



SABER

Published By and For the Veterans of the Famous 1st Cavalry Division



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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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As most of you already know our 73rd annual reunion has been postponed until October. Now scheduled for Oct 4-8. We

know that these changes will make it more difficult for some of you to attend. For others, this may be an opportunity that might not otherwise be available. If you had a room reservation at the Crowne Plaza, they were all canceled by the hotel. Please call them and make your reservations again. If you made a reservation at an alternate hotel you will have to change those dates yourself as well. Please call your hotel to adjust your dates. Many organizations both larger and smaller than ours have had to cancel their reunions/conventions. The fact that we were able to reschedule rather than cancel is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Dara Wydler, 1CDA Executive Director. Additional information can be found on page 12 & 13 in this issue and at www.1CDA.org.

In late April 1970, 50 years ago, I received a message that was supposedly a coded 8-digit grid location for a future firebase or Charlie Alpha (combat assault). Using the phonetic alphabet, the sender sent the following: C-A-M-B-O-D-I-A. We both thought it was funny. Little did we know that only very days later many of us in the 1st Cavalry Division would be in Cambodia.

We called it Operation Shoemaker after COL (P) Robert Shoemaker who was tasked with planning the attack/invasion/incursion. Most of the Troopers I spoke with at the time thought that this was a good thing. We were already in a war: why not take the fight to the enemy rather than wait to be attacked (RE: FB Jay, FB Illingworth, FB Atkinson). Meanwhile college students in the U.S. were rioting, very puzzling to those of us who were involved in almost daily contact with the NVA.

By all accounts this incursion was remarkably successful, but as in all wars, the cost can be high. On May 10, Mother's Day, A 2/7 lost 5 Troopers including our company commander: CPT Terry Ketter, platoon leader: LT Mike Stokes, and infantrymen: Ronald Holt, Gerald Lynch, and Ralph Murphy. Yet the mission continued when CPT Robert Powell took over command of A 2/7 that afternoon. No time for mourning, no memorial service. The next day we were on combat patrol with a new company commander. A week or so later we were sent to Camp Gorvad for "palace guard" service, then back into Cambodia 3 weeks later.

By this time, it had been announced that President Nixon had issued orders that all U.S. Troops were to be out of Cambodia by June 30. Why? We had the enemy on the run, and we had captured or destroyed many tons of supplies including weapons and ammunition, food, and medical supplies. Nevertheless, we fought on.

The night of June 29 we (A 2/7) were on a hill overlooking a river that separated Cambodia and South Vietnam. The terrain was flat on the South Vietnam side and quite open. We were genuinely concerned that the NVA would be waiting for us to cross. Early the next morning an advanced team including the CP crossed the river with only weapons and radios and secured a position on the South Vietnam side. There was no resistance. Ropes that had been dropped to us the day before were strung across the river and the remainder of the company came across. We did not lose any men or weapons. Then the advance team went back to the Cambodian side to retrieve our packs, etc. and back across into South Vietnam.

Years later I was reading *Incursion* by J. D. Coleman. In that book he wrote that all U.S. ground forces had exited Cambodia by or on June 29. In his book, there is a photo of B 2/12 Troopers crossing a river supposedly taken on June 29 with the caption that, officially, these were the last U.S. Troops to leave Cambodia. Since then I have read several versions about the actions during the last days of June 1970. All say June 29 was when the last day U.S. forces were in Cambodia. However, the Troop movement that was executed by A 2/7 above occurred on the morning of June 30.

Do not forget to make your hotel reservations for our 73rd reunion, now scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 4 through Thursday Oct. 8. Stay well, stay safe, and thank you for your service.

Allen (TrailSpike 47)

INDEX	PAGE	INDEX	PAGE	INDEX	PAGE
1CDA OFFICE NEWS	16	CHAPTER INDEX	15	LRRP	4
5th CAV	5	CHAPTER NEWS	14	NEW MEMBERS	6
545th MP CO	19	CHANGE ADDRESS	2	OTHER REUNIONS	20
7th CAV	7	DOCTOR'S REPORT	10	REUNION	12-13
8th CAV	8	DONATIONS	5	SABER RENEWAL	2
9th CAV	9	ELECTIONS	5	SOUVENIR SHOP	15
12th CAV	6	ENGINEERS	20	TAPS	8
15th MED	17	HICCUP	10	TROOPER'S TALE	3
20th ARA	18	HISTORIAN	10	VETERANS DAY	19
82nd FA	11	HONOR ROLL	23	VIETNAM T-SHIRTS	16
CAMBODIA	21	HQ AND SPEC TRPS	22	WANTED	2
CALENDAR	2	LETTERS TO EDITOR	2	ZERO TO HERO	10

HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Siddiq Hasan

As we round out spring the Horse Cavalry Detachment is quietly busy, welcoming a new Commander into the ranks at the end of April and supporting the 1st Cavalry Division by maintaining social distancing keeping our human and equine herds safe. As always without our hard-working Troopers, this unit could not accomplish everything that we do and the HCD Troopers continue to set the standard of what a U.S. Army Mounted Trooper should be, and their professionalism and class are unmatched.

During these unprecedented times requiring social distancing we are operating under; the barn has unfortunately been closed to the public for tours. The Troopers keeping appropriate distance while working hard in small teams caring for and exercising the horses and mules.

May has seen the HCD conduct a needed renovations and spring cleaning around the facilities in preparation for reopening to the public. We had a new roof installed on the training arena and heavy equipment area; the hay and grain sheds also have been resealed, now the horses get the freshest grain possible. We also had the privilege of promoting three Soldiers to Sergeant, welcoming them into the Non-commissioned officers Corps, we know they will be successful in their new roles.

June will see the restarting of usual operations for the HCD with participation in the Coors Ranch Rodeo from June 4th to the 7th in Amarillo, Texas. We will also be hosting our Cavalry School starting June 5th. The school is 26 days long where trainees that have volunteered to be part of the unit complete 56 tasks in order to graduate and become an official member of the HCD.

We hope to see you out at one or several of these events and please let us know if you read about it in *The Saber*, saw it on our official HCD Facebook page or just happened to be in the right place at the right time! As always, we conduct public demonstrations at the detachment on Thursdays at 1000hrs this is the time we use to train new mounts and Troopers and invite the public to come out and enjoy the show. Feel free to call ahead and reserve some seats at (254) 287-2229. You can also find us on Facebook (Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn and let you know about upcoming events and ceremonies.

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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coincides with the Unit lunches.

If you would like to attend the War luncheon Tuesday, just give the office a call. There is no racing in October (during our timeline) so I changed the Mixer to the Kentucky Derby Museum.

With two floors of interactive, family friendly exhibits, the Kentucky Derby Museum will take you through every stage of a Thoroughbred's life, from birth to the Kentucky Derby, first Saturday in May. Learn about all the great history of the race dating back to the inaugural running in 1875 to our most recent Kentucky Derby champion and experience all the traditions that transformed the race into what it is today. A showing of the Museum's epic 18-minute film that will put you at the center of the Kentucky Derby experience. The movie will send your heart racing and emotions soaring.

We have planned for dinner: spring mix salad, cayenne honey chicken breast, garlic whipped potatoes, asparagus & tomato, pecan cheddar biscuits; be sure to come hungry. There will also be time for our guests to walk through the museum, spend money at the gift shop, and take pictures in the photo booth. This will be a Welcome Mixer you will surely want to attend.

I know that with all that is going on with COVID-19, we are limited to where we can and cannot go when it comes to specific dates. With Memorial Day just around the corner, the ceremonies we normally attend may now be canceled. For those who gather in groups to celebrate the lives lost at the cost of our Freedom may not be allowed to congregate; simply take a knee, say a prayer, and render a slow salute for all our Fallen Comrades. Please also take the time to honor those lost during the last couple of months.

This year marks the 245th birthday for the U.S. Army. From its modest beginning as an amateur force of colonial Troops, with support from various militia, to its status today as the largest branch in the U.S. military, the Army has seen it all, from the Revolutionary War to conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Be sure to join the celebration with a toast of your favorite adult beverage.

Now that many restrictions have been lifted, the office is now operating at full capacity. Feel free to call, someone will answer the phone (Monday-Friday).

ADDRESS CHANGE

Don't Keep it a SECRET, Let us Know About It.
 To submit by e-mail, send to memberships@1CDA.org
 Clip and Mail to 1st Cavalry Division Association
 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

Last 4 #'s of your SSN _____
 Tel: (____) _____
 Rank and Name: _____
 New Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-Mail: _____

SNOWBIRDS

If you have two addresses during the year, we need to know them. Please give us the dates and addresses for both households.
 (Circle one) Winter Summer
 Rank and Name: _____
 LAST 4#s SSN: _____ DOB _____
 1: Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____
 2: Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

Oct 4-8, 2020	73rd Annual 1CDA Reunion, Louisville, KY
Nov 9-12, 2020	12th Annual Veterans Day in Washington D.C.
Feb 26-28, 2021	Board of Governors Meeting, Killeen, TX
Sept 22-26, 2021	74th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Killeen TX

(In Sept to honor Division's 100th Birthday!)

SABER RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

Renew my *Saber* \$_____ for _____ year(s) @ \$10 per year (6 issues). Fill out and return the form below or attach your *Saber* label so we have your pertinent information.

D-Trooper Fund \$_____ In Memory of: _____

Association General Fund Donation \$_____ In Memory of: _____

Your "In Memory of" acknowledgements will appear in the HONOR ROLL section of the *Saber*

D-Trooper Program consists of a donation of \$25 or more. This donation will give you one year of *Saber* with the remainder going into the **D-Trooper Fund**. The **D-Trooper Fund** is one of the more positive means by which you can actively participate in furthering the programs of the Association and again show your pride as a CAV Trooper—a LifeTime Member of the First Team! If you choose to participate in the **D-Trooper Fund**, your name will be published in the Honor Roll section of the *Saber* newspaper and we will send you a certificate suitable for framing, for your first donation only.

LAST 4 NUMBERS OF SSN _____ DOB _____
 Rank _____ Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
 E-mail _____

CREDIT CARD # _____
 EXP DATE: _____ CVV: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____
 SIGNATURE _____

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 Log in>>> *Saber* Newspaper >>> *Saber* Subscriptions/Renewals

Did you realize that contributing to the future success of a student has many benefits that go far beyond your initial contribution?

Consider donating today...

SABER

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Dara C. Wydler: Executive Director
 Tina Wilgeroth: Program Director / Editor / Graphics
 Karleen Maloney: Memberships / Scholarships / Chapter Director

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Original, clear copies, typed or printed are accepted via e-mail at Programs@1CDA.org.
 Articles should be received at National Headquarters no later than the 1st of every odd month. Any article received after the 1st of the month will be put in on a space available basis.
 Opinions expressed are the writers and not necessarily those of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To be considered for publication, letters should not exceed 300 words and should be of general interest and in good taste. Letters express the writer's opinion, not that of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.
 Political endorsement and poetry cannot be used. Form letters or third-party letters are not acceptable. Letters which contain libelous or obviously untrue statements will be automatically rejected.
 All letters must be signed with addresses and telephone numbers included. Names will be used with the letters but addresses and phone numbers may be omitted. Letters also may be edited for length or clarification.
 We reserve the right to reject for publication any letter received. Unused letters will not be acknowledged.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:


Dear Editor,

This grant has allowed me to focus on my extracurricular activities, like gaining experience in SUNY Oswego's WTOP student-run TV station, as well as join the jazz ensemble without financial worry. It is also extremely important to remember the work of those who came before us and attempt to do them proud.
 Jonathan Clegg



Dear Editor,

I would like to say Thank You to the 1st Cavalry Division Association for awarding me the Ia Drang Scholarship. I am pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Delaware and the assistance is much appreciated. My grandfather Donald Stamper served in the C Co 1/5 Cav in Vietnam 1965. He and so many others fought bravely in the first major engagement of the Vietnam War and unfortunately many of them never made it home. This scholarship serves as a reminder of the sacrifices he and so many others made, and I am extremely proud to receive the scholarship on his behalf.
 Attached are a couple of photos of our first trip to the Vietnam Wall Memorial when I was 6. Poppy and I standing in front of the Washington Monument. Poppy and his war buddy James DuBois pointing to their buddy Oscar Edmond Cooper who lost his life in the Battle.
 Thanks, Dylan Stamper



WANTED:

8 ENG BDE SOLDIER MIA 3/11/44
 Hello, My Name is Chester Walker. My father is Harold G Walker SN: 17066854 Troop A, 8th Engineer Bn. I am trying to locate a full name and possible photograph of a Soldier who died/missing in action on March 11, 1944. His name is Chester, that is all I know. My father told me years ago I was named after him. He told me a few things that happened on that day. I have been doing some research and found a "Chester," he was from the 8th Engineer Bn: 1st Cavalry Division. SN: 38001862, Rank: Technician Fifth Grade. He is listed as missing on 4/6/1944. Would there be any photos of him or 8th Engineers squad, platoon, company. I would greatly appreciate any assistance on this. My phone is 434-384-1431.

LOST & FOUND:

When I was stationed with the 82nd at Ft. Bragg in the early 70s I found a Zippo lighter buried in sand on an OP. I have tried several times over the years to find the owner and would love to return it to him or his family. On one side is the 1st Cav patch, on the other is inscribed "1SG B.W. SMITH CO B 229th AVN BN JUN 67 - JUN 68". Windell Stephens <windell.stephens@se.com>

If you have been searching for someone that you served with within 1st Cav, try posting it here. Submit requests to <Programs@1CDA.org> for the next *Saber*!

Trooper's Tale



Culmination of treasured long lost stories or photos from our members.

CPL WALLACE R. FISCHER, E & SVC CO 1-5 CAV, 1948-51

I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division 5th Cavalry Regt in May 1948. In Japan I was sent to Sgt Troy A. McGill Camp on the southern part of Japan. From there we would go to Camp McNair, at the base of Mt. Fuji to do our winter and summer training. One Saturday, four of us decided to climb Mt. Fuji which is approximately 12,388 feet, the highest point in Japan. I was the only one that went to the bottom of the crater. It was hot. On two weekends at Camp McGill I signed up for a short cruise on a PT Boat. It went to one of the caves where they kept the silkworms safe during the 2nd World War. The PT boat would anchor, we could either go to the cave or go swimming.

From Camp McGill the 5th Cav Regt left for Korea in July 1950. Our LST made a ramp landing at Yong Dong Po Korea on July 18, 1950. Our unit first went to Yong Dong Po and then north from there. After many excursions back and forth we ended up at Pyong Yang, the capital of north Korea in November 1950. After the Chinese Army enter, we headed south again into south Korea. I was rotated back to the U.S. in June 1951, 21 years old, a great pleasure to be in the 1st Cavalry Division.

Still proud to have been in the 1st Cavalry Division, 5th Cavalry Regt. When returning the United States, our ship went under the Golden Bridge. Our ship was then given a special Welcome by a California Fire Boat water displays on the dock a band played "Harbor Lights," and I felt much emotion, I was home again.

C CO 2-7 CAV, 1963

I read the *Saber* and please understand that this is in no way intended to take anything away from those of you who served in Vietnam. Many of my friends served there and some of them died there. But I would like very much to read some accounts from those of us who served with the Cav in other places.

I especially would like to read some about those who served in South Korea during the period 1963-1965. I was there from Oct 1963 to Oct 1964 in C/2-7 Cav at little outpost called Camp J.E.B. Stuart. Camp Stuart was set in a ravine with a horseshow shaped ridge line around three sides. It was just outside of the village of Po Juri and on the south end of Liberty Bridge which crossed the Imjin River there. Just across the river on the north side was Truce Village, Panmunjom.

Liberty Bridge was mostly destroyed during the war and was still a bombed-out hulk when I was there. Our combat engineers had built a pontoon bridge right next to it. That was how we got across to Panmunjom.

A young friend of mine from our church is an executive with an automotive firm and makes occasional trips to South Korea. He has been to the area where I served and he tells me that what was once a dirt road past Camp Stuart, which by the way does not exist anymore, is now an interstate type highway and bridges the river to Panmunjom.

While in Korea with the Cav, we did a lot of combat readiness training, a lot of patrols, and a lot of stake outs. I suppose what we did there could be somewhat compared to what our American Border Patrol does today except for the occasional firefight. I was never directly involved in a firefight, but I did watch one.

My squad (I was gunner on an M-60) was set up in an NDP (you all know what that is) on a frozen rice paddy on the south side of the river one night when a unit of either the 5th or 12th Cav was attacked on the north side. It was a sight with tracers flying all over the place. I do not know what came of it. I never did hear. At any rate, South Korea is a much different place today. I like to believe that the 1st Cav had a hand in that.

I spent my civilian career as a railroad engineer for 38 years with Grand Trunk/Canadian National Railways. I have been retired 13 years now. May God Bless all of you.

Garryowen

Johnnie Hamilton 259-721-8649 / 13655 S. Jones Rd, Battle Creek, MI 49017

C CO 1-8 CAV, 1969

My name is Bob L'Ecuyer, I was in Company C 1-8 Cavalry Division. It was early March 1969, our platoon was resting and dug in for the night. I believe we were somewhere near Quan Loi. Anyway, I was a new guy and asleep because someone else was on guard when we were attached at night by either Vietcong or NVA.

I think it was VC because they hit and run and the NVA stay and fight to the death. Suddenly, an RPG hit outside the bunker I was near. Two men from my platoon got killed from the RPG: PVT Donald Bledsoe and SGT James Dollard. It was my first encounter with the enemy. Up until then I had my doubts as to whether I could kill someone. That night erased that thought. After that I did not care how many I killed or wounded. It left me with a kill or be killed attitude. Bledsoe was a nice guy too. He came in on the same chopper as me. Dollard was a great guy who taught me everything there was to know about Vietnam. Bledsoe was great guy also. Dollard saved my life after he died, I will explain. I used to carry my grenades hanging on my rucksack and Dollard noticed that. He told me to make sure I checked my grenades when we stop to rest because the jungle is so thick the vines get caught on your pack. It was lucky for me that I listened to him.

In my ninth or tenth month we were on a recon mission. We stopped to check our packs and rest. The pin on one of my grenades had broken off and was hanging by a hair. If I had gone another fifty or so feet, it would have killed me and anyone around me. That is how he saved my life.

Getting back to the night of the attack, we all fired our weapons out of the perimeter but did not find any dead gooks. When Dollard got hit, I went over to him and held his hand until the medic got to him. I told him he would be alright. When the sun came up the Medivac came and took out the bodies. I had to put Bledsoe in one of the body bags. I still have dreams of that night.

SGT Bob L'Ecuyer <Butubupa@wildblue.net>

HHC 2BDE 1st CAV, 1969

My time with the 1st Cav in Viet-Nam began in mid-January 1969, right after I returned to RVN from my "extension" leave to the states. I had completed my first tour (Oct 67-Sep 68) with the 1st Infantry Division and MACV Team 47 in An Loc. The Army had a "special" arrangement whereby any Soldier extending for at least 6 months was guaranteed his unit of choice. I decided to extend and transfer to the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion/4th Psychological Operations Group, located near the Bien Hoa Air Force Base. I did not care what I did, but the Battalion seemed happy to have a "newbie" with combat experience who could also speak North Vietnamese.

Not long after joining the 6th Battalion, I was attached to the 2d Brigade 1st Cavalry Division as the Brigade PSYOP Team Leader operating from at the Quan Loi basecamp. My first tour had revolved around Quan Loi, so I knew the area. I worked between Brigade S2, S3, and S5 to plan and execute a variety of ground and aerial PSYOP missions in support of the Cav's ground operations. Being with the Cav was different, and better, than my first tour time working from Quan Loi. I was partnered up with two great Cav Soldiers.... Howard Patrick (a friend to this day), and Sammy Crawford, who has since passed away.

