

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: Dan & Vera Streit D 69 DMOR - HMOR

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website www.vietnamtripledeuce.org for current contact information.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SUMMER 2013

Your President finally retired, and bought a new computer of his own. Now I will have the time and the tools to become more involved with the many issues of the Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc., and our parent organization, the 22nd Inf. Reg. Society. No more managerial monkey on my back!

With the Branson 2014 reunion coming up on us I wanted to remind all members of the importance of supporting the reunion by attending, but also the importance of attending the VN222, Inc. business meeting at the reunion. For instance; our current Board of Directors will be up for re-election. It is they that elect our officers and run the corporate show for us. They are: **Dick Nash, Jim May, Lynn Dalpez, Jim Nelson, and Dan Streit**. Your vote is critical for this matter, as well as other matters such as web site input, Locators needs, donation distribution, liaison with other Vet's organizations, our image to the public, and more. We need your input through your vote, and participation at our reunions, mini-reunions, etc.

Hats off to our Locators, headed by our Chief Locator, **Dick Nash**, A/2/22. They are: **Gary Hartt**, Alpha Co., **Dean Springer**, Bravo Co., **Harless 'Bird' Belcher**, Charlie Co., **Dan Streit**, Delta Co., **Ken Helm**, HHC, and **Eric Opsahl**, Recon Plt. The job these gentlemen are doing for us in meeting our goal of finding our long lost Combat Brothers is just remarkable. It's the toughest job we have, and these guys just keep on going regardless of the many brick walls they run into. I sure hope to award O.R.A.'s at Branson, it's been a while since I had the honor, and with our Locator's on the job, it looks like I'll get the opportunity again. So, spread the word about Branson, and please send any info you have on the guys you served with, or heard about, and get it in to our Locators to do their Sherlock Holmes thing and find those guys and invite(order?) them to join us, their Combat

Brothers at the reunion, and as members of the VN222, Inc.

Have you visited our web page recently? We keep updating it thanks to the hard work of **Steve Irvine** and **Harold Metcalf** our web gurus. Press the new 'Books' tab on our main page to view the publishings of our 22nd IRS veterans. Steve did a beautiful job on it. This is the type of upgrades we are working on to not only make our pages look good, but be easy to read and navigate through. Thanks again Steve. Behind the scenes Harold is learning to master a couple of programs that will allow us to continue to build and maintain a killer website. Well, maybe "killer" isn't the word to use in our case. Harold has also spent a lot of time cleaning the site up. Besides making it look better, he has worked on certain wording to tell our story better. Harold is a very good text editor, and has come up with much better ways a saying things through choice of words. He has been pointing things like that out to us, for our approval to change them. Members have input on our content. Don't forget that either. We are listening Brothers.

By golly I feel like my old self again. This retirement thing is great! I look forward to not only going to Branson 2014, but getting back to work as best I can on the legacy of the Veterans of the Vietnam Triple Deuce such as I can. I have some articles I want to write, and I hope you do to. Our NL Editors, **Dan and Vera Streit**, are doing a great job, but will be the first to tell you that they need more stories from us. Remember. we have help in editing for you, but also remember that none of us care all that much about proper English and grammer. ...or is that grammar?

Deeds, not words.

Lynn Dalpez, D.M.O.R.
President

EDITOR'S COMMENT MEMORIAL WEEKEND Small Town USA

To start the weekend right, a parade of farm equipment, emergency equipment and hay trailers loaded with the graduating classes of significant years (5 -60 older ones ride in the various antique automobiles/vehicles) rolled down the main street of town. Before the parade starts introductions of the dignitaries takes place. The graduates of both local high schools 50 years prior are introduced. Then amidst patriotic music provided by local musicians all veterans are introduced. Regardless of branch, rank or nature of service each and every one is publically thanked for his/her service. This makes me smile.

Off to Chautauqua Park where various civic organizations have lunch stands and hometown folks (and those just returning for the weekend) gather to reminisce. Flags fly throughout the town. The homemade ice cream and root beer floats make me smile. Multiple class reunions are held. The one we are hosting includes several Vietnam era veterans. Discussion turns to shared experiences and the government and society's response to the returning and now aging veterans. That makes me frown.

Cruisin the main drag of town with many others incorporating various modes of transportation provides the late evening entertainment. Many spectators are sitting on curbs or in lawn chairs observing. Knowing that we live in a free country where my grandson, my dog and I can ride an old Harley anytime we want makes me smile.

After a late night, church comes early. During the worship service scripture relevant to paying honor and respect was read. Then all veterans are asked to stand and be recognized. That makes me smile. A quiet afternoon spent working in my yard and distributing flowers to various

cemeteries makes me smile.

On Memorial Day honoring our fallen Brothers at the local river bridge and again at the cemetery makes me smile. Seeing the new section created for veterans (and my final resting place) makes me proud. Later time spent visiting a few grave sites and riding around the lake with just the wife and the dog makes me smile.

