



The Regulars!



Christmas 1995

Volume 1 Issue 9

Seasons Greetings To You All!

President's Message- by Robert O'Neal

The days since the St. Louis Reunion have been busy ones for me. Efforts are underway to "right Size" our organization. We have more than 900 addresses on our roster and less than 300 dues payers. Current printing and mailing costs have escalated to the point that we cannot continue to mail newsletters to everyone on the roster without more support.

Last August we decided to determine how many guys on our roster had genuine interest in our group. We sent "last notices", to 250 persons. Targeted first, were *Non-Company C, 3/22, (Non -Dues Payers)*. Out of this group, approximately 50 people replied that they were not interested in Charlie Company affairs. About 20 persons from this group sent in dues which we appreciate very much. Thanks for the support, guys!

Next, we sent "last notices", to guys

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on our roster who did not have a platoon or company affiliation listed. Several of these people replied that they had never belonged to Charlie Company and were not interested in our group. Some replied that they had served in Charlie Company, but had no interest. Yet, some of this group *did* pay dues.

Thanks, to all you dues payers... We need all the support we can get.

Four or five dues payers received "last notices", due to poor record keeping on our part. My apologies, guys. Measures have been instituted to upgrade the records and keep them in good shape to eliminate such mistakes in the future. Eventually, we plan to drop *non Company C, 3/22d Infantry, non-dues payers*, from our roster completely.

Company B, 3/22nd Infantry guys have formed their own organization and had a nice reunion in Louisiana this past July. (See accompanying article about *Bravo Company*). The contact persons for "B" Company are John Otte and Mark Rowan. Both are on our roster.

Bill Schwindt has generated many "new finds", since the St. Louis reunion. He has also depleted the donations made to the locator's fund. We could use your help in this area. There are about 400 persons who served in Charlie Company who have not been located. *Donations to the locator fund makes it possible to continue the search. Keep up the superb work, Bill... and thanks from all of us!* A special thanks to all of you who support Bill's locator work.

On 1 August 1967, the Third Battalion, 22nd Infantry was officially transferred from the 4th Infantry Division along with the Third Brigade, to the 25th Infantry Division. On 15 December 1995, the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry will be transferred back to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. According to 4th Infantry Division Association offi-



cials, anyone who served in the 3/22 Infantry at any time is eligible for 4th Infantry Division Association membership. The 4th Infantry Division Association has some very good scholarship programs for those of you with college age children. By the way, The 4th Infantry Division has changed its name from the "Ivy Division" to "The Iron Horseman", since they are mechanized now.

There are some important issues coming up in 1996, that affect veterans. Congress, acting like a rabid tiger on the prowl, plans to cut VA benefits by \$6.4 billion over the next 7 years. Some controversial provisions are listed in HR 2099 which funds the VA and other Federal agencies in fiscal year 1996. They have already cut more than \$10 billion from the VA over the last ten years.

Congress has given billions of dollars to foreign countries, some of them former enemies, and now they target the veterans to help balance the budget. As veterans, our response must be firm against these proposed cuts.

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Hello Vietnam Veteran of A/3/22:

Charlie Company has done exceptionally well in locating its former members with most of the originals found and over 80% of the 67/68 year group located. This last year, **Bravo Company** has done very well, too. They now boast over 130 on their mailing list, mainly because of one man who took it upon himself to do it! That man is **John Otte. Mark Rowan** is also working vigorously to help reunite the Company. (See article by Mark and picture of his van.)

Ken Gosline got **A Company** off to a good start a while back. Most of the "Alphagators" that we know of came through him. Now we're looking for someone to pick up where he left off. I will help any of you to get started and guide you in your efforts. More than anything else, more than equipment even, is the importance of your desire to do this. If you have the love for the guys, it will happen!

The same offer of help applies to **Delta Company**. **Jerry White** attends our reunions regularly with a small group from **Delta**. They are really "**Regulars!**" I'd hope someone from that group will take on the task of finding more of our brothers from **Delta Company**. Again, if any of you are interested, give me a call: [redacted] in Portland, OR... **Bill**

Mark Rowan Writes...

Dear Members Of Company C,

This past July, **Tom Schenk** and myself stopped at your reunion in St. Louis. We were enroute to our B Company reunion in New Iberia, LA. We arrived Saturday afternoon and were invited guests at your evening dinner. We'd like to express our thanks to all! We had a great time! We met many of you that had shared the experiences of Ft. Lewis, the rice paddies and the jungles of Vietnam. Thanks for sharing those few beers, war stories and your friendship.

We were very impressed with the leadership, dedication and hard work of so many of your people to put together such a great organization. A special salute to those that have worked so hard to find old friends. Through your efforts we have found some of the men of Company B. It was a wonderful time and I hope I can join you in D.C. in 1977.

May I request some additional assistance from you? I've been doing research on the battle of Soui Tre. (LZ Gold). This events of before during and after the battle. Some of your members were involved. Any materials such as photos, slides, news articles, military records that you care to share would be helpful and much appreciated. Your personal input would be most interesting to me. Please contact me by mail or phone: 608-965-3713 After 7PM Central Time is best. Thanks!

From myself and speaking for all your friends from Bravo Company, Have a safe, happy, and Holy Holiday season. ...**Mark Rowan, B/3/22** (Mark's address is on your new roster)

Late Find: Donnie G. England

December 71 Welcome Him Home!

Since we are still in the locator section of this newsletter, generally speaking, here is another excerpted letter from a heroic soldier that helped us in Vietnam... **Ed**

Fire Support Base Burt from the air-by Dick Detra

Hello Charlie Company,

"I remember making gun runs along the perimeter that night and seeing all those NVA. Needless to say, I was pretty scared..."

My name is **Dick Detra** and I joined your association recently. I heard about you through **Robert O'Neal and Eric Bergerud**. I contacted Eric after reading his two books. We both live in the Bay area so I went to visit him. We made copies of the 25th Division's "Lessons Learned", The II Field Force lessons, some information on Tet '68, and other after action reports. Since 1991 I've been researching my unit, The 188th Assault Helicopter Company, "Black Widows". Our gun platoon was the "Spiders". We have names and addresses of about 85 pilots and crew members. I watch the locator section of Vietnam magazine for people of the 25th and of course my own unit.

We flew support for the 3rd Brigade out of Dau Tieng. I flew with a gun platoon for about 6 months after learning the door gunners job on "slicks". We flew "ash & trash", support missions for your battalion and plenty of "armed" support. I am working on my second manuscript of our unit history and I'm trying to include as much information from the ground units as I can.

Fire Support Base Burt always comes up in my research and you guys sure know plenty about it. Here's my impressions from the door of one of those gunships circling up above you that night (Jan 1-2, 1968).

We were scrambled that first night out of Dau Tieng; a light fire team of gunships. Along the way we picked up gun teams from Tay Ninh and probably Cui Chi. I can recall making gun runs along the perimeter that night and seeing all those NVA and VC. Needless to say, I was pretty scared!

I've heard that one of our gunships hit one of your patrols still outside the perimeter. I pray to God that it wasn't our gun team. We had clearance to fire by those in command. I didn't hear anything about this incident until 27 years later. It's a part of the war one can never forget and that's why I want to incorporate it into our unit history. If any of you guys will help me out any information and/or pictures, I'd be greatly honored. If I can add to your histories, don't hesitate to ask...

Dick Detra, 188th A.H.C. Black Widows