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Garryowen and Welcome ...

Boots & Saddles has been enlarged

The weather has finally turned, at least in the State of Michigan, and soon the delicious morel mushrooms will be popping up. In a few weeks wild turkey season begins and I hope to be chasing this magnificent game bird in the northern lower part of the state. On May 16th, the first "official" gathering of the West Michigan Chapter of our Division Association will be meeting to chart a course of action to bring the camaraderie of association membership to this part of the state.

I would like to dedicate this column to the memory of Louis A. FAVUZZA, 1LT, Inf., who was killed on 29Apr70, while serving as the second platoon leader in A 1/7. Louis came to the Phantom Raiders because the Big Red One was deactivating and he still had time left in country. He brought a number of ideas to the company, some of which were not that well received, for example, the use of the AN-PRC 88 individual squad radios. The theory was good, but the design, at least when we were using them was poor. Perhaps nothing more than overworked equipment that had seen better days or the design that caught on every vine as you moved through the jungle. You remember this equipment don't you? The receiver was mounted on the helmet and the transmitter was hand held. I tried them once when I was OIC of the Green Sector of base defense at Quan Loi. I thought it could be a good back-up system to the landlines that connected the 20 bunkers in the Green Sector. The HHC 1/7 Commo Sergeant spent many, many hours, fiddling with crystals, and replacing parts until we both finally gave up. This of course was in the relative safety of the rear where time was not an issue and we could keep the equipment dry. Some might say a perfect place to try this experiment. I remember talking to Louis about this idea but it had worked for him in the Big Red One and he was determined to use it with us. Late in the day on the 29th, 2/6 came upon a bunker complex and was in the process of checking it out when they were hit from several sides at the same time. Shortly after the initial exchange, Louis was killed when an RPG round hit him. SSG Willie HORTON, took over the platoon and did an outstanding job of leading them through the melee. I had the honor of forwarding Willie's recommendation for the Silver Star to the Awards Branch, signed by all members of the platoon, on the back of an individual C ration box. During that same engagement the 4/6 element led by Mike BRENNAN also was ambushed while coming to the relief of 2/6. Owing to the grace of almighty GOD and the determination of those platoons only one other person was killed - Sgt. JOHNSON. Mike was also wounded along with about 15 other guys. I didn't

know Louis very well but have always felt that his death, in some way saved me. On the 29th, C 1/7 was on FSB FRANCES, licking our wounds from the 26th, after we had spent several hours fighting entrenched NVA. During that battle our six, Peter BOYEV and the 1/5's RTO, Manuel TORRES were killed and many others wounded. We were pulled out of the field on the 28th to regroup and get some replacements and rest. After Louis was killed, I went back to the Phantom Raiders as their XO. Because of that unfortunate event of the 29th, I remain convinced that I would not have survived Cambodia. For on May 17th, while going out to pick up an automatic ambush several members of my former 3rd platoon were killed by an NVA sniper. His fire was so very accurate and so very deadly. We believe that he fired less than 10 rounds but ended the lives of some very fine men: Alan MARTIN; Paul MARCIN; Wayne WUTZKE and Michael BLOOMFIELD. The first shot took out the radio and the second took out the M-60. Every other shot hit flesh and bone. On 24May, another horrific firefight in another bunker complex cost the lives of members of the first platoon: Ronald BLUE; Sammy MORRISON; Nick THOELE; Ruben LESS and Peter GILMORE. 26Apr, 17May and 24May were all Sunday's, and needless to say, the pucker factor was very high on Sunday during the remaining months of the Cambodian Incursion. This brings another request for unit identification of those killed during the Cambodian Incursion of May - June 1970 which continues to be a project of both Phil ZOOK and myself. To date we have identified, by unit approximately 100 of the 150 First Cavalry Division troopers who were killed in this 60-day period. If you know of anyone who was KIA in Cambodia, please pass that name and unit along to me. Many of those names were in the 1st Battalion. - Thanks.