Reading comments like

How do we honor those who gave their last full measure for their country? We will always have warriors, warriors will always die, individual achievements and names will be lost to the sands of time, but in their life's they fashion their own memorial, one more grand than marble or bronze. A living tribute that must continually be renewed with sacrifice lest it perish from the Earth. Whatever Gods may be, today we pray that you remind them that their monument still stands and their flag still flies over the land of the free".

from our son posted on Facebook makes me smile with pride.

Wonderful food, family and friends, and the freedom to do anything (or nothing if that be my choice) I want makes me smile. Knowing that it is the Brothers of many generations in many wars, conflicts, battles and peacekeeping activities that gave me the freedom to live this life, really makes me smile.

t seems to me that at the end of this holiday weekend I have much more to smile about that to frown over That seems to be the general direction of life for this old soldier.

Dan Streit D'69

THE VIETNAM TRIPLE DEUCE WEBSITE

Many of the Albums on our website

(www.vietnamtripledeuce.org/albums.html)

have a new look. We have updated the software and removed some of the old limits. If you have previously submitted photos, please check to see if the album has no issues (misabeled pictures etc.) Now you can also make the following changes:

1. Add pictures, there is no longer a limit of 81 pictures. The practical limit is now about 300 or so.
2. You can add text to any picture. Formerly, the picture name was the text that appeared with the picture. Now the picture name still appears, but for any picture you can add as much text as you would like. Just send me a note with the picture name, and the text you want to add.
3. For everyone else have a few photos you want to post on our website? Just send a note. The instructions are on the website.
4. Don't want to submit any photos? You can still help by looking thru the albums and sending us the names of anyone you can identify.

Thank you, any questions just send me a note

Album Editor
Steve Irvine B/ 68-69

svirvine@gmail.com

CONNECTING WITH BROTHERS

Many of us came back from Vietnam and for 40 years or more did not want to hear anything about it. Our nightmares were enough. We all know that Vietnam changed us forever, usually in the negative. But time helps cure all ills, and Nam vets started looking for each other, to share some of these most intense experiences. The Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc. was created to fulfill this yearning. The articles of incorporation for the Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc. simply state under its purpose:

"To assist its members and their families in times of distress and to provide them mutual understanding and support; and to participate in and support veteran's functions and programs." Personally I cannot image a more noble purpose. We seek to fulfill this mission in many ways

face to face visits
mini reunions
e-mail
phone calls
web site
newsletter
reunions

The means by which Brothers connect is limitless. But still remaining are some who served and have not been contacted to reconnect. If they choose to not be part of the organization, we cannot change that but if they are missed, that is our fault. What can we do to find our missing Brothers? Be creative. Don't overlook a chance to wear our logo. I can't tell you what a conversation piece a cap can be. The car tag sparks interest. Please work on finding the Brothers and feel free to share good ideas or contact information with the locators listed on page 1.

VIETNAM VETS ARE YOUR MILITARY RECORDS CORRECT?

During the discussions regarding the correction of records for those who were in the respective units that were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for Soui Tre, another point was raised. **Michael Belis, C, 1/22, 1970-1971, Webmaster & Historian, 1/22**, mentioned that other unit awards were presented to the various Regimental Units and that those who served in these units are entitled to have their records reflect that they are entitled to share in the award(s). Michael made a listing of these awards and the dates to which they apply. Please look through the list to see if you were a member of the unit(s) during the dates that the award(s) cover. If so, then you should request that your Military Records be corrected.

If you find that you were in one of the units during the time an award(s) were presented then you should go to the 22nd Infantry Regiment website, www.22ndinfantry.org, where Pete Gaworecki has listed the awards and corresponding orders. Make a copy of these orders, attach a copy of your DD 214, the DD 214 will show that you were a member of the unit during the time in question, and submit the request on the DD 149, Application for Correction of Military Records, also available on the web site. The address for mailing the DD 149 with your supporting documents is listed on the DD 149.

If you need help with this, Michael Belis can be contacted at webmaster@1-22infantry.org

Jim May, HMOR
Prov. Co 1968

1st Battalion 22nd Infantry – 4th Division and IFFV (1st Field Force)

VUA (Valorous Unit Award)

January 30, 1968 – February 12, 1968

RVN Gallantry Cross w/palm

August 1, 1966 – January 1972

RVN Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class

October 1, 1966 – October 31, 1969

2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry – 4th Division

1) PUC (Presidential Unit Citation)

March 21, 1967

2) RVN Gallantry Cross w/palm

October 1966 – August 1, 1967

3) RVN Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class

October 1, 1966 – August 1, 1967

2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry – 25th Division

1) RVN Gallantry Cross w/palm

August 1, 1967 – September 30, 1970

2) RVN Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class

August 1, 1967 – January 21, 1970

3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry – 4th Division

1) PUC (presidential Unit Citation)

Less Company C

March 21, 1967

2) RVN Gallantry Cross w/palm

October 1966 – August 1, 1967

3) RVN Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class

October 1, 1966 – August 1, 1967

3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry – 25th Division

1) VUA (Valorous Unit Award)

August 27, 1968 – October 31, 1968

2) RVN Gallantry Cross w/palm

August 1, 1967 – September 30, 1970

3) RVN Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class

August 1, 1967 – January 21, 1970

THE BATTLE OF FIRE SUPPORT BASE BURT

Platoon, the Real Story will be shown on the Smithsonian channel, Sunday July 14th at 8 PM, repeated Sunday July 14th at 11 PM and again Monday July 15th at 10 PM.