Much of my mission planning was conducted via the Brigade S3, MOH recipient MAJ Walter Marm. He was a quiet but extremely effective and strong leader. Nobody really knew how to engage PSYOP, but MAJ Marm figured out how to coordinate PSYOP mission planning into combat support. We did great work together. I invited him to "ride along" on several of our aerial missions, but it did not happen.



The Cav assigned at least one Huey and crew to support our operations. Pictured here is the chopper with our PSYOP speakers loaded. From left: WO Walter Smith (pilot), SGT Chad Spawr (PSYOP team leader), SGT Howard Patrick (S5 Civil Affairs/PSYOP team leader for the Cav). Sammy Crawford just appears in the back of the picture. Between January-April 69, our PSYOP team ran dozens of missions.... sometimes on the ground, but most from the air. Both Howard Patrick and I were on PSYOP choppers that were hit

by ground fire and crashed, but we escaped major injuries.

My time with the 1st Cav came to an end on 18 April 69 when I was wounded during Operation Montana Raider. I was medevac'd, eventually returning to the states where I continued my military service. To this day, I proudly wear my 1st Cav patch or pin. I take great pride in the continuing friendship with Howard Patrick. Although I was only "attached" to the 1st Cav, I was always made to feel a part of a great combat team. He was a great friend in combat, and an even better friend in peacetime.

Somebody once commented that the 1st Cav patch was a "big patch worn by big men doing big things." I am immensely proud to have served with the 1st Cav, and proud to be a Life Member of the Association.

C. V. (Chad) Spawr, 248-495-5974 <spawrtan@wideopenwest.com>

545 MP CO, 1967

My name is Richard Maloney and I am age 75, I served in the 545th MP Co at Landing Zone Two Bits in July of 1967 in Vietnam. Below is a picture of myself (I am far left holding the mike) with S/Sgt Beaton (far left holding the shot gun) with 5 Vietnamese soldiers of the 222 Vietnam National Police Forces and just captured Viet Cong along with their weapons who were hiding and going to ambush us and the ARVNs, but surrendered without a fire fight. This photo was taken on a mission, an Air Assault July 21, 1967 at Van Hoi (Hamlet) No 2 Hoai An, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam, grid coordinate 774 926.

My unit conducted weekly search and cordon missions from LZ Two Bits, going into hamlets looking for Viet Cong, North Vietnamese soldiers, weapons and intelligence. My commanding officers at the time would also come out on these missions and they were CPT Maynard Eaves (MPC), CPT Charles Dunkins (INF) and LTC Angelo Harrogones (MPC) Provost Marshal of the 1st Cavalry Division.

I also helped and processes intelligence captured data. My MOS at the time was 95B10. I was 22, a SP4 and the assigned RTO for that mission that day.



LRRP/Ranger News



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Hello from the nation's capital. I hope this finds everyone in good health and good spirits. Better days are on the way. In response to the story in the January-February issue of the *Saber* of MG

George Casey's helicopter crash and recovery process, I received several more emails and phone calls from people who either worked with MG Casey or were involved in the recovery process. The following email was received from **MAJ Norman Hughes, USA (Ret)**, Toms River (Brick Township), New Jersey.

"My name is Norman Hughes. I was a member of the 1st Cav Division Artillery (DIVARTY) at Phuoc Vinh from November 1969 to November 1970. I was the Assistant Fire Support Coordinator. When MG Casey's helicopter crashed on 5 July 1970, three members of DIVARTY and I were flying up to II Corps headquarters in Pleiku City in a fixed-wing Beaver aircraft. We were basically following the same route as was MG Casey and company. At one point in the flight, our pilot informed us that weather conditions were worsening and that he could no longer see the highway below that we had been following and that we would have to land to sit out the fog. We landed at Song Be Airfield where we waited for three hours for the cloud ceiling to lift and visibility to improve so we could continue our flight to Pleiku. I am attaching my story about that terrible day."

"Your article in the *Saber* about the recovery process of MG Casey and company involving the LRRP/Ranger unit brought back incredibly sad memories of that day. As I mentioned above, members of DIVARTY and I were flying to Pleiku to notify the U.S. commander and his counterpart that the 1st Cav was scheduling an ARCLIGHT (B-52 strike) in an area close to the II Corps' border. We needed to give the civilians in the area enough time to get out before the air strike."

"Our pilot was following the road because the cloud ceiling was low. He did not want to fly using Instrument Flying Rules (IFR). When the fog lifted, we took off and were able to follow the road to Pleiku and complete our mission." "It was not until we got back to the Division Tactical Operations Center at Phouc Vinh later that day that we learned of the crash. MG Casey had been flying the same route to Cam Ranh Bay Air Base to visit our Soldiers in the hospital as he normally did on Sundays. We were all in total shock at the news and prayed that MG Casey and the others would make it out okay, but no such luck. It was incredibly sad."

"Now, a little about my dealing with MG Casey follows. I was the officer who worked the night shift on the DIVARTY desk in the Division TOC. Every afternoon before I started my shift, I conducted the Artillery Briefing Officer's presentation, which was part of the Commander's Briefing. This involved getting on stage and presenting DIVARTY status. I was expected to know the location of every artillery position in Vietnam, both U.S. and ARVN."

"The attendees were usually MG Roberts, Commander; then-BG Casey, ADC Operations; BG Shoemaker, AD Support; COL Ed "Shy" Meyer, Chief of Staff; my boss, COL Morris Brady, DIVARTY Commander; and others. I will never forget MG Casey's piercing blue eyes. He would look right through you and demand answers that you had to be ready for. I made it through six months and then moved on to another job. I was replaced by another DIVARTY officer."

"Every morning after I finished my shift, I would go to the chapel to hear Mass, and on most of the mornings, MG Casey was there. We sometimes had a chance to say hello before he started his day. Afterwards, I went back to DIVARTYHQ for breakfast and some rest, and then I started my day."

"I participated in the preparations for the Incursion into Cambodia in May 1970. We moved 100 artillery tubes of all calibers, both U.S. and ARVN, close to the front to support the mission, without being found-out by the communist forces along the Vietnam-Cambodia border. That was a great experience. I've never forgotten it."

"It was my second tour in Vietnam that I was with the 1st Cav in Phuoc Vinh as the Assistant Fire Support Coordinator. My first tour was with MACV, as a subsector advisor at Tieu Con District, 60 miles south of Saigon in the Delta, on the Mekong River. That was from November 1965 to November 1966. My assignment between the two tours was a three-year stint in New Jersey, my home state, as an ROTC Instructor at Fordham University in The Bronx, New York. It was from 1966-69. Then it was back to Vietnam." "MAJ Norman F. S. Hughes USA (Ret); Brick, New Jersey, cell phone 732-267-7123; email <hugh06@aol.com>."

On a different note, I received the following email from **SGT Frank Duggan (1970)**, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands: "I wanted to reply to your story in the last issue of the *Saber* about MG Casey's crash but never got around to it until now. I was with the 1st Cav LRRP/Ranger unit from November 1969 until my DEROS in late July 1970. LTC Steve Carrier III, then a captain, was our company commander for most of that time. He was particularly good. I was on that mission to recover the remains of MG Casey and the other people on the helicopter. We sat on an abandoned airstrip for two days waiting for them to locate the crash site." (Note, the abandoned airstrip was likely the U.S. Special Forces Camp at Bac Loc, Lam Dong Province, which had been closed since 1966.)



Pictured left is Team #32: top row left Rick Wynn, Fumio Ikada TL, Francis Duggan ATL, bottom row Jerry Lewis, Bill Francis KIA March '70, Dev Cochran MIA Cambodia '70.

"Steve talks about the teams repelling down ropes to the ground, but I seem to remember about 15 of us flying from the abandoned airstrip to the crash site in a CH-47 Chinook where we climbed down a rope ladder. We hovered about 90 feet above the site and climbed down the

ladder with much difficulty as the prop wash was blowing it in every direction. My friend Larry Baine (1970), Sarasota, Florida, was the first guy down, I was the second. I carried a PRC 25 radio and an M79. When we got on the ground, we set up a perimeter and waited for graves registration people to arrive and secure the bodies."

"At that time, the LRRP/Ranger unit was very weak in terms of experience since many of the senior guys in the unit had rotated back to the states in May and June. The group I was with was a bits-and-pieces team that had been thrown together. I was available for the recovery mission because I had about 12 days left in-country. My behind was very tight going down that ladder." **Frank Duggan**, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, cell: 340-642-0775, <frankduggan48@gmail.com>.

Frank mentioned in a follow-up phone call that he has lived in the Virgin Islands for many years, and that he and his family run a bar/restaurant there in Christiansted. He mentioned that one day a customer came into the bar and saw a picture of him hanging on the wall behind the bar wearing jungle fatigues. The customer asked him if he had served in Vietnam and when he said he had; the customer told him that his brother had died in a helicopter crash along the Cambodian border in Vietnam on July 7, 1970. Well, as it turned out, his brother was MG George W. Casey. MG Casey's brother was on vacation with his family in the Virgin Islands. He was a dentist who lived in Newton, Massachusetts close to where the rest of the Casey family still live in Boston.

Frank went on to say that Kregg P. J. Jorgenson (1969-70), Seattle, Washington, was in the LRRP/Ranger unit while he was in it. As you may know, Kregg has authored several books about his experiences in Vietnam, including *Acceptable Loss*, and has also appeared in a CBS News-sponsored video of the war. The title of the video is *Vietnam War 1970, CBS Camera Rolls as Platoon Comes Under Fire*, hosted by CBS correspondent Richard Relkil. In the video, Kregg, who had left the LRRP/Ranger unit earlier and transferred to the Apache Blues, 1/9th Cav, walks point for the platoon and gets shot in the leg by an NVA sniper. If you would like to view the video, go to: <<http://www.afvn.co.uk/patrons/kregg-p-j-jorgenson/>>. Once the window opens, scroll down the page to the video window on the left side and click on the red arrow in the middle of it to start the video.

On a different note, I got a call from **Gene Krattli (1969-70)**, Macon, Georgia, who served as an artilleryman in the 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery, with the 1st Cav in III Corps. (The 1/30th Artillery was an independent artillery regiment that had been attached to the 1st Cav since it first arrived in Vietnam in late 1965 and remained so until the 1st Cav departed Vietnam and returned to the U.S.) On an earlier tour with the Cav, Gene served in Echo Recon, 2-8 Cav, in the III Corps area and was on LZ Becky in the Tay Ninh area on the night it got attacked in August 1969.



Stephania, Rolling Thunder

Gene is an avid biker who along with Artie Miller and several other Vietnam Veterans, co-founded the Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Group, which has conducted annual motorcycle processions in Washington, D.C. during the Memorial Day Weekend for the past 32 years. The first ride was held in 1988. It attracted approximately 2,500 riders from across the country. The number of riders grew steadily each year, and in 2019, an estimated 1,000,000 riders and spectators combined, from all over the world participated in the event.

The group was forced to call it quits after the 2019 ride because of the cost of securing the Pentagon's parking lots which were used to organize and stage the procession on the day of the ride. The Pentagon's security force imposed new security requirements which would have cost most than the group could handle.

The purpose of the procession was to call attention by way of a demonstration to the POW/MIA issue from the Vietnam War. But more than anything else, it was a show of patriotism for America, and it became one of the great spectacles in the world. Riders, spectators, and news people came from all over the world to watch and take photos of it. And it was uniquely American. It will be missed.

The following email was received from **John Simones (1966-67)**, Middleboro, Massachusetts. John was one of the original members of the LRRP Detachment when it first got started under the command of CPT Jim James and was the team leader of Team #1, which was attacked by a Viet Cong unit in the early morning hours of April 23, 1967, and suffered the unit's first casualties of the Vietnam War. John and the other survivors had the good sense, and courage, to counterattack the enemy unit, and they eventually drove the enemy soldiers from the position.

John's email follows: "My name is John Simones. I was a member of the group of twelve who helped get things off the ground in 1966-67. CPT James had been the skipper in HQ Co, 1-8 Cav, and had asked me to join the LRRP unit when he assumed command of it, which I did."

"Your column in the January-February issue of the *Saber* mentioned Gary McKiddy. In 1970, I was stationed at Ft. Knox. I was at quarters one evening when I received a call about escorting one of our fallen brothers, SP4 Gary McKiddy, to his home in Miamisburg, Ohio. I was honored and deeply touched by the family. That was fifty years ago. I had been back from 'Nam since '67, so I do not recall a lot of the details about it, but I was honored and humbled by that experience. Just thought I would relay this to you. Sincerely, SFC John C. Simones, (Ret), 1st Cav (LRRP), <johnsimones@verizon.net>."

SP4 Gary McKiddy was in Charlie Troop, 1/9th Cav. He was the crew chief of an LOH, who was flying as observer, on May 6, 1970, when his helicopter got shot down by enemy ground fire along the Vietnam-Cambodian border. SP4 McKiddy was able to pull the co-pilot out of the burning helicopter and was in the process of pulling the pilot out when the ship exploded killing both him and the pilot.

On a different note, I received the following email, entitled "Historical Occurrences" from **Bill Carpenter (1967)**, Fairmont, West Virginia: "If you haven't bought your copy of the book, *Historical Occurrences* yet, then don't buy it. There will be a revised edition coming out from a different publisher,

Continued to pg. 9

5th CAV News



Harold P. "Doc" Truitt
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The 5th Cavalry first formed in 1855 as the 2nd U.S. Cavalry and a sister regiment formed at the same time by act of congress, the 1st U.S. Cavalry, were preceded by three mounted units referred to as the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Dragoons. The 3rd Dragoons were inactivated following the war with Mexico. At the beginning of the Civil War the 1st and 2nd Dragoons and a regiment of mounted rifles were designated the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd U.S. Cavalry and the former 1st and 2nd Cavalry redesignated the 4th and 5th U.S. Cavalry. (Or, I have seen it stated that the 3rd Dragoons were reformed). LTC George Thomas oversaw the unit at the beginning of the war, was quickly promoted to Colonel and then Brigadier General and moved to the western theater. Throughout the war it seems the regiment was commanded by its various company grade officers. The following profile of one of these by Eric Wittenberg, is a good example of the character of these men.

Mr. Wittenberg is in my opinion the best historian of the civil war era presently publishing and specializes in cavalry. This piece was originally published 18 January 2010, by Eric Wittenberg, published in: *Union Cavalry*. One item in the article, I have chosen to rewrite as it is seen differently by some. The charge at Gaines Mill that is part of our unit crest, that saved a section, of artillery and aided in the withdrawal of GEN Porters V corps. Mr. Wittenberg's article used a different wording. It has been a LONG time since I last profiled a forgotten cavalryman, so here it goes....

Julius Wilmot Mason was born in Tonawanda, Pennsylvania on January 19, 1835. He was named for his father's law partner, David Wilmot, who later became a U.S. Senator and the founder of the Republican Party.

Mason graduated from the Kentucky Military Institute in June 1857 with a bachelor's degree in engineering. He then enrolled in Shelby College, also in Kentucky, as a resident graduate. He studied there for a year and then received a master's degree in engineering from Kentucky Military Institute in 1859. He took a job as a division engineer with the Brooklyn Water Works and was employed there when the Civil War broke out in April 1861. He also served as a militia officer in New York prior to the Civil War.

Answering President Lincoln's initial call for volunteers, he was appointed a second lieutenant in the 5th U.S. Cavalry on April 26, 1861. Mason had had plenty of military training while a student at the Kentucky Military Institute, and the ranks of the regular cavalry regiments were badly depleted by the departure of southern officers and the assignment of regular officers to command volunteer regiments. The 5th U.S. Cavalry in particular, had been badly hit, losing, among others, COL Albert S. Johnston, LTC Robert E. Lee, MAJ William J. Hardee, CPT's Earl Van Dorn and Edmund Kirby Smith, LT's John Bell Hood and Fitzhugh Lee to the Confederacy.

He joined the regiment at Washington, D.C. on May 15, 1861, and served at the U.S. Treasury until June 4, when he joined his company for the First Bull Run Campaign. He fought at First Bull Run, where he drew praise for his "daring intrepidity," and was promoted to first lieutenant on June 1, 1861. He served in the defenses of Washington during the winter of 1861-1862 and this would not be his last promotion.

Mason and the 5th U.S. actively participated in McClellan's 1862 Peninsula Campaign, participating in the siege of Yorktown. However, Mason contracted typhoid fever shortly after the siege and was hospitalized in Chesapeake Hospital in Hampton, Virginia for the better part of two months, meaning that he missed The Seven Days Battles and did not participate in the 5th U.S. Cavalry's mounted charge that cost so many lives but saved the union artillery pieces, at the battle of Gaines Mill. He rejoined his regiment at Harrison's Landing in July and served with the regiment as a rear guard during the evacuation of the Army of the Potomac from the Peninsula.

The regulars served under McClellan's command during the 1862 Maryland Campaign, and Mason was engaged in skirmishing at the September 14, 1862 Battle of South Mountain again in skirmishing at the Middle Bridge during the September 17 Battle of Antietam, and in the September 20 fight at Shepherdstown Ford on the Potomac River. He served at St. James College near Williamsport, Maryland during November and then participated in a December 1862 reconnaissance near Falmouth, Virginia. He was promoted to captain on December 6, 1862.

When the Army of the Potomac went into its winter encampment near Falmouth after its defeat at Fredericksburg, Mason spent the winter on picket and court martial duty. He briefly commanded the regiment for a few days in March, and then returned to company command for the May 1863 Stoneman Raid simultaneous with the Battle of Chancellorsville. He commanded a squadron that served as the Army of the Potomac's Cavalry Corps' advance guard at the beginning of the raid, and crossed the Rapidan River at Blind Ford, just below the junction of the Rapidan and Rappahannock Rivers. While his squadron was isolated from the main body, he captured nearly the entire complement of men assigned to a Confederate battery and was only prevented from taking the guns by the arrival of the 13th Virginia Cavalry. Mason held his position at Blind Ford until the rest of the Cavalry Corps crossed the river at Raccoon Ford, five miles above Blind Ford. As the historian of the 5th U.S. Cavalry put it, "This was one of the most gallant dashes made by any part of the regiment during the war."

Mason then participated in the June 9, 1863 Battle of Brandy Station, where he earned a brevet to major, to date, June 9, 1863, for gallant and meritorious services. When CPT James E. Harrison suffered a debilitating sunstroke just after Brandy Station, Mason assumed command of the 5th U.S., and led it during the June 17, 1863 Battle of Aldie and the June 19 Battle of Upperville, and the in the fighting on the South Cavalry Field at Gettysburg, on July 3. He remained in command of the regiment throughout Lee's retreat from Gettysburg, and again earned a brevet, this time to lieutenant colonel-for gallant and meritorious service at the August 1, 1863 fight at Brandy Station. He led his regiment through the Bristoe Station and Mine run commands.

In March, he was selected to command the bodyguard for LTG Ulysses S. Grant

OFFICIAL NOTICE ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2020

The By-Laws of the Association provide that the Officers and members of the Board of Governors shall be elected by the General Membership at the General Membership meeting conducted during the Annual Reunion. Further, that the President may appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for office and that other nominations may be made by Life Members from the floor at the General Membership meeting. The Resolutions of the Trust Agreement of the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association and the By-Laws of the Museum Foundation require the election to the Board of Trustees for positions coming vacant each year shall occur at the Annual Reunion. Candidates for all offices must be Life Members of the Association.

