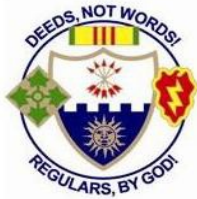


The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

An Association of 2 Bn. (Mech)

22nd Infantry Regiment

Viet Nam Veterans



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

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



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

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website www.vietnamtripledeuce.org for current contact information.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the chilly Midwest. Hope all is well and good with each and every one of you. As you hopefully know and are prepping for, we have a reunion to deal with in a short few months. Dallas in June is usually great weather, and the organizers have again picked a first rate location in the Embassy Suites. Reservations and details are available on our website and of course that of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society, so get signed up and make those travel plans if you haven't already done so. You who have not yet been to a reunion need to get to this one. We are not getting any younger, and this travel thing isn't always going to be part of our future one of these days, sad to say. Your "other family" is waiting and anxious to see you again. As Norm used to say, "Get to it, soldier!"

I have included an article in this newsletter that I hope you will all read and heed. It's a fairly simple way for veterans in groups or individually can help other veterans who sorely need our help. The results have been amazing here, and need to spread as far as possible in your home area too. Have a safe and prosperous rest of winter, and I sure hope to see you all in Dallas from June 4 to 7.

Dick Nash, A Co. & HHC, 69

EDITOR'S COMMENTS



This is my third issue as editor of the newsletter, and I think I'm getting the hang of it now. One change you will notice in this issue is that the font has been enlarged, for those of us with aging eyesight. I used to be nearsighted, but last year I had cataract surgery and now my vision is 20/20 for distant objects, but I have to wear reading glasses for anything less than three feet away. As Emily Littela used to say on Saturday Night Live, "It's always something."

We have a lot going on in our organization in the next few months, so it's time to get your ass in gear. If you haven't registered for the reunion, and made your hotel reservations, now is the time. If you want to have an engraved paver placed at the Triple Deuce monument at Ft. Benning, see the article by Lon Oakley about how to do that, and plan to be at the official dedication on Veteran's Day next year.

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

22nd INFANTRY REGIMENT SOCIETY REUNION 2020

There will be several bus trip tours available, and a golf tournament, along with the usual reunion buffet and banquet. For more information, see the latest 22nd Inf. Reg. Soc. newsletter. For your convenience we have included a registration form with this newsletter, and be sure you send it in by May 18.

This will be a great reunion, and everyone who can should attend.

Now is the time for all Triple Deuce veterans to start planning to attend the next reunion. It will be June 4-7, 2020, at the Embassy Suites Dallas Park Central, 13131 North Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75243. You can make your hotel reservations now by calling (972) 234-3300, or go to the 22ndinfantry.org website for an online registration link.

Room cost per night: \$113.00 plus tax (129.95 total)

Free parking, free made-to-order breakfast, free reception, free Wi-Fi.

Please plan to attend. I know I am looking forward to seeing all my old buddies again.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A year ago I was approached by a good friend and neighbor about a conversation he had with the Activity Director of the Quincy Illinois Veterans Home. Each state has at least one nursing home setting reserved for military veterans, and our state has one that provides homes for over 350 aged veterans. My friend was informed by the Director that one thing that she had not come up with an answer to, for her charges, was that they rarely if ever get Christmas cards individually. Long story short, we fixed that. At our October meeting we presented boxes of

Christmas cards to the membership of the local Lions club that we both belong to. Those blank cards came with the instruction to write an individual thanks for service and Merry Christmas to a vet, and sign them. Then bring them to the November meeting to return them to us. In December we were able to present the 360 individual Christmas cards to those vets last year and this year again, and if you ever need to see a smile that will melt you, watch those old vets eyes as they receive them. It is very special, and an ultimate feel good.

So what about it? Why can't you be the one to approach your VFW, VVA, or Legion or other service organization to do this same thing next Christmas? It needs done everywhere, and this is your chance to make a huge difference to fellow veterans who need it. If you want to talk about it, my numbers are on the front of this newsletter. Nuff said...

Dick Nash, A Co. & HHC, 69

THE DAY IT SNOWED IN VIET NAM

As I was processing into the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi in September, 1968, the processing clerk noticed the prefix on my service number, which was ER. The clerk commented that he didn't know they were getting any Enlisted Reserves. I told him that as far as I knew, I was the only one. He said, "I am not going to ask you what you got into, but you must have beat the crap out of the wrong soldier, and they sent your little bad ass to Viet Nam so you could fight."