The Battle of Fire Support Base Burt started at 11:45 PM on January 1, 1968 and ended at 6:00 AM on January 2, 1968. This battle was one of the 10 most significant single day battles in the history of the United States in Vietnam. By the

time the battle was over, we had 23 men killed in action and about 123 men wounded. The Vietcong had over 400 killed and an untold amount wounded; since they would drag off as many wounded as they could.

I was interviewed July 25, 2012, along with my Lieutenant from Vietnam, by a documentary crew from England. We both served with 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion (Mech) 22nd Infantry Regiment.

Oliver Stone, who wrote Platoon, was at the battle of Fire Support Base Burt. He was with Bravo Company 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry Regiment. He based his experiences from this battle for the last 30 minutes of the movie Platoon.

The documentary shows my Lieutenant, Gordon Kelley, who won the Distinguished Service Cross for calling in air strikes to stop the human wave attacks. I also was interviewed as I was instrumental in getting a working radio to Lt Kelley in a bunker..

The battle plans found on a dead Viet Cong officer said the aim of the battle was annihilation of the enemy (that was US!)

Thanks for watching!

John Eberwine C/67-68

-
Vietnam Veteran Sept '67 - Sept '68
MOPH, DAV, CIB, Army Com with "V",
Presidential Unit Citation
St Joseph Regional School Board - Secretary
Village at Linwood CA, Board of Directors
550 Central Avenue M-5 Constitution Court
Linwood, NJ 08221 Cell 609.703.3172
johneberwine@comcast.net

22ND IRS REUNION APRIL 30-MAY 4 2014 BRANSON, MISSOURI

This year's reunion theme is "THE STAND DOWN IN BRANSON" with the focus on family indoor/outdoor entertainment available in the Branson area. Everything from great shows at reasonable cost, hiking, swimming, tennis, golf and of course the great gatherings in the Hospitality Suite. Our 22nd Infantry Regiment hosts are Betty Breneman and Ken Schulte (a.k.a. Lumpy) The only formal events to date on the agenda will be our Thursday evening Hemingway Turkey Ceremony, combined with the DMOR/HMOR ceremony and the beginning of our Silent Auction (which concludes at 5pm Saturday). Also on tap is an opportunity for our group to attend a show Saturday afternoon entitled "Hits of the 60s" where, during the program, they will salute our Regiment, and finally our Saturday evening banquet. Still works in progress is a proposed ladies activity and golf tournament. Hope this is enough information to get everyone thinking about making THE STAND DOWN IN BRANSON a fun family event. See how to access updated information below"

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE 22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT REUNION APRIL 30-MAY 4 2014 PLEASE DON'T MISS THE UPDATED INFORMATION FOUND ON THE WEBSITE PROVIDED BY PAM BROWN OF GATHERINGS PLUS, OUR BRANSON, MISSOURI SPONSOR. HERE ARE THE EASY STEPS

- 1 Go to Gatheringsplus.com on the internet
2. Click on the Reunions button and type in 22nd Infantry when it comes up
- 3 That takes you to our site with 22nd Infantry Regiment crest.
- 4 Click on read more and that takes you to a page where you can click on a letter from me, get ho-

tel room costs and registration procedures, see the most recent agenda (which may have some tweaks later) and finally a list of attendees staying at our hotel as that becomes available.

LON OAKLEY JR

President 22nd Infantry Regiment Society

IN RESPONSE TO JIM NEELEY'S STORY

In response to Jim Neeley's story about the Memorial for **Captain George C. White III**, and **Lynn Dalpez's** comments about the Memorial, the following was sent:

I enjoyed the articles reference Cpt. White. He was a great man, and good officer. I remember after his track was hit in an ambush, we were sent to provide additional security of the area. I found one of his Captain bars on the ground...I carried it in my wallet for the rest of my time in Viet Nam, and may still have it somewhere in my retirement chest. Also, I remember the day I reported as a replacement to Charlie Company, and Captain White ordered his RTO to give his M-16 to me, since I had been issued an M-14 at Brigade. He said I would need it more than his RTO. What a true statement!

Larry J. Gunnels, CSM, Ret.
C/66- 67

A ROLL OF FILM

I'll try to make a long, complicated tale short, about how miscellaneous, extraneous and unexpected questions can last for years after a war before they can finally be solved. In early 1969 I picked up a roll of 35mm film from the floor of a tent-hooch in the battalion area. I thought it must be mine and eventually sent it home for processing, as with all the pictures I took. When my parents sent back the finished prints I could recognize the battalion area but none of the guys in the pictures.

Twenty odd years later I took, along with the many photos I'd shot in Vietnam, these 18 mystery pictures to the Gettysburg reunion. No one recognized any until finally I showed them to Charlie Jackson of C Company during my tour. He looked hard, finally borrowed my glasses and stared even closer and said, "That's me!" He recognized some others but thought only of one possible name, Poldino who was killed when the entire battalion fought along 239 on March 11th. This was a significant action for me (B Company) because I remembered watching C company assault across the road to help save my platoon's bacon that day during the convoy ambush that had cost B many wounded and one killed.

