



The Official Newsletter of the
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

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"GarryOwen" SIR!

Holey crapola! I can't believe I'm writing a Saber column. Geez, did I just say Holey Crapola?...I'm not sure I can say that but, what the hell! Most people just call me "Shortround" and no, it's not artillery related. I served with C 1/7 from Aug '66 to Aug '67. My last MOS was 11B60. I carried an M-79 and a .45 and later an M-16 and had occasion to hump C-4 blocks, detonators, and the ever popular LAW. I have been an FNG, a Fireteam Leader, and a Squad Leader. I have experienced the loss of friends, old and new, from firefights that I was in and from those that occurred after I returned back to "the world". For about 12 years I've been involved with what we called The 7th Cavalry Perimeter.

It really began as a C 1/7 search effort to find guys from 1967 who bumped into a group of C 1/7 guys searching for their 1965 tour buddies and then our search just expanded to all C 1/7 Vietnam tours. As this writing there are about 740 C 1/7 men (tours from 1965 to 1972) who have been "found" ...and hopefully a lot of them are reading this column now. There is also a B 1/7 Perimeter and a start-up HHC Perimeter and several groups of 2/7 Cav. And you should know that the 7th Cav Assn., which was formed in 1932, is banging away at bringing the rest of the Seventh under the association umbrella and that will help reunite many more "family of years gone by".

Aside from the 1st Cav. Div. Assn's annual reunion, where ninety-six 7th Cav troopers signed-in, there are always mini-reunions throughout the country. On Aug. 02-05, a group of B1/7 troopers and their wives met in Aurora IL hosted by Ed and Judi HUSS. The attendees, with tours spanning 1965 through 1970 were co-organizer Butch and Deb BRENNER, Jim DOLEHIDE, Chuck DOUGHERTY, Jim JURJEVIC, Brian and Ann KIELPINSKI, Charlie KOESTER, Bob KON, James HARKINS, Jim LAVELL, Bill LEE, George LIVINGSTON, Bert and Cindi PENCE, Don and Judy LITTLE, Will PARTIN, Peter SMALL, "Doc" Billy SMITH, Van and Alice WILSON. Former B 1/7 C.O. (LTC) George LIVINGSTON presented each man with black baseball caps bearing the Cav patch and the words "Live the Legend" on the front and "B 1/7 Cav, Garry Owen" on the back.

During the entire week of Aug. 04-10 - with the 7th being the target date, elements of C 1/7 1968-69

gathered in Ulen MN hosted by Earl and Silver WEERTZ. The attendees were Herman AKINS, "J.R." BEARD, David BLACK, Jack and Margie CASTLEBERRY, James "Al" DEATON, Del GOERLITZ, Raul GONZALES, Ron and Wanda GORE, Lynn and Pat HARDIN, Duane HODGE, Sheldon and Ruth METCALF, Ray PUCKETT, Gary and Jean SETTLES, Milt and Debbie SIMMONS, Bob and Grace SISSON. Jack CASTLEBERRY reports that the attempt to find just the right utensil to boil peanuts resulted in electric-sawing an old propane bottle in half. Jack noted that the two Fire Chiefs present, AKINS and BEARD, held their distance during the cutting. Jack admitted "it did kinda light up when we broke through".

As you might imagine, I can tell you a lot about Vietnam's C 1/7 and "some" of the rest of 1/7 and "a tad" about the 2/7 and 5/7 but really, what the heck do I know about WWI, WWII, KOREA, the GULF WAR, BOSNIA and other places where people tend to wear diapers on their heads? Well the answer is I know just as much as YOU are willing to educate me! But give me the big picture first and then whittle it down to a group experience. For example - The 1/7 Cavalry worked the central highlands from their in-country arrival to about November 1967 when they pushed north. TET 1968 found them in Hue and Khe Sanh [teaching jar-heads that they shouldn't stay put in one place too long and they can't necessarily stand up straight when one of "our Hueys" land. The AShau Valley experience taught us that helicopters too can have a graveyard and (this time publicly known) two excursions into the Ho Chi Minh trails of Cambodia, and finally the 1972 security of Saigon by the GarryOwen Task Force, also known as the "GarryOwen Brigade." [Note to the non-Vietnam veteran readers - The 1st Cavalry Division was the last combat unit to leave Vietnam in 1972. The fall of Saigon was THREE YEARS LATER and we Viet-vets want to make it clear to the rest of you that WE didn't LOSE "crapola!" - Hey? Can I say that?]. The GarryOwen Task Force actually consisted of the 2/5, 1/7, 2/8, 1/12, troop F, 9th Cavalry, Company H of the 75thInf, the 229 Aviation and a whole slew of arty and support units. So "GarryOwen" was really not always generic to the 7th Cavalry. Actually, a gentleman renowned to those of us who attend the Veterans Day festivities in DC showed me a Civil War photo of a Union Officer sitting with two Confederate Officers and the caption beneath the photo read "Lieutenant George Armstrong Custer, 5th Cavalry". FIFTH CAVALRY! Omygosh!

