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J.S.(Jim) Brigham Jr.	Robert Arbasetti	Robert J. Anderson

Garryowen and Welcome ...

This article is due in Copperas Cove, 32 years to the day after the Incursion into Cambodia started on 1May. The 1/7 was operating out of LZ Frances at the time and C 1/7 had just been pulled back onto the firebase after a violent and costly firefight on the 26th of April.

In that fight we lost 2 troopers: Cpt. Peter K. BOYEV and SP4 Manuel TORRES and had about 15 - 20 wounded. That evening Dana B. DILLON, returned to the field as our new CO and on the 28th we went to the firebase.

That evening, I believe, we received a briefing in the TOC regarding the upcoming operation. Among other things we were told that once on the ground, there would be no guarantee that we could be extracted, if the situation turned completely against us. It was suggested that we take as much extra ammunition, radio batteries, smoke and fragmentation grenades as we could carry. At that moment in time, the 1/7, with Charlie Company in the van, was to be the lead rifle company air assaulted into the fray. Of course that was to change as Alpha Company in the late afternoon of the 29th became involved in their own violent firefight, and suffered two killed as they were maneuvering in a bunker complex near the firebase. 1LT Louis FAVUZZA and SGT JOHNSON were killed as well as another 15 - 20 wounded.

On May 1st, after loading on helicopters at Quon Loi, the ARVN flew over FSB FRANCES on their way into Cambodia and Charlie and Alpha switched places on the greenline. It would be another 10 or so days before the 1/7 joined the rest of the Division in that fight, and a bloody 45 days it would be. I still sadly remember listening to the radio traffic from C 1/7 indicating that members of my former 3/6 were shot down by an NVA sniper on 17May as they went out to pick up an automatic ambush from the night before (Mike BLOOMFIELD; Paul "Moon" MARCIN; Al MARTIN and Wayne WUTZKE).

On 24May another group from Phil ZOOK's 1/6 were killed while the company was maneuvering on the outskirts of a bunker complex (Ronald BLUE; Pete GILMORE; Reuben LESS; Sammy MORRISON and Nick THOELE). According to my records the 1/7 had 23 killed in Cambodia (15 of whom were from Charlie Company), including one, James A GREEN, whose body was never recovered, the 2/7 had 1

KIA and the 5/7 had 4. Of course I am still compiling these Cambodian statistics and to date have identified over half by unit and would welcome any information on casualties from the period 1May through 30Jun of '70 from any unit. Don GILLOTTI has also started an ambitious Project Sky Trooper, wherein all KIA's from RVN are going to be identified by unit. This is quite a task and certainly one worthy of the effort. Ideally, if you know of a buddy, or anyone that was killed, identify that person by name, date, unit and any other information that you can think of and forward same to either Don or myself.

Michael J. McGEE gives another recollection of 1st Sgt. RUHNKE: It seems as though Mike was assigned to the Cav from '58-'59 and was briefly introduced to Top RUHNKE who was referred to as "Mr. First Cav." LTC Fritz GEHRING was the Exec of the Regiment and was trying to get me into the unit as one of the Mortar Platoon Officers, but Division HQ had other ideas. Mike said that he enjoyed the coverage of the movie and plans to show the Saber to his daughters, so that they can see firsthand the pride we all share after serving with this great Division. and would like to chat with William COOK.

The screenplay of the movie is now available from Wheelhouse Productions and presents a facsimile of the shooting script, its cuts and changes, scene notes, never before seen photos, storyboards and correspondence from some of the real life people. An introduction by Hal MOORE, a forward by Joe GALLOWAY and an exclusive interview with Randall WALLACE, the director and screenwriter. Go to www.wheelhouse.com and click on the link to order a copy.

Bob WILSON, A 1/7 reports that a group of Phantom Raiders from '69-'70 just completed a mini-reunion on April 27th. Brian BLACKNEY was the organizer and the group consisted of Bob and Tina PALUMBO; Joe LAKE; Noble O'SHELL and his wife, Bob and Brian. They attempted to call Larry LUFYCY but his phone was busy. Most of these guys had not seen each other in 32 years. They shared photos, memorabilia and great conversation. Tina served up a wonderful meal and pretty soon it was 2200 (that's 10:00 p.m. to all of you civilians) and "past most of their curfews." It sounds like this group of 3rd and 4th platoon members had a wonderful time.