A number of years later after the internet had become the fashion I noticed a posting by Mike Poldino about his brother, Tom, KIA March 11th. I contacted Mike and eventually sent him digital files to see if he could identify his brother but the answer was that none in the pictures were of his brother. In talking, Mike told how his brother had used one of the only 35mm cameras that he had known of at the time in C Company. It began to appear that Tom must have taken the photos. I had seen no 35mm camera used except for my own by any trooper during my time in country. Most used the smaller 110 cameras and the Polaroids.

As I was considering donating all my Nam pics to an archive, though I was never able to get a definitive "I recall Tom taking that picture" from several C Company guys, I decided maybe I should give the roll of film to Tom's family instead. Mike related how most of Tom's stuff, and all his pictures, had been lost over the years, so it seemed even more important that these few remnants make their way back to family hands. A tiny roll of film in no way compensates for a brother's life, of course, but though it takes an incredibly long time to tie up some loose ends after a war, it is nice to know that some small questions can finally have a satisfactory answer.

Bill Noyes, B /69

BALTIMORE INCURSION 2013

Andy Diffley, our VTR driver, has a wife, Nancy, who let it be known that they just got back from the Inner Harbor in Baltimore for the weekend. Since I was going to Baltimore myself I said "Why didn't you wait till May and we could have met and had dinner?" She said "We could go back!" and the rest is crazy. Bruce Sewell and his wife said they could come and so did. Clammer Pete Gary ORourke....even though his wife was recovering from neck surgery. Then Major Lechner said he'd head that way in his new Thor Motorhome and we had a party! Joe Yarashas and his wife left from nearby New Jersey and Robert Paul and his wife came too. Bruce decided to bring his son Brian, daughter n law and new baby! Andy's wife couldn't make the trip because of a sudden illness. Chuck Weidner, who flew in from California got the furthestest traveled trophy.



We met at the Constellation at noon on Saturday. We jumped into a water taxi and went to lunch. Andy said he was going to move his car out of a 2 hr limit zone. Two hours later we were all at Fort McHenry....except for Andy and Robert Paul, who went with him to move THE CAR!

We met back at 5 for dinner and Andy says....."We've got an hour before we eat, I'm gonna move my car out of the parking garage

and into my motel's parking" We waited till 6 and went into the Iris Pub Nancy had reserved for us.....2 1/2 hrs later Andy finally shows up.....he'd lost his car! He'd even lost his parking garage!



We had two new members join the Red Ant Society , Joe Yarashas and Robert Paul, and a lot of fun. The next morning we all went to Miss Shirley's for breakfast and said our goodbyes. Between the Ultra jokes from Jim May.....(who was present on our smart phones the whole weekend) and Andy's predicament we laughed till we cried.....and don't forget Robert Paul rolling the cooler out on the board walk when it was 97 degrees and providing cold beer and sodas for everyone.....I looked for the cops but found none....so cheers! See everyone in Branson shortly.....

Dennis Coffey A /70

FISHING DERBY/FAMILY DAY 2-22, 10TH MTN, FT. DRUM, NY 8 JUNE 2013

This year's Fishing Derby & Family Day was, as in the past, inspired by **Pete Gaworecki, DMOR*, C-1/22/4th ID, 1967-1968**. The event was held at Remington Park and at the very site

of the last Fishing Derby & Family Day in May 2010.

Before I get to the details of the day I must go back and mention something I found to be very odd. The last thing I did before going to bed on Thursday was to check road conditions on the route I planned to travel across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Northern New York. I saw no travel alerts so I printed directions from Google. I quickly scanned the directions, saw the familiar route numbers and put the directions with the stuff I had ready for the AM departure. I left home at 0500 HRS and traveled as I have done many times before. When I entered Vermont I picked-up the directions and noticed that there were three route numbers that I had not seen before. Then I noticed that the directions stated, "Make a U-Turn..." I was on a remote section of US Route 2; this is not a divided highway, why would I be instructed to "Make a U-Turn?" There was no mention of "...cause an accident..." or "...get arrested, pay a fine and watch your insurance premiums increase..." I put the directions in the back seat and went ahead without their assistance. When I returned home I tried to follow the directions on a full size paper road map of Vermont and was not able to make any sense out of the Google Directions. I bring this up as a fair warning. Don't trust Google directions.

I arrived at Ft Drum at 1400 HRS and met Pete at The Commons. Army Lodging has leased the Ft Drum Hotel to Holiday Inn, so making reservations to stay on Post is more difficult than in the past. And, Protocol no longer is involved in the authorization for staying on Post. I learned all of this when I was trying to get a place for Pete and I to stay. We were able to secure one of the cottages on Post but not one with two bedrooms, so I slept on a roll-a-way. I always end up on the "little-boy's bed."

