

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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well here we are again, some of us recuperating from the latest greatest reunion ever, or the rest of us wishing we'd been there. Nashville did put on the Ritz, and anybody who didn't have a great time needs to check their standards for said same, because a lot of fun was had. To those of you still holding back from going, you need to watch for the details of the next reunion in Oklahoma City. I'm positive that Dave Allin will do as great a job on organizing that event as he does on this newsletter. And to those who skipped Nashville because of the expense, OK City will be a lot easier on the savings account.

This reunion was special to me for one other great reason. I had the honor of visiting with nine other vets of my time in third platoon Alpha company at this reunion. That total is pretty amazing, and we enjoyed adding several guys who overlapped that time in history to the group. My point is that this Brotherhood has several chapters in it, but we are ALL in this as one big family. Our 3rd platoon group started with one of us and grew because every one of us took up the job of locating another of us and did it. Awb Norris always said these words at a 22nd Infantry business meeting, "If we all bring one, we're twice as big."

Dick Nash, DMOR
A Co. & HHC, 69

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Nashville was a great reunion, and I am already looking forward to the next one, especially since I will be hosting it. Plan on being there, because it will be a blast. I will make sure it is both affordable and entertaining for everyone. Oklahoma City has far more to offer than you might imagine. And maybe, if you're lucky, you might get to see a real tornado. We like to say that you know you're an Okie if, when you hear the sirens, you don't seek cover, you run outside to look for the funnel.

Will Rogers, the great Oklahoma humorist, once said that when the Okies all moved to California, it raised the average intelligence level of both states. It is worth noting that the two major airports in OKC, Will Rogers, for commercial air, and Wiley Post, for private aircraft, are both named for people who died in an airplane crash.

Be sure to read Lon's review of the book, "Finding My Father's Footsteps." I have nearly finished reading it myself, and it is an extremely well-written and compelling book about the role of the 22nd Infantry in WWII, from Normandy to Bavaria. It's a very personal book, and the author describes the war from the point of view of the enlisted men and junior officers who fought and sometimes died saving democracy.

Deeds, Not Words

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

REUNION AUGUST 21-25, 2024

I think everyone had a great time at the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society reunion in Nashville in August. The weather was great (although a little warm), the hotel was very nice, and the opportunity to reconnect with old buddies was fantastic. Wednesday and Thursday were for registration and the golfers, who went off to play a few rounds. Thursday evening we had the traditional carving of the Hemingway Turkey, a beautiful bird provided by the hotel kitchen staff that was share with everyone in the Hospitality Room.



Carving of the Hemingway Turkey

On Friday morning some of us found a restaurant around the corner from the hotel that served a great breakfast for around ten dollars. Some people went on a bus tour of Nashville, and others walked around the downtown area and visited some of the sights. Others of us hung around the Hospitality Room, buying merchandise from Jim May, talking to author Karen Sisson Marshall, talking to Dick Nash about Creativets, and just swapping lies.



Dick Nash promoting Creativets

In the afternoon we had the Triple Deuce Vietnam business meeting, where current board members were reelected and it was proposed to have the next reunion in Oklahoma City. Friday evening was the buffet.



Friday Buffet

Saturday there was more sightseeing and bonding in the Hospitality Room. Nash's Nitwits were surprised and elated to be notified that Joe Esser would be attending after all. Joe lives in Maui, Hawaii, and normally doesn't make the long trip to attend reunions, but this time he was in San Diego helping out his daughter with a problem, and he was able to resolve it in time to catch a red-eye flight to Nashville. Although I had spoken to Joe on the phone, this was the first time I had seen him since

1969, and he looks almost exactly the same as he did. Well, maybe a little grayer. Unlike me.



Nash's Nitwits

Saturday afternoon we had the business meeting of the 22IRS, where yours truly presented the proposal for having the next reunion (Spring 2026) in Oklahoma City instead of Washington, DC. A vote was taken and OKC won in a landslide, with me being designated the host.



Saturday Banquet

The banquet Saturday night was excellent, with everyone looking sharp and enjoying themselves. Distinguished and Honored Members of the Regiment were presented, as well as a new recipient of the Order of the Red Ant. After that we all repaired to the Hospitality Room for the raffle. Mark Woempner MC-ed, calling out the numbers

and announcing "Winner, winner, chicken dinner," when the matching ticket was found. It was raucous and loud, and everyone had a great time. The winner of the 50-50 raffle generously donated his winnings back to the scholarship fund. Sunday morning there was a brief memorial service and then everyone headed home.