Received an application for membership from Mary Jean KUPISIEWICZ, daughter of the late J.M. SHEPHERD who was killed on 11Sep50 while serving as a MSGT with E 2/7. As Mary Jean was only 9 years old at the time, she would really like to speak with anyone who might have remembered her father. From documents that she sent to me, her dad was another long service 7th Cav trooper from '37 until his death. Mary Jean can be reached at 909.676.9228.

Received a call from Phantom Raider 3/6, John D. TALBOTT on 13Mar. John had posted a note on the Virtual Wall in January, honoring one of his guys that was killed in Cambodia on 14Jun - Jimmy MONTANA. Jimmy's son Matt read the posting and the two of them have been chatting and plan to get together in Atlanta this summer. Matt was just an infant when his dad was killed and has no recollection of him at all.

GarryOwen John! The spring 2002 issue of Places magazine contains an excellent article by former medic in D 1/7 Marc LEVY. It details Marc's return to Vietnam in 1995 via Singapore, Thailand, and Laos. From Saigon (yes it's still that to most of us) the bus ride to An Loc up QL 13 took 90 minutes and cost 60 cents. The 3rd Brigade Basecamp is "gone now, the former airstrip barely visible, with shards of tarmac scattered about as if strewn by phantom hands." The journey was to hopefully take him to the Bu Dop Special Forces camp, Song Be and FSB Fort COMPTON, built in Dec of '69 but after several attempts and some interaction with the local police, that part of the journey will be left for another time. I

still owe Marc the maps that will get him from Quon Loi to Compton, a journey of some 35 straight line clicks as the huey's flew. I've read a number of Marc's work and his efforts are very well done and quite thought provoking.

Our membership rolls continue to grow, helped by the Movie and the efforts of many members of the Association, too numerous to mention. Our membership roster will contain approximately 1800 names. Jim BRIGHAM and I had hoped to reach 2002 members by reunion time, but even so the Association has grown in total numbers by over 250 members since reunion '00 a fantastic 16.3% growth in 2 years. Our new restated goal for reunion '03 at FT HOOD is 2003 members and to achieve that goal, we need to average 17 new members a month for the next 12 months. I know that many of you reading this column are not members of the Association and I encourage you to send in that membership application today, including supporting documentation of service with the 7th Cav.

I am pleased to report that the financial health of our Association is also at an all time high. Jim has been working very hard to have the official 7th Cavalry Tartan Tie reintroduced for sale by reunion. This took a lot of work on his part and I'm sure that each of you will want to get one of these authentic woolen treasures. The Official Tartan has been woven in Scotland and shipped to Dunedin Scottish, Inc in FL. Shortly they will be cutting the tartan and sewing the ties. Advance orders can be sent to either Jim or myself and he has graciously volunteered to handle the receiving and subsequent shipping of your tie. There will be plenty but to insure that you get one send in your \$30 as soon as possible. Additional details will be posted on the Website.

Received a nice report of the 4th annual reunion of the Korean War Medical Company from early March courtesy of Harold SELLEY. Their roster now numbers 60 former medics and they encourage any former "Doc" to get in touch with them. They do not hold formal meetings and meet to share past memories and re-establish friendships, forged so long ago on the fields of battle. They have discussed moving the location from Dothan, AL, but for sure will meet there from 27-30Mar03. Those attending this reunion were: Carl BAFS; George PALMER; Harold and Marilyn SELLEY; Ed KERSCHNER and niece Janet LUDWIG; Floyd AKINS; Cay and Naomi SIDWELL; DA and Arlene KNEPPER; Bob and Simone CLUTTS; Bob and Ruby STINSON; Billie and Else NORRIS; Col. Buck BUCHANAN; Ed and Frances WILLIAMSON and Ed PROCHUCK. Further information can be obtained by e-mailing Harold SELLEY at hmselley@comcast.net. Harold closes by saying that all of us want to express our loyalty to the 7th Cav and to our wonderful United States. It is such a privilege to have served in Korea with the 7th Cavalry Regiment. He also points us in the direction of a Website titled koreanwar-education.org and suggests that we view the table of contents as there is a section called "God Bless The Doc's," which includes personal interviews and recollections. The New Yorker, February 8 issue had a wonderful 13 page article on Rick and Susan RESCORLA titled "The Real Heroes Are Dead." Your local library will have a copy and I am sure that you will enjoy the piece. Even if you didn't know Rick personally (I didn't), his persona literally jumps off the pages. If you served in B 2/7 at any time in your military career, you certainly should get a copy.