Pete had picked up all of the food items on his way in from his home, Pete lives about an hour's drive from Ft Drum; we went to 2-22 BN HQ to meet **CPT Andy Wassell**, Rear Commander,

and **Lt Dan Couture**, who had been making arrangements on Post for the event. We stored the food items with the help of some Triple Deuce Soldiers who were nearby. The food would be brought out to Remington Park in the morning. Pete and I then went to Watertown to buy items to award as prizes to the kids. We had been invited to dinner by **COL Mike and Shelley Loos** and got back to the cottage with just enough time to clean up before they picked us up. We ate at Goodfellows Restaurant in Sackets Harbor. It was an excellent choice and I'll take the opportunity to, again, thank Mike and Shelley for dinner. I hope that those of you who have met Mike noticed that he is now a Full Bird. Mike's promotion was made without the usual fanfare and I'm certain that all who are reading this join in congratulating Mike.

Saturday morning found us at Remington Park, clouds, drizzle and temperatures in the mid 50's were not what we were hoping for. This type of weather causes young mothers to keep their little children indoors; as a result, we had fewer participants than we'd hoped for.

Mike Loos and his sons, Nick and Nate, were present and ready to help with whatever needed doing. **Lt. Dan Couture** and a contingent of **Bravo Co Soldiers** were present and preparing for the day's events. These **Bravo Soldiers, Joshua Bellrose, Jackson Martinez, Ethan Schoonover and Brandon Young** set up the Bounce House and brought out the food items and did anything else that was asked of them. For those of you who haven't been to visit our young Soldiers at Ft Drum or Ft Carson, I suggest you look into doing so.** You will be pleased to be in the company of such fine young Men & Women.

Securing the Bounce House proved to be the best decision Pete and I made. There was no drizzle inside and the kids piled in and had a lot of fun doing whatever it is that kids do in a Bounce House.

Pete and Nick had fired up the charcoal grill and once the kids got a whiff of the hot dogs and

hamburgers grilling they did what kids do, they ate. Nick did most of the cooking under the watch full eye of Pete, who is, as previously reported, the 22nd Regiment's Official Food Officer. A special Thanks here to **SGT Josh Sears, HHC**, for going to the PX and securing cheese for those who wanted cheeseburgers.



Nick Loos on Grill

With food in them, some of the kids decided to try to catch a fish. One of the kids, **Chloe Brett**, daughter of **LTC Brett and Sheelagh Funck**, decided that she was going to take an unorthodox approach. She secured a length of line and a hook and, at the advice of Pete, used a bit of hot dog for bait. Well, it wasn't too long before the hootin' & hollarin' began down at the dock where the kids were fishing. Chloe had caught a very large Sunfish. She presented the fish to the Chief Judge, Pete, and was presented with a new fishing pole. Chloe had no more returned to fishing when another chorus of hootin' & hollaran' erupted from the dock. Chloe had caught a 2 pound Largemouth Bass! This got everyone's attention and while Nate was taking photos of Chloe and her prize fish, some of the boys, one her older brother, **Connor**, approached Pete and I with a mild protest regarding Chloe's methods. When they protested the use of a piece of hot dog for bait, they were surprised to hear Pete say, "I gave her the hot dog." The boys quickly understood that their protest was in vain and

went into conference and came back with a request that Pete give them some hot dogs to use as bait.

In spite of the use of the new found bait, the fishing turned poor, so many of the kids went back to the Bounce House and finished off the day as they had started.



Chloe Funck with Biggest Fish of the Day. Photo Credit goes to Nate Loos.

I believe that those who attended enjoyed themselves and want them to know that Pete and I appreciated their coming out on a far less than ideal day.

Jim May, HMOR

*Pete is also a Member of the Vietnam Triple Deuce

**If would like to attend any of the events held at Ft Carson, contact Bob Babcock at babcock224@aol.com If you would like to attend any of the events held at Ft Drum, contact me at jlmay@tds.net



HARLESS BELCHER'S ARMY STORY

I was drafted April 3, 1968 at Roanoke, VA, & sent to Ft. Bragg, NC for basic training, where they tried to train us to death!!!!

We trained 7 days a week. From Ft. Bragg I was sent to Ft. Polk, LA. Everyone knew what that meant: VIETNAM. After surviving Ft. Polk, I indeed was sent to VIETNAM> with a 11B MOS. I arrived in Nam Sept. 3, '68. After a week of orientation, I was assigned to C-Co. 2-22, & chosen by SSGT. Block into the 2nd PLT. As memory serves I moved to a different squad later. My 1st day out we managed to kill a water buffalo. The 2nd day out, Sept. 19 '68, I got my 1st taste of combat & death. War is never pretty. After 3 months of humping my M-16 & the M-60, I moved to .50 gunner, & then on to driver of the APC. There is too many battles to mention all, but 1 needs to be mentioned. 14 Jan. '69. C-CO. lost 8 good men that day. I will never forget. Of the 8, 1 was awarded the medal of honor, Lt. John Earl Warren, Jr.....R.I.P. to all who died in this war. I was wounded 11 June '69 when my right arm was shot off by shrapnel from an RPG. Lucky to survive, thanks to quick medical aid from Doc Bruce Smith & Doc Riley Nedela, I made it. But my friend did not, Robert Glenn Sekva "Augie". I think we all ask 'why not me instead'?

