



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

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*"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "*

"GarryOwen"

I am dedicating this installment of our 7th Cavalry news to the memory of a great soldier – Colonel (ret) Trevor W. SWETT. Colonel SWETT trained his Battalion at Fort Carson, CO and served as the first Battalion Commander of the 5/7 from August of 1966 through December of 1966. Colonel SWETT was the first President of the 5/7 Association and was later honored as President Emeritus of that outstanding organization. Even though I never had the privilege of serving in his Battalion, I had a number of occasions to seek out his wise counsel on matters pertaining to both the 7th Cav Association and the 5/7 Association. I saw Colonel SWETT in DC during Veterans Day festivities several times and he was always gracious in his words of encouragement.

I know that the 5/7 Association is grieving his passing but I'm sure he would want you to continue to drive on in the spirit of the GarryOwen.

By the time you receive this column, Colonel SWETT will have been laid to rest, with full military honors, including the Horse Drawn caisson at Arlington National Cemetery. Thanks to "Krazy" Karl HAARTZ, himself a mover and shaker in their fine organization for sharing this sad news.

MSG Robert L MILLS, 386 ELRS/LGRM, APO AE 09855, the son of Karl & Carol HAARTZ is in the heat of Kuwait and probably needs ice cubes, and snack items says Karl. Another warrior that I served with has gone ahead to Fiddlers Green. Jerry GIBBONS, who served as a rifleman in my second platoon of A 1/7 passed away on 27Jan at the age of 63. Jerry was an Oglala Sioux, whom I last saw at our Company reunion in June of '08. Jerry is survived by his daughter Linette. Johnny COOK who

served as a Rifle Platoon Leader in A 1/7 in late '71-'72 is battling a brain tumor, please keep this warrior in your prayers as well.

It is an honor that was long overdue. More than four decades after SGT David ADCOCK suffered shrapnel wounds, his sacrifice was officially recognized at a surprise ceremony in Stephenville's First Baptist Church in late February. LTC Ron HENRY made the orders official by reading them aloud to the assembled crowd. After serving "in the field" for nine months, David was reassigned to an administrative position in the Battalion Headquarters at Camp Evans. According to HENRY, who said it was on a Sunday morning in April 1968 that the base camp would be hit by 122 millimeter Russian made Rockets. "One of the rockets hit in close proximity to where David was working, and he suffered shrapnel wounds in his left arm and chest, there by qualifying for the Purple Heart." David said after he sustained the injury, he was sent to an aide station, where he underwent X-rays and was bandaged up before being sent to the company clerk to turn in the treatment records. He said the medic who treated him had penciled a Purple Heart recommendation on those records "and that was the last I heard of it." "There were a number of times over the years that I wished I had received that Purple Heart," he said. The surprise was something Adcock's friends and family were able to keep under wraps for some time. The reality that those closest to him had been working together to bring recognition to another American hero sent a single tear down Adcock's otherwise stoic face as he stood to receive the honor. David also reports that LTC HENRY is an Infantry Officer. David ADCOCK served in Charlie Company 1/7 from '67-'68.

What a great ending to a long story, proving once again that recognition can be addressed with perseverance and dedication. GarryOwen David!

Robert E. (Pop) Wellmaker, who served in B 1/7 called to tell me that there was a correction that needed to be made regarding the order of battle surrounding Hue, as referenced in my last column. Ed STRAWTHER, who served in A 1/7 sent me a nice e-mail as well on the same subject. I was a 1LT serving in Vietnam 1967-1968. I had both rifle platoon and company responsibility during my time there. I was drawn to the January/February 7th Cav News article on a proposed Vietnam Docudrama. We were at Hue during the Tet Offensive and following that went north and on to Khe Sanh. I left for R&R just before the launch to Khe Sanh and following R&R, I returned to Camp Evans. I mention this because the article states that Pegasus would be a way to "introduce the characters by the time they get to Hue". I did a little research to confirm my recall of the sequence. Attached is a link that indicates planning for Operation Pegasus began in January, but was interrupted by Tet and according to this source, Operation Pegasus is documented as beginning on April 1, 1968. So Pegasus came after Tet.

Having the honor of a cameo appearance in 1st In Battle: The True Story of the 7th CAV, produced by Greystone Productions and shown on the History Channel countless times, I know that history can be written or rewritten to satisfy the story, regardless the facts. Under most circumstances, I would have glossed over this but having had the ground experience, I felt compelled to share my chronology. I thank both Robert and Ed for politely reminding me to check my facts with a better source before publishing an article. . Ed has also e-mailed the Producer of this forthcoming project to let him also know about the correct sequence of these battles. For those who were stationed at Fort McClellan this report from "Krazy" Karl HAARTZ will be of significant interest to you. On 28 SEP 10, Congressman Paul TONKO of New York officially launched H.R. 6238, The Fort McClellan Health Registry Act in the House of Representatives. The Bill was submitted to both the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the House Armed Services Committee for final processing and markups. The text of the Bill can be reached by inputting the link into your favorite search engine. Affected veterans of this legislation, possibly more

than 75,000 of you, can take the following actions right now:

