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"Garryowen"

The deadline for this issue was pushed up in an effort to produce a current SABER issue for the June 2003 Reunion at Fort Hood. As I finalize this article, it is a memorable Easter Sunday morning. Last night, or more appropriately shortly before midnight, I was glued to the CNN television channel as our POW's returned to U.S. soil. The returning flight with the POWs landed in Ft. Bliss where, at a later point in time, our First Cavalry Apache airmen would continue on to Ft Hood. But the First Team's C.G., MG Joseph F.H. PETERSON had already dispatched a smaller and faster jet to Ft. Bliss to expedite their return "home".

I watched with great pride as some 600 troopers stood in formation to pay tribute and greet CW2 David WILLIAMS and CW2 Ronald YOUNG as they arrived at the Ft. Hood airfield. I watched with great pride as CW2 YOUNG stood on the podium, obviously overwhelmed by the outpouring for their return, and pointed twice at the patch on his arm and shouted with determination to the cheering crowd "FIRST CAV! FIRST CAV!" It was very late but I don't think it was my own exhaustion that caused the trickle of tear that ran down my face at that moment.

Today's cavalry greeting is "FIRST TEAM!" The response is "HOOAH!" Last night we observed the civilian translation of those words. They are "FIRST CAVALRY!" and the response is "FAMILY!" Amongst the "family" also in attendance were Cathy, Mrs. Gen. Tommy FRANKS and Janice, Mrs. CSM John SPARKS. That is living proof that once the 1st Cavalry Division patch is sewn on the shoulder it is forever embedded into one's heart. CW2's WILLIAMS and YOUNG are part of the 1st Bn, 227th Aviation. The 1/227 and the 68th Chemical Company were the only two First Cavalry units deployed to Iraq though I believe that initially the entire division was expected to enter Iraq from the north - through Turkey. Politics prevented that from happening. None-the-less the division stands ready willing and able to deploy whenever and where ever they are needed. FIRST TEAM!

The 3-7 Cavalry, under the 3rd Infantry Division insignia, has been the subject of many headlines from the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their tenacity and success have expanded the pages of the 7th Cavalry Legend. Following are some of the wishes posted at the 7th Cavalry website www.

us7thcavalry.com:

MESSAGE: To all of you at 7th Cavalry. Good luck and god Bless as you undertake your duties in IRAQ. Australia sends their best wishes. JOHN ARTHUR@ vact.vic.gov.au -

MESSAGE: Just a quick thank you here...God Bless you and your charge into Iraq. You are fighting the good fight. You are needed to do what is right...we are proud of you and are praying for you...You are the reason why America, North America and the Western World is what it is. God Bless. GILLIGANSBOY@ hotmail.com -

MESSAGE: Most proud to see the 3/7th Cav leading the way into Iraq for the 3ID, just as we led the way for the 3ID in Europe. Look out world, here we come! TMAY4@ triad.rr.com

MESSAGE: As I watch your troops cross the Iraqi Desert on CNN television I am filled with pride at being an American and a retired member of the US Army. My prayers are with you as you complete a mission that makes us all proud. CALDWELLGE@ aol.com -

MESSAGE: My name is Harold Koehler, son of Myron Koehler who fought in the 7th Cav during WWII. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for my family and myself to all that are serving in the 7th Cavalry today. I was guaranteed life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness due to the sacrifices of my Father and those that served with him. My son's are able to pursue these dreams as well, thanks to the brave Men and Women that serve today. Godspeed 7th Cav, Godspeed! HKOEHLER@ aerounion.com -

MESSAGE: Been watching the 7th Cav on CNN. Awesome display. You Rock!!!! My thoughts and prayers are with you all. MIKE.GOODMAN@ sas.com