The truth of the matter was that I had joined the National Guard, and after about eight months in the Guard, I had still not

been sent to Basic Training. I had received a job offer in another state, so I talked to Personnel in my Guard unit and asked if it would be possible to transfer to an out-of-state Guard unit. "No problem," I was told, "just turn in your Army gear here and sign up in a Guard unit in the state you are going to."

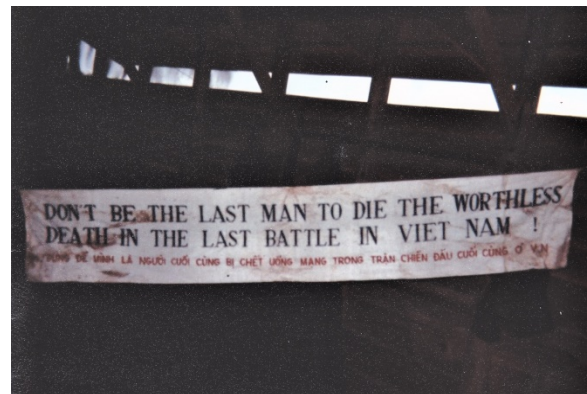
Paperwork was drawn up for releasing me and I talked to my local draft board, telling them what was going on. They said it was okay by them. Boy, I thought, things were just too easy. And I was right. Every unit in my new state that I tried to get into was full up, and since I had not been to Basic yet, I was put on the bottom of the list of people trying to join. I wound up being put into an Enlisted Reserve status.

After a year or so, I began to get letters that said I had better get into a Guard unit immediately. I finally gave up and asked to go active in a two-year draftee status. That request was quickly fulfilled, and once in the Army, I was given the nickname of ER.

After in-processing though Cu Chi, I was sent to Triple Deuce and assigned to Bravo Company. I walked point for a while, and then I was put on the .50-cal. On March 11, 1969, after we cleared the road for the supply convoy to come to Cu Chi, we set up beside the road. We were facing the side of the road that had been cleared by bulldozers, and to our backs was an open field. As the convoy was passing, we began to take rounds from both the front and the rear. The back door of the APC had been left open, and to this day I can still hear those rounds ricocheting inside the track.

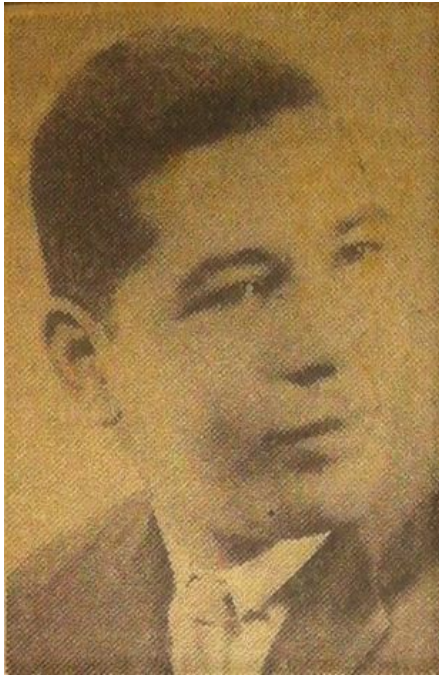
I had pulled my legs up out of the interior, and somehow a round fired from the front came past the small shield on the .50-cal, hit me in the leg, and knocked me down inside. It didn't take me long to pull myself back into the turret, as the rounds were still coming in through the open door every now and then.

I think you can find some humor in most things. As I pulled up to reload the .50, a round hit me in the back, and would have busted my heart open if I hadn't had my flak jacket on. The shot came from a long way off, and it just bruised my back badly. Now the humor of this was that after I was hit in the back, there was white stuff falling all around me. I thought, "I didn't know it snowed in Viet Nam." I was scared and badly shaken, so I didn't realize the white stuff was the stuffing that the round had knocked out of my flak jacket. I won't ever forget that day.



The picture I have enclosed shows a banner that was found on the road outside of the 25th Division base camp at Cu Chi. The picture was taken in an old building that we slept in when we came into Cu Chi for supplies. I was wondering if anyone else recognizes it.

Julius Stapleton, B Co. 1969 DO YOU REMEMBER HIM?



Relatives are looking for any information about **SP4 Sydney Uel Goodin**, who was in Bravo Company, 2/22 (4th Infantry Division) in early 1967. He was killed on February 6, 1967, in Tay Ninh Province at OP Gadsden along the Cambodian border, near the Lo Go Border Post. If you have any information about him, his Brothers in arms, or the battle in which he died, please contact his nephew, Glendon Hall. His email is glendon.hall@gmail.com, and his phone number is 305 331 5402.