In 2010 I became a member of the VietnamTripleDeuce.org. Since then I have enjoyed re-connecting with the man of C.Co. that I served with, & helping others to re-connect. Since joining, I have been fortunate to be able to visit Charlie Paree in Tampa, FLA, Jim Lally in Jackson, Ga., Mike Poldino in FLA {Mike is the brother of Thomas Poldino, who was KIA 11 March '69}....& most recently, I visited with "Doc" Bruce Smith in PA. Several of the guys have also visited me in my home in VA, including Charlie Jackson from Allentown, PA, & Malcolm "Bullwinkle" Carroll, from Durham NC. {also Paree & Lally have been here}. I have talked by phone or e-mail with many others---it's always a thrill to hear from these guys after 40 + yrs.!

Harless "Bird" Belcher C/69

HELLOES & COMMENTS

Bruce Sewall

845-636-4227

b.sewell@aol.com

A Co. 25th ID, Oct. 69 to Sept.70

Larry J. Gunnels

253-566-8845

lgunnels@comcast.net

C Co. 4th & 25th ID, Nov. 66 to Nov. 67

Henry J. Kayes

814-657-3780

A Co. 25th ID, 65 to 67

Garry M. Mundy

540-563-4362

B Co. 25th ID, Sept. 66 to Aug. 67

George B Gonzalez

810-687-0166

A,B,D, Co.25th ID, Jan 69 to Jan 70

George would like to locate Daniel Radcliff.

Kenneth J. Zipp
845-781-2625
kenzipp@yahoo.com
C Co. 25th ID, 1-69 to 4-69

Marvin C. Clark
231-929-3218
pegmarv@charter.com
C Co. 25th ID, July 69 to July 70

"Thanks to all involved for giving us this way to contact my Buddies and enjoy reading about everyone."

Thomas E. Ellis
541-895-4014
tellis@centurytel.net
C Co. 4th & 25th ID, Dec.65 to Nov. 67

Ronald L. Henderson
770-460-1943
haronald55@hotmail.com
A Co. 25th ID, Nov. 67 to Nov 68

Ronald would like to locate **Ronald Preston**, **Joe Smith** from A Company and **Rabbi Levi** from Delta Company.

Dennis E. Luiz
253-683-4880
LUID_P@msn.com
A Co. 25th ID, Sept. 68 to Aug. 69

Raymond S. March
719-687-6669
raysmail49@peakinet.net
HHC 25th ID, Dec.69 to Dec. 70

"Thank you so much for the information in the Newsletter. I really enjoy reading it. Keep up the great work."

Donald C. McPhee
425-836-2641
amcphee45@yahoo.com
HHC 4th ID, Sept.66 to Aug.67

Lawrence E. Nuckolls
901-568-2501
larryn1121@aol.com
B Co. 25th ID, Dec. 69 to Nov.70

Michael A. Walters
812-246-5645
tripleduece25@msn.com
B Co. 25th ID, Jan. 69 to Jan.70

"I know that someone in this association used to work in the Motor Pool, sorry can't remember who, so this story is for you. It must have been the summer of 1969, our driver went on R&R and no one wanted to volunteer to drive our track for that week. So I said I would do it. Well about 4 or 5 days into me driving we pulled out of Dau Tieng heading to the 'Hardspot' and the track just kept getting slower and slower until it finally stopped. The motor was burning up. I pulled the dipstick out and it was bone dry. No one told me to keep an eye on the oil. So at that time they would let the driver and gunner go back to rear area to help with the motor swap. Of course the Motor Pool guys did the main work. The gunner and I did some minor things and then tried to start the track up. It started right up, only problem was it was in reverse. It took off and no one was in it because we just reached down inside the hatch and hit the start button. I jumped on the front on the track and got down inside the hatch and tried to stop it. But I was a little late. It backed up on the front of a Jeep and the hatch lid came down on my head and about knocked me out. Thought for sure I was going to get into trouble, but never heard a word about it. Come to think about it, I should have received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for my heroism and the scrape on the top of my head. LOL Michael Walters, Bravo Co., 1st Platoon 4th Squad, 1969-1970.

Willie L. Brown, Jr.
803-648-5284
B Co. 25th ID, 1969

Miranda B. Lawson
dmlawson11@me.com

"it is an honor and a privilege to be associated with this group of men and women who served our Country!" **Harless Belcher** is Miranda uncle.

Claude I. Davidson
831-637-4952
B Co. 25th ID, 2nd Platoon 67 to 68

GUEST BOOK HITS

Name: **Vernon Evans**
Location: Berrien Springs, Mich.
Email: vern_evans@yahoo.com

Going under surgery for prostate cancer on Monday, May 29th. Thank you "agent orange". 65-67 A C0. & HHC Boat org. Your prayers will be appreciated.
Posted on: Sunday - Apr 28, 2013

Name: **Kirk Olsen**
Location: Austin, MN
Email: trout65@yahoo.com
Phone: 507 319 2762

Had a great time this last weekend visiting and getting to know some of the men of C Co. 2-22 BOAT ORIGINALS at their mini-reunion in Paynesville, MN. I was in A Co. 67-68 and they treated me like I was one of them. I hope too see them next spring in Branson.
Posted on: Monday - Apr 29, 2013

