

OFFICIAL VIETNAM ERA 1965-71 2nd BN 1st MAR NEWSLETTER

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How The Hotel 2/1, Now 2/1 Association, Came About

by Robert T Hughes

In 1983, I noticed an ad for a reunion for Hotel 2/5 in a Veteran's Magazine. I did not remember the fifth Marines being in Nam, so I wrote to the person who put the ad in the magazine, asking if maybe he meant to say 2/1, not 2/5? I was told to call their Lt, a Ken Kromer, and maybe he would know about any 2/1 reunions for the add was correct.

I called Ken Kromer and spoke to him about any info on a 2/1 reunion. He said he knew of none but I would be welcome to attend their reunion in Washington DC at the Capitol Holiday Inn. His exact words were "It is better to attend the wrong reunion than no reunion at all!" I told Ken that I would pass on their reunion but changed my mind after a few days.

I had found one 2/1 person since Vietnam and that was by accident. I had told the "Shot In The Dark" Battalion episode (explained in a later article) one night in a bar, and someone said they had heard the story before. I asked this person to have the person that told the story the first time call me. A short time later, Doc Steve Harper called me. After talking about Nam, it turned out Doc was the corpsman that took care of me the first time I was wounded. So, since I owed Doc for his "house call," I asked him to go with me. Doc said "Okay" and we attended the reunion in Washington DC that November 10th weekend in 1983.

We had a great time, even though we did not know any of those former Marines before the Reunion. On our drive home, Doc and I talked about how great it would be if we could find some of the guys we served with. It was then that Doc and I started to put together some names from the past in an attempt to locate them. The rest you know (AND NOW YOU KNOW THE REST OF THE STORY!). The next year, 1984, the first Hotel 2/1 gathering happened.

Well, Bob, maybe I know the rest of the story... but for the benefit of those who may not, you forgot to mention picking me up in 1985 at a truck stop in Baltimore MD. I drove down to the reunion with a load of turkeys and since there was no where to park 42,000 lbs of turkeys any where near the Capitol Holiday Inn other and the Capitol, itself, was already full, I stopped out in Baltimore. When I called and asked "OK, How do I get to where you're at?" I got a "Where are you?....I'll be right there"

And there you were in about an hour, the time it took to drive out there. And not only did you pick me up, but twice a day for the next three days you drove me back out to Baltimore so I could make sure everything on the truck was OK. You turned down any offer of monetary assistance from me for gas and your time reminding me that "Marines always take care of their corpsman!"

But I don't believe for a moment the fact that I was a corpsman was the soul reason for your kindness. I think your unselfishness had something to do with how things turned out. I think you really wanted this organization to become a reality and would do anything in your power to assure that it would... be it your money (which you spent a lot of) or time.... and for that I'm grateful.

And I'm not alone. And for that we collected a little money to buy you an enlisted sword from a number of other members that feel as I. Oh, I got a few "What the ---- is this?" But now...they know the rest of the story.

THEN CAPT BARRETT, H CO 67, PRESENTS BOB HUGHES' SWORD



Bob Hughes, the Vietnam Era 2/1 Association's founder, excepted, as a token of our appreciation, a enlisted NCO sword from his then Company Commander, Capt Tom Barrett. The sword was bought through donations of our members and picked up by Steve Krasawski who, with the sword, was picked up by Bob Hughes and given a ride to the Reunion. Steve thus had the problem of telling Hughes what he had in the box...but something of a master of deception, B.S.er to be more accurate, Steve had no problem thinking up a lie to tell Hughes. The up-



shot of this is the whole thing came off about perfect in that the right man, Capt Barrett, was given the opportunity to present one of his own men, what we all gave a little to, his just reward.

From all of us to you, Bob, A Very Special Thank You.

THE COLUMBUS DAY REUNION

According to our check in sheet, 32 people attended the 1989 Columbus Day Reunion. They were Don Youmans, Tom Barrett, Ray Hannon, Duane Pretzer, Brian Murray, Michael McNeely, Harry Rhodes, W W Jeffrey, Bill Fisher, Harvov Weishuhn, Steve Brothers, Ernie Napoles, Tom Hollerin, James Thompson, Mario Sagastume, Dwain Hill, Brad Parish, Bob Lindgren, Paul Stenzel, Kevin Falvey, Phil Leslie, Ken Carlson, Steve Krasowski, Sam Hale, Bob Hughes, Charles Mason, Lou Puller, Charles Evans, Charles Springer, David Novak, Larry Craig, and Myself (Please note picture). See anyone you know ?



Only a few years ago a gathering of this type would not have been possible. Ernie Napoles and Steve Brothers spent most of the reunion going over old times and the years they have been apart.

Together again, at this reunion, the first time since they left Nam.