The President has appointed a nominating committee to recommend Life Members of the Association for election or re-election to fill the terms of office for the following positions that become vacant as of 7 October 2020:

- 1st Vice President**
- 2nd Vice President**
- 3rd Vice President**
- One Foundation Trustee**
- One Museum Foundation Trustee**
- Ten Places on the Board of Governors**

Any Life member of the Association, including an incumbent, who wishes to be considered by the nominating committee for one of these positions, should forward a letter to the Chairman, 2020 Nominating Committee, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703, requesting consideration for nomination to the specific office. The Nominating Committee must receive all requests no later than 30 June 2020 to assure sufficient time for processing and full consideration. Requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation that includes proof of service with the 1st Cavalry Division (e.g., a DD214 or equivalent) and a biographical sketch. The biographical sketch needs to outline the applicant's full name and provide ranks, dates of service and units assigned to in the 1st Cavalry Division. Additionally, it needs to provide the dates and positions for any offices held at National or Chapter level in the Association and similar information for any other Veteran's organizations the applicant belongs to. Any instances of special support for Association programs should also be included if applicable.

The election will be held during the General Membership meeting at the 73rd Annual Reunion of the Association on Wednesday, 7 October 2020 in Louisville, KY. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. A Life Member making such nomination will be expected to provide the information outlined above on the nominee and in addition provide assurance that the nominee is either present at the General Membership meeting or has agreed to accept nomination to the specified office.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

1CDA supports four scholarships for qualified applicants:

ACTIVE DUTY SCHOLARSHIP

Soldier has to be a member of 1CDA & assigned to 1CD. This grant is offered to the Soldier and spouse.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

100% Offered to the child/children of 1CDA members with a 100% disability rating, that were assigned to 1CD.

KIA To be used by child/children of Troopers killed in action while assigned to 1CD.

IA DRANG SCHOLARSHIP

Exclusive to the children & grandchildren of the Veterans who were involved in the battles of the Ia Drang Valley during 3-19 Nov 1965.

**SUPPORT THE FUTURE, DONATE TODAY!
NOT available online**

BY MAKING A SCHOLARSHIP DONATION, YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR UNDER HONOR ROLL ON PAGE 23.

Active Duty	Foundation	Ia Drang
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Form of Payment:

Cash Check Enclosed Credit Card

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV on back: _____ Total Amt: _____

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Signature _____

Phone # _____

MAIL TO: 1st Cavalry Division Association
302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522

All scholarships of the 1CDA are tax-exempt charitable organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations are tax deductible.

12th CAV News



Thomas Lon Crabtree
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Branson, MO 65616
432-853-4851
MMCTL3@aol.com
www.12thCav.US



HEAR...HEAR...NEVER FEAR 12th Cavalry Troopers are here and will be there at the 73rd Annual Division Reunion postponed to **4-8 October 2020**. For those who made reservations at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Louisville Airport, they were all canceled by the hotel. Please call them and make your reservations again. If you made reservations with Hampton Inn, Spring Hill Suites, Tru by Hilton and Howard Johnson Express or another hotel, you will have to contact those facilities to rearrange your dates. Please call YOUR hotel to adjust your dates.

15th Annual 12th Cavalry Reunion in Branson, MO will go on as planned, 13-17 October 2020 at the Welk Resort. Look for more and updated information in the Crossed Sabers Newsletter which you should receive on or about 8 May 2020. Updates will be posted on the various 12th Cavalry web sites and in the Crossed Sabers Newsletter with contact and group reference numbers to make reservations in our 80 room block at the Welk. Do not call prior to 21 May 2020...after 21 May the staff who take such good care of us will be back in full-service mode and looking forward to hearing from us all.

This is the first time that both Division and 12th Cavalry Reunions have occurred back to back. Talking with many Troopers who enjoy attending both gatherings, consensus is to drive down from Louisville and return home from there. If you are flying, there would be good connections from Springfield Airport and in some instances Branson. Most are planning to drive and take in the great surroundings of our country in any direction you might travel. October is a good time in KY, MO, and surrounding states with weather not hot and humid and roads not as heavily travelled. I will be in Louisville and of course...Branson. I am looking forward to seeing 12th Cavalry brothers and sisters at both places.

Every other even numbered year...we elect, select, and install Association officers at the Saturday Luncheon Meeting, to serve for two years. Current president, Leon Hinton closes out his two-year term (2018-2020) this June. Jim Stokely will step in from vice president to president, effective June 2020-June 2022. Klaus Lachmann is updating the data base and preparing a financial statement to transfer treasury responsibilities to Gary W. Pezzuti (D Co 1-12th, 1967-1968), effective June 2020. Thomas B. Murray (1SG Ret, C Co 1-12th, 1966-1967) assumed the webmaster position in April 2020. A search is ongoing for vice president and candidates recommended for honorary Sergeant Major of 12th Cavalry Regiment are being reviewed for this selection. Troopers elected as vice president and selected for the honorary Sergeant Major positions will be announced and installed at our Wednesday luncheon meeting, 7 October 2020 in Louisville. Welcome...**Don Pezzuti** and **Thomas Murray** and Thank You for your service and continuing the Legacy of "Soldier for Life"...A SEMPER PARATUS SALUTE to you both!



Final Salute Pat Wilganoski



SFC Wilganoski (son) & dad Pat

Offering a 'Slow Hand Salute' to SGT August "Pat" Wilganoski (B Co 1-12th, 1968-1969) and condolences to his loving wife Pam. Received the information about Pat crossing over after submitting the column for the last issue. Pat, a Distinguished Member of the 12th Cavalry Regiment who served his unit in Vietnam and the Association with Honors. He was interred in Central TX State Veterans Cemetery, Kerrville, TX on 9 March 2020 with full Military Honors. Pat and Pam were a couple who lighted the area wherever they were. They served the active duty community in Belton/Ft Hood, providing encouragement and assistance to the families at home during the OEF/OIF years of our battalion rotations to Iraq/Afghanistan. They helped arrange the meals and bar-b-que outings in the early 2000's for the families and rear detachment Soldiers, providing them a source of hope and solace during these trying times. In the words of COL Jim Dingeman... "Pat was a modest, humble great guy, a friend to All. Whenever I wanted or needed something done at Ft Hood, he was my 'Go To' guy. Pat got it done and never failed to deliver. Rest in Peace Pat... We and I miss You!"

On a lighter note one of our respected and loved officers, COL (Ret) John G. Gergulis (D Co 1-12th 1965-1966) was honored in his hometown of Columbia, SC at the Northeast Presbyterian Church by "Combat" Veterans Support Group. With several hundred members present at a church supper gathering. COL Gergulis was presented a handmade "Quilt of Valor" from the National Quilt of Valor Association.



John Gergulis Quilt of Valor

Nominated by his Church Brothers Veterans Support Group for this prestigious and once in a lifetime individual award, COL Gergulis an alumni of the Citadel and true officer and gentleman, humbly accepted the honor on behalf of ALL Veterans of Delta Company, 1-12th Cavalry Combat Troopers who served 1963-1972 in the Vietnam War and were part of the initial training and development of the Airmobile Concept in the years 1963-1965 at Ft. Benning, GA. A classic example of the many fine officers and leaders who served the 12th Cavalry in Vietnam and whose leadership inspired and helped keep us alive. An Airborne 'Strack' salute to you Sir John from ALL 12th Cavalry Troopers...more to this story in spring issue 2020 Crossed Sabers.

Even with the restricted movement imposed by COVID 19 guidelines and time on hand being bunkered to home, there just never seems to be enough time or space to tell the many stories from our group. Thus, with much rolling in my head that cannot be said at the moment, time to say "gotta get outta' this place" while looking forward to landing in the zone for next issue Jul/Aug 2020. I will leave you all with this poem sent to me by **MAJ (Ret) Donald E. Stump**, Plt Ldr (B Co 2-12th 1965-1967). MAJ Stump sent a story about his experiences at The Wall last Veterans Day. Will have to tell it in the next column but the poem is appropriate to our present tasks and challenges, it is anonymous:

AIRBORNE, A Brother in Arms...Veteran is sending a thought on prayer

Soldiers befall battle wounds and illness...and...

we as mere mortals wonder why and hope that we will heal physically and mentally...

Saying a prayer for the wounds to go away and that somehow

shadows are 'brighten' as life's war wounds and illnesses pass on...

Soldiers are mortals healing from wounds etched into their memories

by combat screams, yelling, and whispers from the surviving wounded recovering and allowing prayers to be said in hope...

Soldiers whisper of hope and courage as mortals these Soldiers stand true and say how they believe and have faith...

reflecting on a gentle heavenly spirit

for experience proves there are no atheists

when Soldiers are locked and loaded in war...

we mortals reflect upon wounds and hope for full recovery

as pain, hurt goes away...oftentimes a person caringly says a prayer

then listens hopefully to hear if it is answered...

Soldiers who survived the battle zone pray words of thanksgiving, sharing and caring letting inner peace provide solace and healing...

I want to thank John F. Kinzinger, HHC 2/7 CAV 1966-67 for the book you sent me "Sacrifices NOT Forgotten" well done!

Until next time... "Soar with the 'Chief Chopper Pilot' and Roll with the 'Lead Tanker!'"

Make a visit to the following Facebook pages:

1st Cavalry Division Association page: www.facebook.com/AlumniOfTheFirstTeam

3rd Brigade Combat Team search [@3bct.1cd](http://facebook.com)

SEMPER PARATUS and "BOOT to BOOT"

CRABTREE OUT

NEW MEMBERS

1LT AMMONS, HAL N. TX E 1- 12C 6707
CPL ATKINSON, ANDRE NC A 1- 85FA 87
SGT BATTLEDAY, RICHARD IN A 1- 5C 69
CW2 BEELART, DONALD AZ B 229AVN 7003
E-5 BRYANT, DARREN CO HHT 1- 9C 8505
CPT BURNS, JIM NC HHC 15SS
SSG CARR, PAUL M TX C 2- 7C 1905
SP-5 CLARKE, WILLIAM TN HHC 1- 50INF 6709
E-3 CLARKSON, DIANEL ID A 3/ 82FA 0810
MSG COATS, JAMES C TX MMC DISCOM 8107
MR. COLLINS, JAY FRED KY 1414 ASSIC
SP-4 COX, WAYNE L. IL B 2- 7C 6612
MR. CRUSENBERRY, SHERMAN IN 1412 ASSOC
SPC CURRIER, ERON MN HHC 1- 8C 9003
SSG DEARDORFF, RICHARD TX E 3 227AVN 06
SPC DEARDORFF, SOUPHY TX HHC 2- 227AVN 04
E-4 DEHERRERA, ANTHONY CO 3- 82FA 1301
PFC FAUSNAUGH, RODNEY FL C 2- 7C 8708
SGT FIELDS, RONALD R. OK A 1- 5C 6912
SSG FITSIMMONS-EVANS, ANDREW J. TX HHBN 1CDH 2002
SGT GARZA, FERNANDO M TX 3- 82FA 0105
SGT GILBERT, DERALD CA A 1- 12C 6611
SP-4 GRANGER, RANDALL OR 1CDH 7006
SP-4 GUENTHER, DAVID J MI D 1- 12C 7001
E-5 GUTIERREZ, PHILLIP CA C 1- 9C 6710
MR. HALL, WAYNE NY D 1- 9C 7808
E-4 HARDISON BARRY NC B 1- 82FFA 8709
E4 HAYTES, BRUCE TX B 1- 12C 6804
SPC HERNANDEZ, STEVEN TX C 2- 12C 1612
SP-5 ICKES, EUGENE SC 191MI 6608
CSM ISBELL, LARRY AR HQ 39INF 2004
LTC (RET) KEITH, JAMES IL HHC 2- 7C 9606
SP-5 KELLER, MICHAEL OR HQ 2BDE 6908
CPL KELLY, DORA TX HQ 4- 5C 90
SP-4 LANNING, CHARLES R MO C 1- 9C 68
SFC LEAL, MICHAEL TX HHT 1- 8C 9301
CPT MC GINN, JOHN CA HHC 1- 12C 0808
1SG (RET) OCHOA, NICHOLAS WA HHC 227AVN
SP-4 ORTIZ, EDWARD J VA C 2- 8C 7004
SGT OWENS, DAVID SD D 1- 7C 6703

WELCOME TO THE 1CDA TEAM!

7th CAV News



Karl Swenson
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Bloomington, IN 47408
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kswenson1@wgu.edu



Garryowen to you, my brothers, and sisters in arms! I hope that you have fared well during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though it has changed our lives forever, it cannot change the bonds that tie us together as comrades. Many of us have lost friends and loved ones to the virus, and we will continue to do so for some time to come. However, if we continue to care for one another, show acts of kindness and love to one another, then we shall emerge from this.

We have just received notification about our 73rd Reunion: Because of the current health crisis, the reunion has been POSTPONED until October, same location. The hotel was able to accommodate the association for a reunion in October. Room reservations at the Crowne Plaza were canceled; please call and make your reservations...again. The dates will NOW be **4-8 October 2020**. Call the hotel at (502) 367-2251 and ask for Event Registration. Tell the person you want reservations for the 1st Cavalry Division Reunion. If you made arrangements at an alternate hotel, please contact that hotel, and request a change in dates.

Regarding the election of officers for the U.S. 7th Cavalry Association: This is a heads-up announcement from John Guillory, 7th U.S. Cavalry Association President. To all 7th Cavalry Association members planning to attend the 2020 reunion in Louisville. This is to inform you that the planned election of association officers will be postponed until the 2021 reunion at Fort Hood. May you and your families be well.

From the Facebook page of 2nd Battalion, 7th US Cavalry Regiment – The “Ghost” Battalion: Huge shout out to our Blackhawk spouses who are helping to protect the force so we can continue to protect the nation! Special thanks to Julie Noel Clark for making these awesome reversible masks for all of 2nd PLT. STAND OR DIE!



What we are reading these days:

Misfire: The Tragic Failure of the M16 in Vietnam The M16 book co-authored by two 7th Cav Nam Vets: COL (Ret, deceased April 2019) Lyman “Chan” Duryea, (CO, C, 2-7, ‘66-’67) and LTC (Ret) Bob Orkand (XO/S-3, 1-7 Cav, ‘67-’68) has received several favorable mentions.

The March issue of *ARMY* magazine said: “*Misfire* should be required reading for officers and enlisted personnel. The authors have done a heroic job of assembling a case history in everything that can go wrong in war, and a road map of how to do things right in the future.”

A review in the April 2020 issue of *Vietnam* magazine began, “This extensively researched, well-written book was a pleasant surprise. Instead of a dry, boring, statistics-filled diatribe against the “black rifle,” as the M16 has been called because of its color, I discovered a thoroughly documented, fascinating case study of the tragically flawed process of introducing the assault rifle into combat in 1965.”

The book, *Misfire: The Tragic Failure of the M16 in Vietnam*, has been nominated for the 2019 Colby Award, presented annually by Norwich University.

The book’s co-authors were brought together when former SP4 Vern Miller, a member of a rifle squad in Chan Duryea’s C, 2-7, saw a notice in *Saber* about Bob Orkand, his former PMS in Rockford, IL. Miller and Orkand began contacts, with Orkand explaining how he was looking for a co-author for his M16 book and Miller noting that his CO in Vietnam had been a test officer with the XM16E1. The book is available both in hardcover and Kindle versions at Amazon.

And we are also reading: *Sacrifices Not Forgotten: ...Brothers Rest in Peace.* This is a book of remembrance written by John Kinzinger, who served as the battalion RTO for HHC, 2nd Bn 7th Cavalry October 1966 to October 1967. John was a charter member of the local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter in Ann Arbor, MI, when the chapter found a total of 76 men from Washtenaw County were killed in Vietnam. John chaired a committee dedicated to memorializing those 76 and the result is a beautiful memorial garden and granite wall of names.

Kinzinger tells me the book was much more difficult to write than the memorial was to build. Each of the 76 men are afforded a “sketch” in the book telling of their lives before Vietnam and, in some cases, the stories of their families after the war. Kinzinger purposely stays away from the combat action or the accidents that took these young lives. It is an inspiration to read this book; John and other members of the VVA have spent 25 years putting it together.

If you would like the book, John asks only that you pay for the postage (\$3). He says that any contributions will go to the perpetual care of the Memorial. Send your \$3 to: John Kinzinger, 1717 W Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103 and make sure to include your return address. An envelope will be included in each book should you decide to contribute. John sums the book up in one sentence – so that all will know that these men’s *sacrifices* will not be forgotten.

U.S. 7th CAVALRY OBITUARIES

Clinton Dale Poley, 75, of Ackley, Iowa, passed away April 25, 2020, at this home in Ackley. He was born July 30, 1942 and graduated from Ackley High School in 1960. He was affiliated with the St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Geneva and a member of Amvets, American Legion, and VFW. Clinton served in the United States Army in the Republic of Vietnam as an assistant machine gunner, 2nd Plt, C Co, 1-7 Cavalry in the Ia Drang Valley. He was discharged from the service in 1966 and went home to Iowa and the family farm. Poley was judged 70% disabled due to the wounds suffered in LZ X-Ray. Poley, a bachelor, lived alone on this farm outside Ackley, Iowa. In 1990, wrote this about his life, “Some might ask why I haven’t forgotten about Vietnam after all these years. Every night I rub a towel over all my scars and see them in the mirror. I think of all those guys killed in action, wounded in action, and their friends, their relatives, and all those altered lives. How could I forget? It is not so much what we went through as it is knowing what the other guys went through. They died dirty. They died hot, hungry, and exhausted. They died thinking that their loved ones would never know how they died. I am so proud to have been there and so proud of the guys who were there with me. I fought for this country and now I own and farm 120 acres of my country. To me, that seems proper and just, and so right.” Clinton was wounded three times at LZ X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley from 14-17 November 1965. Forty-two of the 106 men in his company died during that battle. For his service, on 3 May 1966, Clinton Poley was awarded the Bronze

Star Medal for valor in ground combat. On 14 December 1965, Poley received the Purple Heart for wounds received on 15 November 1965 in Vietnam. Clinton Poley was a very private person. He was highly intelligent, a wonderful writer and a war hero. He loved motorcycles and cars, especially his Corvette.

MG (Ret) Alton Gustav Post died peacefully at the age of 99 on March 2, 2020 at the Mayflower Retirement Center in Winter Park, FL surrounded by his loving family. A highly decorated Army Veteran of three wars, Alton was a charismatic leader who inspired the highest standards in every endeavor during his long life. Despite his many achievements, Alton remained a humble, generous, and engaging friend throughout his life. He was born on December 26, 1920, and raised in Zumbrota, MN.

Alton began his military career as a private with the Minnesota National Guard after graduating from high school. His division was called to service at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana in 1941 to prepare for World War II. There, he was selected for Officer’s Candidate School and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Army in 1942. He deployed to England in 1944 and landed on Utah Beach in France, two days after D-Day. He served in Europe as a platoon leader with the 5th U.S. Army Corps in a Transportation Truck Company. He participated in five campaigns for 21 months and ended the war in Leipzig, Germany.

He received a regular Army commission in 1949 as an Infantry Captain. He served in combat during the Korean War with the famed 7th Cavalry Regiment of the First Cavalry Division, participating in five campaigns during 1950-1951.

