



The Official Newsletter of the  
**Seventh United States Cavalry Association**

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***Garryowen and Welcome ...***

*As I sit down to write this first column of the New Year I continue to be in awe of the troopers that are fighting our latest war. They are doing a magnificent job and deserve all of our support and prayers. Until a few days ago the battle casualties had been limited to one unfortunate instance of friendly fire and then came word that we had lost a Green Beret due to hostile fire.*

*On New Year's Day the media re-played the events of 11Sep and we were again frustrated, angered and saddened by what those events have done to us. It has made us resolute in our resolve to defeat those "evil doer's" and our Armed Forces are doing us proud in this war. May God Bless and protect them in this just cause.*

*I received a most welcome call from Mike BRENNAN on Veteran's Day, wishing us all Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year. The following members of the Association wrote cards, sent e-mail or phoned to express similar thoughts: Phil ZOOK; Hank GONZALEZ; Jim BRIGHAM; Jim SAVAGE; Joe GALLOWAY; Roger GALLOWAY and Bill RICHARDSON. The most special note, however came from Susan RESCORLA, who wrote to say "Thank You" for the memorial contribution that the Association had made to The Raptor Trust in honor of Rick. What a special lady and what a great man was he.*

*Larry GWIN's After Action Report of the Ia Drang gathering in Washington, DC is as follows. My lady, Nancy DELANEY, and I arrived on Friday morning courtesy of the shuttle from Boston. There was a 2/7 mixer on Friday evening, hosted and organized by Jim BRIGHAM with about 200 in attendance. The dinner was good, the ambiance relaxed and most everyone had some laughs and good fun. Sam FANTIANO paid a beautiful tribute to Rick RESCORLA and the "Seventh Cav Singers," presented a brief medley of the songs that we used to sing at the O Club. Saturday morning we toured the Wall, as well as made a trip to Arlington Cemetery. "Making the tour" wasn't as easy as I thought it would be this year. I guess that it never gets easy to see the names on The Wall, especially now that we know some new younger guys are picking up the slack. But we paid our respects to the guys and will whenever we are in Washington. After returning and visiting again in the Hospitality Suite it was time for the Dinner.*

*There were over 500 at this years banquet and what a great night for The Cav! Sam and I paid a more formal tribute to Rick and afterward Randall WALLACE (Producer) and Sam ELLIOTT (SGM PLUMLEY) took the podium and wowed us with promotional pieces, trailers, film clips and personal thoughts about the making of the film and the meaning of 11Sep. They were both good guys and gave excellent talks and we are all looking forward to the movie We Were Soldiers, scheduled for a March release.*

*Dawn came early and we were shuttled to The WALL for the annual tribute to our fallen brothers. At The Wall, about 200 people had already gathered, including camera crews from Dateline NBC, which filmed the ceremony. Songs were sung, the names were read, prayers were offered and remembrances made. Then we all went back for breakfast, good-byes and heading home - most that is. The hard corps stayed for the National Veterans Day ceremony at 1:00 and afterwards a brief remembrance at the Korean War Memorial. Lee GREENWOOD singing the National Anthem and later God Bless the USA, Randy WALLACE and Sam ELLOITT again making well-received remarks about the movie and an executive from Merrill Lynch talking about his experiences near the WTC on 11Sep and tying it in with his service in RVN. It was a good talk. The grassy area was crammed with vets, and the presentation, roughly an hour, went quickly. And that was it for us. Going back to work on Tuesday morning was a piece of cake (unlike other years when it has taken me a week to recover from the reunion). Perhaps it's a factor of growing up, or sobering up or just being in love. But whatever it is, this was the best reunion I've ever attended, and I just wish Rick RESCORLA and all of you who weren't able to make it could have been there. That's it.*

*God Bless and GarryOwen to you all! Great job Larry - thanks from those of us who couldn't make it. Joe GALLOWAY reports that the Dateline segment should be aired in late February. Ed WAGNILD sends an inspiring piece and I will pull out some excerpts. On 2Sep45, our troop ship steamed past the USS MISSOURI while the peace treaty was being signed. That night we slept on the docks in Yokohama. The next day we traveled about 40 miles inland and occupied the Japanese Military Academy. On 7Sep, A Major, a Lieutenant, a Japanese civilian and myself drove into Tokyo. The Japanese happened to be a US citizen and was wondering how things were "back home in San Francisco?" After we had accomplished our mission he took us on a tour of the city. It was eerie to drive through the streets having the civilians bow as we drove by. The city was officially "off limits" until 8Sep when MacARTHUR and the 7th Cavalry paraded in. This was our Grand Prize for our efforts in the Pacific. That evening, while walking around camp I became aware that elements of the 1st Cavalry Division were standing Retreat. It was impossible to see the whole formation, as about 2000 select men were participating in the ceremony. Behind the formation was a long line of US Field Artillery pieces on rubber tires and to their rear was one row of Japanese artillery with small bores and wooden spoked wheels. What a contrast! Then it dawned on me, here we are in the heart of the camp of the enemy that we had fought all of these long years. The war was over! We had brought the war to a favorable conclusion. So I stepped out facing the bugler, stood at attention and saluted OUR flag as Retreat was sounded. Could there possibly ever be a moment in anyone's life that could create a greater sense of pride than at a moment like that? Ed served in B Troop from '43-'45.*