Name: **Kirk Olsen**
Email: trout65@yahoo.com
Phone: 507-319-2762
Is there anyone out there that remembers **Bill Williams** A Co. 2-22 around early 1967-1968 he work with me in the supply late 1967 then I was sent to S-4, BN Supply early 1968.
Posted on: Wednesday - May 8, 2013

Name: **Vernon Evans**, Boat Original
Location: Berrien Springs, Mi.
Email: vern_evans@yahoo.com Thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers. My surgery went as planned, and cancer looked to be contained within the gland. Will know more as time goes by. By the way, I ordered a jacket from Scappoose Outfitters with the triple deuce insignia on it, and it is "WOW" nice. She does a super job
Posted on: Monday - May 13, 2013

Name: **John Short**
Location: USA
Email: jesx@verizon.net
Served July 67' to June 68' Charlie Co. 2/22. Proud to serve with the best.
Posted on: Monday - May 20, 2013

Name: **Stan Self**
Location: Lilburn, GA
Email: stan1@bellsouth.net
Another Memorial Day and another special time to remember fallen warriors **Jackie Trosper, Dennis Estes, John Gibson, Robert Mlynarski, Robert Van Patten**, et al. It was an honor and privilege to serve with each. Stan Self C Company 2/22 25th IFD (Sep '67 - Mar '68)
Posted on: Saturday - May 25, 2013

Name: **Bruce Fielding**
Location: New London WI
Email: brewster30@mail.com
Just an update. John (Snap) Hintzke past away back in mid Feb. He was a member of C Co. 2/22nd mech. 25th inf. He was a field medic in 67 and 68. If anyone has any memories or info on him I would love to hear them. Thank you all for your sacrifice.
Posted on: Sunday - May 26, 2013

Name: **Ralph Foley**
Location: 29 Palms Ca.
Email: ynvet68@wildblue.net
Phone: 760 713 1623
I was with HHC Co. 2/22 OCT.1968 TO DEC. 1969
Posted on: Wednesday - Jun 12, 2013

Name: **Lynn Dalpez**, President
Location: Beaverton, OR
Email: dalpezc222@yahoo.com
Phone: 503-848-3901 I finally retired, and bought a new computer. I am fully open for VN222 Corp. business, and fun. Drop me an email when you wish. Branson 2014 or bust.
Posted on: Monday - Jun 17, 2013

NEW FINDS

Joseph V. Yarashas
805 E. Meadow Dr.
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
732-469-2086
jyarashas@iname.com
A Co. 25th ID, Feb. 70 to Nov. 70

Joe would like to locate **John Adams** and "**Bucky**" **May**. Joe writes, "Glad to be back in the family."

Paul T. Smith
3071 Rock Rd.
Morrison, TN 3463
931-728-4322
C Co. 25th ID, 68 to 69

See you in Nashville in June at the Mini-Reunion. The Men called me Tennessee."

Charlie Paree
7335 Winchester Dr.
Tampa, FL 33615
813-650-4946
cparee@verizon.net
C Co. 25th ID, June 68 to Aug 69

Francis J. Chrismer
107 Mollie Lane
Mount Ida, AR 71957
501-463-2101
fchrismer428@windstream.net
A Co. 25th ID, Nov. 66 to Aug. 67

Raymond F. Heckman
2121 S. Irene Dr.
Kawlawlin, MI 48631
989-662-4809
les.heckman@yahoo.com
HHC 4th & 25th ID, 1966 to 1967

"I would like to hear from any Medics that I served with in 66-67."

Danny J. Rhodes
P.O. Box 216
Mulberry, KS 66756
620-764-3875
C Co. 4th ID, Sep. 66 to May 67

John E. Short
215 Electric Avenue
Lewiston, PA 17044
717-248-1594
jeshort@verizon.net
C Co. 4th & 25th ID, July 67 to June 68

TAPS

John Fassett
Died 5-20-13
C Co. 4th & 25 ID, 65 to 67
By **Jim Neeley** C Co. 4th ID, Dec. 65 to Sept. 67

Harry J. Lawrence
Died April 2013
C Co. 25th ID, Nov.66 to Sept.67
By **Jim Neeley** C Co. 4th ID, Dec. 65 to Sept. 67

Steve Worrell
Died April 17
C Co. 68-69
By **Harless Belcher**

Coy Joe Thomas
C Co. 2/22 25th, ID 67 to 68

Coy Joe Thomas, 66, of Findlay passed away at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday (June 19, 2013) at his

residence. He was born June 9, 1947 in Marshall, Arkansas the son of Chester and Zara (Craft) Thomas.

He was service manager for Datsun in Decatur for 10 years, owned and operated Speed-Lube in Mattoon, Charleston and Rantoul, started Speed Truck Lube in Effingham in 1992 and sold his concerns in 1996 and retired.

He served in the US Army during Vietnam in 1967-1968 in Charles Company 2/22 of the 25th Infantry Division. He earned the Bronze Star, 2 Purple Hearts, Combat Infantry Badge and the Good Conduct Medal. He was a lifetime member of the VFW of Sullivan and the Findlay American Legion since 1969. Coy loved life and enjoyed hunting and corvettes.