Alton attended Flight School and received his wings as an Army Aviator in 1959. He served two one-year tours of duty in Vietnam, first commanding a large Army aviation group (1968-1969) and next as a Brigadier General in charge of all logistics, U.S. Army Vietnam (1970-1971). General Post’s military decorations include two awards of the distinguished Service Medal, two awards of the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two awards of the Bronze Star with Combat V Device for valor in combat, six Air Medals and two awards of the Army Commendation Medal. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and was a Senior Army Aviator qualified as a glide Trooper. He was one of the few remaining officers of any branch of service to have fought in all three major wars of the United States: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam - serving in all ranks from private to Major General. A local memorial service will be held later at the Mayflower. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. Those interested should direct inquiries to Patricia Post at 571-245-7600. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Gary Sinise Foundation or a charity of your choice.

The End of an Era – First in, Last out! The 7th Cav Leaves Vietnam. At the last reunion, I talked with Bob McConnell, who was the last 7th Cavalry company commander to serve in Vietnam. I asked him to share his story with the rest of us:

On June 16th, 1972 I was commanding B Co 1/7th Cav, 3rd Bde (Sep), 1st Cav. We were operating out of FSB Grunt II which was only a klick or so west of Bien Hoa. That same day, by 3rd Brigade Special Order 168, B Co was renamed D Co, Task Force Garry Owen. I remained in command.

By way of back story, in 1994 I had the opportunity to have lunch with John Herren (of *We Were Soldiers Once* fame), who was then working for DOD at the Pentagon. John was CO of B Co 1/7th Cav when the 1st Cav deployed to Viet Nam in 1965. As we shared war stories, I learned that in 1972, under my command, B Co was doing things much the same as John had done in 1965. Specifically, in 1972 we were making combat assaults into unsecured LZs. The LZ would be prepped with a ten-minute barrage of tube artillery. The last tube round would be white phosphorus. Gunships firing rockets would flank the assault element of Hueys firing door guns. The Troops in the assault lift jumped out of the Hueys and secured the LZ. Additional lifts of Hueys would then land until the entire company was in the LZ. We would move off the LZ and establish a patrol base.

What really amazed me was that in 1972 we were fighting the same units, the 33rd and 66th NVA Regiments, John fought in the Ia Drang Valley in 1965. I was astounded that no one bothered to tell us that those two NVA units had been tracking the Cav for seven years. They probably knew every tactic we were using and even recognized voices on the radio.

As I said above, with the creation of TFGO, B Co was renamed D Co. I still have on my wall a B Co guidon. Through the summer of 1972 we continued operations as usual. I still have my last operational map showing FSBs Grunt and Bunker Hill and their 105 howitzer fire fans.

After we made a combat assault, we would move off the LZ and establish a triangular patrol base. I would then send platoons out to patrol in a clover leaf pattern. This way we could search about four square kilometers of jungle for trails and bunkers. My Kit Carson scout, Cong was a great tracker. We found “hot trotters” and sometimes bunkers. When I could get permission, we would set up a “vampire” on a trail. This was a trip wire activated automatic ambush using claymore mines. I used to pull vegetation across the trail with fishing line so there was no wire on the trail itself.

When we found bunkers, we would clear them. Then I would call for a forty-pound cratering charge for each bunker and lots of det cord to be brought in by helicopter. I recall one complex of twenty bunkers that must have been a hospital as there were a lot of medical supplies in the bunkers. We put a cratering charge on each bunker, wrapped det cord around lots of trees and wired the whole thing with blasting caps. I backed us off what I felt was an appropriate distance. It made quite a bang when I squeezed the clacker! I realized, as debris landed on our heads, we had not backed off quite far enough. Oops, sorry guys! Luckily, no one was injured, and my miscalculation generated a lot of laughs.

We would resupply on a three- or four-day cycle depending on how dry it was. Resupply day meant mail, a hot meal, and water. Guys going home or on R&R went out on the Huey and newbies came in. After resupply we would move to a new location, set up a patrol base and start again.

We surrounded our patrol bases with claymores with a trip flare in front of each claymore. One night during our last mission, a trip flare activated. Per SOP the claymore behind the flare was “clacked.” Even though there was no further activity, I called contact on the radio and shortly we had a Pink Team overhead. At first light we discovered a bunch of dead monkeys. Bad luck there.

As I recall, our last extraction was in late July. I do not have any way now to determine a specific date, but I was ordered on the radio to cut our mission short and move to an LZ. Our lift was five Hueys. They would load, return to FSB Grunt and offload, return to the LZ, and take out the next group. This left

Continued to pg. 18

8th CAV News



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**No Peace in the Valley for Charlie, Part 1**

The middle of April 1968 talk around the campfire was that the Cav was getting ready for one of the most daring operations of the war. As we learned later, we were going into the Ashau Valley. It was the first invasion of the valley in more than 2 years. The valley was the main supply line south of the DMZ. This operation had the code name, Delaware Operation. In briefings, before our journey to the valley, we were advised by the brass that we were heading into a s*** storm. Weapons were checked and double checked. Heavy losses were predicted, and certain Troopers were appointed to act as litter bearers. The night before was filled with apprehension and was a very restless night. At the break of day, the most choppers I had ever seen were lined up and ready to go. As we were gaining altitude, it seemed like it took forever, and it was so cold. Flight time from LZ Evans to LZ Cecille took 1 hour 10 minutes. We are there.

I am going to stop here and continue this story next issue. Thanks to **Larry Hempfling** D 2/8 68-69 for his contribution.

Welcome Home Baby Killer

Editor's Note: The following is reprinted in its entirety from the 1/8 CAV Jumping Mustang Bugle with the permission of the author and editor of the Bugle, Jerry Prater. Thanks for the story, Jerry.

Ever since service men and women have returned from a tour in Iraq or other Middle East localities, they have been welcomed home as heroes by a grateful nation. Some reunions with their families occurred on the field before baseball or football games and were recorded and televised nationally. Many returning Veterans were given free season tickets to major league baseball games. Veterans returning home from Vietnam did not get this type of reception.

The one thing all Soldiers looked forward to when they arrived in Vietnam, particularly those with an MOS of 11 Bravo (Light Weapons Infantry), was their DEROS date, Date Eligible for Return from Over Seas. After serving my one year tour of duty, I arrived at the Replacement Battalion in Cam Ranh Bay very early in the morning of May 19, 1968 and I was scheduled to depart on Military Air Command (MAC) flight number N254 at 0230 on May 21. After we boarded the MAC flight at 0200, Edward House, Larry Nunn, and I sat in the row of seats together, just like we did when we flew from Oakland to Pleiku one year earlier. As I sat in my seat, I was hoping and praying that the VC or NVA would not attack the plane or runway with mortars or artillery before we took off. Then, after what seemed to be an eternity, the plane started moving and taxiing toward the runway for the takeoff. The plane turned onto the runway and stopped while waiting for permission to takeoff. Then, the plane started moving and picking up speed until we were able to take off. When I heard the wheels being raised and locked, I knew we were totally out of range of any hostile fire and on our way back to The World!

Ed, Larry and I began talking, and I made up my mind that I was going to stay awake the entire trip back because I didn't know when, or if I would ever see my two very good friends again. After about an hour, I fell asleep and I did not wake up until we made a refueling stop which, I believe, was in Japan. The stop was very brief, and we did not deplane. After we took off, I tried to stay awake and talk, but I fell asleep again in about an hour. I just could not stay awake because I had little sleep during the previous two nights, and I had come down from being so keyed up and excited about leaving Vietnam. Also, we were in darkness from the time we left Vietnam until less than an hour before we landed at Fort Lewis, Washington.

We landed at Fort Lewis at approximately 0600 on May 21, the date did not change because we crossed back over the International Date Line. Now, I was looking forward to that wonderful steak meal we had heard would be served on our return. We did not get a steak, we were fed eggs and pancakes, but that was fine with me because I wanted to get to the Seattle airport and on my plane home as soon as humanly possible. Since we wore jungle fatigues and boots on the plane home, we were issued a set of dress greens, a pair of dress shoes and socks, a blue infantry shoulder rope, and a raincoat. They also sewed on 1st Cav patch and our rank insignia on the dress coat.

Since I was scheduled to leave on Braniff flight 183 departing at 1045, I was on one of the first busses that took the Soldiers to the Seattle airport. After getting off the bus, about six or seven of us Soldiers began walking to the waiting area that served three or four gates. As we arrived at the waiting area, we were greeted with a group of protestors who began yelling at us, saying "How many babies did you kill?," and "How does it feel to be a murderer?," and many other similar comments, including a lot of profanity. They also threw a lot of objects at us, but none were hard enough to hurt us. They kept cussing and yelling at us for several minutes, then they left and went to another waiting area. None of this really bothered us at the time because we were so happy to be home and away from the constant danger of being killed. Plus, the six or seven of us were there to support each other. I began to feel a sense of loneliness and emptiness as the other Soldiers boarded their plane.

I boarded my plane, and we made a short flight for a stopover in Portland, Oregon. We took off within 30 minutes of the time we landed, and we were now on our way for a non-stop flight to Love field in Dallas! One thing I noticed was all the other passengers were getting soft drinks and the stewardess was taking their liquor orders. However, she didn't offer me a soft drink, and didn't ask if I wanted any liquor. I finally had to ask for a coke, and the stewardess was very curt and rude when she finally brought it to me. The same thing happened when they started serving the lunch meal. All the other passengers got their lunch, and I had to ask for mine, and I got a very rude and hostile comment when my plate was delivered to me. Since the economy section of the plane was about one quarter full, the stewardess was not busy and had no reason not to serve me the same as she did for all the other passengers. The only difference between me and all the other passengers was that I was in my army uniform and all the other passengers were in civilian clothing.

We landed in Dallas at about 1445 and I got off the plane and started walking

toward the terminal and baggage claim area. Shortly after entering the terminal area, I was again the object of protestors who were yelling "Baby killer," "Nazi dog," "Hitler henchman" and several other vulgar comments. They also threw some objects at me but, once again, none were hard enough to hurt when they hit me. I kept walking and finally got to the baggage claim area and my wife was there waiting for me. We went to the parking lot and I got to drive my car for the first time in a year. I drove to my parent's house in

Garland, which took about 25 minutes. As we arrived at the house, I saw a big banner they had put over top of the garage door that said, "Welcome Home Jerry." I finally was able to be around people who loved me, were glad to see me, and who were glad that I was finally home and out of danger.

All the comments and actions of the protestors did not bother me when I first returned from Vietnam. While we were still in the army, all of us Vietnam Veterans always supported each other. We understood and cared for each other because we were the only people who really understood what we had endured while we were in Vietnam. When we were discharged from the army, we all lost that connection and we were on our own. A few months after my discharge, all the negative reporting on television and in the newspapers caused me to become truly angry, bitter, and depressed. It seemed that the media depicted us as dope heads who were unstable and may go off on a violent rage at any time. Also, when some people learned that I was a combat Veteran, they distanced themselves from me and would have little or nothing to do with me. Welcome home Soldier. You answered when your government called, you didn't move to Canada or do something to yourself so you wouldn't be called to serve. We all paid a price a lot higher than anyone, other than other Vietnam Veterans, will ever know, care, understand, or appreciate. We gave up more than just the one year of our lives, we gave up our innocence and, in many cases, we lost our wives or girlfriends.

When we were drafted, the army spent eight weeks of basic training teaching us how to become Soldiers. They forced us to forget all the freedoms we had as civilians and drilled into our heads how to think and act as Soldiers. Then we spent nine weeks being taught how to be infantrymen, with emphasis on how to kill enemy soldiers. We spent a year in Vietnam killing the enemy, and trying not to be killed. When our tour was over, we spent our last six months in the army performing duties specific to the infantry, such as guard duty, riot control training, and being the guinea pig for young officers or cadets from West Point so they could get some tactical experience leading Vietnam Veterans in combat type situations. However, the army made no effort to teach us how to adjust to civilian life. We did not receive any counseling on how to deal with all the trauma we experienced in Vietnam, and how to cope with a civilian population that looked at us with hatred and disdain.

We all came back with various degrees of PTSD caused by what we had to do and what we saw, as well as gunshot, shrapnel, or other wounds to our bodies. Most of the physical wounds could be seen and treated immediately, but the emotional wounds couldn't be seen, and they were not diagnosed for many years after we returned from Vietnam. Many of the emotional wounds were never treated because the Soldier may not have realized they had a problem, or they did not know how to get treatment. All we knew was that we were not the same person we were before we were drafted. **Jerry Prater**

TAPS:

We were notified of the death of the following:
BENTLEY, Trooper Patrick, A Btry, 30 FA, 1965. 27 March 2020.
BEARD, SFC Fletcher, B Co, 1-9 CAV, 1966. 2 April 2020.
BERNAL, SP-4 Joseph E., C Co, 2-7 CAV, 1968. 30 April 2019.
BIEHL, 1LT Dana, D Co, 1-9 CAV. 7 April 2020.
BORDEN, SP-4 Harry E., 15th Admin Co, 1CD, 1960-62. 23 February 2020.
BOWERS, MAJ (RET) James J., HHB & B Btry, 1-77 FA, 1965; HHB, 1-77 FA, 1969. 14 March 2020.
BRIDGETT, PFC Edward, A Co, 7th CAV, 1951. 11 December 2019.
BROOKS, SP-5 Bobby W., HSC, 15th MED, 1965-66. 12 April 2020.
COX, MSG (RET) Troy A., HHC, 15TC, 1970. 15 April 2020.
DURAN, SP-4 Ignacio "Tony", A Co, 1-7 CAV, 1971. 22 April 2020.
FANCHER, T-4 William A., A Btry, 61 FA, 1941; HHC, 61 FA, 1944. 11 February 2020.
HALL, SGT Maurice C., B Co, 1-8 CAV, 1968. 11 January 2020.
LANHAM, Trooper Roy W., C Co, 1-8 CAV, 1968. 25 April 2020.
LARKIN, LTC (RET) Thomas B., 1CD Horse Detachment Trainer, 1984-1993. 25 April 2020.
LUEDKE, SGT Barry L., A Btry, 1-77 FA, 1968. 10 March 2020.
MUNSON, BG (RET) Jim, DIVARTY, 1969. 28 May 2019.
NIMMICH, Trooper Thomas M., C Co, 1-8 CAV, 1968. 16 June 2019.
O'GRADY, LTC (Ret) George, B Co, 1-9 CAV, 1969. 2 April 2020.
POLEY, SP4 Clinton D., C Co, 1-7 CAV, 1965. 25 April 2020.
POST, MG (RET) Alton G., CDR, B Co, 1-7 CAV, 1950; HHC (S-4), 1-7 CAV, 1950. 2 March 2020.
ROBERTS, SP-4 Barry, B 27 MNT, 1970. 2 October 2019.
SCOGGINS, Trooper Byron, C co, 2-7 CAV, 1965. 4 May 2020.
SELL, PFC Harvey W., C Co & HHC, 5 CAV, 1951; 8 CAV, 1952. 6 February 2020.
STEIN, COL (RET) Henry J., Jr., 15TC, 1966; HHC, 229 AVN, 1968. 20 February 2020.
STIFFLER, SSG Donald N., C Co, 8th CAV. 27 April 2020.
VAN DEURZEN, SGT John E. C Co, 1-21 FA, 1975. 1 March 2020.
WILSON, CSM (RET) Robert E., D Co, 2-8 CAV, 1965; A Co, 2-7 CAV, 1969; HHC, 1CD, 1988. 3 March 2020. (Division CSM Nov 1988 – Feb 1991).
WINDHAM, SP-5 James C., 15 MED, 1965; C Co, 1-8 CAV, 1968. 4 January 2020.

ACTIVE DUTY TAPS:

We have been notified of the following non-combat Active Duty deaths.
HILTY, SFC John, 1-227, 1ACB, 2019. 30 March 2020. (Operation Inherent Resolve)
MENDEZ-COVARRUBIAS, SPC Juan, 1-227, 2019-2020. 11 March 2020. (Operation Inherent Resolve)

9th CAV News

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HALF A CENTURY LATER: This issue of the *Saber* covers the months of May and June of the year 2020. Fifty years ago, in 1970, those same two months were the duration of "The Cambodian Incursion." A salute to all who took part and let

230712, approximately 17 Km N-NW of Nui Ba Den in Tay Ninh Province, and approximately 6 Km NW of what was known as Landing Zone (LZ) St. Barbara, or "the old French fort" on Route TL 4.

The crew of the downed Cobra were David Popp and Phillip R. "Randy" Pannell. Both were WO1s at the time of the incident, and both were promoted to CW2 posthumously. There is some dispute as to which one was the aircraft commander on their last flight, and that is not the only discrepancy.

The official casualty reports, prepared in Washington D.C. based on message reports from Vietnam, list both casualties as non-hostile while the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) database of Army helicopters says their Cobra was a combat loss caused by being shot down by ground fire less than .50 cal in size. The passage quoted in Bert Chole's book says the Cobra spotted by the A Troop Pink Team "appeared to be intact" and that the two pilots were "still in their seats." The VHPA account goes even further, saying the bodies "were found undisturbed approximately eight months later."

I've learned that the Cobra Pannell and Popp died in, tail number 66-15301, might have had some prior mechanical issues, but so far am unable to find out how "intact" the wreckage was. If you have knowledge of this incident, and especially if you were among the A Troop Blues inserted to investigate and recover the downed B Troop crew, please email or give me a call at the contact info in the upper left corner of this column.

(RE)SCHEDULED EVENTS: Two upcoming Troop Reunions were announced in the March/April column, as follows:

A Troop, Albuquerque, NM, 2-6 Sep 2020, contact Ron Livingston, <rflivingston@msn.com>

C Troop, Columbus, GA, 26-28 Sep 2020, contact Pat Bieneman, <pcb-namin@verizon.net>

Both event organizers advise they have not given up on those dates, and that if and when they do, they will put the word out.

The last column also reported a planned 50th anniversary tribute to commemorate the actions of Gary McKiddy, crew chief of a C Troop Scout bird that crashed and burned in South Vietnam. Though thrown to the ground on impact, he got up and went to the burning aircraft, where he managed to pull observer Jim Skaggs out of the cockpit. He went back and was seen trying to free the pilot, Tommy Whiddon, when the aircraft blew up, killing them both. Gary's brother, Rick McKiddy, advises that Ohio is still not open to public events, so the tribute to Gary is being postponed until mid-July. Once the new date is confirmed, Rick will push the word out to various 1-9 email lists; until then, for information contact Rick McKiddy at (937) 367-5570.

LOSSES REPORTED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

FLETCHER BEARD, who was part of the First Team into Vietnam as the Scout Platoon Sergeant in B Troop, passed away at his home in Cecilia, Kentucky on 2 April at age 88. Ken O'Barr, of the Fort Knox Chapter of 1st Cavalry Division Association, characterized Fletcher as "always a leader not a follower, a straight talker, and one hell of a warrior."



GEORGE O'GRADY, who served in the Blue Max in 1968 and commanded B Troop in 1969, passed away in his sleep after years of suffering from the effects Agent Orange. Former Trooper Lou Niles reported on his Facebook page that "LTC O'Grady is recognized in the U.S. Army Hall of Fame for his contributions to Army aviation and the advancement of the Attack Helicopter and its weaponry. He was an outstanding Cobra pilot who flew as my cover on most of my missions and kept me and my crew alive during many insane missions."



DANA BIEHL, D Troop, passed peacefully on 7 April at age 73 from spinocerebellar ataxia, caused by exposure to Agent Orange. Dana's later-in-life colleague and friend, retired BG John DePue (who was the Assistant Staff Judge Advocate in Phuoc Vinh circa 1970-71) told me Dana completed Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, requested orders to Vietnam, and ended up assigned to Division Artillery, with duty as the Forward Observer in D Troop. At some point, a platoon leader slot came open, and LT Biehl asked if he could have the job. He was assigned to the position, and besides a Purple Heart and numerous awards for valor, he came home with a Combat Infantry Badge, a real rarity for a Redleg.