Dave Allin, DMOR
A Co/HHC, 1969-70

THE NEXT REUNION

Our next reunion will be in Spring of 2026, sometime between late April and early June. The exact date will be dependent on when the best rates can be negotiated with the hotel. For the Nashville reunion, there were some concerns expressed about the cost of attending, so it was decided to have the next reunion in a location that was less expensive, and more centrally located. Oklahoma City (OKC) is in the middle of the country, at the intersection of three major interstate highways: I-35, which connect Texas to Minnesota, I-40, which connects Virginia to California, and I-44 which connects St. Louis to Wichita Falls, TX. Will Rogers International Airport is only 15 minutes from downtown and is one of the easiest airports to get around in that you will find anywhere. OKC even has an Amtrak station. Getting here is easy from any place in the nation.

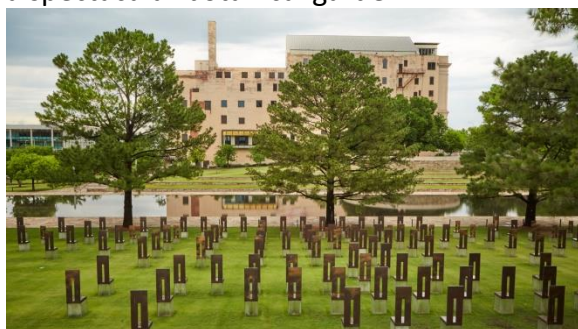
Downtown Oklahoma City has been undergoing a renaissance for the last few years and is now a major tourist destination. Within walking distance of the downtown hotels are a number of sights and attractions. Bricktown was formerly the warehouse district, but is now an

entertainment district, with clubs, restaurants, bars, and the National Banjo Museum (don't laugh, it's actually very interesting).



Bricktown Canal

On one side of Bricktown is the Bricktown Canal, lined with more bars and restaurants like the San Antonio Riverwalk, and it has tour boats that take you out into a park with magnificent life-size statues of people, horses, and wagons portraying the 1889 Land Run. Bricktown also has a major movie theatre, a minor-league baseball stadium, and the Paycom Center, home of the OKC Thunder basketball team. Also downtown is the Civic Center auditorium where concerts and Broadway musicals are performed, the Convention Center, where there is all sorts of events occurring year round, Scissortail Park, and Myriad Gardens, a spectacular botanical garden.



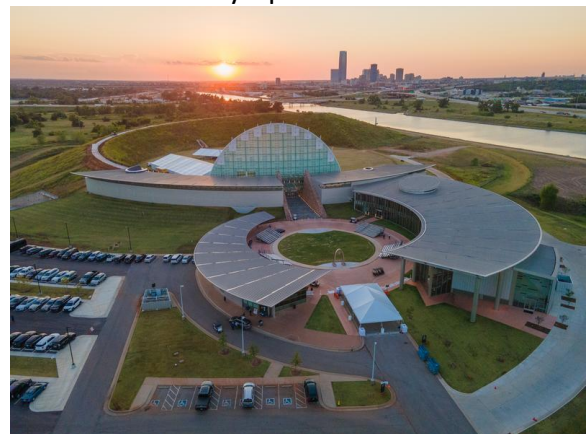
Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial and Museum

Nearby is the OKC Bombing Memorial and Museum. And if you don't want to walk, there is a tram that loops around the downtown area and costs only fifty cents for seniors.



White-water Rafting in OKC

Just south of downtown is the Riversports area. The Oklahoma River has been landscaped (riverscaped?) into a beautiful stream for rowing teams, along with a white-water section for kayaking and rafting that will host some of the events in the 2028 Summer Olympics.



First Americans Museum

Across the river is the First Americans Museum, built by the Chickasaw Tribe to show the history and culture of all native Americans. Next to it is rising a resort with

a giant indoor waterpark that should be finished by the time we have our reunion.



National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

A couple miles north of downtown is the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, one of the finest museums I have ever visited, showing the history of the American West, Western movies, Country-Western singers, and rodeo stars, and it has a replica old West town and the finest collection of Western art you will ever see. The city has many golf courses, as well, and they are inexpensive to play. Just west of downtown is the Fairgrounds, where there are frequent rodeos and horse shows.



45th Infantry Musuem

Northeast of downtown is the 45th Infantry Museum, honoring the men of the Oklahoma National Guard who fought in WWII. Twenty miles south of downtown is the Osteology Museum, which displays the skeletons of almost every animal, bird, and

reptile that exists, along with human skeletons. You have to see it to believe it. Northwest of downtown about four miles is an indoor gun range with lanes up to 100 yards, and they rent guns, so if you have ever wondered what it is like to shoot an M-16, this is the place to go.