MESSAGE: Never once have I felt such great pride to have been with the 7th Cav---there is no other elite unit like it. Most significantly, are the young men & women who contributed to completing the 7th's Mission and the general mission & goals of the recent disturbances in Iraq. Now, I believe, the stigma of the Nam-Cambodia Vet can be somewhat alleviated. Most of my fellow Vets with whom I deal with daily, come & chit-chat with me and to read & look at the goings on of the 7th. Our prayers and hopes were with you all the way! We all criticize our government and yes, even the Army--and we're down right obliged to, as both citizens and Vets. But you know what, the good and not so good aspects of our Nation only strengthens our resolve to be if not the best Nation, a leading Nation; and, this Land of ours, I'll do anything for My Republic! You, the current active duty Troopers, I applaud you! A damn hard task well done; you may not hear it often, but thanks for being there! Bless us all & Garryowen! ISLAS.DANIEL@ wls-la.med.va.gov -

MESSAGE: I've been watching the 7th Cavalry on TV now for about a couple of weeks and am just writing to tell you how proud I am of the members of the 7th Cavalry, especially Capt. Clay Lyle. God Bless you guys and come back home safe. BARCZYN@ brownbain.com

MESSAGE: I just want to thank you for your reporting on the 3-7 Cavalry during this tough time of war. I have a son in the 3-7 and it somehow helps to know where he is and of course, prayer is the best I can do. God Bless you. Garryowen, Debbie. BHARGEN@ mindspring.com

MESSAGE: Greetings from Canada. Our government may not back the U.S. in bringing FREEDOM to Iraq but there are many Canadians that do support you all in our hearts. Yes we can say God Bless

America. Last year when a U.S. pilot dropped a hot one on my son's unit (PPCLI) in Afghanistan it was two days before I found out my son was alive, and I can still say God Bless America. After this no one can ever say America keeps FREEDOM to herself. To the 7th Cav when you get down town we know what you can do. Garryowen. MRBCOMPUTERS@ hotmail.com.

And last but not least, from Bob ANDERSON - C 1/7 and A 1/7 69-70, Treasurer of the US 7th Cavalry Regiment Assn. - Wednesday, April 02, 2003, I sent this morning, an Honorary Membership to the whole Squadron in care of their C.O. to the APO that Jim SAVAGE provided. I also thanked them for their service and how proud we are of them carrying on the tradition of the 7th Cavalry. Garryowen!

And a wrap-up on 3-7 with some words from their Commanding Officer to Jim SAVAGE at the 7th Cav website -

"Thanks to you and all the members of the association for their kind words and more importantly for keeping all the troopers in their thoughts and prayers. The troopers of this wonderful organization performed every task far superior than I would have ever dreamed. Their ability to move so aggressively, take the fight to the enemy, and not have any loss of life, leave me speechless! There's no one more in awe of their accomplishments, nor can I tell you how proud I am to be the commander of this great unit and a member of such an elite association of professional soldiers!

V/R LTC Terry Ferrell Sabre 6. GARRYOWEN!!!"

I can only hope that an invitation will be extended to the 3-7 for our June reunion, should they be stateside by that time.

A C 1/7 report from the recent Nashville TN Ia Drang Veterans Reunion from Bob KINCAID - "We had 11 from Charlie Company. Hardy BROWN and Jimmy BULLARD attended for the first time ever. Hadn't seen them since 1965. Also attending were Max HURRELBRINK, Jerry M. SMITH, George JENNINGS, Bill FRANKLIN, Charles DASHNER, James COMER, Don CAMPBELL, and Martin LATIQUE."

Now chances are that this will reach you too late to make plans to attend the June reunion at Ft. Hood but, there are First Cavalry "family reunions" in Washington DC every Veterans Day and during the 1st Cavalry Division Assn reunion every mid-year. There is a handshake out there just waiting for the clasp of your hand. Don't let the time or that opportunity pass you by.