It's time to plug another book by 1/9 author Kregg P.J. JORGENSON, LRRP - Company Command. This book chronicles the First Team Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols during the years '68-'69. Kregg continues his masterful way with words and captures the joy and heartache of recon and ground combat in the LRRP's. He knows first hand as he was there. Our own Mike BRENNAN is mentioned in a number of passages as well. As long (no pun intended) as I am plugging books, if you have further interest in the LRRP story, you should pick up the following reads: Phantom Warriors, LRRP's, LRP's and Rangers in Vietnam, Book 1; Book 2; and Book 3. All are written by Gary A. LINDERER, who served with distinction in the 101st Airborne Division. The stories are all true and a number of them pertain to the Cav and Kregg writes the introduction into Book 2. All are available in paperback and the heroism is found on almost every page. As most surely know by now, the movie version of the critically acclaimed book by LTG (ret) Harold G. MOORE and Joseph L. GALLOWAY, We were Soldiers Once...and Young, has been filming at Ft. Benning and California. Mel GIBSON is playing the part of the then LTC. Hal MOORE. More information can be found on this important work by viewing the information posted on the 7th Cavalry Website <us7thcavalry.com>. Jim SAVAGE continues to do a wonderful job of maintaining the site, which contains a number of links to other information regarding OUR 7th Cavalry. For example the site contains rosters from the Indian Campaigns, Korea and Vietnam as well as a section on New Members, Sustaining Members and those whom we have identified as KIA. He is working on a section titled past commanders and could use some help. JD COLEMAN's big book was a great help in providing unit commanders from RVN, but that work only goes through '69. Shortround MIGUT has provided a couple of names as have I, but since my tour ended in Sep70; my last BN CO was LTC Anthony LABROZZI. All names are welcome and you can send them to Jim or me. By the way this undertaking is era wide and not just limited to RVN. We need all commanders and their dates of command. We will be expanding this project to include the Battalion and Squadron Command Sergeant's Major. Your help is needed. Thanks Ron.

I have received permission from Art JUNOT to give an update of the health of the Association. I am pleased to report that OUR membership stands at an all time high of over 1700 members. For comparison the May '89 roster lists only 394 troopers. Since reunion '00, our ranks have grown by over 150 troopers,

and I believe this to be the single highest growth year in the history (since 1932) of the Association. Jim BRIGHAM, HHC 2/7, '65 and OUR Vice-President has done nothing short of a phenomenal job in recruiting troopers. The vast majority of these are 2/7 guys that Jim has made a personal commitment to find and steer into the Association. Having said that there must be a like number of 1/7, 3/7, 4/7 and 5/7 troopers who aren't members. For a lifetime fee of \$15 you receive the following: A membership Certificate, suitable for framing; a membership card; a current membership roster; and an updated addendum of new members since the last printing. You also receive the password to the secure areas of the Website. The new roster, going to print shortly, will also contain e-mail addresses. We are also looking for someone who wants to begin again the editing of the newsletter "Boots and Saddles." It would be great if during the next 14 months we could crack the 2000 member barrier and come up with an editor. A very special debt of gratitude is owed to Jim for his unselfish commitment of time, energy and personal finances to see the Association grow. A hearty GarryOwen is hereby given. Along with this growth we still need update addresses from almost 200 members. During the early spring there were two different mailings sent out, the primary purpose of which was to advise members on upcoming events relating to the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The second purpose and as YOUR Secretary/Treasurer my goal was to clean up the roster. So, if you didn't receive a mailing and you are a member of OUR Association, you are lost as far as the Association goes. Eventually we will begin mailing out newsletters again, so don't be left out. This also pertains to e-mail addresses, if you have one send me a happygram, so that I can include it in the roster. As Shortround likes to say, do it now, then it's done and perhaps your long lost best buddy from Korea, WWII, RVN, or Desert Storm will get in touch with you again. I wish I had access to the Social Security Data, as it would make finding people a lot easier. The 7th Cav Medical Company held their 3rd reunion, this past March in Dothan, AL. This year there were 16 medics, plus 2 other KWV and 13 spouses. Harold SELLEY reports that the "bonds of friendship and camaraderie were strong at the reunion. Each medic experienced a different occupation/profession since the war, in addition to homes, families, joys and disappointments. However the bond that was formed during the battle time in Korea has endured and been strengthened throughout the years. We would be willing to serve as combat medics again... even though we are now in a different age and physical bracket. The combat soldier of the Korean War has taken a lot of flack during the past 50 years. We know what goals were accomplished. We take great pride that we served in the 7th Cavalry Regiment." Well said Harold. Their next reunion is scheduled for 7-10Mar02 in Dothan, AL. Information can be obtained from Harold at 941.629.1142. Those in attendance were: Floyd AKINS, Carl BAFS, Melvin BASKETT, Chet BRILOWSKI, Buck BUCHANAN, Robert CLUTTS, Gleason GARRISON, Edwin KERSCHNER, Durward KNEPPER, Crit NASH, Carl PAGE, George PALMER, David REECE, Cay SIDWELL, Gerald SMITH, Bobby STINSON, Granville TACKET and Harold SELLEY. GarryOwen to these medics and to all who earned the CMB. Many are alive today because of the unselfishness and extraordinary heroism of the Combat Medic. One last plug for the A1/7 reunion to be held at the Plaza hotel on 16Jun in Killeen. The event is "hosted" by Tom RICHARDSON who served as one of the Phantom Raider CO's in '67. This event is open to any A 1/7 guy and I know there will be quite a few of you. Tom points out that this has been a group effort including four others that will make this happen. I look forward to a report of this mini reunion that I can share with you in the next column. My most treasured piece of correspondence this term comes from trooper Peter MEAGHER, who joined the Division Association two years ago. It seems that Peter ran into a guy at his Elks lodge one night that was wearing a hat with a First Cav Patch on it. Peter volunteered for induction into the Army in '44, leaving behind a wife and 2 children to fight for OUR Country. He had been a Sgt., for 4 years in Minnesota, and went through basic at Camp Wolters then joined the Division as a replacement PFC. Spent his combat time in the Luzon Campaign with B Troop and had "the thrill of my life marching into