Rest in Peace, Brothers

Jim Kurtz, Apache 03, 1970-71

LRRP NEWS

Continued from pg. 4

hopefully this summer. Some stories have been added, but the big reason is that the current publishing company made some major screw ups. The section, Fallen Brothers, was completely left out, and one of Bob Ankony's stories is in there twice, on consecutive pages. I could go on and on about the mistakes, but you get the idea. In case you were wondering, the royalties from the book go to the LRRP/Ranger chapter." Bill

Finally, the 1st Cav Association has announced that the 73rd Annual Reunion, Louisville, Kentucky, has been rescheduled to early October 2020, due to our national health emergency.

Remember, wear a mask when in public, practice social distancing, and wash your hands frequently. And, if you find yourself in hell, keep going (Source: Winston Churchill).

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY.

us remember especially the Troopers whose lives were lost in that campaign.

9TH CAVALRY IN EUROPE: When the 1st Bn and 4th Sqdn of the 9th Cavalry deployed to Europe last fall, as part of the Cav's 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (2ABCT), it was for a "normal" nine-month rotation. However, we all know how Covid-19 has redefined "normal" since then. In late March, the Secretary of Defense issued a "Stop Movement" order that cast doubt on when the brigade would return to Fort Hood. Meanwhile, loved ones back home were in lockdown, adding to the stress of separation on both sides of the Atlantic.

On 20 April, the order was extended, but where the original halted all deployments and redeployments, the new order allows for these movements to continue, both domestically and globally. As things now stand, the deployed Troops should be returning in mid-summer as originally projected.

Both units have continued to train despite the pandemic, 1-9 in Lithuania and 4-9 at Grafenwoehr in Germany. Imagine trying to complete tank gunnery and conduct tactical road marches while practicing social distancing and frequent hand-washing, keeping work and personal spaces sanitized, and wearing face masks; today's Troopers are doing all that and more. We call all take pride in the resiliency and pride displayed by all of the 2ABCT Soldiers as they continue to push forward to the finish line.



Photo by Gertrud Zach

As if to demonstrate that the finish line is in sight, on 23 April the Department of the Army announced the upcoming 2020 rotation to Europe of the 2ABCT, 3rd Infantry Division. The brigade, from Fort Stewart, will replace our 2ABCT, and will participate in exercise Atlantic Resolve, in support of the U.S. commitment to NATO allies and partners. The Army further announced that the 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters will deploy to Poznan, Poland this summer, to oversee the Atlantic Resolve campaign.

"I LOVE YOU, HONEY. OVER": Readers of a certain age may remember using the services of the Military Affiliate Radio System. The MARS network depended on volunteer "ham" radio operators, who would patch incoming radio calls into local telephone systems, allowing Soldiers in Vietnam to make voice contact with their loved ones at home. Two-way communications required the ham operator to flip a switch from Transmit to Receive, so callers and recipients of calls were briefed to use the procedure word "Over" to signal when they were through talking. The result was "I love you, Over" and "I love you too, Over" conversations.

Today, personal cell phones enable deployed Troopers to contact loved ones by talk, text, or even Facetime. To paraphrase an advertising slogan first heard in 1968 (for the first cigarettes marketed exclusively to women), "We've come a long way, baby."

A SHORT WAR STORY: Just in time for this column, I got an email from C Troop's **Patrick Bieneman**. He said he had been talking with Jay "Doc Hock" Hockenbury, a medic assigned to the 1-9 Cavalry in Vietnam. Medics sometimes moved from Troop to Troop based on need, and in October 1965 Doc was with A Troop. By then he had already seen several battles and had worked his magic often, saving many lives. Here's the story, slightly edited for length, as related by Pat:

"One day in October 1965, Doc Hock found himself in the midst of another battle. This one was a little more intense than some. The VC/NVA were throwing everything they could at A Troop. Small arms fire was intense, and mortar fire was starting to pick up. All of a sudden, Doc was knocked out by an exploding mortar round that landed very close. When he woke up, Doc found himself toe-tagged, on a poncho. Someone had decided Doc Hock was dead, tagged him as such, and placed him where the bodies of KIAs were assembled. Doc quickly took off the toe tag and moved away from the area, but he had to tell several Troopers that he really was alive, as they had just seen him lying on the poncho with the Troopers who'd been killed.

Since Doc Hock was bleeding from the ears, Doc Williams, the Squadron Surgeon had him sent to be checked out. In the rear, they told him he was okay and sent him back to the fight. Doc was a little more careful after that."

As Patrick says, this may sound like a made-up story. "However," he told me, "thanks to Charlie Black, the famous reporter from Columbus, Georgia, who was covering the 1st of the 9th, we know it is true. . . This is all annotated in his "Charles Black Report" titled "Ia Drang Fight Readied."

AN UNFINISHED WAR STORY: In the March/April issue, I reported I was about halfway through Bert Chole's posthumously published *War Air Cavalry Style*. In finishing the book, I came across this passage:

"During the month of January 1970, A Troop inserted their Blues 13 times, resulting in two contacts. A Troop killed 24 NVA during this month. A note of interest happened in the Troop AO [area of operations] on 15 January, when a Pink Team spotted an old Cobra crash site. The bird appeared to be intact, so the Blues were inserted to investigate. The Cobra turned out to be an aircraft from B Troop that it had lost 10 months before. The Blues were inserted to recover the bodies of the two pilots still in their seats. They were identified through articles found on the bodies."

Some internet searching revealed that the B Troop Cobra disappeared on 14 March 1969. It was the high bird in a Pink Team that had completed its visual reconnaissance mission and was on its way back to home base. The high bird brought the low bird up to altitude for the flight home, and took up a position behind the Scout aircraft. There was no radio call; the Cobra simply disappeared. A search went on for days, but not knowing where the Cobra went down made the search area huge. The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) website says the downed bird was discovered on 15 January 1970, at grid coordinates XT

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THE HICCUP - Health Care Information Committee Report

Access to Military Bases and Post Facilities

As mentioned in past articles, access to military installations and MWR, Post Exchange, and Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities has been granted to additional Veterans. As a recap to gain access to an installation, the following applies:

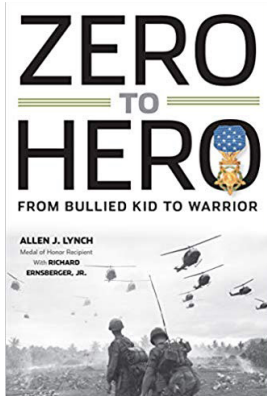
- Your VA ID Card will be scanned into the system and will be used to allow access to any post.
- Access only last 6 months, so you must keep up with it.
- Every installation has different rules for access; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth will only allow the cardholder access to the installation. Every other place allowed anyone with the Veteran to have access with an ID card.

The purpose of this is to highlight the new restrictions based on the COVID-19 virus. The Department of Defense directive issued on 5 April 2020 states: All individuals on DoD property, installations, and facilities will wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance in public areas or work centers (this does not include in a service member's or service family member's personal residence on a military installation). All individuals are encouraged to fashion face coverings from household items or common materials, such as clean T-shirts or other clean cloths that can cover the nose and mouth area. Medical personal protective equipment such as N95 respirators or surgical masks will not be issued for this purpose, as these will be reserved for the appropriate personnel.

The Defense Commissary Activity and Navy Exchange (NEX) have announced that all patrons must be wearing some form of face covering before they will be granted entry into any facility. The stores will not provide masks or face coverings to customers. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) has said they expect shoppers to adhere to DoD and installation requirements regarding face coverings and has radio announcements and in-store signing to remind its guests of physical distancing standards and face mask guidance.

Bottom Line: If you are going onto post, have a facemask available for everyone traveling with you.

LIMITED QUANTITY ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!



This is the life story of Al Lynch in his own words, an American hero who is now one of only 72 living Medal of Honor recipients. This is the story of a happy boy growing up in Chicagoland's South Side industrial neighborhoods. His early happiness was almost eradicated by several years of intense bullying, though he found ways to overcome that experience. This is the story of an aimless young man whose prospects of following in his father's footsteps as a blue-collar tradesman were cut short by the Vietnam War and by his personal search for something greater than himself. This is the story of a man whose meandering military career, and his life up to that point, came into sharp focus when, in a deadly firefight in Vietnam, he rushed to rescue three wounded Troopers in no man's land.

He was urged to leave the wounded and return to a safe position. But Lynch refused to retreat in order to stay with his Troopers despite having every reason to believe he would die that afternoon. Because of these actions, he is a hero.

\$25 ZERO TO HERO
hardcover book by
1SG (RET) ALLEN LYNCH
MOH Recipient

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Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

MAIL TO: 1st Cavalry Division Association
302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522

SHIPPING IS FREE

THE DOCTOR'S REPORT

COL (Ret) James Noel
HHC 1-5 Cav, 1990
JNoel2@live.com

SSG (Ret) Jonathan Shockley
HHC 1-5 Cav, 1988-1992 (Doc Shock)
Jsho941055@aol.com

Chiropractic Treatment in the VA Healthcare System

By: J.C. Moore, DC, drjcmooredc@yahoo.com

During my chiropractic education I had the pleasure of completing an internship at Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center in St. Louis Missouri. During this experience I deepened my appreciation for the nation's military Veterans and the sacrifices they make. It was quickly evident this patient population was much different than what I had treated in the regular outpatient clinics. At the time, this pilot program was one of a handful of VA centers offering chiropractic medicine. Since then chiropractic services have been significantly increased due to Veteran demand. Chiropractic services are part of the standard Medical Benefits Package available to all eligible Veterans. Currently, over 100 VA facilities offer on-site chiropractic services, and where on-site services are not available, through the Community Care Program.

VA data cites "diseases of the musculoskeletal system/connective system" such as back pain as the number one ailment experienced by Veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who access VA treatment. Injuries sustained during service time as well as wear and tear from training and daily life of military personal, can result in chronic conditions causing pain. Treatment from a chiropractic physician may help ease pain, providing more pain free days and lowering the need for prescription medication or invasive procedures. Chiropractic treatment options include patient education, active rehabilitation, spinal manipulation and other manual therapies.

No single piece of high-tech equipment yet invented can match the healing ability of a knowledgeable chiropractor's hands, as many who have experienced effective pain relief through chiropractic medicine can tell you. Chiropractic physicians focus on improving spinal and body mechanic to promote function and reduce pain. Consider asking your primary care provider if a chiropractic referral might benefit you.



1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

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As a proud Veteran of the 1st Cavalry Division (15th Medical BN, Vietnam, 11/68-11/69), I frequently like to wear a cap, Stetson hat, T-shirt or other attire sporting the iconic 1st Cav patch! Often, someone will come up to me and say, "Hey, I was in the 1st Cav in Vietnam too! When were you there and what unit?"

Unfortunately, every now and then, some jerk comes up to me, giggling so hard that he can barely talk, points to my Cav patch and says something to the effect of, "I know what that stands for! The horse they never rode, the line they never held, and the color running down their back." I have heard several variations on that, all equally repugnant. I am sure that many of you have had similar experiences.

One is first reaction is to think, "No jury would ever convict me..." (but they would!) I am certain that a lot of people who have uttered this disgusting remark have suffered black eyes, missing teeth, and assorted grievous injuries all over the world!

Here is the official description of the patch symbolism from www.1CDA.org:

"Symbolism – The color yellow, the traditional Cavalry color, and the horse's head refer to the Division's original Cavalry structure. Black, symbolic of iron, alludes to the transition to tanks and armor. The black diagonal stripe represents a sword baldric and is a mark of military honor; it also implies movement "up the field" and thus symbolizes aggressive élan and attack. The one diagonal bend, as well as the one horse's head, also alludes to the Division's numerical designation."

Quoting this description to this unwelcome jerk would probably not serve any purpose.

I have developed the following response, "I disagree with your opinion of the meaning of the patch, but I believe that what you are really expressing is disrespect for the 1st Cav. Can you tell me your basis for that?" The answer was usually something like, "My dad (or someone) told that to me. I just think it's so clever!" However, an answer that I got one time from a particularly antagonistic individual was, "Well, the 1st Cav's not so hot! After all, they lost their colors!" I asked him for details, but he just said, "It was in Korea-look it up!" as he walked away.

Since I was curious, in 2014, I resolved to find out what that myth or rumor was all about. Some friends from 8th Engineers suggested I contact SGT Ken Howser, AKA SGT Rock, who at that time, was the scribe for the 12th Cav *Saber* column. SGT Rock sent me the attached two documents which deal with the subject. These documents quite well dispel the myth that the 1st Cav ever lost its colors.

The first document is from the U.S. Center of Military History at Fort McNair in Washington D.C. which discusses the loss of a unit's colors and refutes that the 1st Cav ever lost its colors. The second document is from the 26 January 2011 issue of Stars and Stripes with the findings of Jeff Schogol, AKA the Rumor Doctor.

SGT Rock's advice on dealing with jerks that disparage our beloved patch: Say to them, "If you can prove that, do it or shut the H... up." (They cannot prove it.)

I especially like the Rumor Doctor's closing comment in the 26 January 2011 issue of Stars and Stripes: "From Unsan to Ia Drang to Bagdad, 1st Cav has specialized in giving our enemies a very bad day."

"Loss" of Colors from the U. S. Army Center of Military History <<https://history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/loss.html>>

1. There is no official definition of the term "loss of colors." However, the term, in common usage, refers to the capture of a unit's colors (Flags) by the enemy in battle, or the taking away of a unit's colors as a punishment or disciplinary measure.

2. "Colors" or unit standards have historically served as a means of identifying units of the battlefield. During the Civil War, men were trained to follow their

Continued to pg. 11

OIF/OEF VETERAN

82nd FA News

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Soccer Ball Diplomacy Takes Hold in Northern Mosu

The children of the neighborhood begin to swarm as soon as the MRAPs turn down the street. As soon as the ramp at the rear of the vehicle begins to lower you can hear the shouts and screams of the kids. Their excitement reaches a fever pitch when they lay their eyes on the most highly coveted of all items in the American Soldiers possession. This patrol from Task Force 2-82, "Steel Dragons" has come armed with a tool that they hope will be far more effective than weapons or ammunition in this ongoing fight to secure Mosul – soccer balls.



Drawing on his experience from previous deployments to the region and anecdotal evidence that attacks on coalition forces dropped significantly during Iraq's participation in the Asia Cup international soccer tournament, LTC Ben Matthews decided to launch an effort to bring "soccer ball diplomacy" to the Steel Dragons area of operations. Carefully synchronized with the Task Force's efforts to clear neighborhoods of enemy activity, the soccer balls play a crucial role in helping to secure the "hold" phase of operations. Taking advantage of the opportunity created when he has a soccer ball in hand and a large group of children gathers, Matthews tries to teach one civics lesson to them each day.

"Particularly in the neighborhoods where we have trash collection civil affairs projects going on I ask the kids to pick up their trash and put it in the dumpsters to help keep their neighborhoods clean and safe," said Matthews following a recent dismounted patrol in the Al Sideeq neighborhood of Northern Mosul. This innovative soft power approach to changing the attitudes of the next generation of Iraqis towards Americans seems to be working. After passing out a half dozen soccer balls on a recent patrol the next time he visited the same area Matthews reports that the kids were running up to him to show him their pockets full of



trash to prove that they hadn't been littering. This soft approach has also demonstrated to the children that the Americans and their Iraqi Security Forces partners are approachable and friendly. It has helped them to show that they care about the neighborhoods and the residents and garner goodwill and favor with the local citizens. Perhaps most significantly, a few females have begun approaching the patrols to ask for soccer balls for their children. The goal of the efforts is that the locals will approach the patrols not just to ask for soccer balls but also to report information on enemy activity and IED emplacements.

So far the Soldiers of Task Force 2-82 have distributed well over 100 soccer balls throughout their area of operations. Many more are on the way from family and friends back in the United States. Using a truly 21st Century approach to gather support for their efforts several Soldiers from the Task Force posted messages on their Facebook pages requesting soccer balls. The message has spread across the internet with those contacts inspiring individuals and groups such as Girl Scout troops, school classes, and small businesses to organize collection efforts to send soccer balls to Mosul.

The next step for the Steel Dragons is to start supporting the organized, uniformed games that they observe taking place in their area every evening. "Eventually, I'd like to stop and gather the players and spectators around and present them with a high quality professional grade ball that they can use in their highly competitive matches to show them that we care about them and support a very important, culturally significant activity which is embraced by millions of Iraqis," Matthews stated.



HISTORIAN

Continued from pg. 10

colors in battle, to "rally" around them, and generally to use them to maintain unit cohesiveness. Unit colors were a great source of pride, and victories or defeats were often expressed in terms of colors being captured from or lost to the enemy. During the Civil War, many awards of the Medal of Honor were made for the capture or defense of colors. Even then, however units which lost their colors remained intact and continued to fight.

3. Modern warfare tactics do not call for rallying points in the open, with large numbers of men performing intricate maneuvers. Therefore, today's armies use colors and ceremonies but do not carry them into battle.

4. Official Army records contain no mention of any unit of the United States Army having lost its colors to the enemies during World War II, the Korean war, or the war in Vietnam. There is also no record of any unit having its colors taken away as a punishment for any action at any time in the history of the United States Army.

5. There have been several rumors concerning various units losing their colors. These are generally false. Some of these include:

a. The 1st Cavalry Division in Korea. The incident that apparently gave rise to this false rumor appears to be the Unsan Engagement which took place on 1 and 2 November 1950 at Unsan, Korea. In that battle, the 8th Cavalry, a component of the 1st Cavalry Division, was pushed back from positions in and around the town of Unsan by vastly superior Chinese forces. The regiment was severely battered, suffering heavy casualties and losing a considerable amount of equipment. This was one of the first major Chinese operations in the Korean War and, like the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir Battle of this same period, it took the United Nations Command by surprise. Considering the circumstances, the 8th Cavalry fought very well, and has never been criticized for its conduct in this operation.

b. The question of the loss of Colors by the 7th Cavalry at Little Bighorn has also generated considerable debate. Although this office has no conclusive evidence one way or the other, it has been suggested that Custer's personal flag along with several Troop guidons were taken, but that the regimental flag was not captured. A regimental flag subsequently turned up at the Custer Battlefield National Monument in Crow Agency, Montana, but it has never been verified that this was the flag at Little Bighorn. There is also a rumor that the 7th Cavalry lost its colors in Korea. This can be tracked back to the 7th's association with the 1st Cavalry Division and the incident detailed in paragraph 5a (above).

c. It has been suggested that the 27th Infantry lost its colors. This rumor was traced by Mr. John Wike, (a historian in) this office, to a request made by the regimental commanding officer. August 19th, 1919, on the basis that the old colors, which were 14 years old, had become "so rotten" that (they) cannot be repaired. The replacement colors somehow were miss sent to the Philippine Islands Quartermaster Depot, where they were discovered during an inventory nine years later. Meantime, on April 21, 1922, the 27th's commanding officer again made a request for new colors. In doing so, he stated that the regimental colors then in use were so tattered and torn as to present an unsightly appearance, having been in service for more than sixteen years.

These are not the only units rumored to have lost their colors. They are, however, the ones most frequently mentioned regarding the issue of loss of colors.

Prepared 6 January 1994 by DAMH-HSO (Later DAMH-FPO)

Rumor Doctor Blog Archive: Did the 1st Cavalry Division lose its colors? by Jeff Schogol, Stars and Stripes published January 26, 2011

The 1st Cavalry Division's combat patch stands out from its peers: Its silhouetted horse and line on a yellow field is recognizable from far away. But urban legend has it that there was a time when Soldiers in the unit were not allowed to wear the patch in the United States.

