

Charlie Company 2Bn (Mech) 22nd Inf

ASSOCIATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS

All 22nd Inf & Support Personnel Are Also Welcome To Be Associate Members

Published and Edited by John Eberwine 5018 Fernwood Avenue • Egg Harbor Township 08234

Telephone (609) 653-3025 • E-mail vietvet222@juno.com

C 2/22 INTERNET HOME PAGE - <http://members.aol.com/vietvetjje/index.html>

Let's Find Your Buddies for Gettysburg

We Need to Formally Organize

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We've come a long way since May 1995 when I received my first telephone call from a former comrade from Vietnam, Lt John Clemente. Since then our database has grown to over 330 names, with

approximately 150 known mailing addresses. All other units that have grown to any size, and maintained that size, have organized, by way of electing officers, charging nominal yearly dues to fund the newsletters and the cost of locating men, in addition to postings on the Internet, in various publications, etc. I have discussed this with Bill Allison, who was CO of Charlie Company from September, 1967 to March, 1968, then off and on until July, 1968. I personally feel, since Bill has become more instrumental in trying to put our unit back together, and since he was such an outstanding leader in Vietnam, that he would be the best choice to be our first President of *Charlie Company 2Bn (Mech) 22nd Inf Association of Vietnam Veterans*. The **final** official name can be worked on and suggestions made. We need a strong leader to get this organization up and running and I can attest to Bill's leadership abilities. If anyone feels strongly that you want to recommend or nominate someone else at this time, please feel free to come forward. We need as many men as possible to step to the front because there are many jobs to be done, such as president, vice-president, treasurer, locator, reunion organizer, etc. I will volunteer to continue to serve as

editor & publisher to write and mail the newsletter and maintain our master database, which includes as many KIA's and those that passed away at home as we can compile.

Now - How Much!

The cost to copy and mail the newsletters 4 times per year is starting to become prohibitive for me. Some folks over the last year have sent donations to help defray the expense, and I really appreciated that; but I must now ask that each of you, who wish to become an official member or associate of the organization, to pay a yearly membership fee of \$10.00. There are additional cost to send postcards out to constantly try to locate more members and the telephone calls to attempt the same, these costs will all be covered by the \$10.00. If ever I hit it big with the lottery, I'll gladly take back this expense myself, but in the meantime, I need your help. **Note:** If you absolutely can not afford the dues, just let me know privately, and you'll always receive the newsletter.

Elections in October

My suggestion is to be ready at the Gettysburg Reunion to elect

officers, set by laws and conduct any other business that our sub group needs to have done. We will need someone to look into the legalities of forming the group with a non-profit status, etc. It would be really nice for people to start volunteering now for some of these jobs.

Gentlemen, you who have had the privilege of attending at least one reunion, know the strong feelings that have surfaced after so many years. We who have been there, must encourage others to at least come to one reunion, and see for themselves. **We need each other, it's been too many years that we've dealt with feelings and memories alone, so please join us.**

Bill Allison's fantastic slide presentation

At the Gettysburg reunion, you will see Bill Allison's phenomenal slide show and talk. Those of you who were there from 9/67 to approx 8/68 will probably see friends or even yourself on the big screen. For those who preceded this time or served after this time, it will stir memories, I'm sure.

Gettysburg Reunion

Don't forget our next scheduled reunion of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society (IRS) will be the weekend of October 16-19, 1997 at the Eisenhower Convention Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. You have heard from Bob Babeock via his February, 1997 newsletter, if you still get it. **If you are not already a dues paying member of the 22nd IRS, please let me know and I'll forward an application to you.**

What is 22nd IRS?

A recap of what the 22nd IRS is all about. After WW II the organization was formed of anyone who served with any unit of the 22nd Infantry Regiment. These men met approximately every 18 months or so, from the time of forming until now. A few years ago, they realized that with the WW II Veterans dwindling in number and getting slightly older, that younger blood was needed to keep the organization viable.

Bob Babeock was one of the first, **if not the first**, to join from the Vietnam Era. Then in 1996, he was elected President. He has done a remarkable job of blending the WW II Vets with the Vietnam Vets. I am guessing at the numbers, but it seems that in little more than 2 years, we have about 125 Vietnam Veterans who are dues paying members. We all should belong to the 22nd IRS because as members of the larger Unit, we can stay in touch with what all of the various Sub-Units are doing, such as C3/22, B3/22, A2/22 etc.