The week of May 6th the NJ Chapter hosted another tribute to Rick. More details will follow in the next column. Jerry "Snuffy" ARMSTRONG, C 2/7, Gun Squad Leader in '68-'69 is working on a re-union for their Company in early Aug of this year. Info courtesy of Mike BODNAR who writes the 15th MED column and also added to the listing of call signs. Please send those in so that I can include them in the upcoming roster, soon to go to print in the first week of June.

Bob SPIROFF, G Co during Korea continues to be very active in the Maryland Chapter of the KWV and in the Honor Guard. They perform many functions at various locations, although Bob laments that there are only 4 GarryOwen members of the chapter. Last June they were invited to Washington, DC by the Korean Ambassador to acknowledge the Korean government's appreciation for the assistance that the United States has and continues to provide to keep them free. The Minister of National Defense presented Bob, as well as the other veterans, the Korean War Service Medal as well as an appreciation letter signed by the President of Korea. Bob and the group continue to speak and provide both leadership and knowledge to local schools.

It is finally nice to see how much gratitude that people are finally paying to those that fought in the Korean War, some 50+ years ago. They, including Ray "Old Soldier" MORAN, still meet once or twice a month at the Ft MEADE Officer's Club. I would like again to take this opportunity to plug Bob's book, Korea, Frozen Hell On Earth, describing in detail what it was like during the early part of that conflict. I'm sure that copies are still available and you can e-mail me and I will put you in touch with Bob. Col (ret) Frank E. STILLMAN, Jr. has again retired after 32 additional years of service to the folks in and around Sarasota, FL, notably the Meals on Wheels Program where he served for 27 years. Before transferring to the Medical Service Corps Frank served as the CO of the Regiment.

Please make a note of Ron MIGUT, C 1/7 and begin to include him in your thoughts for column material. He takes over from me after the July reunion and will need your input to make the columns interesting. Since we both served in RVN, we are naturally most familiar with that part of the 7th Cav history. The other era's, with the possible exception of Desert Storm have been sending information on a fairly regular basis, but it still takes input from each of you to make the columns interesting to all. I know Ron and he has a great love for the 7th Cav and with your help (in providing material), he will do a wonderful job as the next scribe. I personally look forward to reading his columns for many years to come. Another book on the recommended reading list - Ripcord by Keith William NOLAN, detailing the battle for FSB Ripcord of the 101st Airborne during the summer of '70. It goes into things like daily ammunition rationing (what at obscene and ridiculous idea) and the brutality of the siege mentality of the NVA as they almost daily attacked this FSB. As usual Mr. NOLAN has done a masterful job of research and writing.

A hearty GarryOwen and welcome to CSM Dennis WEBSTER who will shortly be taking over the Executive Director position so ably filled by BG Arthur JUNOT these so many years. Art has been a wonderful friend and great sounding board to many of us 7th Cav Association Officers over the years and we wish him a wonderful "retirement." This brings to a close my 36th column as your reporter and as always, please keep our active duty soldiers, sailors and air crews in your thoughts and prayers. They go today where we went some 60, 52, 37, and 11 years ago - "In Harms' Way." As Top SPIROFF said "people are finally beginning to realize that Freedom Is Not Free." GarryOwen!

Bob Anderson

Secretary / Treasurer

The 7th United States Cavalry Association