



The Official Newsletter of the
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

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"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

I regret to inform the regiment of the passing of Julia MOORE on April 18th. By all definition "Miss Julie" is truly the "First Lady" of the 7th Cavalry. She will be missed by all who have come to know her. Our sincerest condolences are extended to Gen. MOORE and family. Please keep in mind that this article was submitted to SABER on April 20th. A lot can and will have changed from the time the actual newspaper is in your hands. Our First Team is at war. As I write this, the current events in Iraq are being compared to a mini-TET of 1968. TET 1968, as was reported by the media, was the turn of our "home-support" for the war and its soldiers. The media did not at the time, nor when it was later learned, report that the TET Offensive resulted in severe casualties upon the attacking enemy and basically decimated the Viet Cong forces of South Vietnam. Not too much has changed, with regard to the media feeding frenzy about the attacks in Fallujah. There have been US casualties. That is what one anticipates with war. It is not my intent to minimize war or to make any comment about this war except to say that we, the veterans of the 7th Cavalry, will stand by our troopers and support their families today, and every day. The thoughts and prayers for our Garryowen troopers are a constant, in our hearts and our minds. I cannot see into the future but my present thoughts are to report nothing more than is provided to us by the 7th Cavalry unit commanders. I trust that readers are in agreement with that decision. There is a First Team Trooper Support Program being finalized. We will be given the name of a "unit Point of Contact" [POC] as well as suggested items to send to our troops. The POC info is not available to me, as this writing, but look for it elsewhere in this SABER. Otherwise, email me and I should be able to reply with the POC info.

I attended the first meeting of the NY Troop of the NY-NJ Chapter of the 1Cav Div. Assn. this weekend. Larry CONNORS [B 1/7 '68-69] – a NY Fire Chief assigned to the Fort Totten NY facility was our POC and we were given consent to hold the first meeting at the Bayside Historical Building by its Executive Director, Geraldine Spinella. The building is on the Post, about ¼ mile inside the main gate. It was constructed by Army Engineers which kind of explains its outside shape of...what else, a castle...as in

the Engineers insignia. Joe PENZARDI is our Troop Commander and he sent out notices to all of the 1st Cav Div. Assn. vets listed in the NY metro area. Attendance was approximately 50 veterans [1/7 2/7 5/7CAV, 8CAV, 8ENG, 12CAV, 17AVN, 227AVN, 229AVN – WWII, Korea, Vietnam] + 4 wives and a friend of the 7th Cav, Ms. Marian Betancourt, who penned a History of the 7th Cavalry for the June/July 2003 issue of Irish American magazine. About 40 of the vets were “new faces” and for some of them, this was their first ever Cav get together. There’s no doubt that they’ll be back for our Fall meeting and I wouldn’t be surprised if that number doubled. I finally met up with Wilfredo LLENZA, [C 1/7 ‘66-67]. He served in the 3rd plt. while I was serving in the 1st plt. We had some shared memories and next time I’ll bring better eyeglasses to view his photos.

And from the ‘you’re never gonna believe this’ list - Jose RODRIGUEZ [A 1/7 ‘68-69] gave me a lift home (I’d taken the bus there) and he said he was told that he was a replacement for a guy who fell out of a Huey in the A Shau Valley. I repeated a story I’d heard from an officer who’d been in the A Shau. The A Shau was always in a heavy cloud cover and inbound birds had to fly over the clouds and then “guess” their way down to a landing. But “Charlie” had heavy weapons and, when he heard the birds, would open up and strafe the clouds (similar to what we saw on CNN during the first Iraq war). The officer was looking across at another bird carrying his troops and saw the green tracers come out of the clouds in front of the bird. As the pilot swerved to avoid the rounds, a man fell out of the side door and disappeared into the cloud cover below. [MIA as this writing]. Jose said that pretty much sounded like the same story he’d heard and then told me of his intent to contact his platoon leader, Lt. FIGUERO. That would be “Arturo” FIGUERO who initially told me his story when I met with him at the Alligator Alley Bar in NYC about 2 yrs ago. Small world, huh? Note to all NY Metro area vets – The Moving Vietnam Veterans Memorial. “The Wall”, will be on display at Cunningham Park from October 2nd through 9th. That’s Utopia Parkway and 196th Street in Queens. Mark your calendar right now.