TWO TIMES LUCKY

A few months ago I received a phone call from Utah, from someone I didn't know, and at first I thought it was another sales call. Instead, it was Randy Walker, who explained that he had been looking at my album photos on the Vietnam Triple Deuce website, and one of my photos was of him.



As you can see, the picture shows two tracks, and the one on the left is a "Zippo" flame thrower track. Randy was the driver of that Zippo, although we can't tell which of the crew in the picture is him. I had taken the picture because of the other track (I don't remember the track number or even which company), which has an elliptical gouge in the wooden trim vane.

What Randy and I remember, and we may have the details wrong, is that an RPG was fired at the Zippo, but hit at a sharp angle and ricocheted off into the trim vane of the other track, where it stuck without exploding. The crew of the stricken track quickly but gently dismounted and moved very far away. Then some brave soul made a loop of commo wire and VERY carefully slipped it around the fins of the rocket.

Paying out the reel of commo wire, he backed away until he was at a safe distance, and then pulled the RPG free. It still didn't

explode, so a block of C-4 was placed next to it, the track moved away, and the RPG was blown in place.

Randy was lucky that the RPG glanced off his track, because we could just imagine what would have happened if it had hit and exploded, spraying the inside of the track with molten shrapnel. We had been told that a Zippo wouldn't explode if the napalm tanks were penetrated, but Randy wasn't willing to test that theory.

The guys on the other track were equally lucky, especially the driver. If the RPG had worked as designed, the warhead would likely have penetrated into the driver's compartment. But luck was on their side that day.



Randy sent me this photo of him from back in 1969. Unfortunately, Randy's luck is now running out. He is in the hospital with serious health issues that he has been told are terminal. If you want to contact him and wish him well, his email address is regulars222@gmail.com.

David Allin, A Co. & HHC, 1969

NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM PAVER PROJECT

In conjunction with a special offer, the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society is proud to announce a partnership with the National Infantry Museum Foundation at Ft Benning, GA to place commemorative 4"x8" individual pavers along the Museum's Heritage Walkway. That walkway leads up to our awesome 22nd Infantry Regiment Monument along the WALK OF HONOR on museum grounds, which many of us visited at our last reunion. A flyer with additional details is included with this newsletter, along with details of the partnership and an order form for those wanting to participate. The cost of the paver has been reduced by \$50 to \$200 and is tax deductible. All 22nd Infantry Regiment pavers will be located together and will flank a larger Regiment memorial paver with Vietnam era individual pavers on one side and Iraq/Afghanistan era individual pavers on the opposite side.

NOTE: 22nd Infantry pavers already on the Heritage Walkway will be relocated to marry up with new pavers in our joint area.



Please read the information flyer below for a better idea of why the Heritage Walk Paver Program can be a final and lasting salute to those who have served so honorably and courageously with the 22nd Infantry Regiment.

Finally, it is the plan of the National Infantry Museum Foundation to recognize our individual pavers and our overall program during the Veterans Day 2020 Dedication Ceremony at the National Infantry Museum.

Leadership from both the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society and VN222 have approved this project as a means for past and present members of the regiment to honor their service (or that of a fellow combat brother) with the 22nd Infantry. Pavers will be located in section 22A, the designated area for our pavers, and will be placed with RVN pavers on one side of the larger 22nd Infantry Regiment paver and Iraq/Afghan pavers on the opposite side. Samples of current pavers are at the bottom of the flyer.

NOTE: Individuals are free to place orders up to the cut-off date listed (9/15/20) to ensure their paver will be in place at the formal recognition ceremony at the National Infantry Museum on Veterans Day 2020. As stated in the paver, NIM is giving us a reduced price on pavers and individuals will receive a confirmation letter along with a mini paver showing what it will look like once order is placed. NIM has graciously agreed to remake and move the current 22nd Infantry pavers to the new location for the 2020 dedication. Our thanks to Mark for approving the cost to do this.

I have volunteered to be in the lead to oversee this project and will be the point of contact for any questions. Again thanks to Mark and Dick for allowing us to initiate a way for our members to leave a lasting legacy to 22nd Infantry soldiers on the Heritage Walkway. As you may recall, that walkway leads up to our 22nd Infantry Regiment Monument on the Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum. The picture below shows the monument being

cleaned by fellow soldiers in October of this year.



I asked and now have found out that it was Alpha Co., OCS, who cleaned our monument. Special treat for me as an alumni of 50th Co. OCS 1975.

