



**22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society**  
**P.O. Box 70161**  
**Marietta, GA 30007-0161**

**DEEDS, NOT WORDS!!**

**Dick Detra**

**Brisbane, CA 94005-1528**

**Dear Dick:**

Got your address and info from Chuck Boyle. Chuck and I have been friends since Alaska in 62. Couldn't do without him.

Dick, I "was recently elected"...as Secretary of the organization outlined at the top of the page, and Chuck was truly elected as a Director. This was a group that initially consisted of veterans from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, all 4<sup>th</sup> Division, WW2 types. It stayed that..a closed group, until last summer when the old group kind of disintegrated, or failed to meet the needs of the constituents. As a result, the new organization, consisting of the WWII and on, is now the 22nd IRS. What an acronym. Anyway, a guy named Bob Babcock was literally "thrown" in as President and was told to get it going. Somehow, I got "tossed" into the same bag to start a roster, do mailing labels, etc. I'm still doing that.

We had a reunion this past April in Kissimmee, FL, which was attended by about 100 people. Had a great time. I believe it prevented the group from dying. We have almost 900 names on the roster now and have been aided by Bill Schwindt and Chuck Boyle to increase our membership with the Vietnam era troops. Bob Babcock was a Company XO and platoon leader in B/1/22/4, up north. I was the C.O. of 2/22 Mech, 25<sup>th</sup> Div from Sept 67-Feb68. I was at Burt.

You wrote very eloquently about the landings at Burt that night and next morning. You need not ever question me about the heroes that landed in that base and brought ammo and took out the wounded. My track was not 20 feet from the "hole" you landed on. Yes, it did have VC and other things lying on it. You guys could never have gotten in to the landing area IN DAYLIGHT. You would have waved off rapidly. No way could you hit that slot without lights, but as you mentioned, there were plenty of lights on the ground. But, no wave off, just coming in one after another, and moving out. The relatively low loss of aircraft that night in our perimeter is unbelievable. You went through it all, and for sure, you were being fired on. Constantly. You virtually flew through and over some 155 self-propelled tracks in the center of the perimeter that were also firing out. You still got through it. My sincere thanks to you all for such superb response to the needs of the two infantry battalions and the artillery battalion in FSB Burt. We would never have made it through the night without you. Thanks for being there.

I do not remember the guy with the flashing light. At first he had a flashlight. Someone got him a strobe and he stayed right there. You were practically landing on top of him. I was moving from my track to the edge of the 3/22 Inf and passed through the LZ area enroute. The ships were bringing the nose right into this brave soldier on each landing. He only budged to let you get out. A brave man; as you guys were. Most vulnerable. That was some night and ...quite interesting the next morning. I was blessed with having such good support all the time. The Spiders were doing the loop and helped us catch lots of people moving out. You remember better than I do, but Charlie Horse 16 and some of his cohorts used to hang out just waiting for the chance to pop up with us. Really gave good support. The Black Widows were also in there constantly. My sincere thanks for allowing so many of the guys that served with me to return to this country alive. You had a great part in that.

Enough of that. Just know I love every one of you and will be forever grateful.

Dick, we do not want to interfere with the great organization that Bill Schwindt and his group of C/3/22 have started. I think it is tremendous. We are in a cooperative effort and help each other locate individuals and make them aware of the organizations available.

I offer you assistance in locating any individuals you cannot find. Bill is great at it but we are learning. I use the Internet as well as some software programs to make hits. If you can provide me any information on the 'lost', I will do what I can to find them some way.

We're beginning to get lots of information about Burt from new individuals coming into our group. I will definitely keep you informed on any new info we can provide.

Finally, with your concurrence, I would like to make you an associate member of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Society, and have you receive future copies of our Newsletter. It may not be as good as Chuck's, but we are surely second. I am going to ask Bob Babcock to send you a copy of our recent newsletter also. Hope you will allow me to put you on the roster.

My very best to you. Always good to hear from fine people like you. Feel like I know you already. You assisted in saving my rear, I should know you. Anyone that can hang out with Chuck can sure hang out with me. Looking forward to meeting you in person one of these days.

Let me hear from you when you get a chance. My very best to you and yours. AWB

**AWBREY G. NORRIS**

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