The 57th annual reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division is taking place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from June 9th to June 13th. I will not be attending it due to a family commitment but I am hoping for some ‘after action’ reports from those that do attend and I especially would like to hear about the mini-reunions that occur within the division assn reunion. Joe PERSAUD (B 1/7 July 69-70) advises there is a “special invitation” from the B 1/7 Class of 69-70 to all Vietnam Era B 1/7 reunion attendees, and their family, to join them in their “non-smoking” Hospitality Suite #5525 at the Four Points Hotel in Milwaukee from Noon to Noon, Friday and Saturday, June 11th and 12th. It is a BYO food and beverage invitation and you are encouraged to bring along pictures, albums, or other ‘show ‘n tell’ items. So let’s see how many B 1/7 types can fit into Suite #5525, huh? RSVP to Joe at JPers73235@ AOL.com. Joe, I’m expecting a lengthy after action report of your gathering.

There is always something unexplainably “special” when men who shared a foxhole or tent reunite. The Ia Drang survivors have been doing it for years and they still maintain their own (survivors only) reunion earlier in the year as well as a regrouping in DC for Veterans Day – over and above their attendance at the 1st Cav Div Assn annual reunions. In the past, I have expressed similar views of reunion and now I would ask each of you, the SABER readers, Can all of these men be wrong?

No Way. Vietnam vets are not alone in that thinking! I had the opportunity to read the 38th Newsletter of the Korean War Veterans Chapter of the 7th U.S. Cavalry Assn that was sent to me by its newly elected president, Don DONNELLY [HQ Co.]. His email is SargeDonnelly@ Comcast.Net. The KWV7CAV has 1163 members on their rolls which includes five new recent members. Their 2003 reunion was held in Metairie, Louisiana and 175 members attended. Their 2004 reunion will be in Branson Missouri from

September 8th to the 11th. Branson is closest to the Springfield Airport - a \$30.00 bus run for the 45 minute trip. Their HQ is the Ramada Inn at 1700 W. Hwy 76 in Branson (800) 641-4106 or (417) 334-1000. The room rate which includes the tax is \$56.29 per night. The registration deadline, to obtain the "7th Cavalry Regiment" group rate, is September 5th. Saturday's banquet seats are \$20.00 with the required "advance registration". There will also be a contingent of the 7th Cavalry KWVA at the Milwaukee reunion and a variety of mini-representation throughout the year. Walter SCHRANK [F Co.] advises that he still meets with a bunch of Korean War Veterans for breakfast in San Jose every Tuesday and that includes Korean Senior Citizens and their English interpreter. Walter also marched with the ROK contingent in the local Veterans Day Parade. His email is WaltMari@ Earthlink.Net. Robert THOMAS [C Co.] attended the Metairie reunion and had this to say "I shared a room with John PELOW. Fifty-three years ago we shared a foxhole. I know similar things have happened to others and that's one of the great and wonderful things about this organization. We have been given a second chance to see the rest of the story. I love it...I enjoy being around my Korean War pals. I cannot tell, full measure, the wonderful and exciting experience of once again seeing and sharing with 5 of the 8, of Lt. MARSLENDERER's platoon, who lived through that first night when the Chinese hit us in SinChang-Ni." [See page 20 of the March/April SABER and the continued "Battle of Sinchang-Ni" in this issue of SABER]. I'll wrap up the KWVA Newsletter with a nutshell-quote from the KWVA's vice-president, Robert "Snuffy" GRAY [G Co.) - "The purpose of our reunions, unless I'm wrong, is to get together to visit with old friends and enjoy each other's company." Also, this is a reminder to the members of KWV7CAV that it's time for your \$10. dues to be sent to Secretary KWV7CAV, 311 Southbrook Circle, Houston TX 77060.