*Bob McDADE, Bn CO at Albany, recently joined the Association and we welcome him. His membership gave me pause to ask where are the rest of the Battalion and Squadron Commanders and why haven't you joined the rest of us as members of the Association? You can sign up by sending your application to me. Let's see if we can get all of the current and former Commanding Officers to join up and ride again. Don KOPIS responded to an earlier article regarding length of service in the 7th Cav. While serving in*

*Tk Co during '54-'55 at Haugen they had a 1st Sgt. by the name of Alfred RHUNKE (sp) who had been in the Regiment about 17 years at that point. He had been with the Regiment prior to the war as a member of a mounted machine gun squad and they used to tease him when he came into the NCO club about cleaning the horse manure off of his boots before coming in. It seems as though when he would rotate to the states that he would immediately sign a waiver and then return back to the 7th. Don also says that "Top" RHUNKE epitomized what an NCO and 1st Sgt. Should be, "fair, never rattled and an exceptional leader." Thanks Don for this story.*

*Received word from Col (ret) Park A. SHAW of the passing of Warren A. PORTER on 6Nov01. Warren had served with distinction with the 7th Cav in the Pacific, receiving the Bronze and Silver Star for heroism.*

*Received an inquiry from Reinaldo "Rei" ESPADA who served in C, and HHC 5/7 from '68-'70. He enclosed a copy of an article from the 12Feb69 issue of the Cavalier whereby units from the 5/7 had captured one of the biggest caches of the war: 112,000 rounds of AK-47; 35,000 rounds of .51 caliber; 2,800 pounds of explosives; 643 mortar rounds; 40 107 mm rockets, 75 rounds of 57mm recoilless rifle; 125 Chicom rifle grenades and 45 RPG's. 2 other 5/7 troopers in the picture are 1LT William GERHARDS and SP4 Angel COEVAS. Rei would like to say hi to his buddies from the 5/7 and is especially interested if these 2 guys are still around. Rei, they aren't members of the Association but maybe this note will "shake the tree." Rei currently works for the V.A in Honolulu and is interested in starting a local Chapter of the First Cav Div Association. Martha, I will e-mail you his address and please send him the packet of information.*

*Received an interesting set of General Orders from Jim BRIGHAM (Association VP) dated 6Mar34 from HQ Third Army. This General Order is from Jim's Dad who was then stationed at Fort Sam Houston. I will cover the Training aspect of this General Order in this column. 1. To Shoot, to March, and to Obey. These are the fundamental requirements of a soldier. Shooting, as thus defined, includes the use of all weapons, and in the case of the Services, the use of all tools, machines and devices peculiar to such Services. Marching includes all forms of locomotion used in Military Service. Obedience includes Courage, Loyalty and performance of Duty. Upon these fundamentals rests the entire structure of Military Training in Peace and War. 2. The following "Essentials Of Training," comprising individual training and collective training to include the Brigade, are basic for the combat efficiency of the Arms and Services indicated. Active units of the Third Army are expected to maintain a high standard of proficiency in these essentials at all times. It is directed that the training of inactive units be commenced in these essentials upon M-Day and carried to proficiency in the minimum period of time. 3. Instructions covering the training of the Division, Corps and Army will be made the subject of subsequent instructions. Later installments will cover the following Essentials: Training Common to All Arms and Services; Training for Infantry; Training for Cavalry; and Training for Anti-Aircraft Artillery. Jim makes the point "How simple things were then."*

*Bob ANDERSEN reports that after arriving in Brisbane in May of '43 they spent some 6 months at Camp Strathpine in very intensive training and about Christmas of that year embarked for the jungles to the North. They traveled on a Dutch Motor ship that had been previously used to haul freight, particularly to the various islands in the region and was not geared up as a troop transport. As a result they were just packed into the holds and given hammocks to string from hooks in the ceiling. It was hot, humid and not conducive to comfort. Most of the men preferred to sleep on decks in the hold or if possible outside in the fresh air. But because of the crowded conditions it required a sharing of space to give everyone an opportunity to breathe the fresh air. We took the Inland Passage of the Great Barrier Reef from Brisbane to the Port of Townsville anchoring there for a day or two. This gave a few men the opportunity to do some fishing - catching mostly small sharks and provided a diversion from the oppressive conditions.*

