



The Official Newsletter of the
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

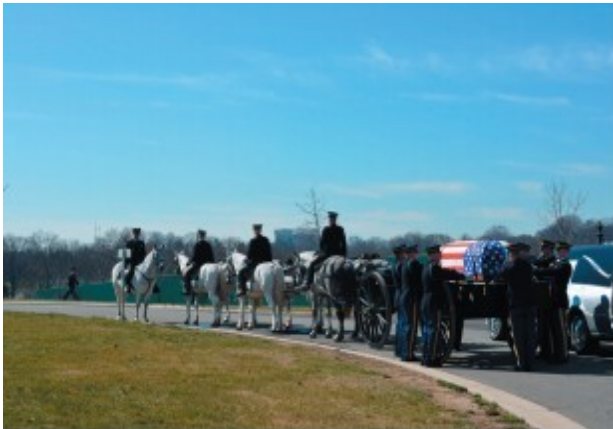
2016 Issue 3

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
John Guillory	Phill Zook	John Guillory	Robert J. Anderson

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

This middle of the year column begins with the final chapter (so to speak) of our good friend William A. Richardson. Bill (to most of us), Archie to Grandchildren and sometimes Willy, when Eva momentarily forgot to whom she was speaking.



William A. Richardson, March 9, 2016

A term of endearment lovingly given. It was a beautiful day in our Nation's Capital on 9 Marh 2016 as Bill was borne from the Arlington Cemetery transfer point to his final resting place by the 3rd Infantry Regiment (the Old Guard). The Caisson was pulled by a team of US Army Horses with an outrider, the Army Band played and the rifles fired. It was an agonizingly long wait for the family for this day, as Bill passed away in late November. Afterward I paused in front of the casket and rendered a slow hand salute on behalf of the 7th Cavalry Association and for those who asked me to do so. Then we journeyed to the Women's Memorial on the grounds of Arlington for a reception.

Thanks to CSM (Ret) Dennis Webster for coming up for this tribute. Till we ride again in Fiddlers Green - GarryOwen Bill.

While awaiting the day of the funeral, visits were made to the National Archives and the following places: The USAF Memorial sits high above and looks down toward the Pentagon and the southern border of Arlington. It is very well done although I was a bit disappointed in the bookstore. The Pentagon Memorial is also well done and the outside border lists the years of birth of those passengers on the plane that hit the Pentagon on 9-11. The benches in each row contain the names of the passengers. A serene place so many years removed from the horror of that day. Of course we visited The Wall a couple of times to pay our respects to our Brothers, etched forever in those beautiful panels of black granite.

After the reception my travelling compatriot Mike Hale (Sergeant) from the 9th Infantry Division (2 tours) and I headed for home with an intermediate stop at the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. We arrived with 10 minutes to spare before the Welcome Center closed, but the grounds are open until dusk so we spent a good hour or more reflecting on the heroic acts of the passengers and crew on that fateful day. The NPS has done a very nice job of designing the Memorial and I would encourage you to visit it at some point.

Preliminary analysis of the 7th Cavalry Vietnam Casualty information provided by Ron Migut and referenced in the last column, offers the following: January 1st and December 25th had no battle deaths during the whole war. From an incident standpoint the daily breakdown is as follows: Thursday, 87; Saturday, 79; Tuesday, 75; Friday, 74; Wednesday, 72; Monday, 69 and Sunday, 57. The first trooper killed was Daniel R. Romanko on 27 September '65 from Charlie Company 1/7 and the last trooper killed was Francis C. Brockman, III on 25 May '72 from Echo Recon 1/7. The last official casualty was my friend Lieutenant Thomas C. Finn, injured in November of 1970 and died in 1999 as a result of those injuries. The yearly battle death analysis from highest to lowest revealed the following: 1968-306, 1966-237, 1969-233; 1967-227, 1965-209, 1970-158, 1971-30, and 1972-8. The highest individual dates of course were in the Ia Drang in November of 1965: 15th-65 and 17th-127; followed by: 25 Jan '66-42, 29 Jan '66-24, 8 Aug '66-25, 8 Apr '67-23, 3 Dec '68-22. There were 10 other days that had battle deaths between 10 and 18 Troopers. These 17 days accounted for 32.7% of all battle deaths, which is a staggering statistic. The 2nd Battalion lost 580 men in ground combat; the 1st Battalion lost 476 men in ground combat and the 5th Battalion lost 352 men in ground combat. In total 1,408 warriors from the 7th Cavalry gave their precious lives in the cause of freedom in the Vietnam War. Their memories will live forever until the last of us cross over into Fiddlers Green! There is one final statistic to this analysis but time and space dictates that for the July column.