"Story is that the division lost its colors in Korea and since the division was

disgraced the patch could not be worn in the U.S.," one reader wrote in an email to the Rumor Doctor. During Vietnam, the division regained its honor, ending the ban."

Considering the 1st Cavalry Division kept the Rumor Doctor alive when he got sick during his last trip to Iraq, The Doctor is happy to consign this myth to the scrap heap of urban legends, along with the one about eating Pop Rocks and drinking soda.

The story stems from a battle in November 1950 at Unsan, in modern-day North Korea, when the 1st Cavalry Division fought Chinese troops for the first time, according to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA.

"Elements of the division's 8th Cavalry Regt became cut off, resulting in the capture of numerous personnel and much equipment," according to the center's website. "Worse hit was the regiment's 3rd Battalion, with its command post overrun. Rumors of losing its colors have haunted the 8th ever since."

But the battalion was not carrying 1st Cavalry division or regimental colors when it was overrun, said Stephen C. Draper director of the division museum at Fort Hood, Texas, which has a brochure and exhibit on this subject.

While the 1st Cavalry Division did not lose its colors, the Chinese captured another unit's colors, which are on display in a military museum in Beijing, experts said.

The 1st Cavalry Division remained in Japan and South Korea after the war until June 1965, when its colors were transferred to Fort Benning, Ga, and the unit was dispatched to Vietnam, said Richard L. Baker, of the unit U.S. Army Military History Institute in Carlisle. "Until 1965 the division simply was wasn't located in the U.S. proper, so few if any individuals would have been seen wearing the patch," Baker said in an e-mail.

Unfortunately the rumor about the 1st Cavalry Division losing its colors gave rise to disgraceful sayings about the division's combat patch, including, "The horse they never rode, the line they never held, the color running down their back," said Rob Dalessandro of the U.S. Army Center for Military History at Fort McNair in Washington D.C.

"Sad commentary on a proud, valiant and hard fighting division," he said in an e-mail. "Certainly, proof that Army rumors die hard! I'm proud to help dispel this one!"

THE RUMOR DOCTOR'S DIAGNOSIS: This rumor is false. From Unsan to the Ia Drang to Baghdad, 1st Cav has specialized in giving our enemies an unbelievably bad day.

5th CAV NEWS

Continued from pg. 5

(consisting of CO's B, F and K, of the 5th U.S. Cavalry, as well as detachments from CO's C and D), and served in this important roll until the end of the Civil War. He led CO's B, F and K in raids on the Petersburg and Weldon Railroads in August 1864 and through Surry County, Virginia in October 1864. He accompanied Army headquarters to in May 1865 and continued to serve with Grant until August 12, 1866. His career was far from over and his name can be found in many later engagements of the 5th U.S. Cavalry.

Thank you, **Eric Wittenberg**.

I have truncated this article for this presentation in the *Saber*. If you wish to read the entire piece, please let me know and I will make arrangements to email you a copy.

Help us recruit, make sure those that you served with in the Division are also members of the 1st Cavalry Division Association!

73RD ANNUAL REUNION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 4-8 OCTOBER 2020, LOUISVILLE, KY

73^d Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association has been **RESCHEDULED for 4 – 8 October 2020**

**If you had a room reservation at the Crowne Plaza for the reunion in June, they were all canceled by the hotel. Please call and make your reservations again, 502-367-2251. If you made a reservation at an alternate hotel you will have to change those dates yourself. Please call your hotel to confirm and ensure your stay is for the correct dates.

The Fort Knox Area Chapter invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in Louisville, KY for the 73d Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from **4 – 8 October 2020**. All Life and Associate Members are welcome to attend this special event. Gold Star Families and Widows of our members are always welcome to attend.

Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms. All members of the Association must register and pay the \$20 Registration Fee except for our Active Duty Troopers who pay \$10 to register. Family members attending with an Association member, Widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers, and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee. **NOTE: Cancellations are non-refundable after the September 02, 2020 deadline. Cancellations must be received by 5pm Friday September 01 in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund.**

This year the Association is offering an opportunity for members and their guests to purchase a souvenir (\$6.50) to remember their time spent in Louisville.

HOTEL INFORMATION

We will be utilizing the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Expo Center for all our events. The Crowne Plaza has guaranteed a room rate of \$124 per night plus tax for up to rooms on peak nights and there is no charge for parking. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion. The hotel does provide a free shuttle service from the Louisville Airport and rental cars are available at the airport.

Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport 1-800-626-2708 for phone reservations -OR- Online Reservations: www.cplouisville.com Use Group Code: ZC1

I have provided additional hotels for our members to consider and in walking distance to the Crowne Plaza.

Hampton Inn	(502) 366-8100
Spring Hill Suites	(502) 361-9009
Tru by Hilton	(502) 792-8800
Howard Johnson Express	(502) 363-9952

RV PARK INFORMATION

For our members traveling with an RV, the closest park is Brooks Mobile and RV Park and it is approximately a 12 mile drive to the Crowne Plaza.

Brooks Mobile and RV Park	(502) 276-6090
205 Sarver Ln Brooks, KY 40109	

REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

This year's Ladies Tea will be a trip on the Belle of Louisville (lunch included). Steamboat travel and transportation revolutionized the river, Louisville, and our nation. To board the Belle of Louisville is to do more than to see Louisville and the Ohio River from a unique perspective – it's also a step onto a piece of American history.

Transportation arrangements for our members to visit Downtown Louisville. Louisville is a city full of culture and compassion. For the "Foodie," Louisville is ranked among the top 10 best new food cities; if Bourbon gets your engine running try the world's only Urban Bourbon 'city-wide' experience; and for the kid in all of us, visit the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory or the Muhammad Ali Center. These are just a few things to do. Hop on the 'LouLift', free downtown transportation, and you can see everything else the downtown area has to offer.

The Welcome Mixer has changed, it will no longer be at Churchill Downs since they do not have races in October. The Welcome Mixer will now be at the **Kentucky Derby Museum**. The Kentucky Derby Museum has two floors of interactive, family friendly exhibits and will take you through every stage of a Thoroughbred's life, from birth to the Kentucky Derby, first Saturday in May. Learn about all the great history of the race dating back to the inaugural running in 1875 to our most recent Kentucky Derby champion and experience all the traditions that transformed the race into what it is today. A showing of the Museum's epic 18-minute film that will put you at the center of the Kentucky Derby experience. The movie will send your heart racing and emotions soaring.

Dinner will be a spring mix salad, cayenne honey chicken breast, garlic whipped potatoes, asparagus & tomato, pecan cheddar biscuits; be sure to come hungry. There will also be time for our guests to walk through the museum, spend money at the gift shop, and take pictures in the photo booth. This will be a Welcome Mixer you will surely want to attend.

A permanent replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall is in the Elizabethtown Nature Park. The project is an 80 percent scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. Our Fort Knox Chapter played an integral role in making this project happen and we are making it possible for our members to visit this memorial.

As usual, we will have all our planned events in the Crowne Plaza: War Era Lunches, Unit Lunches, Purple Heart Breakfast, Association Banquet, Group Breakfasts, and Memorial Service. We will have meetings of the Chapter Presidents, Foundation and Museum Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors and our General Membership meeting. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association and both Foundations.

Seating for all events is open except for Reunion Banquet on Saturday night. If you are attending the banquet, you must get your tickets **marked with a table number** at the Banquet Seating table when picking up your registration packet. If you want to sit with specific people, we recommend that you all go to the Banquet Seating table together with your tickets available. Don't wait until the last minute or we may not be able to accommodate your needs.

Cavalry casual attire is appropriate for all reunion events. We are always questioned about attire for the banquet. Wear what you feel comfortable wearing; a coat and tie, your uniform (if it still fits), casual clothing with open collar, jeans, or shorts. We want you to attend and aren't overly concerned with what you wear, so long as it isn't indecent!

The Association will provide a Reunion Room in the Crowne Plaza for you to gather together and enjoy yourself. Drinks (beer and wine) in the Reunion Room are free but we ask that you generously donate to help us pay for this room. The Reunion Room will open daily at 0900 with the bar opening at 1200 hours.

The Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop will set up a store in the hotel to sell all kinds of Cav-tastic First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals and other items too numerous to mention.

THE BEST PART OF THE REUNION

As always, the best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion brings in Troopers from almost every era of the First Team's history. Troopers that rode horses, fought in the Pacific with MacArthur, occupied Japan, fought in Korea, or stood watch on the DMZ will spend time with the Sky Troopers of Vietnam and the Troopers from Operation Desert Storm, Fort Hood, Bosnia, and the latest combat Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment and terrain might be different, but the common bond of serving with America's First Team binds us together. Saddle up and ride on down to Louisville in 2020!



Cut off date to pre-order your shirt is 1 August 2020

73rd Annual 1st Cav Assn Reunion T-shirts

Adult Sizes Only

**Pre-order
YOURS today!!**

<input type="checkbox"/> S	Please indicate quantities in boxes.	\$17.95 each S-XL
<input type="checkbox"/> M		
<input type="checkbox"/> L		
<input type="checkbox"/> XL		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2XL	(2XL & 3XL Add \$2.00)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3XL	\$19.95 each +S/H= Total	



Description: Shirt will be 50/50 grey
Logo on the left chest as well as full-color imprint on the back.

Shipping Chart:

1 Shirt @ \$8.00
2-8 Shirts @ \$14.50
9+ @ \$20.00

*To have the merchandise shipped, please use the chart to determine rates. *No shipping for merchandise picked up at the reunion.*

Please check box if you plan to pick up shirt @ Reunion

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Reunion T-shirts will NOT ship prior to 01 Sept 2020.

Check enclosed Visa M/C Discover American Express

Card Number _____
CVD# _____ Exp Date MO/YR _____
Signature _____

**Please mail order form to:
Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop
PO Box 5774, Ft Hood, TX 76544**

Please visit our website at @ shop.1CDA.org to order online or view clearer artwork.



This is the **Louisville Slugger Souvenir** that you see on your 2020 Reunion form

below. You can order your 18" slugger replica on your order form for \$6.50 each.

However they will not be available until the **2020 reunion**. If you place an order, you will pick up your bat along with your tickets at registration. We're sorry, but unfortunately we will not be able to ship out any bats for any reason, to include unforeseen cancellations.

The Welcome Mixer will now be at the Kentucky Derby Museum, read more on page 12 Reunion Event Overview. Get YOUR tickets NOW!

The **Downtown Louisville Trip (#1 & #3)** can be whatever you want it to be. There is a lot to see and do. There are museums, restaurants, distilleries, and shopping. It's a great opportunity to see the sites and what the area has to offer.

The **Elizabethtown Trip (#2)** is a trip the Fort Knox Chapter has organized. It's to visit the permanent 80% scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It's about a 40-minute drive.

<<https://www.touretown.com/listing/vietnam-veterans-memorial-wall/261/>>

For more information on Louisville, KY, visit the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau website. *See ya'll in Louisville!*

<<https://www.gotolouisville.com/visitor-center/>>

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 73rd REUNION, 4-8 October 2020
Louisville Kentucky

SUNDAY OCT 04

0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1200-UTC Downtown Louisville

MONDAY OCT 05

0800-0900 Museum Fnd Mtg
0910-1010 Foundation Mtg
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1100-1500 Trip to Elizabethtown, KY
1900-2200 Kentucky Derby Museum

TUESDAY OCT 06

0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
0900-1100 Board of Governor's Mtg
1100-1400 War Era Luncheons
1500-UTC Downtown Louisville

WEDNESDAY OCT 07

0730-0845 Purple Heart Breakfast
0900-1100 General Membership Mtg
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
0900-1600 Registration Desk Open
0900-1600 Souvenir Shop Open

WEDNESDAY cont'd

1100-1130 Chapter Presidents Mtg
1100-1400 Ladies Tea Belle of Louisville
1200-1400 Unit Luncheons
1500-1600 Veterans Benefits Briefing
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)
1900-2230 Association Banquet

THURSDAY OCT 08

0700-0830 Group Breakfast
0700-0830 LRRP/Ranger Breakfast
0900-1000 Memorial Service (Long Roll Muster)

Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Assn Reunion, 302 N. Main, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm Friday, September 01 in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund. **No Refunds after September 02, 2020.** Seating at some functions is limited.

Are you a member of 1CDA Yes No
First Reunion? Yes No
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____

Unit(s): #1 _____
Year(s): #1 _____
Unit(s): #2 _____
Year(s): #2 _____

Name of Gold Star Fam Mem: _____
Guest/Spouse/Other: _____
#1: _____
#2: _____
#3: _____
#4: _____
#5: _____
#6: _____

Method of Payment: (circle one)

Credit Card Check: # _____

CC#: _____
Exp Date: _____
CVV#: _____

Signature: _____

Registration Fee (Members):	1	\$20.00	\$ _____
Louisville Slugger Souvenir:	_____	\$6.50	\$ _____
Active Duty w/ID:	1	\$10.00	\$ _____

SUNDAY OCT 04

Trip #1 Downtown Louisville	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____
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MONDAY OCT 05

Trip #2 Elizabethtown, KY	_____	\$20.00	\$ _____
Welcome Mixer (Cash Bar)	_____	\$35.00	\$ _____

TUESDAY OCT 06

War Lunch (Circle one)	_____	\$27.00	\$ _____
Kor V Cambodia GWOT			
Trip #3 Downtown Louisville	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____

WEDNESDAY OCT 07

Purple Heart Breakfast	_____	\$25.00	\$ _____
Ladies Tea	_____	\$40.00	\$ _____
Unit Lunch (Circle one)	_____	\$27.00	\$ _____
5C 7C 8C 9C 12C			
W ARTY HQ LRRP ENG			
Assoc Banquet			
5C 7C 8C 9C 12C			
W ARTY HQ LRRP ENG	_____	\$48.00	\$ _____

THURSDAY OCT 08

Group Breakfast	_____	\$25.00	\$ _____
LRRP Breakfast	_____	\$25.00	\$ _____
Saber Renewal (\$10 per year)	_____		\$ _____
Donation			\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES

We invite all of our Chapter Presidents, VPs or POC's to contribute any photos, news, or updates about your Chapter, to be **posted here in the Saber!** We would love to hear updates from all of our Chapters spread across the United States. **WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THIS PLATFORM TO SHARE YOUR BULLETINS.**

Submission deadline to appear in the next Saber is **Wednesday, July 1, 2020.** Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org or mail to 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522.

ATTENTION CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:

If you are attending the 73rd Reunion in Louisville, KY, please plan to attend the Chapter Presidents Meeting **Wed, October 7, 11:00-11:30am.** We highly encourage all Presidents & VP's to attend. We recommend you start collecting your ideas to present them to the other Chapters. See you there!

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



This is a picture of last year's CT Assoc barbeque. Did not meet in April due to coronavirus. Our next meeting will be July 18 for another barbeque. All members and prospective members are encouraged to attend. For more information contact **Keith Moyer** <kpmoyerco@hotmail.com> 860-885-4330.

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

Like everywhere else things have come to stop here at the Crossed Sabers Chapter. We had to postpone our general membership meeting and planned elections due to emergency declarations that restricted meetings of ten or more people and closed the VFW where we were going to hold the meeting. If we learned anything in our time in the military it is that the only thing constant in the Army, or Chapter, is change. As this is being written Texas is in the process of opening-up and we are hopeful that we will have our general membership meeting and hold elections on 28 May at the Harker Heights VFW 3892.

We did not have a June Stable Call planned because of the reunion but will probably try to have one at a location to be determined on 25 June since the reunion has been delayed until October. Watch our Facebook page 1st Cavalry Division Association Crossed Sabers Chapter for updates.

Take care, God Bless! First Team! Chapter President Tim Hodge.



Stable Call Oct 2019
Tim Hodge and Tony Cole

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER



We are wearing them. Got yours? Seriously, if your chapter feels left out or behind the times, contact us. 904-534-8899. We will send you the get'um place.

Our April and perhaps May meeting is obviously on hold but if you are in the 322 zip codes, you will be notified in time to attend the next meeting. In the meantime, we wait for the 2020 Reunion now October 4-8.

FT KNOX CHAPTER

Our chapter lost Fletcher Houston Beard, 88, of Cecilia, April 2, 2020, at his home. He was a Veteran of the U.S. Army serving in the 1st Air Cavalry B Troop 1-9 Cav in Vietnam.

I just wanted to update everyone regarding our progress here in the Fort Knox Area. We are working to build another 360 feet of sidewalk to allow handicapped veterans to view the backside of our 80% replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. We have placed panels on the back with the logos from all the branches of service along with the POW/MIA logo. We also installed two panels with four Hueys in formation on both sides of the logos. These are engraved and beautiful. Next month we will be installing a life size bronze statue of a scout dog with handler mounted on a boulder facing from left looking down the Wall as if he is guarding it. This construction is being accomplished by Vietnam veterans and UAW 862 from Ford in Louisville. I hope that all who attend the reunion gets to see and reflect our work. We are looking forward to the 73d reunion and hope the COVID 19 virus is no longer a threat to our nation.

NEW YORK/ NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Due to the Covid19 The New York-New Jersey Chapter canceled its spring meeting, also the Chapter future events have been canceled. The fall meeting that is schedule for Oct 17 will depend on health and safety conditions. All updates on chapter events, chapter and Veteran's news will be made available on our Facebook page. Just Google: New York New Jersey Cavalry. Chapter photos on Instagram: [nynjcavalry](https://www.instagram.com/nynjcavalry). Photo caption: Bob Arbasetti, Ken McAteer and Phil Marcucci in better days
Be safe, Be Kind, Bob Arbasetti, president



NORTHWEST CHAPTER



Social distancing has made me much more aware of how supportive I have felt through the camaraderie and assistance of the First Cavalry Division Association over the years. We only had one meeting before quarantining happened in earnest in the State of Washington. Keeping in touch with people through email, texting and phone calls just is not the same.

Looking ahead, we are still planning on having our annual picnic at JBLM. It will be at noon on 1 August, Lewis North, at the Tall Firs Pavilion at Russel Landing. Call **Clayton Waldron, 360-443-0394** if you want more information about the Northwest Chapter up in Washington state.

Gail Porter, President

SHERIDAN'S CHAPTER

Our May 16th Membership Meeting scheduled at the Italian American Veterans Museum in Stone Park was cancelled out of an abundance of caution for our members. Our officers will decide on whether the May meeting will be re-scheduled for a later date. The annual picnic scheduled for Aug 8th at this time is still on, our officers will be reviewing whether the May meeting will be rescheduled for June or July.

The Sheridan Chapter cordially invites anyone who served or was attached at any year with the 1st Cav to join our group. Contact **Terry Hodous** POC at <us67-hodo@outlook.com> or 773-445-1213 for additional information regarding membership or attending one of our future events.

WILLIAMA. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER

The Chapter got off to a great start this year by having Mr. Dale Watson, retired FBI agent be our January speaker. Prior to his distinguished FBI career, he spent two years in the 1-5 Cavalry at Fort Hood. Dale retired as the Executive Assistant Director for Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence. Dale spoke on his career as an agent, supervisor, and head of the Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence activities.

We also celebrated Ms. Eva Richardson's 96th birthday, which was spent in the hospital with a moderate stroke. She is doing much better now.

In February, we had Mr. Aris Pappas, retired CIA in 2003 as a member of Senior Intelligence Service. He also is a retired Army Office, retiring from the USAR in 1998. He was involved in the Cold War era, Desert Shield and Desert Storm and involved with the Polish Colonel Ryzard Kuklinski case prior to the demise of the Soviet Union. Great insights to Cold War intelligence.