*Eventually we weighed anchor and arrived at Oro Bay in New Guinea on 1Jan44. It was quite an awesome site to view all the landing craft in action moving men and material from ship to shore. One patrol travelling by weapons carrier ran over what they thought was a log but turned out to be a boa constrictor measuring over 18 feet in length. What a way to begin our stay in this hostile environment. Still waiting for volunteers to take over the Officer positions at the Colorado reunion.*

*Jim BRIGHAM has expressed an interest in running for President and I can think of no better person to take over from Bill RICHARDSON. Jim has done a marvelous job in bringing new members into the Association and our growth over the last 2 + years is in no small measure related to his dedication and efforts. The duties of the Officers of your Association are to build upon and foster camaraderie between the members. Take for example this particular column, covers details from '34 through the present day, and to us that is what is meant by fostering camaraderie among all veterans of the 7th Cav. Are you ready to take the challenge? You should visit the Movie Web Site of We Were Soldiers as you can download several outtakes from the movie - truly outstanding.*

*I recently received some information on Korean War Battlefield Tours. The first spring tour will be about the time this column shows up in your mail, the second tour is in April of the Northern Battlefields. According to the literature there will be tours in the Fall as well. California Pacific Tours is the guide and they can be reached at 888.822.5258 or e-mailed at info@cptours.com. The Cat from Hue: A Vietnam War Story by John LAURENCE former CBS News War Correspondent. With excerpts, the following review is provided by Jim BRIGHAM. John LAURENCE spent some 5 years covering the war for CBS from Hue in the North to Saigon. Part I deals with the Marines as they retake the Imperial City. Part II deals in part with the 1st Cav, starting with the attack on the Special Forces Camp at Plei Me and then the Ia Drang. Operations Masher and White Wing receive coverage, as do later battles. Correspondents had similar tours of duty to the Army and after 12 months they were rotated home. He then got an idea that he would like to follow a group of troopers and record their daily activities in the bush. After returning in Mar70 he follows a squad, led by the late Sgt. Lyman (Gene) DUNNUCK of Charlie Company 2/7 until HQ put out a censorship of their activities after a change of Company Commanders. I think I have that CBS video (ed.). Many years have passed since that long ago trek with Charlie Company and this book represents some 850 pages of narrative, providing the reader with a fairly accurate account of the daily lives of combat units and their reflections as they counted their remaining days in country. This book should be available by the time you are reading this column. Along a similar tack, many of Charlie BLACK's columns can be found on the Internet. Charlie spent many years in Vietnam as well, covering primarily the 1st Cav. Charlie wrote for the Columbus, GA local newspaper. Bob Cox A 1/7, writes to say what a wonderful time he had in Washington and that from everything he saw the movie will "be the best ever" on Vietnam. He also send kudos to Tom RICHARDSON for hosting the A 1/7 reunion at Ft. Hood, this past summer and he's hoping for a repeat performance in Colorado.*

*Norman J. GODFREY who served in C 1/7 in Korea writes from The Soldiers Home in Washington saying hi to the following buddies from that War: William E. ZOOK, CO, LT. COURTNEY, Doc GRANT, Jack PELOW and others. Gerhard BROSTROM e-mails a response to the request for call signs. As Mortar Platoon RTO in C 5/7 in '67 he was Crazy Horse 4/5 Indio and later became Bold Eagle 4/5 Indio. Gerhard says hi to Jim SAVAGE and to Wes WESTMORELAND (1st Sgt.). Received a request for information from Jack PARENTE who is inquiring about the Hill 54 battle involving Echo Recon of the 1/7 on 17Mar69 and if anything had ever been written about the battle. Yes Jack, with the help of Frank*

*RICHARSON, one of the heroic medics that was there and info from Richard SNIPES, who was also there, a narrative appeared in the Nov97, 7th Cav column. If Frank and Richard are reading, please get in touch with Jack at parente@optonline.net. It seems that we are in for another interesting winter here in MI. Up until 23Dec we had only received about 2" of snow but from the 24th through the 31st we got hit with 56".*

*Deer hunting was a success this year as reported by both Roger GALLOWAY and myself. Still need info on call signs and more troop transport stories from RVN and Korea. One more book that is worth reading, Once An Eagle by Anton MYRER. It is called America's War and Peace. A number of years ago it was made into a TV mini-series with Sam ELLIOTT playing the lead role. It's still in print and worth the effort. Thanks again to Art JUNOT for all of his tireless work on behalf of The First Cav Association. Be ever vigilant and never forget. Julie and I say hi and GarryOwen to all.*

Bob Anderson Scribe  
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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.

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