It is also interesting to note that 25 June of 1876, the Battle of the Little Bighorn was also a Sunday. The June 2016 issue of Wild West Magazine has three excellent articles on that fight: The Most Hartrendering Tale; Five in the Valley Fight and Black Man at the Little Bighorn. For Custer aficionado's this is a nice series of articles.

I pulled these pieces from a column that I wrote in March of 2009 and they bear repeating this month. For those of you who have retired from the Army or any service and are receiving Military Retired Pay and who also are receiving VA Compensation for a Service Connected injury or illness, you will be interested in a program called Combat Related Special Compensation. The link to this Website is: . Double click on this link and it will take you to the site. You can then download the application. This pay, once approved replaces the deduction that the Army Finance Center is currently taking from your retired pay to "offset" your VA Service Connection award. You will then be receiving the equivalent of 100% of your retired pay plus your VA Compensation.

I also renew my continuing suggestion that all veterans request their 201 files from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Their Web Site is www.archives.gov/st-louis and you can do most of the process on line. This is important and should be done today.

I also suggest that you request your Individual Awards File from the National Archives located in College Park, Maryland. You should mention your Service Number, as well as the unit you were assigned to. These awards files are not a part of your military 201 file and contain the General Order Number as well as additional eyewitness statements. This packet could be the difference should you apply for a Veterans Administration Compensation Rating.

Without proper treatment the effect of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can become what

seems like a mountain that can't be climbed. This mountain may seem so steep that a veteran may think that he or she has only one option. If you know of a loved one like this, you need to make a call to 1.800.273. TALK. This is The National Suicide Prevention Life Line through the Veteran's Administration. As one who has been diagnosed with PTSD, I can assure you that this is no longer something that Veterans need to keep behind a closed door. There are people that understand and will help through a difficult time.

As Company Grade Officers, we relied on the First Sergeant to keep us out of the paperwork nightmare that all government agencies like to hide behind. As the Executive officer in a combat rifle company, I was fortunate to have an exceptional Top Kick. The late Emory L. Smith was the epitome of that forward thinking exceptional NCO. Top Smith carried the MOS of 11G50 and was on his second tour after spending his first one with the Big Red One. On August 6, 1970, Captain Lovelace went on R&R and I became the Acting Commander of A 1/7. Of course I knew zilch about an administrative paper trail but Top came up with the proper regulation (AR 600-20) and paragraph and I was properly designated the Acting Commander until such time as George return from his R&R. I have often wondered what exactly is contained in Paragraph 20 of Army Regulation 600-20. It turns out (big surprise I guess) that there are some 50 different regulations that begin with 600. So if you have any interest you can go to this website: and see exactly what those numbers mean on your various orders. It even lists the dates that a particular regulation was changed.

Old Vietnam maps in Series L7014 can be order from the US Geological Service. These are the actual maps that we carried in Vietnam and Cambodia. I last ordered from them in 2005 and used the map key in the Late Michael Kelley's excellent research book.... Where We Were In Vietnam. This is a must book for anyone interested in the history of the Vietnam War! Marc Levy, who served with Delta Company (Silver Spartan) of the 1/7 in 1969 and 1970 writes: I may have mentioned that about three months ago I received an email from Kevin Perrier, Echo Recon 2/7, asking if I knew medic Harvey Stringer. Harvey was my replacement in Delta around July '70. I believe he's now a preacher in Indiana.

Ron Migut's tip to finding men on the Virtual Wall by date helped me to find Bob Durall, who I had nicknamed "Skinny Bob" when he came into the platoon. Skinny Bob was killed in an ambush on 22 August '70. I had left a remembrance on the Virtual Wall and less than a month later heard from his brother. Lastly, my short essay "The Quiet Time" won the 2016 Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families Writing Prize, judged by Brian Turner and published in Stone Canoe. My poem "Portrait of a Young Girl at Dawn" was published in the prominent literary journal Mudfish. The essay, about making C ration coffee, is on my website, Medic in the Green Time, in the War section. The poem is in the Poetry section.

The last week of April and the month of May are difficult times for me as I reflect back on those Sky Troopers that I served with, who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the fields of battle in Vietnam and Cambodia. I suspect that I'm not alone in this reflection. Some dates from the American Patriots Almanac: April 26, 1607, 3 ships landed in what was to be later called Virginia. Several days later they founded the colony called Jamestown. April 29, 1913, the first modern zipper was patented. April 30, 1789, George Washington takes office as the 1st President of the United States. On that same date in 1975, Saigon falls to North Vietnam. May 6, 1941, Bob Hope performs his first show for American Troops. I was privileged to see him in 1969.

