



Charlie Company
Newsletter



1st Battalion-20th Infantry
11th LIB ~ Americal Div.
www.charlie1-20.org
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WINTER EDITION

2008 Reunion

We are pleased to announce Charlie Company will be returning to the Hilton Cincinnati Airport **June 20-21** for our 2008 reunion! Their address is 7373 Turfway Road, Florence, KY 41042; phone number is 859-371-4400 and their URL is www.hiltoncincinnatiairport.com. The Hilton does have a free airport shuttle.

GUEST ROOMS

We have a block of thirty rooms reserved for the dates: **June 20 – 21, 2008**. The rate will be \$97 a night and is subject to an 11.3% tax per room per night, or the prevailing tax rate. This rate represents a discount off their anticipated published rates (currently \$119 for weekends) and will be good three days before and three days after the reunion. Be sure to tell the reservation clerk you are with the Charlie Company reunion so you can get this rate. The Hilton will honor this rate if we have more than thirty reservations as long as space is available. *It is recommended that you make your reservations early.*

We reserved 20 rooms in 2007 so 30 may look like a big jump but we had 25-27 rooms rented the Friday night of our 2007 reunion. The hotel does not require a 2-day stay. We'd love to have everyone both days but even one day makes it worthwhile. Check-In Time is 3:00 pm.

RESERVATIONS & BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

- Individual guest will call Hotel direct for reservations and are to pay all of their own charges

- All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit, or guaranteed with a major credit card. Credit card authorization needed
- **Cancellation** of any reservation must be made **48 hours prior** to arrival date and confirmed by the Hotel cancellation number

CUT-OFF DATE is May 30, 2008. At the cut-off date, the Hotel will release any unreserved rooms for general sale. Any reservation received after the cut-off date will be accepted on a space and rate available basis.

Once again we will have a Meeting & Hospitality Room and a Reception Friday afternoon. We will also have Regional Refreshments once more. We are planning a Friday evening meal at or near the hotel. Saturday's events include a golf outing, a tearoom brunch for the ladies, and an evening banquet. Reunion attendees will receive a 10% discount in Grand Café in the Hilton if you want to eat other meals there.

Any questions, suggestions or recommendations about any aspect of the reunion would be welcome.

DRAWING FOR ONE FREE ROOM

The Hilton will give us one free room for 40 room nights rented at our reunion. If we qualify for this bonus, we will hold a drawing for the free room using the names of those who made reservations before the end of St. Patrick's Day on March 17! You must be at the reunion to win.

ATTRACTIONS

There are several area attractions for those of you who might want to come early or use some of Saturday's time to visit. Several folks made the walk from Kentucky to Ohio across the river using the Purple People Bridge. Newport on the Levee, Newport Aquarium, and the Hofbrauhaus House are all nearby. Also nearby is the Mainstrasse Village and the BB Riverboat that has lunch and dinner cruises.

There is an Antique Mall in Florence along with a "regular" mall and the Crestview Hills Mall was recommended by the NKYCVB. Of course, Cincinnati, Ohio is just minutes away. Try this web site for more info: www.staynky.com, www.

REGIONAL REFRESHMENTS

What in the world are "regional refreshments"? Being new at this reunion business, we didn't have any money last year to purchase refreshments. As a cheap solution, since we are those kinds of guys, we asked folks to bring a few samples of refreshments that are made near where they live.

It was started it off with Moon Pies and Goo-Goo clusters from Tennessee and soon had RC Colas added since all good Southern boys know a RC Cola and a Moon Pie is like that "love & marriage" song. We had some wine from Iowa and were taken "way back in the day" with beers we haven't seen since the 60's. We had some Ski Cola made in downtown Wellston, Ohio to help wash down the Virginia peanuts. There was a bunch of different foodstuff from Minnesota (thankfully, thawed) that went well with the beverages. There were some fine Mars candy and some snack cakes from New Jersey for the chocoholics.

Maybe this gives you the idea. It was a fun and easy way to have refreshments provided for our hospitality room. If you want to help, don't feel like you have to provide enough for everyone. We had plenty last year and some left over thanks to the generosity of participants.

WHY GOOD VACATION PLANNING PAYS OFF: A True Story by Duck Watters

Billy Wayne Earp was a good guy, fun to be around.... about half-nuts but still a good guy. The company was setting up about dark around a tree line for their NDP. It was probably one of those little "islands" around an old rice paddy.

We didn't dig in that night. We were to spread out and find a place to sleep. Earp called out to Duck Watters, "Duck, come over here. I've got you a place already made out."

Duck went over and lay down on the other side of Earp...right into a pile of water buffalo dung! It didn't take long for Duck to figure out the "invitation" and for Earp to know it'd worked as a new aroma filled the night air around them. Naturally Duck cursed him but began to laugh right along with Earp.

You weren't supposed to make noise after dark but they couldn't stop laughing. The squad leader, Buck (Richard Buchanan), told them to be quiet, then the platoon Sgt., Jerry Fuller, had his turn. Finally, Peanut (Lt. Vincent) came over and said, "Shut up or *I'll* shoot you". I believe he was meaning he'd save "Charlie" the trouble. That worked like a bedtime story and a teddy bear! Earp and Duck got quiet and went to sleep.