We also can learn how to make our C 2/22 Organization run and work well by learning from the Parent Organization. There is absolutely nothing wrong with patterning ourselves after such a strong and well run group.

Dues for the 22nd IRS are only \$10 per year, or you can pay the "Double Decker" rate of \$22 which helps to defray costs for those who may, unfortunately, be not able to pay. Send your dues to: 22nd IRS, PO Box 70161, Marietta, Georgia, 30007. Make sure you give your full name, what unit and times you served, and complete address and telephone number.

Back to the Reunion!

You will not want to miss this reunion. More men from C 2/22 will be there as well as C 3/22 and additional men who

flew in support of our units from 187th AHC and 188th AHC we hope, plus the potential exist that we shall see some of our nursing, "Ladies in White" that have corresponded with us on the E-mail "VietNet".

To make arrangements for the reunion you can contact the Eisenhower Inn and Conference Center, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, Pa 17325 at 1-800-776-8349. **Tell then you are with the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society** to be assured of getting the special rate of \$79 per night/double, plus tax.

Cindy, Rosie and I have made our reservations and we will be there early, from Wednesday, October 15 thru Sunday October 19, 1997. I also know that Bill & Martha John Allison, Awb & Jo Norris and Jerry & Renee Rudisill will all be there Wednesday as well.

To the Ladies/Spouses

My wife, Cindy, wrote something for one of the earlier newsletters and I feel it should be repeated as many times as possible. Here goes:

CINDY'S MESSAGE TO THE LADIES!

by Cindy Eberwine

John & I have been married 12 years and it wasn't until April, 1996 at the reunion of the 22nd IRS, that I have learned or appreciated what happened in Vietnam. It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. By meeting and talking with the men my husband fought with, I have developed a greater insight and understanding of just how important it was for these men to get back together again.

Vietnam was a part of my husband's life which I wasn't a part of, but during the reunion, the men of the 22nd, helped to bridge the gap. They were so caring and patient as they explained to me what their role was and what they experienced while in Vietnam. I am writing this directly to the ladies or

significant others, who stand by the men who fought in Vietnam. I want you to know how truly important it is for you to join your husband/friend at one of the upcoming reunions. You will both gain so much by attending!

Adopt a JROTC Program

Some of us who attended the Reunion in Saint Francisville, Louisiana were so impressed with the program being run by Chuck Boyle and Sergeants Boyd and Duplechain that we wanted to do something special for them. The program seems to make such a significant difference in the lives of so many young people.

Some of us have talked and we have come up with a way to have a living memorial to the men who fought and died in Vietnam by Adopting the JROTC Program at Clinton High School. Chuck told us that the shirts and pants and boots are funded by the government, but that the accoutrements usually come from small donations or just out of Chuck's pocket.

These consist of the shoulder braid, insignia, ribbons, etc. You remember how important it was to you to wear rank, medals, ribbons, etc., well it means more to these kids for it's recognition for a "**Job Well Done**". It sometimes may be the only recognition they get from adults. Let's not let them down. We calculated \$5 per month or \$60 a year, per donation, would make such a difference in their lives, so what say y'all, shall we get behind this most fantastic and worthwhile program run by Chuck Boyle and Elisah Boyd and Charles Duplechain and establish this living **MEMORIAL** to all the men and women who gave of their lives in Vietnam, but especially all of the **Charlie Company - Triple Deucers**, just send a check for \$60.00 or whatever you can afford, payable to "Chuck Boyle" or the "Clinton JROTC" to Chuck at PO Box 426,

Clinton, Louisiana 70722-0426.

Check with Chuck, but I believe this JROTC may be a Non-profit and therefore this donation may be a Tax-Deduction.