Best of all, the average room rates in downtown OKC are very low, compared to most big cities. I have previously organized a similar convention, so I know how to negotiate with the hotels for group rates, banquets, and buffets. As the date grows nearer, I will contact and inspect the various hotels to find the one with the best accommodations at the lowest rate. If you missed the latest reunion, or have never attended a reunion, this is the one to go to: easy access, low cost, and lots to do.

Dave Allin, DMOR
A Co/HHC 1969-70

REGIMENT OLD GOATS SQUAD ORGANIZATION DAY VISIT August 29th



Old Goats

I had the honor to join several members of the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society's OLD GOATS SQUAD during the 2/22nd Infantry Battalion Organization Day August 29th at Fort Drum, NY.

Regiment Society President Mark Woempner, former C Company platoon leader John Poggi, former B Company platoon leader Skip Fahel, former "Rat Patrol" G Company platoon leader Jim May, former HHC Company leader Chris Tuccio (along with his firefighter wife Fee) and myself (A Co squad leader) had an excellent visit, meeting not only the troops but also many of their young families at the event. The day was filled with a company flag football tournament, an awesome hot dog and hamburger lunch and family oriented fun events.



CPT Andy Lee and Lon

Anvil Company commander CPT Andy Lee and 1SG Grado hosted me, along with so many of the Anvil company soldiers.



SSG Estrada and Lon

I had a chance to meet the 3rd Platoon, 4th Squad Weapons Squad Leader SSG Estrada (....me 55 years ago.) I took the opportunity to "coin" Sergeant Estrada and spoke with many of the third platoon, finding out what was on their minds. They wanted to know how A Company operated in the RVN. I told them stories about our earplugs being Kent cigarette filters and how we relied on hand and arm signals to shoot, move and communicate. Fortunately I also had brought some great photos and printed stories on the successes of A Company and the battalion during my time there in 1969.



Nash's Nitwits: Top, l to r, Kenny Schulte, Joe Esser, Dick Nash, Dan Michalec, Dave Allin; bottom, l to r, Lon Oakley, Larry Gallagher, Joe Goike



Dennis Holt, who joined us by phone

Meeting with Anvil Platoon leaders, the legend of "Nash's Nitwits" came up and I

was not shy about how important it was to be a band of brothers in Vietnam. I wanted them to realize friendships made in military combat last a lifetime, as witnessed by our recent reunion in Nashville.



22nd Infantry Anvil Company platoon leaders showing off 22nd Infantry crossed rifles brass presented by former RVN Alpha Co Old Goat squad leader Lon Oakley during Org Day Ft drum NY August 29, 2024. L to r: 1LT Daniel Champagne, 1LT Michael Kaffka, 2LT Joe Fallin, 1LT Jackson Friend, 1LT Fisher Rector

The commander of Anvil Company thanked us for the brass: "Extremely thankful to the veterans of the 22nd Infantry Regiment for gifting these 22nd Infantry Regiment crossed rifles to Anvil's officers.

Two gold color crossed muskets, vintage 1795 Springfield musket (Model 1795 Musket), ¾ inch in height, were first introduced into the US Army as the insignia of officers and enlisted men of the infantry

on 19 November 1875 (War Dept General Order NO. 96 dated 19 November 1875

To conclude of course many Anvil Company soldiers shared their thoughts on the state of the world. We talked about their possible play in that scenario....but to a man, they want me to know and share with all that they are well trained, equipped, and “ready” to stand in the door of Freedom’s Doorstep if called upon. So impressive.

Lon Oakley 3rd Platoon A Company
“Nash’s Nitwits”

MORE ORGANIZATION DAY TRIPLE DEUCE AUGUST 29, 2024

The reunion was over, followed by days of travel with just enough time at home to do laundry and pack a bag. I wasn’t alone, the other Members of the Old Goats Squad were in similar situations. I arrived at Ft Drum around 1400 HRS on 28 AUG 2024 and immediately went to Battalion HQ. “G” Company was expecting me and I was anxious to visit with the “G” CO Soldiers. I said a quick Hello to CSM Carey and was taken down to “G” CO by **LT Seth Lewis** where I met **1SG Darlson Osias**; he was expecting me and was anxious to show me what the “G” CO Soldiers were doing. I met **CPT Kenard Hird** and **LT Jordan Johnson**, LT Johnson provided the photos posted with this story.



1SG Osias on left, me in the middle with the CPT Hird to the right. LT Johnson is in the foreground.

Our first stop was with the Armorers. A supply of the latest Night Vision scopes was being inspected. While looking at, not through these Scopes, I kept thinking we could have used Night Vision scopes in Vietnam. The Starlight Scope was OK, but it doesn’t come close to what the Soldiers are now equipped with.