The tabulation of Orders Project has taken a rumble seat in the Cavmobile and is on a low simmer on the back burner. I suspect after my Scribe duties end with the November 2016 (hint) column that I can get back to this task in earnest. Please do send me any orders be they General, Special or Unit. One

thing I discovered in my Archive trips is that NARA does not have any copies of Special or Unit Orders. Combat Infantryman and Combat Medic Badges were issued under Special Orders. Those copies reside with you - the Garryowen Trooper. Every order will help to build what I believe will be the most complete record of those of us who served in the 1/7; 2/7 and 5/7 in Vietnam. Will you help?

Jim Savage (Website Manager) passed on this word of another soldier riding into Fiddler's Green: COL (ret) Edward M. Pierce, who served in the 1/7 in '67- '68, passed on 1 May '16 at 88 years of age. He was still skiing alone as late as age 82. He graduated from West Point in 1950, and commanded F Company, 23rd Infantry during the Korean War. Between Korea and Vietnam, he was awarded the French Croix du Guerre, ARCOM with V, a Bronze Star with V, and a Silver Star. When asked what he did to earn the Silver Star he said, "Aw, they just kind of gave them away back then." Posted on our Web Site by his Son-In-Law.

Another Horse Cavalryman from World War II passed on 29 March '16. Robert V. Andersen who served with B Troop was buried at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery on 5April. I have had many e-mail exchanges over the years with Bob and his passing leaves me with only one 7th Cav, WWII Trooper that I can personally call friend - Ralph Braunstein from A Troop. Another Trooper that I served with has also made his last Combat Assault into Fiddlers Green on 21 March '16 from complications of Diabetes and Renal failure, as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. Pierre (Pete) Ashby was a few days away from DEROS when I joined A 1/7 in October of 1969. Pete made the Army a career and retired as a First Sergeant. He was able to attend the Chicago Reunion and it was wonderful to see him again after 40+ years. Garryowen Pete - till we ride again!

Dateline: FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kansas. Fort Leavenworth inducted two members into its Hall of Fame on 3 May 2016. The Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding individuals who served at Fort Leavenworth and who made significant contributions to the achievement, tradition, or history of the fort, or the armed forces. LTG (Ret) Harold G. Moore, a 1957 graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the late LTC Boyd M. (Mac) Harris were inducted today in ceremonies held in the Lewis and Clark Center. Opening the ceremony, BG John S. Kem, Commanding General of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth said these members of the 2016 Class are "leaders of character who made a difference."

COL (Ret) David Moore along with his sister Cecile accepted the honor on behalf of their father who was unable to attend. "My father loved the Army and he loved his men," said Moore. "He knew tough training was a sign of love and he pushed his men to challenge themselves."

Moore led the audience in recognizing three veterans of the Ia Drang valley who were in attendance: Martin Latigue, Larry Stevenson and his wife and Ernie Hill and his wife. "For all the love and admiration I have for my father, I assert that he is only half a man," said Moore. "I say this because the other half of my father is my mother. Together they were a whole team. My mother's story, so well documented, exemplified the role that many wives took on as the Vietnam casualties came home. Her education, training, and experiences gave her the vision to immediately assess the situation. I can still hear her saying "Come on Julie, get it together." With the help of many wives, they led the Army into a new era of casualty notification. It was her true joy to have the Army recognize her actions as representative of the right way to honor a Soldier's ultimate sacrifice."

"Knowing the value of weight and space in a Soldier's rucksack; it has been a tremendous honor for our family to see many great leaders reserve space for a paperback copy of dad's "We Were Soldiers," said Moore. Today's induction of Harris and Moore brings the Hall of Fame to 110 members, organized by eras. The Korea, Vietnam and Cold War era includes these leaders: GEN Creighton W.

Abrams, GEN William Westmoreland, GEN William DePuy who was the first commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command and often credited with laying the groundwork for today's modern Army, and GEN Colin Powell. Our family thanks the Command and General Staff College for selecting dad to continue to lead in this way, the education of our Nation's future leaders. Thank you for allowing my sister and me the privilege of representing our father. He would be extremely honored that one of our Army's primary institutions of professional development chose him as a role model. He would also be humbled by this recognition and convey his desire that by his example, our Army remain strong and led by warriors of courage and compassion. Thank you David and Cecile for sharing with us this tribute of an outstanding Combat Infantryman and Soldier - Garryowen!

I hope that everyone who attended had a great time in Las Vegas and that you saved enough money to get back home! Garryowen!