Now we have to salute and say "Black Knight-GarryOwen, SIR!" Now, I cannot 'rat out' on the guy who has that photo but he is a 2/5 veteran and his initials are - "George ROGERS". Speaking of DC - this year is the 20th Anniversary of The Wall and THIS is an 11th hour reminder for YOU to book your room and mail in your check for the Ia Drang Banquet. NOW is the time to nail down your hotel reservations at the Hilton Crystal City at National Airport, 2399 Jeff Davis Hwy, Arlington VA, for the 1st Cav Reunion and Ia Drang Dinner November 7-11 this year. The hotel is offering a 1st Cav reunion rate of \$99 a night, parking included. Call 800-774-1500 for the Hilton Reservation Line, or 703-418-6800 for the hotel itself. Nail down a room. They are going fairly quickly and only a limited number are to be had. Tickets! For tickets to the Ia Drang Dinner on Saturday November 9 write your check for \$50 per plate to Ia Drang Dinner and mail it to Joe GALLOWAY [Last year, people waited for the last minute and they also waited again "outside the banquet room"]. DO IT. DO IT NOW!

I believe it is important for each of you to know that the VA is now making the Hepatitis C test "mandatory" for all Vietnam Veterans - whether they were wounded or not. HCV is a recently detected virus that has, or more appropriately stated "had," a 30-year incubation period (...not the kind of souvenir we intended to bring home). The most important thought is that, if you have been carrying the virus in your blood, you probably would have passed it on to your children. So? Are you going to sit around at home and "wonder" about this or are you going to un-ass that chair and get an HCV

check-up? Let me also take this opportunity to quote some VA literature on PTSD. "If you have very strong disturbing memories of a traumatic event [now, I would tend to think that that could mean combat]; have nightmares of a traumatic event; suffer from severe insomnia; feel isolated from others; are depressed; have attacks of extreme anger; abuse alcohol or drugs; feel that you must always be "on guard"; have poor concentration; startle from loud noises - you may have PTSD." For those of you who believe that PTSD is something like being "nuts" then know that I personally resent that implication of my mental capacity. PTSD is now more prominently associated with traumatic events in schools concerning our children. But you know, when I got off the plane from 'Nam, I must've missed seeing the counselor that the Army sent to meet me at the airport to discuss the traumatic events of my tour. For the sake of the 'flower children' who might be reading this column, "that was intended sarcasm". In any event, PTSD is not curable but it is treatable (and the treatment keeps me out of jail. I mean, the treatment can keep people out of terrible and awkward situations). I have openly mentioned PTSD in this column because a lot of people think of it as something that should be "whispered" (like the word 'cancer' was in the 1950's). From my perspective there are some of you who feel branded by it but the fact is that, in a room of veterans, you do NOT stand by yourself - and because YOU ARE CAV, you never will, just as you never have. It's a combat scar and you shouldn't be ashamed of it.

Some of you may not know this but there is a 1st Cavalry Division Museum. It's located right on post at Fort Hood. Many of its 'treasures' were donated to the museum by fellow Cavalrymen over the years. We face the potential of losing our museum and its artifacts. Seems the current building does not hold up to building code and, if a fire system isn't installed by next year, the building will be closed and its content - the official property of the US Army - could be disbursed to other post museums throughout the country, or simply placed in storage "somewhere". The 1st Cav. Div. Assn. plans to form a committee to raise funds for the code upgrade - or erection of a new museum building. If you have fund-raising experience - your Cavalry needs your assistance one more time. A committee would be similar to the "Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial" which was responsible for obtaining the funds to build it and that continues to maintain that memorial. About the only assistance that can be expected as government funding is the allocation of the land that the building is/will sit upon. So let's anticipate being 'drafted' into this Cavalry call-up. How about we all start with an empty jar and we begin to fill it with the loose change from our pockets at the end of each day? In a few months, when the committee is capable of soliciting funds, you'll already have 'saved' for the event. And for those of you who can afford it, you can even round off the jar's content to an even fifty bucks.

Hey! In New York City, that's less than the cost of a carton of brand name cigarettes. Not many people can just reach into their pocket and whip out a twenty or a fifty for this 'worthy cause'...the protection of your history but, if you begin by tossing loose change into a jar "today" then tomorrow's twenty is a piece of cake (and yes, as a senior-member of the Board stated, a whole bunch of individual fives do add up to a lot of twenties). You ARE Cavalry. You eat, sleep, and drink, Cavalry. The music of 'GarryOwen' or 'Around her hair she wore a yellow ribbon' stirs the blood flowing through your veins. You ARE Cavalry and we both know that you will do whatever you are capable of doing to protect and preserve YOUR Cavalry heritage.

I attended the recent meeting of the Board of Governors and listened to MG PETERSON explain to the Board that the greatest training asset to his men is the ability for them to sit and talk with the Cavalry veterans of the association during the national reunions. He said that his troopers can learn everything there is in a textbook but there is no training that competes with their ability to sit with combat veterans and listen to and absorb the tales of hands-on experience and share in that camaraderie. The

relationship of his active duty troopers and that of the association's experienced veterans is, in his opinion, one the most important assets of our annual reunions. "Black-Knight-GarryOwen" SIR!