Talking with “G” CO Soldiers

We moved from the Armorers' room to the Motor Pool. There was a lot of activity going on. The Mechanics were doing more than maintenance and repairs, they were schooling 11B's so that the Triple Deuce Infantrymen would be able to help with vehicle maintenance during the upcoming deployment. Vehicles had to be ready for deployment. The vehicles leave before the Soldiers with very little time left before deploying.



Talking with Soldiers

I finished up with "G" CO and went to the hotel where I met up with **Chris and Fee Tuccio. Mark Woempner, Lon Oakley, John Poggi and Skip Fahel**, who were flying to the Syracuse Airport, would be meeting us in Watertown for dinner. **Pete Gaworecki** would have joined us, but he was down with Covid and in no shape to join us during the visit. I traveled to Watertown with Chris and Fee. I was in no mood to drive after the 9-hour drive earlier in the day. After a fine dinner at Art's Jug, we went back to the hotel, made plans to meet in the morning and retired.

We went to the Brigade DEFAC (Dining Facility) for breakfast where we met with members of HHC, "A" CO, "B" CO and "C" CO. I'll let the other Old Goats tell you about those meetings. After breakfast we

took a short break and then went to the ORG DAY event.

The weather was fine and the day was filled with flag football. Mark, who was recovering from a worn-out voice due to all the reunion activity, was tasked as the referee which resulted in him losing his voice, AGAIN! I spent the entire day speaking with Soldiers, from all companies, about what they did and how they were preparing for deployment. Many of these Soldiers had questions about Vietnam, which I did my best to answer.

"G" CO had been eliminated from the football games so I spent the rest of the day in their company. I spend a lot of time telling these Soldiers that although they are in skilled support positions, that once they are deployed, they will become Infantrymen, especially when it comes to guarding the perimeter of where they will be. I found that "G" CO Command has been delivering a similar message to their Soldiers, so much so that "G" CO recently won the Marksmanship Trophy. I believe this is the first time that the support company won this event.

Once again, Heart 911 members were present at ORG DAY. They did all the cooking and cleaning for the Soldiers and their families. For those who may not be familiar with Heart 911, these folks are survivors of the attack on New York City on 9-11-2001. It must be noted that the attack on 9-11-2001 continues to take the lives of the brave men who did the rescue and clean-up of the aftermath of the attack and those who continue

The ORG DAY events ended with a lot of photo taking. "G" CO Command presented Mark and me with framed Certificates of Appreciation that read: The Command Team of Golf Company 2nd Battalion 22nd

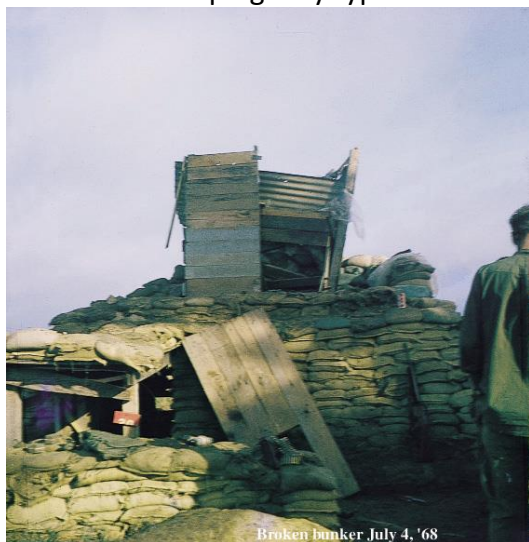
Infantry Regiment wishes to express our sincerest appreciation for your selfless support to our Soldiers. Your outstanding contributions to our team reflect great credit upon Golf Company and the United States Army. "ALL – IN" DEEDS NOT WORDS.

Jim May, Prov. Co. 1968

4 July 1968

Editor's Note: This 4th of July, some of us exchanged email about how we had celebrated the holiday during our tour of Vietnam. Jim May had the best thoughts about it.

July 3-4 1968, 0220 hrs, Dau Tieng gets hit with 500 rounds of rockets, mortars and RPG's and attacked from opposite sides. 2/77 Arty bunkers, next to Charlie Co. bunkers, fail. The Arty types were accustomed to sleeping in their bunkers. Only heard rumors of what happened on the 3/22 section of the perimeter. It was a long night. 4 KIA's, three Arty types and one of ours from the Prov. Co., Wardell Smith. He was KIA trying to save the sleeping Arty types.



This blown bunker was one of the Arty bunkers.