For All Chargin' Charlie - Triple Deucer's Out There

Since April, 1996, I have been compiling a database of men who served with C 2/22 anytime from 1966 when the men went over on the ship until 1971 when C 2/22 came home. I was fortunate to get help from various sources, namely Brad Hull, a tireless locator, who served with A 2/22 and who is responsible for "Finding Me", from Bill Allison, Company Commander from 9/67 off and on til 7/68, who supplied me with three (3) original rosters from Nam, from Awb Norris, former Battalion Commander of 2/22 from 9/67 to early 3/68, and secretary of the 22nd IRS, from Ben Meyers, an advisor who served 3-4 years in Nam, and who gave me over 1000 potential addresses to try to find people, from Dave Schill, a Navy Seabee, who has been a "brother" to C 3/22 and C 2/22, from Bob "Frenchie" Gibeault, who served with the 187th AHC, but has helped us obtain daily journals from Fire Support Base Burt and the Battle of Good Friday and also contributed by helping people find people and the "truth", and from men like Don Crawford who took basic training at Ft Lewis, Washington and went to Nam on the boat and spent his year in country, from Bob Freeman who went over on the boat and was Platoon Sgt for 2nd Platoon, and from others, just like yourselves, who have remembered someone's name or address and supplied it to me. There are over 330 names on my list, although I do not have addresses for all of these men. The list is eleven pages long and if you wish a copy, to try to

locate a friend or buddy, or to look and see who I don't have, just send me \$1.00 to cover the cost of copying and postage and I'll be glad to send it to you. Also if you have any information about men's whereabouts or about KIA's, or those who have died since coming home, please get in touch with me. Additionally, if you'd like to write any stories, I'd be glad to publish them in future newsletters. Our aim is to locate as many C 2/22 men as possible and have one huge C 2/22 reunion as soon as possible.

I have also heard from many man who sent in Unit History, some photo's that I'll return at the reunion (John Stiles) and just so much more information. Please keep the correspondence coming, I promise that I'll answer each and every one of you as time permits.

Need Your Help

To be successful reaching out to find as many "brothers" as we can find, we all must do whatever part we can. Please try to find old orders with other C 2/22 men listed with possibly a social security number or a home of record, as they help. Thank you!

Also, if you have any contacts with the VA, credit bureau's, State Department of Motor Vehicles, or any other such source to use to locate and find people, **WE NEED YOU**. Please volunteer some of your time to help locate other men. Especially helpful would be someone who is computer literate and possibly knows how to use a database called Alpha 4, version 3 or version 5 for Windows, or any database my be convertible.

You could assist me with the extraordinary amount of data input that seems to bog me down. I still have over 200+ names to add to the roster and find it hard to find the time to sit and enter this information.

3/22, me to C 2/22

What I believe I remember is they (3/22) were just sitting alongside the road, weary and dirt encrusted, while we went by. They had moved into the area before us.

Ennis picked me up, brushed me off, made sure I had no gapping holes in me. We laughed, we talked and that was the last I ever saw of Ennis. He died the night of Burt. He was a good buddy.

I have since found out that our good friend, Chuck Boyle of C 3/22, was a platoon leader for A 3/22 the night of Burt and Ennis was in his platoon. Do you know that somehow I felt better, 29 years later, to know that Chuck was his platoon leader because I know how Chuck cared then and still does for each of his men.

From Jerry Rudisill a message to many on **Wed, 29 Jan 1997**

At that time, I was a track-driver in the 3rd platoon. I drove Lt. John Lashbrook's command track and had been in country since September. I had been driving track for about 2½ months. Lt. Lashbrook had given me a driver's job when Gavaros was rotating home in October. Somewhere around the first of December, I had a track blown out from under me, so at Burt I was driving a brand new track. I remember that you could tell the track was new because the fire extinguishers had not been used for cooling our pop.

When we arrived at Burt, we logged up like normal, set out the concertina wire, trip flares, and claymores. One thing was unusual at Burt though, because we were getting mortared from the first day as we set up, we left our ramps up, leaving only the door in the back of the ramp open. SSGT Hale and I were by our track when we received incoming mortar rounds and we both jumped inside my track but we failed to shut the door on the ramp. SSGT Hale's

butt cheeks took some mortar fragments because of that mistake. That was the last I ever heard or saw of SSGT Hale. He was a short-timer then and I think he was glad to be dusted off. I believe this was the night before the main battle of December 31st of 1967.

My memory of Burt is that the main attack came the night of January 1st, 1968 and into January 2nd. I am very clear about this date so in my mind it is settled.