Special thanks to President Emeritus Bob Babcock for his coordination with not only the 12th Infantry Regiment but also providing paver information to the 4th Infantry Division since both have monuments on Walk of Honor. We appreciate all you and Steve McClafin do in support of our United States Infantry both active and veterans.

LON OAKLEY JR, A Co. 1969
Past President, 22nd Infantry Rgmt Society

MY FIRST REUNION

Sometime in the later part of 2007, some 38 years after returning from Vietnam and struggling with many of the effects of PTSD I received a phone call or e-mail (don't remember which) from a guy named Dick Nash. At that time I was not aware of any type of help for the effects of PTSD or any organization associated with my tour in Vietnam. At first I thought it was someone trying to get me to reenlist in the Army and I was not interested in any way, shape or form.

After a few days I called this guy Dick Nash back in order to find out what he was up to. After talking with Dick and answering a few question about whether I was in Vietnam, assigned to the 2/22 Inf., and other questions no one would have known about unless they were also there, I was beginning to get interested in what he had to say.

Dick began to explain to me the purpose of the 2/22 Infantry Society and the Vietnam Triple Deuce and that in the following year 2008 there was going to be a reunion for the two organizations in Washington, DC. I thanked him for the information and gave him my address and phone number for his records.

A few weeks later I received this newsletter from the Vietnam Triple Deuce. All of this time, I was very skeptical of going to any place that would only bring back the memories of a place I had been trying to forget for 38 years.

After I read through the newsletter and set it on the table, my wife ask me what that was, so I explained it to her the best I could. She asked me if I would like to go to the reunion and I replied that I didn't think so, and the reason why. A few weeks had gone by and she said to me "Why don't we take a week of vacation and go to the reunion and visit Washington, DC". She indicated it may be good for me to go. She had been putting

up with me and my problems related to PTSD for many years, so I agreed to go.

We made all the necessary arrangements and off we were to the reunion. When we finally arrived at the hotel after a very long day traveling from California, we settled into our room and called it a night. The following morning we reported to the registration table for the reunion and received our name tags and documents needed for the reunion. The first person I run into was Ben Anderson, who I didn't remember from Vietnam, but after talking with him realized we were together in the same company in Vietnam. He kind of took us under his wing and began to introduce my wife and me to other guys that also happened to be in country with me.

We shared memories and photos of our time in Vietnam, and I was beginning to feel more relaxed about this adventure we were on. Shortly after that, who do I run into, but Dick Nash. He welcomed us with open arms and asked if we needed anything; if so, to make sure we let him know.

The next day we all loaded onto buses and headed for the Vietnam Memorial Wall for a dedication to all our fallen brothers. As we placed our Regiment flags at the base of the wall for each and every one of our fallen brothers, needless to say, my emotions were somewhat out of control, but with the help from my wife and most of the guys I knew from Vietnam, I managed to hold myself together.

As the reunion continued I was becoming to feel much more comfortable and could finally feel that I was on my way to coping with the PTSD I had suffered with for years.

On the last morning of the reunion, I went to the memorial service for our brothers from the 2/22 regiment throughout the years. When it got to the names of our brothers from Vietnam and their names showed up on the screen, and some of the guys called out names of fellow brothers we

knew while in country, I again lost control of my emotions and cried like a baby.

Since that reunion I have spent many hours at my local VA facility and with the help of the VA doctors and the guys I met at the reunion that encouraged me to get registered with the VA, I can now say I am coping with my PTSD: not recovered, but coping.

I have attended almost all of the reunions since 2008 and look forward to each one that comes up. I also stay in touch via e-mail with the guys I was with in Vietnam and still see most of them at the reunions. Without the help from Dick Nash and my fellow brothers I truly do not think I could have recovered. THANK YOU ALL!!

Charles "Butch" Jones

A Co. 2/22 Inf, 25th Div. 2nd Platoon, 2nd Squad, Vietnam 9-68/69

HELLOS & COMMENTS

Paul Steffy

860-849-6186

B Co. 25th ID. 4-67 to 2-68

Thomas J. Petro

863-781-0205

tpetro@hotmail.com

HHC, Recon Platoon, 25th ID, 8-67 to 8-68

Gary L. Davis

544-735-4331

rsdg4@msn.com

A Co. 25th ID. 12-67 to 12-68

Roger L. Helms

713-826-4294

chrubush69@yahoo.com

HHC & D Co. 25th ID, 69 to 70

John F. McCambridge

RMCCAMB2@hotmail.com

A Co. 25th ID, 68-69

John would like to contact Van Pelt. Also, anyone members of Alpha, 3rd Platoon, May 68 to May 69. He expressed his sadness over Palooka's passing. He is looking forward to the Dallas reunion.