A few messages for the C 1/7 Perimeter. I have shared the Perimeter Name & Address list with former B 1/7 CO Richard TAYLOR of Acworth GA. He is writing a history of the 1/7 Cav in Vietnam from 1964 to the last man out in 1972. He is interested in talking to eyewitnesses from each phase or year of the conflict for battle accounts and stories related to non-battle activities, as well as in speaking with spouses who can relate what it was like on the homefront while they waited for their trooper to return. I asked Richard to feel free to contact anyone in the C 1/7 Perimeter. My offer does not obligate you in any way. After 30-plus years many of you have loosened up to the point of openly expressing yourself and this could be your opportunity to do so, somewhat for the record. Please extend all courtesy to him, should he contact you.

I received correspondence from a C 1/7 veteran of '69 who I'll call "Tim". Tim has a case of the ass with my nickname. His point is that a short round represents friendly fire upon our own troops and that I should drop the nickname. Now that nickname was given to me on two separate occasions during my service. The first time was in Basic Training (at Ft. Hood under an Old Ironsides unit patch). My PSgt towered over me one day and said he'd decided to call me Shortround (I prefer a one-word spelling). He

said a short round is a mortar or artillery projectile that lacks sufficient 'powder' to achieve the elevation needed to reach its destination. Being 5 feet 4 inches, 106 pounds, and looking like I was 14 years old he hesitantly suggested that Poppa didn't have enough powder to elevate me to the height where I should be in life (the next day he made me a trainee squad leader). In AIT there was already an established Short Round person so I opted for "Midge" and I carried that into Vietnam up until my entry into C 1/7. The two men, who ultimately were responsible for my combat upbringing, Ron LAWRENCE and Larry PAYNE, looked at me for the first time and then began to discuss what name they were going to give me. I had no role in the decision. In their eyes and in the eyes of others, "Shortround" just seemed to be the name that was appropriate for me. I have been to many reunions bearing that name on my name-tag and received only smiles from fellow veterans and a few pats on the back from the ARTY types. I have no intention of changing anything about who I am. "Tim" you claim to have served under C 1/7 Captains Stilwell and Flesch. They are only two of the four 1969 C 1/7 commanders. I have one of the larger collections of C 1/7 Vietnam issued Orders to be found. I have complete Company Rosters for 10 May 1968, 1 May 1969, 1 April 1970 and I just cannot find your name on any of those orders or rosters. What was your tour? The C 1/7 Perimeter lists over 200 men who served at some time during 1969. I'd be happy to help you find someone who knows you. Please feel free to contact me personally with further information about your tour. Copies of orders with your name on them would also be very helpful.

Note to all of the computer legions. There is a website that was created to identify each of the KIA's of the war in Iraq. It is a scroll-down list with thumbnail photos of the service men that have fallen so far in the war with Iraq. They span the ages of 19 to 50. It's a very touching site. Go to <http://ron.keller.name/Blessed/RollCall.html>. It's time to close out this column and I can think of no better way then to utilize some quotes from early this morning. "I am overwhelmed by the tremendous support received from you all. I'm speechless. Keep praying for those soldiers who are still fighting."

CW2 David WILLIAMS. "I say a special prayer each night for our fallen comrades, for the soldiers that didn't make it home, and the ones that are still over there. I want everyone to remember them in their prayers. CW2 Ronald YOUNG. "First Team Troopers! Two of your own have been returned to your ranks. This serves as testimony to the skill, daring, and resolve of our military to leave no soldier behind. God Bless you all and God Bless America!" MG Joseph F. H. PETERSON. ["First Team!" and "Garryowen", SIR!]. Their messages are brief yet in continuity.

There are still United States and coalition soldiers on hostile ground. You CAN do something for them...it is called prayer. Combat veterans should have no difficulty in this area. You need only visit a house of worship, or sit alone, and respectfully begin with these words "Hey. Remember me?" Hopefully the next issue of SABER will speak of the return of all of our armed services from Iraq. Until then be well, stay well, and more important than anything else, walk tall - YOU ARE CAV!

Ron Migut
Boots & Saddles Staff Writer
The 7th United States Cavalry Association