And, yes, the handsome, young soldier holding up the Dau Tieng Daisies is me.

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

Jim O'Leary's Question

A question, actually two questions, have been annoying me about something that occurred in Alpha Company in RVN during the fall of 1968.

As I remember it, we had 5 or 6 COs from early November to mid-December.

The first during that time was Cpt Harvey Holter. He completed his 6 months in the field and was re-assigned to a base camp position.

Holter was replaced by Cpt Edward Mikita who claimed to be Stan Mikita's brother (Chicago Black Hawks). He was WIA in the Boi Loi Woods on 8 November, the same day John Lutz (2nd platoon medic) was KIA.

The next one I can remember was Michael Lightfoot, an Armor Cpt. He was WIA on LTL-14 (east side of Saigon River) when a command detonated explosion blew the command track 4 or 5 feet into the air. I think everyone on the track was WIA, but definitely no KIAs.

After that, I think Holter was back as CO for a short while before he was replaced by Cpt David Crocker. He was later KIA sometime in May along with his RTO.

I also think there was one or two others between Mikita and Lightfoot. And maybe another between Lightfoot and Crocker.

First question: Who were the other two or three COs? I'm pretty sure they were all Cpts.

Second question: What happened to them. Were they KIA, WIA or something else. Anything else about them would be appreciated.

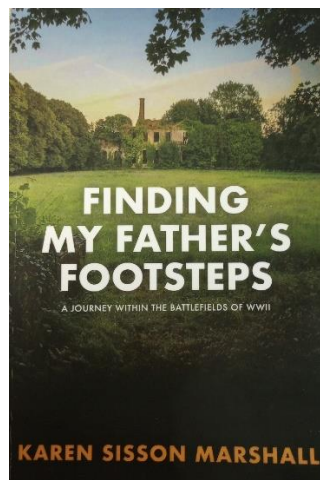
Phone – 617-852-0489 leave a message if I don't answer

Email -- olearyjim@comcast.net

Thanks for your consideration

Jim O'Leary
A Co. 1968-69

BOOK REVIEW



I have just blitzed reading thru Karen Sisson Marshall's book FINDING MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS. You recall she was at our 22d Infantry Regiment Reunion in Nashville last week to sign copies of her book. What an awesome read about the WWII heroics and courage of men of the 22nd Infantry Regiment from the D-Day landings, to the liberation events in Paris August 25, 1944 and finally to war's end. In reading I commend Bob Babcock's superb contributions assisting Karen to the finished product.

I recommend this book as a must for not only past and present Regiment Society Presidents, BUT also for any past and present 22nd Infantry Regiment leadership. I learned so much in the deep details about the achievements of the combat warriors of the 22d Infantry Regiment. The 400 pages of text, historical maps, and photos of Karen's dad, traces LT John Sisson's experiences as F Company Platoon Leader, 2/22d Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. Impressive cannot begin to describe her work.



NOTE: In the photo above you see the "Lum Edwards Leadership Gavel" and the historic "Ruggles Commander Leadership Torch." atop my desk. I was so blessed to have been honored to safeguard the two iconic regiment relics during my five years as

Regiment Society President. Both of these mentioned Regiment legend leaders, along with Chaplain Boice, are frequent mentions in the book.

One final note...as many of you are aware my birthday is 9-11-1947 and since 2001 not a day much celebrated by me HOWEVER I have found a new reason to celebrate that day. Historical documentation from this book reveals that on 9-11-1944 Lt. Shurgart (I & R platoon leader) took a 22nd Infantry patrol into Hemmes, Germany at 2130 hrs. That would be credited as the first Allied unit to cross onto German soil during WWII. Sounds good to me! How is that for DEEDS NOT WORDS.

LON D. OAKLEY JR DMOR

Past President 22nd Infantry Regiment Society

**SGT Squad Leader A Co 2/22d Infantry
RVN 1969**

FEW SPACES LEFT IN PAVER SECTION 22A - NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM HERITAGE WALKWAY

Several have asked about the availability of PAVERS in our Section 22A at the National Infantry Museum. Karen Hoffmann of NIM gave up the update below.

Lon, we have roughly 12 spaces left in 22A. I would be more than happy to honor the special pricing of \$200. (savings of \$50 from what form shows) Anyone interested, it will be first come, first serve. Please email the form to the below address if you have an interest in getting one of the last spots. Note your email to my attention (Karen Hoffmann) to get the savings. Thanks for your continued support of Ft Moore and the National Infantry Museum.

My email address is:

opsmanager@nationalinfantryfoundation.org

The form is attached. You will need to print it out, fill in the blanks, and then scan it as a pdf and attach it to your email.