1. if you are not yet in the VA Disability system, you can now start filing your cases and use the H.R. Bill with your paper submissions.
2. If you are already rated by the VA as service-connected, you can now apply for an increase to a possible 100% rating for your case based on your service at Fort McClellan.
3. If you need help with your claim, go to a STATE or COUNTY veteran's service agency or to the VSO that originally handled your claim. Take a copy of H.R. 6238 to show as verification for your claim.
4. Work within your very own state election district to solicit your own Congressmen and Senators to become Co-Sponsors of the Fort McClellan Act. Interested parties can contact Congressman TONKO's office directly
5. You can send in letters of Support or Endorsement if you belong to groups of Veterans under a common name or as individuals. Send those directly to the House Veterans Committee and Armed Services Committee. Be sure to include your full contact information and name out your congressional district because they will not take your entry without it.

Congressman TONKO is a Marine Corps Reservist from back in the day. H.R. 6238 will be carried over into the next legislative session if it remains unfinished at the end of this term, and it will be resubmitted when the entire term of this particular Congress is completed. The legislation itself does not seek to take issue with the specifics and small details of multiple contamination areas which occurred throughout the Anniston region, but instead, it only speaks to the justice side of the issue for the affected medical patients, many of who are women veterans. We are far from finished with this job, but it is safe to say, we've got what we came for and the end is very near. Thank you to Sue FRASIER from VetsForJustice.com who has worked TIRELESSLY throughout the years to see this legislation through. If you are a Ft. McClellan veteran who is dealing with illness, please explore the issues further through the following Bill and it's language. Ft. McClellan Health Registry Act. At the time of this column there is no current status for this important piece of legislation so please call, write or better yet e-mail your elected representative to get this bill enacted into law.

John GUILLORY, former VP in our 7th Cav Association sends out this reunion info. Charlie Company 2/7 will hold it's 4th biannual reunion, May 5-8, 2011. Former members and guests of &quot;Pony Teams&quot; will assemble at the Oak Bowers Resort, in Arkadelphia, AR.

Our last three reunions were well attended, and we expect a large turnout this year as well. It will be 3 plus days of meet and greet, catching up, great food and the company of some of America's finest. We look forward to seeing all the familiar faces, and some new ones as well. For reunion details, please contact Jim Brown, 870-246-7292

Alpha Company 1/7 from '69 – '71 will be holding their 6th annual reunion in Fairfield, OH during the 2nd weekend in June. This will be the first of those reunions that I will miss because I'll be at the 64th Annual Division Association meeting at Fort Hood. Dennis BLESSING reported that 17 Bravo 1/7 Cav troopers showed up at Yosemite National Park for an Oct '10 reunion. Many had their wives with them and a good time was had by all. Happy belated Birthday to LTG General Hal MOORE, who turned 89 years in February – GarryOwen Sir!

Matt MONTAZZOLI, himself a CPT in the Army is seeking information on his grandfather, Dominic P. MONTAZZOLI. He was from New Jersey and served in the 7th Cavalry during the Second World War - I believe 2-7, but am not positive; he told me they were on horses when he arrived at Fort Bliss, but were motorized before they deployed. He was wounded in the Admiralty Islands, likely during Operation Brewer. He has been variously referred to as a forward observer or a mortarman and in photographs is wearing tech sergeant rank (E-5 with a 'T' below it). Any information would be appreciated - particularly surrounding the circumstances of his wounding and the citation for his bronze star. I contacted the national archives, but his entire service record was destroyed in a warehouse fire in the 1970s. Thank you.

Marion SIARA, Charlie 1/7 from '70-'71 sent the following link about a helicopter pilot that flew us into and out of hell at his award ceremony for the Distinguished Flying Cross, after 40+ years:

Attending the ceremony was fellow Charlie Company veteran Dan McNAMARA of St. Paul who said: "We always wanted to thank them for getting us out of trouble and a lot of time when it was a hot LZ, they came and got us anyway."

David MINTER, who served with the 7th Cav in Korea from '66-'67 sent an interesting article about a US Flag. This particular flag was a gift from his son, who is a Sergeant in the USAF Reserves and flew the flag honoring his father's service during 7 combat sorties over Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan on C-130 and C-17 Globemasters.

The flag along with accompanying certificates will be on display at the Bassett Historical Center in Martinsville, VA. The museum also contains items about David's father who served in Company H of the 116th Regiment at Normandy and on to Germany. Company H was made up primarily of young soldiers from the area. Thank you Dave for reporting about this interesting piece of history.

There will be one election for Secretary / Treasurer at this year's 7th Cav luncheon in Killeen. If you are interested in this position please send your name to either Bill RICHARDSON or myself. As this will be the last column before the annual reunion, please take care and I hope to see you in Texas. GarryOwen!!

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