I received the following recollection from Kenneth FLYNN [F Co. Aug. to Dec. '51 when he was evacuated to Tokyo Army Hospital]: "We arrived in Korea in August 1951. I was one of a group of 16 that were assigned to Quartermaster Companies and who had not been issued weapons. However, the First Cav had been in some heavy fighting and was in desperate need of replacements so 15 of us were issued M1 rifles and loaded into trucks and rushed through the night to the front lines in pitch blackness. An unseen authoritative voice ordered us to take off and drop our brand new winter parkas and winter overboots and drop them on top of our new fleece lined sleeping bags on the ground in front of us... that was the last I saw of new winter gear until the arrival of the next batch of replacements (and we became the authoritative voice in the dark). At that time, the men on line were wearing just fatigues and WWII wool sweaters and boots to keep them warm in those cold Korean hills. The new equipment seemed to get 'side-tracked' in the rear echelons. I was taken up a hill, in the darkness of night, to a forward position and placed in a foxhole with a veteran soldier whose first words were "Thank God, maybe now I can get some sleep. We've been hit every night for the last 3 days." It was so dark you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. I asked my foxhole buddy to just point me in the right direction and tell me what I should be listening for. He pointed me in the right direction and told me to wake him if I heard any noise at all and then he crawled into his sleeping bag and laid down in the hole. I now decided it was time for me to load my M1. I had not touched one since basic training about a year ago. Between the darkness, the cold, and being scared to death, I couldn't remember how to load the damn ammo clip. My buddy heard me fumbling around and asked what was the matter. When I explained myself, he let loose a few choice words about me, the Army, and the damn war, and how it was being run. Needless to say, he didn't get any sleep that night either and "thank God" we weren't attacked because I'd have had to use my rifle like a Louisville Slugger. The next day my buddy gave me a crash refresher course on how to load and use the M1." If this rings any bells with any other troopers from that time, Ken would like to hear from you - Ken FLYNN, email RedDevil6@ earthlink.net.

Note to the C 1/7 Class of 1966 – Ronnie HAYWORTH would like to make contact with men who served with his brother in Vietnam, Dennis J. HAYWORTH, who was KIA on September 28, 1966 during a firefight outside the An Khe barrier. Ronnie, who served with 2/5 Cav in 1968- 69, knows the general details of how his brother was killed but would like to speak with those who knew his brother. Please contact Ronnie HAYWORTH, 27 Webster Court, Loudon TN 37774, tele- (865) 408-0644. Email – RSR@bellsouth .net Ray BROWN [B 2/7 67-68] advises of a movement in Pennsylvania to award the CIB to the “Dustoff” units of the Vietnam War. If you believe they are entitled to the CIB, please contact the 15th Med column for more information. I am personally of the opinion that anyone who flew “into a firefight”, for any reason, is entitled to individual recognition by award for a valorous action but, not for unit recognition on the whole, based upon the actions of the few.

Some of you may not be aware of the passing of Ia Drang veteran and news journalist Jack SMITH. Following are the remarks prepared by Joe GALLOWAY for delivery at the Memorial Service for Jack SMITH at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco on Wednesday April 14: “We are gathered today to celebrate the life of my friend and colleague and comrade in arms Jack SMITH...and what a life it was! What a good man Jack was. What a great friend! What a fine soldier he was in his time. Lesser men than Jack might have cratered and collapsed under the weight of the memories of what he witnessed and endured in the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam in November of 1965 when he was a young soldier in Charlie Company of the 2nd Battalion 7th U.S. Cavalry. Jack’s company was virtually wiped out in one day and one night of combat. It began the day, November 17, 1965, with about 110 men. On the next morning only eight soldiers were present for duty. The rest were either dead or, like Jack, wounded and evacuated. Jack endured those memories...overcame them...and went on to live a happy and productive life. In the face of such nightmares most of us resolve to work as hard as we know how to make this world a better place...for our having lived... and our comrades having died. Jack SMITH did just that. He went on to follow in his father’s footsteps as a network television reporter and correspondent. He was a good...fair...honest...and decent reporter. He always did fine work and told the truth. The last time I saw Jack was in the home he and his beloved wife and partner Pam shared near here. Though he was already ill he insisted on hosting a dinner for every old friend I had in this area. We had a chance to sit and talk privately. He knew he was going...but he was determined to go down fighting. When we last talked a couple of weeks ago he told me he intended to undertake another round of chemotherapy in hopes of buying two or three more months of life just in case the researchers came up with a new drug that might help him. Jack SMITH was one of the most courageous men I ever met. He was a man to ride the river with. He was my friend. He was my battlefield buddy. We had shared the same nightmares and lived the same lives. I salute him as he heads on down to Fiddlers Green where all good Cavalrymen go. There the soldiers of GarryOwen are assembled to welcome him with laughter and whiskey and cheers. God bless you and keep you...Pam. You brought sunshine to his life and you were his strong right arm right to the end. God bless all who loved Jack SMITH. We will miss him to the end of our days. GARRYOWEN...JACK! WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SOLDIER!”

I will repeat that ‘our Cavalry is at war’. Support our Cavalry without reservation and keep in mind that anxiety and stress can cause personal illness on the home front. Be well; stay well; and more important than anything else, walk tall and proud because you are CAV! FIRST TEAM!

*Ron Migut
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The 7th United States Cavalry Association*