Surviving are special friend, Nancy Beem of Findlay; father, Chester Thomas of Lorena, Texas; half sister, Donna Halleck (Wes) Lorena, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his mother and half-brothers, Clarence and Kennon Adams.

PREPARING FOR WAR

I arrived at Ft. Polk the middle of June 1967. It was 25 years to the day that my father, who was a Lt. and forward observer in the artillery, had been assigned there for maneuvers before WWII. At that time it was called Camp Polk. I had previously been at Ft. Bliss, Texas for basic. My ears were still vibrating from the drill sergeants.

Ft. Polk advance infantry training was a piece of cake compared to Ft. Bliss where we had bunk drills at two in the morning. At the sound of whistles the lights were turned on. One hundred and twenty trainees had to get all the beds, mattresses and footlockers out on the tarmac in 15 minutes or else everything was taken back in the

three story concrete barracks and started over until it was done right. We developed quite a routine. Metal beds were handed down the halls, dropped down the stairwell or thrown outside then other trainees set everything up in neat rows.

We got off the plane at Alexandria, La. and boarded the buses. The driver made the announcement that we would not be tolerated in Leesville if we were to be there on leave. I don't know anybody that got leave to Leesville which was outside the main gate.

Everybody that was going to Vietnam trained at North Fort which was about 10 miles north near the boon docks. We were placed in the old World War II wooden barracks. Every rock was painted and thousands of recruits were in constant sight. Some were marching somewhere to the famous Ft. Polk Cadence songs, others doing pushups, shining boots, standing in lines at chow halls or policing for cigarette butts. The temperature was 104. It was so humid the tops of the pine trees were in what looked like hot fog.

At our company area we were assigned bunks head to toe, toe to head and I recall 40 to a floor. We went to classes, the rifle ranges and on long marches. The longest was to Tiger Ridge where we bivouacked with wild boars at night. Water Moccasin were prevalent which made walking a challenge.

The most memorable experience was the night evasion course. We were bussed to the edge of a forest, dropped off and split up in five man units. The purpose was to head north in the pitch blackness of night with only the Big Dipper and North Star to guide us to a highway which was an hour and a half travel. It was totally dark among the pines and growing bushes with ravines in the way. Above all other troops were out there hiding who represented the Vietcong who would try to capture the group or an individual. They jumped from their hiding spots. If captured, the trainee would be sent to a fake POW camp where the captive might be subject to be-

ing run around with a tractor tire around your neck; sit on a block of ice in a 50 gallon barrel or the ultimate. The Chinese water torture machine. The person was made to lie down on a board and strapped down. A piano wire was placed under their nose so they could not move their head. A drop of water was dropped in their nose from a bucket overhead until the water felt like a rock after an hour. Then maybe they would confess with what unit they were with etc. etc. Now I did not meet anyone that was captured and experienced it but if there is anybody that was captured at the night evasion course, I know Streit would like you to write about your experience for the newsletter.

When we later got to Tiger Ridge for all night maneuvers we were warned if anybody went to sleep at their post we would also be sent to the infamous POW camp. One night we were firing blanks with an M 60 and running low on ammo. I decided to go to the top of the hill where the command post was located to retrieve more ammo. If you did not fire off a few rounds the so called enemy who were positioned in the front might find and capture you, I fell asleep while walking, walked right past the CP and ended up on the other side of the hill. I awoke standing in front of a cliff. I don't know how deep. I saw a shadow to my right. It was a trooper in a fox-hole. I asked what platoon and company he was with then followed the perimeter back to my position. Then I started again to retrieve the ammo.

The most unusual and odd thing I saw was when our training company was marching to a rifle range an oriental woman appeared out of the woods to our left. She came to the road, was carefully scrutinizing us up close and walked next to us for a few minutes. This was out in the middle of nowhere. I wondered if she was a spy.

Later another day on a make believe patrol we had a young buck sergeant that was in charge. When we got out of sight he had us stop to listen to him about two things. What he had experienced and encouraged us to sneak a revolver into Vietnam because he had experienced and

seen the M16s jamming.

At the end of the nine week AIT training our head sergeant addressed us in a meeting hall. He ridiculed us with a sense of urgency that we were not prepared for what we would face in Vietnam.

Jim Nelson C/67-68

Deeds Not Words

Well, you guys have done it again. It is really more than a motto, a logo or a tag line. It is a way of life. We asked you to share your stories and this edition of the newsletter shows you have done just that. We have had several others indicate their story (a summary of time in country, a description of a particular incident, thoughts on war or life in general, accounts of mini reunions....whatever is important to you is important to your Brothers) will be coming.

As your president indicated in his comments on page 2, we are not about impressing any journalist...we are about sharing the thoughts, feelings, and memories of the most important guys in the world . . .the Triple Deuce Brothers. Anyway, that's how I see it from the old soldier's chair (Yep you guessed it he is crashed in the recliner while the faithful dog and I are at his computer)

Keep those newsletter articles coming. We anticipate a time where we will have to prioritize or simply hold a story until the next newsletter.