CARLOS LANDS IN TEXAS

Carlos Hathcock, our announced featured speaker, missed the boat. It seems he got on another somewhere along the line and ended up coming ashore in Texas. What exactly happened... I don't know but Carlos was sorry the event occurred and did return the money that we spent to buy his airline ticket (the air ticket was non refundable). What is important here is that a number of you sent money to me for Carlos' ticket and he didn't show. And I, owning up to my imperfections, didn't keep track of who sent me what. I just stuck it in the bank, trusting everything would work out as planned. However, everything didn't work out as planned... so **if you sent me money for Carlos and feel that you were ripped off, please drop me a line and simply state how much you sent me and that you would like it back.** Otherwise, the money will just remain as part of the 2/1 account... and will be used for whatever business we are carrying on.

2/1, A Nonprofit Organization

It has been suggested in the past and is presently in the works to make 2/1 a nonprofit organization. A meeting of the members present at the reunion decided that it is in the best interest of all if 2/1 becomes a legitimate organization with all rights and privileges of such an organization extended to its members.

Our Purpose: To be an organization of former 2/1 (to include attached personnel Marines) to establish and preserve the history of the unit in Vietnam, and to be an assistance to our members and surviving relatives.

Our Membership: shall be limited to Vietnam Era 2/1 Marines and attached personnel whose dues are currently paid or has otherwise expressed an interest in our organization. All immediate relatives of 2/1 KIA's willing to belong to this organization shall be awarded an associate membership. Former 2/1 Marines (to include attached personnel) whose dues are not paid shall remain on our rooster, however, shall not receive a newsletter or the privilege of voting.

Officers: It has been suggested that we elect a President, Vice President Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Directors. Anyone wishing to participate at any of these levels is asked to contact Bob Hughes, PO Box 10, Cape May Court House NJ 08210 (P)609-465-8429

If we receive no response, officers may then be appointed.

Other Business:

Scholarships - One issue, aside from completely 2/1, is the issue of extending ourselves beyond just our own personal experiences into the arena of serving others. One proposal to doing so is Scholarships. At issue, however, is from where should this money come (dues should not cover this since some may object to the use of the organization's money to fund projects that they may be opposed to) and to whom should this money go?

Originally the idea was to help with the schooling of military cadets, as I understand it but now has taken on the tone of 2/1 members children who show an interest in success. At any rate, the matter is open and your response in it is being sought. If you have feelings on this one way or another, pro or con, voice them my way... otherwise realize that a decision will be made and if you didn't offer me your views, don't be disappointed if their not considered

REUNION 1991

Although I do not regret having the 1989 reunion over the Columbus Day Holiday, looking back, let's say the turn out was not as good as we would have liked...it wasn't bad (considering a few short years ago it couldn't have happened at all)...but none the less, not as good as we had hoped for nor as good as the Reunion two years before.

On the East Coast, a fair size gathering over Marine Corps Birthday/Veteran's Day has occurred now for the past 6-7 years, mostly Hotel Company 66-67. It seems, however, holding the reunion over Columbus Day created a rift in a established pattern with an outcome of fewer members at both the Columbus Day Reunion (about 35 as compared to about 70 two years before) and the Marine Corps Birthday/Veteran's Day gathering that appears fell into disarray this year. So... thinking this over, we (Bob Hughes, a few others, and myself) have concluded that perhaps we have made an error and would like to shoot once more for the largest turn out ever by setting up the next reunion over Veteran's Day, November 8-11 1991 in Washington DC.

What Washington DC! Again! Yes...and the reason being that Washington DC has about everything right there. It has the Marine Corps Museum who I feel bent over backwards to aid us (2/1) in our research for our past. It has the Vietnam Memorial which will attract not only 2/1 members but many other Veteran Groups such as 2/5 and CAP, all of whom we've partied with before. And being Veteran's Day, many activities will be happening that goes beyond anything that just 2/1 can provide. We have two years to research what is happening that week-end and hopefully will work into our plans to attend other events for those who desire to do so.

Again...This, as of yet, is not written in stone but unless we hear a lot of clamor against this decision, the chances are pretty good that this event will go down. I know some of you are hoping that we would move this reunion around some but I fear, as well as many others, we don't have a lot of time to experiment with other locations. We don't have many two year time frames left, I'm afraid, before our membership begins to drop off do to matters beyond our control, and therefore, it seems wise to stay with what seems to work the best...Marine Corps Birthday/Veteran's Day ... DC ... 1991 ... Twenty Years after 2/1 left Vietnam. **So, if you oppose this, make noise so we hear you.** Otherwise, do your best to attend. We need you, today, to start making plans. You have two years.

2/1's History: The Book

A committee has been formed to work on the book with a completion date set for the 1991 reunion. In short, we will go to the printers with whatever we have at that time. At present we have a request at Marine Corps Headquarters to have the Unit Diaries searched for first all 2/1 KIA's (names and dates) and second what we consider significant events such as operations Harvest Moon, New York, Union, or Medina. Once we have that information we will begin reaching out to those who were there.