Congratulations are in order for the 3/7 Cav. We are advised that the 3/7 has recently completed a very successful NTC rotation with 2nd Bde, 3rd Infantry Div. (Mech). This was the first time in over 3-years that the squadron was able to maneuver with all of its assigned units as its air and ground troops had been separated through several deployments. The squadron was able to perform exceptionally, acting as the eyes and ears of the 52d and 2BCT. The squadron was able to become combat ready in less than 120 days. A marvelous feat! At the end of July they completed a Hellfire Shoot with their air troops. During August and September, "Apache" and "Bonecrusher" Troops respectively will attend the Joint Readiness Training Center with "Apache" supporting the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and "Bonecrusher" supporting a Brigade from the 82nd Airborne Division. The squadron stands ready and vigilant to accept any mission and stands ready to be the Eyes and Ears of the 3d Infantry Division and the Iron Fist of the XVIII Airborne Corps.

As for the 2/7 "Ghost Battalion", the battalion was decisively engaged in a training cycle in its deployment to the NTC under the operational control of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. That train up has included Bradley Crew and Platoon Qualification Gunnery, Platoon Lanes, and Company/Team Lanes. Then they deployed for a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise followed by their Task Force External Evaluation. These training events were followed by a Command Post Exercise at Fort Carson, CO and the Leadership Training Program at Fort Irwin, CA - all prior to their deployment to "the box" to close with and destroy the dreaded OPFOR of the 11th ACR! In the words of their Commanding Officer, "that is a quick snapshot of life in the Ghost Battalion! The CSM and myself want to thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our Association! All that have gone before us did and we continue to put..... The Seventh First!

My "thanks" to Jim SAVAGE at the 7th Cav Assn. website [www.us7thcavalry.com] for relaying the 3/7 and 2/7 updates. This is probably the right time to remind each of you that there is a US 7th Cavalry Regiment Association. If you want to become a member of this 70-year old association you should send a check for \$15.00 (Associate Membership \$25.00) payable to The 7th Cavalry Assn. and mail it to Robert J. ANDERSON. Be sure to include a note with your full name, nickname, your 7th Cav. unit and tour dates AND attach a set of 7th Cavalry Orders that have your name on it (or else your application could be rejected - except for Associate Memberships). I would like to take this opportunity to convey the association's sincere appreciation to Bob ANDERSON for his six years of commitment to both associations in his capacity as a past-President, the Secretary/Treasurer and the Saber's Unit Scribe of the 7th Cav. Assn. - Bob, "Garryowen" SIR! for your service to those that served and for your past service as a line officer with both C 1/7 and A 1/7 during those 1970 incursions into "Uncle Ho's" Cambodian supply lines.

On the topic of heroes, be advised that Texas Highway 190, running from El Paso to the Louisiana Border will soon be renamed as the "1st Cavalry Division Memorial Highway". Also, the DVD and VHS release of "We Were Soldiers" was scheduled for August 20th and there is the potential of re-releasing the movie in theaters later in the year (Veterans Day sounds prime to me but I don't make the decisions). "Hero" is a not a title that is restricted to the men and women who receive medals and citations for heroic actions and acknowledged feats of bravery. Nor is it restricted to those who died under combat conditions. It is, in recognition of today's events and demands upon them, a title deserving to those active-duty members of our Armed Services who are at this very moment - serving our country and protecting its many freedoms. May God Bless and watch over all of our Cavalry heroes. Legislation was

passed in Oct.2000 to create a Veterans History Project (American Folklife Ctr at the Library of Congress). Its mission is "to collect the memories, accounts, and documents of war veterans and those who served in support of them during WWI, WWII, and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, and to preserve their stories of experience and service for future generations." This is a perfect opportunity for our Cav Chapters, as well as for 'coordinators' of the various mini-reunions or your local post/legion hall to undertake by obtaining Project Kits for the purpose of recording your experiences as a part of the Veterans History Project. Project information and the request for kits can be obtained online at www.loc.gov/folklife/vets or by calling their message line at 1-888-371-5848. The program calls for interviews to be recorded on VHS, digital video, cassette, microcassette, and CD or digital audio media. It is presumed that the interviewer will have one of the required recording devices. There is no Registry or referral for veterans who'd like to be interviewed however you can contact the project to find out if any of their 350 'Official Partners' are in the veteran's area. These would include certain local organizations, universities, schools, historical societies, etc. that have taken on the project at a local level. Well, that's about it for this patrol. Now go look for that empty jar, make a phone call or two about your fund-raising abilities and/or about the Veterans History Project, log onto the Internet, join the 7th Cav. Assn. - check the expiration on your Saber and - get involved. Only YOU can keep our special network functioning. Until the next patrol, be well, stay well, and more important than anything else, walk tall - you are CAV!

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