Bill, I think my track was set up on the south side of the logger, the 4th from the road. When the attack came, I watched the tracks to my left, as first one exploded and burned and then another exploded and burned. They called over the radio that they were sending a duster to fill the gap between the tracks and the legs. The duster did not even get into place before it exploded and started burning. During this time, I had been feeding ammo to my 50 gunner. I remember we had burnt up 2 - 50 cal barrels firing madly in front of us. I can remember thinking that no one could live thru the lead that we were putting out. God bless those 50 cal's.

About this time, as I looked to my left and saw 2 tracks and one duster burning, there was one more track on my left (I found out this year it was John Eberwine's 2-2 track) before I would become a prime target if they were going to continue to blow up the tracks. I began to wonder how the guys in the bunkers were doing for ammo. I set up some 50 ammo for the gunner and then asked Lt Lashbrook for permission to run ammo to the bunkers.

When he said yes, I was one happy camper because I did not like the idea of being trapped in that track when it exploded and burned. (It never did, but the odds at that time looked better running ammo to the bunkers.)

I will always remember the adrenaline rush that kept me moving until I was

wounded running over to the 2nd platoon track. PSG Alexander was running behind me when I was hit. Anyhow, after a bit, I was taken to the command area for medevac. I was one of those taken to Tay Ninh and then on to Cu Chi. My wounds were not disabling and I recovered completely and returned to the company in 3 weeks. What a night!!!!

It changed my life forever. My life since then has been a bonus from God. When I get caught up in life's challenges, that night comes back, and I can realize just how lucky I am to have come home at all. It has helped me thru some very interesting times.

Anyhow, thanks for listening and sharing your memories with all of us. Take the time to write it for us if you have not. Bill, you were right, as we go along fleshing out the memory of Burt, we will put together quite a story about one hell of a battle.

Regards from Renee and I - Jerry Rudisill

P.S. - Hello Lt. John Lashbrook! I look forward to re-making our acquaintance. I have a lot of memories of you.

From Pat Merth a message to many on **Thur, 30 Jan 1997**

Drew Christie, Jon Parsons and I were at Burt.

I was driving 3-3 track at the time (nick name Swamp Fox). After we crossed the river for a given time I was the lead track breaking jungle. Charley G called repeatedly and asked our progress, and we didn't answer right away. I could tell he was getting upset about calling 3 or 4 times trying to reach us.

My flank men couldn't walk flank, due to the thickness of the brush, so they walked behind the track. I had just hit a large nest of red ants; lost my 50 gunner so he could drop his pants. By

now I broke into a VC camp. I finally was able to get back on the radio and report our progress, and Thank God Charley Wasn't Home!

Thank you all, so much for staying in touch. Pat

Next Newsletter, send your story and you'll see it in print.

Without you men recounting the events you experienced, these stories will perish when you do.

WE MUST PRESERVE OUR MEMORIES FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. PLEASE HELP ME TELL YOUR STORIES SO OTHERS MAY LEARN

The picture shown here was taken at the St Francisville, Louisiana reunion. It was the first time Jerry Rudisill, Pat Merth, Jon Parsons and Stan Winkler attended any reunion, and the second reunion for Bill Allison, Jim Nelson and myself (John Eberwine). We'd like to have a group shot taken in Gettysburg with a minimum of twenty-five men who served with Charlie Company 2/22. Please join us. PS - Please notify me if you are able to attend the reunion - I will be doing a head count of the C 2/22 men. Thank you!



Those in the picture: *Stamant* left to right: Bill Allison, Pat Merth, Pauline Merth, Jim Nelson (peeking over Pauline's shoulder), Sharon Nelson, Stan Winkler, Martha, John Allison, Georgia Winkler, Cindy Eberwine, Renee Rudisill, John Eberwine, Jerry Rudisill, Jon Parsons and kneeling Jim (John) (former 3rd Brigade Chaplain)

Happy Belated Memorial Day

Let's make sure you remember three things:

- Those that did not come home alive:
- Those that came home severely wounded; either physically or emotionally;
- We need each other, now more than ever; this is **YOUR** unit, **YOUR** opportunity to become part again, of something quite special, men who survived the War!

"Sometimes, in my very, very rare, but very deep and troublesome periods, I wonder, if it isn't those who have made the supreme sacrifice, who will sleep soundly and peacefully, for eternity, while the rest of us will always feel the tearing at the heart and hear the whispering in the mind."

by John Eberwine

SEE YOU IN GETTYSBURG!