Since Duck had failed to upgrade his tour to First Class, clean clothes and a shower were not options the next morning and it took two or three days before the stink finally wore off. However, this could have helped the war effort. Any VC in the area would've smelled a water buffalo instead of an American GI! Thanks Duck!

HATS & T-SHIRTS

Last year we had hats and t-shirts made up for the reunion. Dan had the hats and those went for \$15 and Mike had the t-shirts and the cost was \$12 based upon the number we ordered then. Contact Dan if you'd like a hat and Mike for the t-shirt (include sizes) to order.

We'll need at least ten t-shirt orders but the price may be higher than last year if we don't order twenty or more. Examples can be spotted in our first newsletter and we can post a better picture on the web site.

NEW GUYS

In our last newsletter we listed almost 100 Charlie Company vets who we are currently in contact with and have an address and a phone number. An obvious error (computer, I'm sure) left off Leonard Harootunian, the Snake, even though he was at both reunions. An investigation is being launched about this over-site. Since that list was published, the following vets have been "found":

Richard Begeal, David Benedict, Keith Ching, James Chisholm, Don Close, Dwight Cole, Charles Doan, Anthony Galgon, Jim Helvig, Terry Holloman, Steve Kosach, Kenneth Townsend, Larry Benefield, David Santiago (Sandy), Ken Milbrand, Bob Peteshel, Paul Wysocki, Carl Edwards, Eusebio Santellana, Allen Sarabia, John Pantermuehl, Dave Wantland and Thomas Dorrian. Recent finds are Michael Allgood, Clarence Bohn, Charles Darnell, Thomas Deverman, Luke Fullenkamp, Michael Iverson, Tomiva King, Gary Leopold, Gary Nimnicht, John Prindle, Anthony Pugila, John Smail, James Tate, Joseph Trossback, Walter Tucker, Delton Watt and Armand Nault. We now have a page under PEOPLE on our web site that lists all contacts.

Some of these sources were from Ms. Kitty, checking other web sites guest books, follow-up with old information and a few from getting a name and an address from a current located vet.

Have you been in contact with someone who is not on our list? Send Dan or Mike the information so we can include them in our "found" file. If you've been in contact with a friend in the past but your information is no longer accurate, send what you have and we'll try to help locate him.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Do you have comments about the newsletter? Need information about our contacts or do you have

information about other vets not on our list? Send copies of orders etc. to danielmalin@hotmail.com and items for the web site to mike.stinnett@yahoo.com. Dan Malin's home address for hardcopy is 4136 Kenyon Avenue, Lorain, OH 44053 (440) 242-7664. Mike Stinnett's address is 319 Antioch Road, Clarksville, TN 37040 (931) 647-8917.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Wally Herman, Gary Roschevitz, Russell Miles, Richard Ramirez, John Smail, and Don Close recently sent in their dues along with a \$20 gift by the last four mentioned. This gives us a total of 28 members and we currently have \$525 in our checking account. We shouldn't have a problem with the last two newsletter costs before the June 2008 reunion and should have some money available for reunion expenses.

OUR MISSION

Charlie Company's latest mission is to locate Vietnam vets and provide an annual reunion for all those vets who've been located. Copies of orders (CIB, promotion, etc.) can be a big help in finding others since they include a full name and a SS number. Rest assured, this valuable information will not be passed along to just anyone. Chuck Seketa may receive a copy to help with battalion information and Ms. Kitty uses this information to give us leads containing addresses and phone numbers. Several of you have been "found" because we had more clues than just a nickname and maybe a state where you lived 35 years ago!

You'll see some other contributed material at our web site www.charlie1-20.org. The rice cache article was loaned and then returned. Some of the photo albums in the picture gallery were scanned at the reunion, some were scanned and sent by email and some were scanned and stored on a CD and we were sent a copy. If you have something like that you want included please let us know.

TTU & The Vietnam Center and Archive

In May 1989, a group of Vietnam veterans from West Texas gathered at Texas Tech University to

discuss what they might do about their experiences in Vietnam. Their immediate decision was to form a Vietnam Archive and begin collecting and preserving materials relating to the Vietnam experience. In November 1989, the Board of Regents of Texas Tech University established the Vietnam Center.

The Vietnam Archive mission is to collect and preserve the documentary record of the Vietnam War. The first collection received by the Archive - a package of letters from a Navy hospital corpsman to his family while serving in Vietnam - symbolizes their commitment to preserve the record of individuals and provide greater understanding of their experiences.

In addition to its mission of collecting materials concerning Vietnam, the Vietnam War, and Southeast Asia, the Vietnam Archive currently administers two projects, the Oral History Project and the Virtual Vietnam Archive. Over the past few years, the Vietnam Archive has made a concerted effort to record the histories of veterans organizations and their members and includes The Veterans' Association section in their website.

Check them out at <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/> if you are interested in researching in the collections, searching the digitized materials, donating to the Archive, participating in the Oral History Program, viewing the Veterans Associations that have donated to the Archive or purchasing duplicates of the Archive materials.