James A. Newell

414-257-2266

jnewell1@wi.rr.com

B Co. 25th ID 68

NOTICE

**If your mailing label shows
"2019" then your
membership is expiring and
you need to send in your
dues.
ASAP**

GUEST BOOK HITS

Name **Michael Pectol**

Location AZ

Email tltroopr277fa@gmail.com

Hi folks. The NEW website address link for your web page to our page is: <http://277arty.net> My email address is also new: tltroopr277fa@gmail.com.

Just stopped in to say howdy, and mention that with James Nelson's help and advice, and some more research, the historical work on FSB BURT has reached a new high of 11 pages. And this is a test to see if your guestbook works this time. The new Burt page will probably continually be under review and revision, trying to get it right as far as possible. Anyone who would like to volunteer information about the contributions of Magnet Nishikubo, Gordon Kelley, and James Nelson, it would be appreciated. We would also like to get FULL personal perspectives of the other Tiger Patrol members, and actually any Fullback Trooper who wants to contribute. I'm pretty sure Awb would find them valuable to those here and there. Take care, guys.

Former Sgt Michael (Mikie) Pectol, a fellow BURT Survivor.

Posted on Tuesday- Aug 20, 2019

Name **John J Eberwine**

Location Atlantic City, New Jersey

Email vietvet222@gmail.com

Saturday, September 14, 2019, was Col Ralph Julian's (Ret) 90th Birthday
Lt. Col. Ralph W. Julian, February-September 1967; Commanded the 2nd Battalion (Mech)

22nd Infantry Regiment 3rd Brigade 4th Infantry Division from February 1967 to September 1967 (August 1, 1967, 2/22 was attached to the 3rd Brigade 25th Infantry Division)

During his command, The Battalion took part in "Operation Attleboro" and went on to take part in one of the most fiercely contested engagements of the Vietnam conflict. The Battalion received the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of Suoi Tre (March 21, 1967), one of the largest single-day engagements of the war with over 647 VC/NVA dead left on the battlefield.

Birthday and well wishes can be sent to Zee Gilbert, sister of Ralph's daughter-in-law.

Zee's email is: zeemarie8@gmail.com

Zee said she will make sure Ralph gets all of the birthday wishes.

Anyone who ever served with the 2nd/22nd can send well wishes.

Please let anyone

Posted on Thursday- Sep 12, 2019

NEW FINDS

By **John Mersinger** C Co. 4th ID 66-67

Dennis Defiel

38266 Explorer Circle

North Branch, MN 55056

John writes I recently met a Triple Deucer who was transferred to us from 1-22 about a week before LZ Gold. There he crossed paths with his old group of guys.



NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM PAVER PROGRAM



22D INFANTRY REGIMENT SOCIETY

The Museum has set aside a section of commemorative pavers for past and present members of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society in Section 22A on Heritage Walk. As a special incentive, the National Infantry Museum is offering the Society a special discounted price of \$200 (\$50 savings). With each paver purchased, you will receive a 2" x 4" miniature replica for your desktop. Any extra funds submitted will be used to help support the National Infantry Museum Foundation. Pavers will be dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020, if purchased by September 15, 2020.

I would like to purchase ____ 4" x 8" engraved granite paver(s) at **\$200** each, which includes 1 complimentary miniature replica. Additional replicas can be purchased for \$25 each. Certificates are available for \$10 each.

Enclosed is my payment of \$ _____

Print clearly and double-check your spelling. Maximum three lines, 20 characters per line, including spaces. Please provide documentation for any awards listed.

Additional replicas: \$25 ea.

Certificates: \$10 ea.

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Money Order ☐ Check
(Payable to National Infantry Museum Fdn.)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____ Cardholder Signature _____

Purchaser Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Mail form and payment to:
National Infantry Museum Heritage Walk Paver Program
1775 Legacy Way Suite 220
Columbus, GA 31903

Sample

**SP4 DENNIS LUIZ
"PALOOKA" 1968-69
A CO. 2/22D INF-RVN**

Sample

**DAVID R. CROCKER JR.
CAPT A CO. 2/22D INF
KIA MAY 1969 VIETNAM**

If you have any questions, please contact Ilene B. Kent at 706.685.5813, or email ikent@nationalinfantryfoundation.org

www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org/pavers