Tokyo, along with 18000 others, ending up as a PSG and rotating home on points in Jan46. I feel very proud to have had a small part in WWII with such a famous Regular Army Division." Peter is now 81 years young and lives in Traverse City, MI. Dan PETERJOHN is running a support program for the troopers who are deployed to Kuwait under Task Force 3-8 Cav. A 2/7 is part of this deployment and they can use our support. Dan who served with the Cav in '90-'92 can be reached at < uhlan@aol.com > for more information. Gilbert D. (Del) WANTLAND writes to report that he hopes to be able to attend the West Michigan Chapter formation meeting this month. Del had been a relative new man in Charlie Company when he took a sniper round through his spine in '67. He says hi to any of his former buddies. The final piece is brought to us by Larry D. STEVENSON, who served in D 1/7 during the Ia Drang campaign and makes a very good suggestion to include information about interesting or funny tidbits that happened during a tour. "No sad, what ifs, or war stories, but something funny or odd that happened." Larry has provided a couple and I'll be happy to oblige, but like I keep saying (preaching and sometimes whining) if you don't send in material I can't share it with the group. Here goes. "They were on patrol one day along a small creek, just outside of the base camp perimeter. Up ahead a short distance, there was a commotion going on in a very large tree covered in vines from top to bottom. As we got closer, the monkeys scattered in all directions. Sgt. Robert GOMEZ called for a break and we (7-man squad) sat down and kept fairly quiet. Seeing that we posed no threat, the monkeys came back into that tree and resumed their playful manor. One large red-faced monkey was at the very top of the vine-covered tree. The smaller gray faced monkeys would come up, one at a time and attempt to throw him out (king of the mountain). This went on for sometime, until finally two (one from each side) came up and threw him out. I can still hear the chatter of the victors and their mates for a job well done. You would have had to be there." I'll save the next one for the next column. Special thanks to Mike KINNEY, A 1/7, who sent me 2 great photos: 1 of the 4th platoon, after they had uncovered a cache and the other of our rear area at Quon Loi. Happy reunion and 4th of July from Bob, Julie and the cats in Michigan and remember to e-mail me at Secretary@us7thCavalry.com with your thoughts and reminisces so that I can share them with the group.

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Your foxhole buddy is just a phone call away. Why not try to find him now?

If you have copies of orders for awards, company rosters or copies of morning reports any item with list of names you are urged to make copies and send to Jim Brigham for addition to the reference file. This file is used to verify those seeking membership and also to form search lists.