Phil Leslie, Maj Ret Golf Co, has been assigned the leading role. Anyone having anything of interest for the book is asked to contact Phil at 112 Leisure Ct, Cary NC 27511 (H)919-469-8889.

Please be aware of my temporary address. Until Mar 10th 2/1's address is:

**David L Johnson and or
Vietnam Era 2nd BN 1st MAR
PO Box 1419**

Perry FL 32347-7419 (H)904-578-2270

After then, I'll return to PO Box 1055, Jamestown ND 58402-1055

Regional Reunions

One of the items discussed in a previous newsletter was the possibility of a reunion in Houston, Texas....but, the message that I received in response to it is not the message that I meant to sent. Perhaps I should have called it a **"GATHERING"** or a **"TEXAS ROUND-UP"** or something other than a reunion because I never meant to schedule one of our biannual reunions in Houston because, quite frankly, I do not feel the turn out would be that good (see explanation on the up coming 1991 Reunion in DC).

But, I would still like to see a **"GATHERING"** or a **"TEXAS ROUND-UP"** go this summer in hopes that our members in Texas and the surrounding area would get together and know one another. We, 2/1, were in mostly the same areas, have shared the same experiences, have suffered the same loses, and there, therefore, is no reason to think that we are strangers simply because someone else was from a different time frame, company or platoon. I'm amazed by the number of people who saw my slides, who want copies of them, because I, who they never have seen before, captured on print a piece of their lives.

Therefore, with that said, it is my hope that a **"GATHERING"** or a **"ROUND-UP"** will occur in Houston TX this summer and the man to contact is Dennis Hodge (G), 9000 Town Park, Houston TX. He has already done much of the home work to get this thing off the ground so if you are interested, drop him a line. And, the results will be in the next newsletter.

And there is also **California**. Some of you may have been to California before...that is I remember watching from the comfort of my barracks, leaning on a mop, smoking a cigarette, or hanging my white hat out on the clothes line, Marines, full gear, guns (excuse me-rifles), humping along the fence chanting some sort of gobble-d-gook! And me thinking **"Ah! the Navy Life is the life for me!"** ... But then you know the rest of story...don't you?

Anyway, We would like to see something get going in California also and we have a volunteer, Bob Lindgren (G 69-70), 15920 Rushford, Whitter CA 90603 (P)213-947-5958. Bob has been quite active in the group and has done a superb job of running down Golf Company members and I trust he'll get something going. Again, the results will be in the April newsletter.

And one more time...These gatherings are designed to gather together members from the same area in hopes that they will get to know each other. Call it fellowship, comradely, whatever. And if things go well, that is it looks like these areas have the support of its immediate members, perhaps we could, in the future, schedule in a larger reunion...but first, I believe, the local support has to be there. Agreed??? Disagreed??? Let us know.

VETERAN AFFAIRS: A number of you have sent me articles on Veteran's Affairs stating that perhaps I should include these articles in our newsletter. And to some degree, I feel that "Yes, Veteran's Affairs have a place here" but on the other hand there are all sorts of Veteran publications, any of which anyone can send for if that is what they are interested in. There is only one little newsletter, with a limited budget, that concerns itself nearly exclusively with 2/1's affairs and that is this one. So the question is, how much Veteran's Information should we add into this newsletter and what 2/1 news should that information replace?

But "Yes!" I'm going to see about adding in some Veteran information but I'm going to turn that over to some one whose job it is to keep abreast of current Veteran Affairs. If I can get him to help, I'll give him a section of this newsletter. More on this next April.

CURRENT ROSTERS: Back in the beginning of 1989, a current roster (now outdated) was sent to each member who paid their 1989 dues. Each newsletter supplements that roster with new member listings plus any change of address. At that time, I stated that the next mailing of a updated roster would be in two years, that is 1991...with the idea of saving money (about \$100 to have a new roster printed up plus \$100 postage) over yearly mailings.

But the membership has grown in the last year by a substantial amount and a number of "particularly" new members have been asking for rosters (which I have no more of). However, I just ran off a new Dec 89 roster but I'm going to mail it out to only those who write and ask for one... **And I'll give you a month** so I know how many of these things to have printed up. **So if you wish to have a roster, order one...soon!** Or wait until next year.

Shirts and Hats: I've been asked also about shirts and hats again. The next run will be in the spring for anyone interested... assuming enough people are interested.

A Shot In The Dark

One of the first stories that I remember being told shortly after getting to the 2/1 battalion in July of 67 was the story of "A Shot In The Dark." As the story goes, while viewing movie "A Shot In The Dark" in the Battalion Cinema a short timer was hit in the head by a stray round and killed. He simply slumped over and everyone just assumed that he had to much to drink so he laid there. It was only after the movie was over that it was discovered that he (the short timer) was truly a victim of "A Shot In The Dark."