Also, in February, we lost a good friend and Charter member of the Chapter, MAJ Michael "Duke" Snyder. He was laid to rest at the USMC Quantico Cemetery where his wife was buried. God rest good Soldier.

Our March meeting was cancelled due to the virus and reorganization. But used Zoom to hold a virtual meeting. April 18th, our speaker was Jim Knotts. Jim is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), the nonprofit that built The Wall in 1982. He is an Air Force Veteran of the Persian Gulf War and a graduate of the Air Force Academy. He now leads the effort at VVMF to honor the service and sacrifices of Vietnam Veterans; those who sacrificed all, those who served, and those who waited for the service members to return, as well as those who serve today. Preserving the legacy of service from generation to generation, from Vietnam to the Persian Gulf War, to Iraq and Afghanistan, is Jim's personal commitment and a part of the ongoing education efforts of VVMF. He provided an excellent update on the VVMF activities and direction that the organization is going. If you are a Vietnam Veteran, you need to go to their site <www.vvmf.org> and spend some time on it. Much to see.

We are planning our meeting for May based on Government orders, meanwhile stay safe and well.

JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Michigan has been hard hit with the COVID-19 pandemic and as such our activities have been put on hold. Our primary activity is hosting Bingo at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. That facility is currently closed to all but staff. The March Bingo was cancelled and most likely the May Bingo as well. These are the first activities in over 13 years that have been cancelled. So far there have not been any reported cases among the residents. We are ever hopeful that the August Bingo can still be held. Contact **Bob Anderson** at 616-682-5446 or e-mail him at rj.anderson2243@comcast.net for more information. First Team!

DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR CHAPTER PHOTO POSTED HERE?

Feel free to email or send us one so it can appear in the next issue! Thank you to our Chapters who send in a submission each *Saber!* We appreciate you!

Send to Memberships@1CDA.org

CHAPTER INDEX

**ALMOST HEAVEN
WEST VIRGINIA**

POC: Jim Hays
713 Diamond St.
P.O. Box 97
French Creek, WV 26218-0097
(304) 924-6380
Email: purplehays_05@yahoo.com
Facebook: Almost Heaven Chapter
1st Cavalry Division Association-
West Virginia

**CALIFORNIA
CENTRAL COAST**

Pres: Barney B. Jones
P.O. Box 444
Pebble Beach, CA 93953
(831) 917-5952
Email: firstcav-cc-chapter@outlook.com

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE

Pres: Terry Low
16560 S Harding Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045-9679
(503) 210-5558
Email: tangolima2505@comcast.net
Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.
webs.com
Meets 1200 2nd Thurs of ea mos at
the Bomber Restaurant, 13515 SE
McLoughlin Blvd, Portland, OR.
No meeting in Dec.

CONNECTICUT

Pres: Keith Moyer
48 Boretz Rd.
Colchester, CT 06415-1009
(860) 537-1716
Email: kpmoyerco@hotmail.com
Website: www.ConnCav.com
Facebook: CTCAV
Meeting info in newsletter and on
webpage.

CROSSED SABERS

Pres: Tim Hodge
(254) 718-4533
Email: allabout_insurance@sbcglobal.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division
Association Crossed Saber Chapter
Stable Calls: 4th Thurs of ea mos,
6pm, various local VFW's.
General Membership meeting is 3rd
Thurs of Mar & Sept at 6pm, place
TBD.

FLORIDA

Pres: Ferd Gardiner Jr.
2290 W Tall Oaks Dr.
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
(407)-473-8407
Email: fgardiner@cfl.rr.com
VP: Gill Harris
(585) 704-2758
Facebook: Florida Chapter 1st
Cavalry Division Association
Meets 1300 2nd Tues of ea mos at
FWW Post 2093, 4444 Edgewater
Dr, Orlando

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST

Pres: Jesse Crimm
4445 Silverwood Ln
Jacksonville, FL 32207-6241
904-737-6172
Email: thecrimms@gmail.com
Meets 7pm on last Tues of ea mos at
the American Legion Post 137, 5443
San Juan Ave, Jacksonville, FL. 32210

**FLORIDA TROOP E
"BLACK HAT"**

Pres: Juan Kellog
607 SE 47th St., Apt. 7
Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506
Email: juankellog@embarqmail.com
POC: Johnnie Robertson
2641 Ashwood St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901-0910
(239) 265-1509
Website: www.seahog.org/cav/
index.html
Meets 4th Sat ea mos from Sept.-
May 1:00 pm at Biggys Place, 3701
Fowler St., Fort Myers, FL 33901

FOLLOW ME

Pres: Robert Dodson
Meets 1900 4th Tues ea mos
Veterans Ctr., 1000 Victory Dr.,
Columbus, GA. No meeting in
December.

FORT KNOX AREA

Pres: Thomas Ken O'Barr
12210 Valley Dr.
Goshen, KY 40026-9501
(502) 228-8032
Email: ko42@bellsouth.net
POC: Larry A. Whelan
2103 Winston Ave.
Louisville, KY 40205-2535
(502) 439-6454
Email: whelan1@outlook.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Div Fort
Knox Area Chapter
Meets 3rd Sat of mos at 1100 at the
Barker Masonic Lodge, 705 Main
St., West Point, KY.

**JAMES H. UNRUH
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro
2600 Willow St. Pike North
PMB 231
Willow Street, PA 17584
(717) 389-1000
Email: cenpenn1cda@gmail.com
Meets on 1st Tuesday of odd number
months at 6pm, at the Lititz VFW
Post 1463, 14 N. Spruce St., Lititz,
PA 17543

**JAMES J. MASON
WEST MICHIGAN**

POC: Bob Anderson
9030 Conservancy Dr. NE
Ada, MI 49301-8822
(616) 682-5446
Email: rj.anderson2243@comcast.net
Website: jjmwmc1cd.com
Meets on 3rd Thurs of Feb, Apr,
Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec, at 7pm,
at the Grand Valley Armory in
Wyoming, MI.

JUMPING MUSTANGS 1-8 Cav

Pres: Harvey Auger
4825 King Arthur Dr
Charlotte, NC 28277-0052
(704) 321-2011
E-mail: ltauger@aol.com
POC: James C. Knafel
5510E - 500 South
Columbia City, IN 46725-7621
(260) 244-3864
Email: jkknafel@gmail.com
Website: www.JumpingMustangs.com

KETTLE MORAINE

Pres: Gordon Weidner
1219 Cleveland Ave.
Racine, WI 53405-2929
(262) 637-3835
POC: Robert Richter
W204 N11945 Goldendale Rd.
Germantown, WI 53022-2321
(262) 628-8056
Meetings held at 3-month intervals
with a banquet dinner in Dec when
elections are held.

**LOS ANGELES/
ORANGE COUNTY**

Pres: John Guillory
780 Mandevilla Way
Corona, CA 92879-8251
(951) 278-3740
Email: fisheye1@sbcglobal.net
Vice Pres: John Burgner
228 South Hacienda St.
Anaheim, CA 92804-2569
(714) 535-0737
Email: jburgner@sbcglobal.net
Meets 0900 on 3rd Sat. of mo. at
American Legion Post 132, 143 S
Lemon St., Orange CA 92866

**1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION - ALUMNI OF THE FIRST TEAM****LRRP/RANGER of the 1st Cav
Division during the Vietnam War**

Pres: Robert J. Raab Sr.
725 Tuttle
Mason, MI 48854
(517) 525-0747
Email: RJBrsr@yahoo.com
Website: www.lrrprangers.com
Full chapter meeting during Re-
unions.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

Pres: Bob Arbasetti
973A Thornbury Ln.
Manchester, NJ 08759-5296
(732) 657-4284
Email: b.arbasetti@gmail.com
Facebook: New York New Jersey
Cavalry
Instagram: NYNJcavalry
Meets at Elk Lodge at Cedar and
Spruce, Ridgefield Park, NJ.

**NORTH CAROLINA
TARHEEL**

Pres: Johnny Parker
10915 Tradition View Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28269-1411
(704) 517-5445
Email: shagon19@gmail.com
Contact for Membership: Don
Gibson
803 McDonald Church Road
Rockingham, NC 28379-8529
(910) 417-9104
Email: dtbjgibson@gmail.com
Meets 2nd Sat of Mar, Jun, Sept &
Dec.

NORTHWEST

Pres: Gail Porter
6791 Jasper PL SE
Port Orchard, WA 98367-9038
(360) 265-6216
Email: Blueplate545@gmail.com
POC: William Al Jackson
9703 Vantage Terrace CT SE
Olympia, WA 98513
(360) 539-8110
Email: williamaljackson@comcast.net
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division
Association-Northwest Chapter
Meets 1st Sat of even months, 12pm
at Carr's Restaurant, 11006 Bridge-
port Way SW, Lakewood, WA

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Pres: Brian Michaud
6798 Sandyford Land
Colorado Springs, CO 80923-7660
(270) 392-9987
POC: Paul Lemieux
PO Box 6548
Woodland Park, CO 80866-6548
(719) 687-1169
Email: lemieuxpe@live.com
Meets 9am 2nd Sat of mos at Valley
Hi Country Club, 610 South Chel-
ton Road, Colorado Springs, CO.

**SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY
(Greater Chicago Area)**

Pres: Don Smolinski 630-841-1452
POC: Terry Hodous
3718 W 114th Place
Chicago, IL 60655-3414
(773) 445-1213
Email: us67-hodo@outlook.com
Website: www.sheridansfirstcav.com
Facebook: Sheridan's Chapter 1st
Cavalry Division
Meets at the American Legion Post
#1084, 322 E. Maple Ave, Roselle,
IL 61072.
2019 Meeting Dates: Feb 9, April
13, June 15, Aug 8 Picnic, Oct 17,
Dec 5 Xmas party

**WALTER H. WESTMAN
NORTHLAND**

Pres: Donald A. Delsing
3697 Gresham Ave. N.
Oakdale, MN 55128-3212
(651) 770-5422
Email: dandmdelsing@aol.com
POC: James D. Wright
12781 Able St. NE
Blaine, MN 55434-3261
(763) 757-7140
Email: 1stCav-MN@comcast.net
Facebook: Walter H West-
man-Northland Chapter 1st Cavalry
Division Association
Meets quarterly at different loca-
tions. Call or write for information.

**WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON
NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION**

Pres: Gene Russell
7923 Jansen Dr.
Springfield, VA 22152-2413
(703) 220-5322
Email: enrussell@msn.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division
Nat'l Capitol Region
Meets 3rd Sat of the mos Jan-Apr
and Sep-Oct 9am at the American
Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst
Ave, Springfield, VA. Breakfast
available prior to start of mtg. Jun
meeting is at WRAMC and Nov
meeting at the Assn Vets Day
gathering.

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER SOUVENIR GIFT SHOP

P.O. Box 5774 Fort Hood, TX 76544-0774
Phone: 254-532-2075 FAX: 254-532-6490

Shop Hours:

Mon - Fri 0900 - 1600
Sat 1000 - 1600

Online Catalog Visit: shop.1CDA.org

E-mail: 1stcavgiftshop@gmail.com

The Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Gift Shop is a Non-Profit Organization. Net income is distributed to the Association for the Scholarship Program, to the Soldier Travel Fund, which allows active duty Soldiers of the Division to attend away Reunions as guests of the Association, and to the 1st Cavalry Division Museum.

The shop accepts telephone orders with payment by MASTERCARD, VISA, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS credit cards or you can order online using your credit cards.

Printed Catalogs Are Available For Purchase!

Send \$3.00 to the ASSOCIATION located at: 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.
Make your check out to 1st Cavalry Division Association.

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Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Gift Shop**20% OFF COUPON**

Telephone Orders Only

Mention coupon code 100120 to receive your discount.

1 per person

Expires: October 1, 2020

Excludes Stetsons & Consignment items

GOT CAVALRY HISTORICAL QUESTIONS

Did you know we have a 1CDA Historian?

Reach out to Terry A. McCarl with any questions,
or information regarding 1st Cavalry Division history!

TerryAMcCarl@gmail.com or 402-296-3150

From the Director's Desk Office of 1CDA



The mission statement for *Soldier for Life* is to connect Army, governmental, and community efforts to build relationships that facilitate successful reintegration of our retiring Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families in order to keep them Army Strong and instill their

values, ethos, and leadership within communities.

Soldiers start strong, serve strong, reintegrate strong, and ultimately remain strong as Army ambassadors to their communities. The 1st Cavalry Division Association (1CDA) and its members will help to ensure Veterans connect to resources and their communities as they make the important transition from active, Reserve, Guard or become civilian leaders. The 1CDA stands ready to help prepare those Soldiers to thrive as civilians and Veterans.

Why is this important to the Association?

The *Soldier for Life* concept helps Veterans 'bridge the gap' from the service through reintegration into their communities. The 1CDA has 25 chapters across the US to help facilitate veterans during their reintegration and beyond. It is here that their Army Story becomes a legacy that perpetuates the proud traditions of the 1st Cavalry Division. "Once Cav, Always Cav.... First Team."

The next *Saber* newspaper is the July/August 2020 edition.
Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is **Wednesday, July 1, 2020**
Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

Want to see your name in the Saber under the Honor Roll?
Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a \$25 or more D Trooper donation, donation to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation.
Please Consider!

2020 CALENDAR DONATIONS

Thank you to our following member(s) who have donated \$100 or more towards our 2020 calendar:

SSG CARTER, John \$100

Hope you are enjoying your 2020 calendar!

Calendar donations keep this program operational.

Without your donations we are unable to continue this program.

Thank you to all our members that support this program!

A BIG THANK YOU!

Goes out to **Victor Alvarez** for stepping up and becoming a Saber column writer for the 545th MP CO! We are sure that your fellow 545th MP Troopers are thankful and look forward to reading your stories!

We always welcome your stories, email to

Programs@1CDA.org to appear in an upcoming Saber!

Since 1CDA is a non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of our members like **YOU**, we ask you to consider a donation to our scholarships.

The Association can only achieve its goals with the assistance of generous donations. Without these donations, serving our Soldiers, their Families and Veterans would not be possible.

Thank you to our committed & steadfast membership!

Both IaDrang & Foundation are a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in accordance with the IRS under section 501(c)(3), Charitable Organizations, Code Section 170.

A donation to the FOUNDATION of the 1st Cavalry Division Association helps a student achieve their educational goals and is an investment in the future of America.

VIETNAM T-shirts are AVAILABLE

All shirts are a 50/50 cotton/polyester blend GRAY short sleeve T-shirt with BLACK writing.
Sizes 3XL, 2XL, XL, L Available

\$23

Front: Cav Patch with years 1965-1972 written above, with Vietnam written across the Cav Baldric

Back: Color image of Memorial Wall & Flag "Remembering 5,618"



1CDA Vietnam T-shirt Order Form

Short Sleeve Shirts \$23 ea

Vietnam T-shirt ___ 3XL, ___ 2XL, ___ XL, ___ L

of Shirts: ___ Total Due: ___

Cash: \$ ___ Check: \$ ___ Credit Card: \$ ___

Credit Card # ___ Exp Date: ___

Please Print Clearly

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Association
302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

SHIPPING & HANDLING IS FREE

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

Mike Bodnar

13010 N. Lakeforest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3250
(623) 972-4395

MBodnar27@Gmail.Com
www.15thMedBnAssociation.org



Because '69-'70 MEDEVAC door gunner **Dave Parks** uses the email "Shootdown@" I asked him about the times he was shot down. I got a lot of comms from him and did get

information about two times he was shot down. There may have been more, but two was all he had time for, and they were involved. Dave said one in Sep '69, again in December '69, and again in Jan '70. Dave said, "There is a fourth one, but for the life of me I don't remember it! Kind of makes me angry. So, I guess maybe I was only on three ships that were shot down!"

I found posted on the 15th MED Assn website a copy of the Jan-Jun 1970 semiannual newsletter with a lot of information about Air Ambulance Platoon activities, e.g. shootdowns and participants. On 05 Jan 70 MEDEVAC 15 Rich Leonard and his crew were shot down in Tay Ninh on a hot hoist mission. It says Mr. Leonard received a fractured wrist, his co-pilot CPT Jerry Rhodes suffered a compressed fracture of the vertebrae and went stateside, crew chief Rodney Wiley and Medic Bill Keller both received multiple frag wounds, and door gunner Dave Parks was badly shaken up (but survived again).

The first time Dave was shot down was when he was new in the unit and training as a door gunner on a regular pickup. It was 7 SEP 69. Dave said that was the last time they trained that way. After that they trained everyone on admin flights. On 7 SEP 69 two MEDEVAC crew members were killed: SSG James Megehee, who was a crew chief but on that occasion was flying as the door gunner (training Dave), and Medic SP5 Gary Lee Bowdler.

Dave said, "On Sept 7th, '69 we were picking up for Black Horse (11th ACR) in An Loc rubber plantation out of Quan Loi. First time in they had the WIAs out of the trees and in an open field. We took them out then returned for a second pickup. This time we went in on the trees. That is when we were hit with the RPG; and of course, crashed! James and Gary were blown out of the ship. From what the tank guys had to say, the ship landed on Gary, so he burned up. The tracks finally got to us. We jumped into the back of an APC. I was asked to run an M-60 on the left side of an APC. I did fire up one guy. Do not know if I hit him or not! Oh well, no biggy. Took a while to get another ship in to pick us up, but there was not room for me, so I spent the night in the back of the APC."

Dave elaborated: "So when we were hit in the underside below the left seat it blew us over three hundred feet in the air. It rolled on to the left side and fell through the trees. Tanker guys said James fell out when it rolled, and Gary was blown out the left door on fire. And the ship landed on him. I was rolled on to my back in the right-side seat and stayed there till it hit! I then jumped up on the skid. I could not see anything because of all the fire so I just gave a big ass jump and hoped I hit on the ground right. Guess I did.

"When I hit the ground, I was running and headed for Quan Loi. We were just a couple clicks away, but saw the co-pilot lying on the ground so I snagged him by the collar and drug him into a small ditch. He had a broken left arm and wrist.

"Then, Mr. Albright (pilot; MEDEVAC 14) showed up. I have no idea where he had been. But I was glad to see him. So, we just kind of sat there for a few, getting it all together-I guess. Then, they wanted me to go flag down the tanks to come get us. So, I had to part two-inch grass to see where I was going.

"Anyway, got over-by the what was left of the chopper-and stood up; and jumped up and down waving at them. They waved back and came as quick as they could. Me and the AC had to pull the crew chief out of the ship. He was burning up.

"By the time we got him out one boot and his pants were gone. He had some good burns on his butt and legs. We had to run about fifty or so feet to the APC and went in that little sub door on the back. Was crowded as hell in there. Us four plus their crew of four plus a WIA on the floor. That thing looked like swiss cheese; and saw two more holes appear!"

About that crew chief they pulled out, Dave said, "Oh, btw, the ship we were on was Bobby Pool's. He was the crew chief, but he went on R&R, so a new guy by the name of Ray Roy, or Roy Ray took his place. Sometime before the shootdown we were talking. I remember he said he had been in country for a couple years. He was way up north. Why he came down to our AO, I have no idea. When we were in the back of the APC, he gave me his watch, and something else. I do not remember the other thing. Said the guys in Japan would take his stuff, so he wanted me to keep it 'till he mailed me with his home address so I could mail it all to him. Finally, one day I got his letter, so I sent everything to him. I don't know if he ever got the stuff or not."

