones day after day. Even an idiot would know to

mine the road come nightfall! We would be showing up the next morning... When I inherited tract 4-1 as driver, there were some 20 odd sand bags in the driver's hatch already. Not enough. I like my legs. Kinda got attached to them after all these years so I added another 20 or so. As you also know, sand bags turn into cement after awhile and although my diesel engine groaned and complained...I kept singing, "It Don't Matter To Me!" As you can see from the photo, you tried to get as much as possible between you and the road. The driver in this tract was airmailed to St Louis...

One of my buddies who I did AIT with at Fort Polk, came to Vietnam and was sent to Americal. The first day he landed at his FSB, he earned his CIB. Took me a couple of months...but I was in no hurry. Me and Bob Hope! Hiding behind the same tree!

I checked into my ancestors and found something extremely interesting. I had two great uncles die in World War I. I had another uncle die in 1943 during World War II. A fourth uncle, who I was named after, died in the Korean War. And now old Pete goes to war... I'm surprised my Mother didn't have a nervous breakdown! My family didn't have the greatest record at coming back from wars!

But like you said, God was with me and that mine just destroyed the tract! I wrote the guys in my squad from Korea and asked them if I had been inside the driver's hatch, would I still have my legs...attached that is. They told me that all it did was stir up a little dust! But they laid the tract to rest. Hey...I could live with that!!!

Time for taps...yak with you later...

**Pete Rock, B/ 68-69**



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I did not serve in or support the 2-22 in Vietnam but wish to be an associate member \_\_\_\_\_

Men you served with who you would like to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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