I have always been suspicious of these sort of stories... but this one, unlike many others told to newcomers as sort of a introduction or Welcome to the Nam, keeps coming up at reunions during "story time." Yes, it really happened!...I was there!" I hear time and time again but as its name suggests, like a shot from some unknown origin by persons, unseen, hidden by the dark, no one has come forth to identify the marine killed. Not even a date has been offered..."Well, maybe April...but could have been May!" is about as close as we can get. Not even his unit company has been identified. Any one bit of information could help us identify the marine and thereby verify this story but to date...nothing. Just the Story.

Now before anyone interprets this to mean that I am calling those who tell this story liars, let me say that for the purposes of our book, it is important that the book does not treat myths as truth. And... at present I am not convinced, beyond any reasonable doubt, in which category this story belongs. At any rate, we need a body if this story is going to be treated as a historical fact. Therefore, anyone who knows of this event is asked to pass along any information that you might have.

WARNING: A NUMBER OF YOU HAVE NOT SENT IN YOUR 1990 DUES. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO FIND YOURS AND OTHERS LEFT BEHIND FRIENDS. DON'T FALL BY THE WAYSIDE... SEND THEM IN!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND MAYBE A BIT OF SOMETHING TO HANG ON YOUR WALL IS IN THE WORKS... BUT WILL BE PUT ON HOLD UNTIL I RETURN TO JAMESTOWN ND. GETTING ANYTHING PRINTED DOWN HERE IS REALLY A PAIN. ANYWAY, YOU ARTISTS OUT THERE...WHY NOT CREATE US A PLAQUE.....
2nd BN 1st MAR picture and all

NEW MEMBERS

Adcock Henry L, 122 N 2nd St, Trenton OH 45067, Bn 69-70
Civiletti David (Pappy), 105 Fairlea Dr, Rochester NY 14622
(P)716-544-6054
Dasinger David H (MGSt), Marine Corps Recruiting Station,
1442 Montgomery Hwy, Suite 102, Vastavia Hills AL 35216
(P)205-731-1097, F 69-70
Dennis Donald, 201 Bridgeham Ave, Milford DE 19963, G 68-69
Doughty Scott R, 215 N Racine Ave, Waukesha WI 53186
H-2 (P)414-547-8222
Eagen Thomas H (LCol Ret), PO Box 729, Durham NC 27702
E&F 67-68 (P)919-682-2221
Figel Sgt, 921 Brevard Dr, Indianapolis IN 46217, 317-882-8300
G 69-70
Francis Larry, Rt#2 Box 155, Fargo ND 58102
Garcia Art (Capt Ret), 276 N El Camino Real #211, Oceanside CA
H&S 81MM Platoon Commander 66-67 619-439-6493
Lough John "Doc", PO Box 366, Arkansas City Ks 67005
H-3 Corpsman 70-71 (P)316-442-0645 or 800-441-0645
McCoy Roy D, PO Box 426, Granbury TX 76048, F 65-66
Morrison Lawrence D, 9408 Tasco Dr NE, Albuquerque NM 87111
F&E CAP 66-67 (P)505-821-9195
Moser Steve, 953 W 81st St, Lino Lakes MN 55014, 612-786-5274, H 71
Check this one on RC> Norman John, 407 Sylvan Ave, North Braddock
PA 15104
Pipkin Michael "Doc", 10327 Paradise Lake Rd, Snohomish WA 98290
F 68 Corpsman, (P)206-487-3364
Pitchford Charles, 220 Granby Park, Norfolk VA 23505, 804-587-5461
S-3 XO 66-67
Risich Dave, 325 Carolia, Vallejo CA 94590, G 69-70
Ziniti Tony, #9 Chimney Ln, Bay Shore NY 11706, 66-67

Address Changes

Cagle Ron, General Delivery, Lewistown MT 59457
Glass Ray, 4506 26th Loop SE, Lacey WA 98503-3236
Hicks Donald, 913 S 20th St, Rogers AR 72756-4971
Hingston Bob {LKA} 115 Buzzards Bay Dr, Plymouth 02360
Krupa Stephen, 449 Berkshire Dr, Burleson TX 76028-4523
Reed Joe, 735 Garrison Ct, West Deptford NJ 08051
Novak David 508-352-8369
Parker Lou, 8430 Lofton Dr, Pensacola FL 32514-4740
Schiattone Ron, 446 River Dr, Bay City MI 48706-1448
Stromire David, PO Box 98445, Tacoma Wa 98498
Wagner Tony, 6 Flag Circle, Madison WI 53711
Wilson Ron, 30 Gordon St #C, Newnan GA 30263-1316