Dave continued later with his story: "Dave here. Hi Mike! Let us see if I can remember where I left off, lol. You know, even after fifty plus years, it is kind of hard to think of these things. Guess we made the APC, and I got to shoot the M-60 on the left side. Was kind of funny. I saw this bad guy in the trees a long way away, not sure how far, but I watched him what seemed like an hour. He was just bopping up through the trees. You know all them trees were in a row (rubber), no matter which angle you looked at them. Anyway, he got kind of close. Then, he unslung his rifle, looked right at me, and smiled. At least it looked like it was me. I toyed with the idea of can I shoot this guy! I guess I got pissed about the two men that were KIA, so I shot at him. And as I said, I do not know if I hit him, but the last thing I saw was an M-60 drop a round on him. A little puff of smoke and dust and that was it.

"Well, we were in the tall trees by then, and they were wondering how to get another MEDEVAC in for the new WIAs. So, they decided to do a daisy chain of det cord and satchel charges to blow an LZ. Now that was kind of cool, sort of. They ended up with a couple more hurt guys.

"So, then one of our birds came in. Me and Mr. Albright were handing the WIA's up to the Medic (I think it was Larry Lund). Not a good idea, as we were knee deep in mud. You know after the tracks had run around a bit! We would just get the 's' shocked out of us when we did that. Static electricity; WOW! A spark would jump to one of us about three inches long. Not sure if I wet myself or not. Not fun. So, we just gave them a toss in the air and hoped the Medic could catch them, and he never missed a lick.

"So, after we got the last WIA on board they said get your asses in here. So, of course we got on. They were pulling too much torque, so they said I had to wait. Yeah, right! Until the next day!

"Anyway, during the night they had a couple mad minutes, and I got to shoot

in both. Wippy scippy. Oh, forgot. When they did the boom, it landed on most all the big tracks. Some were trapped for a while.

"A MEDEVAC came in, as I already said, then a Chinook dropped off ammo! So, I spent the night in the back of an APC that leaked like a sieve, was rainy that night! Anyway, the next morning when they came to fetch me, I was one happy dude!

"So, when they set down the left side to me, I jumped out of that APC and ran for the chopper and jumped in on the left side. Lurch was the crew chief. (Dave says "Lurch was a crew chief, was gone by the time you got there. He was about nine feet tall. A big man. And looked just like Lurch on the Addams Family. He had a mustache that looked like the end of a three-inch cable that had been cut off.") He yelled at me to go to the right side, so I ran through the slimy wash job to the right side and had mud up to my knees. Love it. So got my ass chewed for messing up their clean chopper. You know how it is when you spend a couple hours cleaning the ship. That is when you get a call.

"I do not remember the flight back to Phouc Vinh. But, when we set down everyone was there, even the old guys. So that is how I lost my cherry! You know how it is when you are the FNG. But that day their demeanor changed, and I was one of the guys. Only been in the unit for a month and three days!"

Dave sent more story for me. This next one Dave says was in December '69. In this incident the Medic was Dale McGuff. Dale was a platoon Medic in B 1-5 Cav before joining MEDEVAC thinking it was better than in the infantry, while he waited for a rear job. He found out that it was out of the fire and into the frying pan. Dale wrote a book published in 2005 called, *So That Others May Live*, after the MEDEVAC motto, which I wrote about those many years ago in this column. You can read all my columns from 1999 on the 15th MED Assn website: <<https://15thmedbnassociation.org/Historical-Documents/Saber-Articles/>>. Back issues of the *Saber* are also on the 1st Cav Assn website for members.

Dale writes in his book that this incident that Dave describes was in October 1969. Dave does not admit to an accurate memory, but he gets close enough. I was jogging it fifty years later.

"Dave here. Well, I have had enough to drink so willing to share some more! This time was in Dec '69, at least I think so. Anyway, we got the call, and it was ARVNs, which was kind of scary right off the bat. So, it was a hot hoist and we pulled up to a hover. Oh here, let me tell you the crew first off. CPT Holmes (MEDEVAC 8) was AC, Colby was PP (MEDEVAC 27), Mike Vinyard was the crew chief, Dale McGuff was the Medic, and me. I am always there somewhere.

"They had a pretty small perimeter and that was not fun. Do not remember just where the JP (Jungle Penetrator on the hoist) was but we took fire. And I mean we took a lot of fire fast. There were all kinds of red lights going off and the only person to take a round was CPT Holmes, 'bout took his foot off. (Dale writes that it was just a small fragment caught below his knee. Indeed, I saw Charlie Holmes DEROS in 1970 so he did not leave country in 1969.) CPT Holmes kept us from crashing right there.

"Dale said, "I'm hit!" And, when I looked at him, he had a piece of red glass in his hand. (Dale McGuff in his book says the control panel was shot up so bad all the red-light lenses shattered and that is what he caught in his hand thinking it was blood.) Boy was he relieved!

"Vinyard shot all his ammo on the way out. Man, we came so close to balling up on the ground it just was not funny. How he kept that bird in the air was beyond me. But I was happy.



Gil Gatto & Charlie Williams who MEDEVACed forty wounded from LZ Bitch D 2-7 Cav 03 Dec 68.

"So, as we got to (LZ-FSB) Ike they didn't want to let us land because Holmes didn't have super control of the bird. He just kinda told them to 'f' off, here we come! And that was not a good landing in my book.

"I do not remember how we got back to air ops (Phouc Vinh). They did get the bird back to Phouc Vinh and we counted over a hundred bullet holes all in the left side. We just could not

figure out why Vinyard did not get hit. His hell hole had most of the holes!"

Always remembering our 1st Cav Troops on duty around the world; over and out. **FIRST TEAM! Garryowen, Mike Bodnar C 2\7 Cav 1969 MEDEVAC 1-7\1970, SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE**

ARMY BIRTHDAY

June 14, 1775

The U.S. Army was founded on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year. The 14 June date is when Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in The Committee of the Whole.

20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



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COVID-19 AND OUR REUNION: I assume that many have been practicing safe measures to prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus, COVID-19; as a minimum wearing a mask, washing our hands, social distancing, and staying home whenever possible, some of us have questions about the timing of our reunion. Let me reprint here the words from our President, **Clovis Jones**, to get us all on the same page!

“The spread of novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, has changed the World as we know it with the full effects yet to unfold. That being said, our reunion is still on for August 31st to September 4th at the Holiday Inn Express, 199 E. Bay Street, Savannah, GA 31401. This will be the case until June 1st when the Board of Directors will meet to make the decision on the next logical steps to take. This timeline will give us enough time to know where we are regarding the spread of this infection, whether it is safe to travel, if physical distancing is still in effect, if our restaurants are still in business and projected to be reopen; and if the transportation providers are operational.

I encourage you to call and make your hotel reservations by calling directly to the hotel at 1-912-231-9000. Use the code 2020 ARAA Reunion to secure the \$119.00 room rate. You can cancel your reservation without penalty should the reunion be rescheduled. Diane and I have booked our room and look forward to visiting Savannah again for our reunion. I have been in direct contact with the Georgia Department of Health’s Coastal Health District Office in Savannah to establish a relationship and to get periodic health updates. In addition, I have been in contact with the City of Savannah to stay abreast of actions being taken to protect the health of citizens and visitors. On March 24, 2020 a State of Emergency was declared by the Mayor Van Johnson. Essentially the city was on lockdown.

Columnist note – The following was printed on April 24, 2020 SAVANNAH, GA (AP) – Barber shops, nails salons, gyms and a few other businesses reopened in Georgia on Friday as the Republican governor eased a month-long shutdown despite warnings from health experts of a potential new surge of Coronavirus infections. End of note

I will closely monitor the developments in Savannah, and the National Transportation System to obtain the best and most current information for our 90-day decision point. With all of the aforementioned being our current reality; booking your reservations now will indicate to the hotel the strength of our intention to attend the reunion. This will, in turn make it easy for Jerry to rebook our reunion for a future date should that become necessary. Jerry assures me that this can be done should it become necessary, as he has established an excellent relationship with the hotel owners and management. Again, I highly encourage you to make your hotel reservations now. The thought for now is to proceed as planned. Then, should it become necessary, postpone our reunion to a future date using the same schedule and hotel. Rest assured that your safety, health and well-being is the highest priority for Board of Directors for our reunion.” Clovis, I thank you for your timely and informative update.

Mail Bag: I received another call from **Bob Allegretti** who informed me that I had him still living in his previous town of Mansfield, Ohio and he needed to update my files. Bob is now an up-to-date life-time member and is registered for the reunion. His new address is 5485 Daintree Lane, Medina, Ohio 44256. Bob, I thank you for the reminder. If anyone has similar stories, please call me and let’s get current and join in future reunions.

The Challenge Continues: We are requesting that every member submit the names and contact information of at least two (2) nonmembers with whom you served in ARA to our Secretary Rodger McAlister.

Old Business: The ARA Cobra that served in A Battery, 4/77th is being restored for exhibit in the Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill. Much progress can be seen in the following article from the 1st quarter Museum quarterly newsletter: “This quarter started out normally with lots of Soldier training, inventories, work on the Cobra and Korean War diorama. In January, we did Army history and heritage for four Basic Training batteries and one medical officers group, a total of 742. We have hosted a number of unit promotion and re-enlistment ceremonies. The biggest highlight was a surprise 80th birthday party for our Metal Master volunteer, Harry Shappell. Then with the imminent arrival of the Coronavirus, we were closed to the public on 18 March, but we continue with Soldier training. The focus this quarter has been refurbishment of the Vietnam War Cobra helicopter gunship and work on the Korean War diorama. These are the next two big pieces to be done in the new addition now that the Vietnam diorama is finished.

Since the Cobra remained in service long after the war, it was upgraded to the S Model. We are in the final steps of converting it back to its original G Model. We have replaced the entire nose and eighter removed or installed numerous parts to return the Cobra to its original appearance. Jonathan Berstein, Cobra historian has been providing the leadership on this huge project.

The Korean War diorama now has all the track, tire and footprint impressions done in our ethaform plank “snow.” This has been the one-man project of volunteer Steven Burns. It took Steven about 415 hours to cut each one out individually with a hot knife. Around the beginning of March, he started work on the rest of the winter landscape diorama.”

Reunion 2020: I refer you to the March/April 2020 edition of the *Saber*, page 18 for more details on the activities for the reunion.

The Welcome Banquet will be at world renowned Mrs. Wilkes Boarding House. We have a special booking there Monday evening at 6pm. The menu includes a dozen southern veggies, plus beef stew, pulled pork and fried chicken - ALL YOU WANT! Arrangements will be made for bus/trolley transportation to/from Mrs. Wilkes’ NOTE: Only 82 can be accommodated so it is first come/first served on the sign-up. The cost for our dinner will be a total of \$30.00, includes tax and gratuity.

Tuesday, 1 Sep, is reserved for Savannah Old Town Trolley Hop-On Hop-Off City Tour. Highlights seeing 16 stops through the city at your own pace:

Lighthearted live narration by entertaining trolley driver, impressive 18th- & 19th-century architecture, seeing the Pirates’ House & historic City Market, viewing the home of the founder of the Girl Scouts

Wednesday, 2 Sep, has a scheduled tour of Hunter Army Airfield where many pilots received flight training in the AH-1G in 1960’s. Hunter serves as the home of the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 160th Aviation, and 1st Ranger Battalion. Lunch will be in the Troops in their Dining Facility (Mess Hall) as we did at Fort Benning in 2015. We will have bus transportation to Hunter.

Thursday, Sep 3, our annual board meeting the morning will be in the morning when the ladies of ARA will be having their meeting. Thursday evening, we will have our banquet at Vic’s on the River across the street from the hotel. The dinner will feature two main courses of top sirloin and baked parmesan crusted lemon red fish with several vegetables and usual drinks and two desserts of peach cheesecake and key lime pie. All that for a total of \$46.00! There will an open bar, pay as you go. Choice of wine will be \$24.00 per bottle. Choice ordered drinks will be \$6.50, beer at \$4.00 and wine \$5.00 per glass.

Guest Speaker: Our guest speaker for the dinner is Tracy Smith Himes. She is the sister of Larry Smith who served as the crew chief in A/2/20 ARA that rescued the crew of a down Air Force HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter (that mission was cover in a precious *Saber* article). Tracy has written a book, *War and Pennies*, which covers the 99 letters written home by her brother Larry while serving in Vietnam. The pennies go back to the pennies he sent home in the letter to Tracy. Tracy embraces the art of storytelling and will share family dynamics as she visits the humor Larry needed to survive. She will cover Larry’s time back home. She can be found online.

Recreation: The goal is to maximize the time and opportunities for sightseeing as you desire. Tuesday and Wednesday dinners are the attendee’s choice and the final official meal is right across the street. Savannah is a great place to visit and wander about. River cruises are available (lunch and/or dinner buffets included) with the dock within easy walking distance. Also, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum with tours and food is available (near Savannah Airport); several historic forts of earlier wars and Tybee Island National Seashore with lighthouse and beach, etc. There is a big nightlife, many great restaurants and ghost tours are a part of the scene. Hunter AAF is where many of us received our Cobra certification. It is home to the Combat Aviation Brigade of the U.S. Army Third Infantry Division currently deployed to the Middle East but with a rear detachment in place.

Until next time: Nothing for me from “Mail Call” this month! I still get lots of junk mail. So, send me some cards and letters, please; so, I can pass information along to your friends. Pray that COVID-19 becomes history and we can have this reunion. I hope to see you there and bring a friend!

Until next time, “This is Armed Falcon 28 Delta, breaking right!”

7 CAV NEWS

Continued from pg. 7

only twenty-five of us in the last group to load. We did a “mag and a frag” mad minute as the last lift approached. The last thing I said on the radio flying back to Grunt was, “Fuck You Viet Nam.”

One of my favorite hymns has always been “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” When Bravo was renamed Delta Company, we were assigned the call sign Invincible Fortress. On the radio, I became Fortress 67. I felt that was an awesome sign that God was with me those last days in combat.



When we landed at Grunt, 1SG Lahmon had a beer waiting for each of us, which was pretty novel. Photo to the left is of 2LT Gary Bergtholt, and I believe his RTO, and me, each with

a beer in our hands and big grins on our faces. That beer in my hand really brought it home to me. It was finally over, and we were going home. We gotta get out of this place!

We were only on FSB Grunt long enough to sort out gear. Moving from Grunt where we were tactical and, in the fight, to Bien Hoa was a real shock for me. Nobody seemed to know what was going on or why. We started getting manifests for flights out of the Air Force side of Ben Hoa, and guys began dribbling out on Freedom Birds with no apparent rhyme or reason I could detect. I have photos of our last awards ceremony and of the remainders of each platoon holding a Huey rotor blade in front of them. I also have the last company roster with names, ranks, socials and DEROS dated 1 July 1972.

Well, that is what I remember forty-seven years later. I hope this brings back some memories and tracks with your recollection. I would enjoy hearing from those of you who were part of Task Force Garry Owen. I wonder if my experience the last week I was in country and how screwed up I thought it was, matches your experience.

Throughout that last two and a half months, our team, TFGO, stayed in the fight. The war had been ending since Nixon declared he had a plan to end it in 1968. Nobody sure as hell wanted to be the last one in a body bag during the summer of 1972, but nobody quit. Everyone earned the CIB pinned on our chests in those last awards ceremonies.

I would be honored to hear from you, share stories or photos, and fill in the gaps about the “Forgotten Cav.” First in, last out. Be proud of who you were and what you did! Garry Owen Grunt! **Bob McConnell** <scrapironbob68@gmail.com>.

It is time for me to move on, but I want to remind you that it is your stories that bring this column to life. I cannot continue to do it without your help. Please send me your articles, your paragraphs, your ideas, and your thoughts. Do not

Continued to pg. 19

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 12TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C. VETERANS DAY DINNER

The William A. Richardson National Capitol Regional Chapter in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association will host the 12th Annual First Team Veterans Day Dinner at 1900 hours on Wednesday evening, 11 November 2020 at the **Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel**, 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. The guest speaker has yet to be identified. Call 703-416-1600 to get your reservations and tell them you are with the 1st Cavalry Division.

- A host bar will be open at 1800 and dinner will begin at 1900 hours.
- For dinner reservations please send \$60 per ticket to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.
- Full payment must be received no later than 25 October 2019.
- We can accept all credit cards – ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly and legibly.
- Provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment.

Tickets will be available for pickup in the 1st Cavalry Division Association Hospitality Suite or at the door to the banquet room.

Wreaths will be placed at the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Memorials as they are each year on Veterans Day, 11 November. The ceremony conducted at the World War II Memorial begins at 0900, the ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial begins at 1300 hours, and the Korean War Memorial ceremony is at 1600. Join us in D.C. for Veterans Day.



1CD Honor Guard
Veterans Day
2018



FIRST TEAM



12th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY DINNER \$60 per TICKET

Wednesday, 11 November 2020

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

GUEST NAMES: _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____ # Tickets: _____ Credit Card: _____ Check: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP DATE: _____ CVV # on back: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & LEGIBLY

Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Association
302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

You can fill out the above Veterans Day Dinner form and return in the mail or go to our website, <www.1CDA.org> Click on the button to download the form, print the form, fill out and mail with payment to the Association office in Copperas Cove, Texas.



545th MP Co News

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My fondest greetings to y'all in the First Cavalry Division and Association members: Greetings, I send from sunny central Florida. Some weeks past, I was asked by a fellow member and a good friend to offer my services as a writer to the *Saber's* section for the 545th MPs. With the passing of CPT Sam Reinert, a Company Commander who served in Vietnam with the 545th, and who had contributed immeasurably to the *Saber* with articles of the First Team's finest, the 545th MP Company, a void was left.

It seemed no one wanted to take up the reins and contribute to the *Saber*. This is where I came in. For approximately three years, I was the association president of the 545th MP Company Association. However, times were lean, and one thing led to another, and I had to close the association.

Second, I would like to introduce myself: My name is Victor M. Alvarez, SSG E-6 Retired. I served in the 545th MP Company, 1CD, CID Field Office, Camp Evans, RVN from '67 to '68, then again from '70 to '71. I came up the ranks in the Military Police Corps from gate guard, patrolman, desk sergeant, MP Investigator, to CID Agent. Oh, my, what a ride that was. I was drafted in 1963 and retired in 1984.

However, I was activated from retirement for Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, subsequently re-retired in June 1991. Upon retirement, I owned and operated a Karate school, located in Lacey, Washington, called the Lacey Shotokan Karate Dojo. I spend 8 years teaching and enjoying the good life. But good things do come to an end.

My wife at the time wanted to leave all the rain that Washington offered, so we moved to Tucson, Arizona (and got all the sun that was offered), where I submitted my application as a private investigator and later became a bonded bodyguard and bounty hunter. Next with the little lady and the family we finally moved to San Antonio, Texas, and ultimately sunny Florida where I make my home.

Now I write books, with four published novels under my belt, and a few more that is coming.

But enough about me. The story of the 545th MP Company is long as it is storied. Here I would like to present a short history of the company:

As per letter signed by Richard G. Davis, Chief, Field Programs and Historical Services Division of the DA U.S. Army Center of Military History, Force Structure and Unit History Branch, dated September 11, 2007, the following is a statement of Service for the 545th MP Company:

The 545th MP Company was constituted on 15 February 1939 in the regular Army as the Military Police Platoon, Headquarters Troop, 1st Cavalry Division. It was on 4 July 1942, that the platoon was redesignated as the Military Police Platoon, 1st Cavalry Division, and activated at Fort Bliss, Texas. On 15 October 1957, the platoon was inactivated when it served in Japan and relieved from assignment to the 1st Cav Div.

Then, on 15 July 1963, the platoon was assigned once again to the 1st Cavalry Division and activated on 1 September 1963 in Korea. Then, unfortunately, the 545th MP Company was inactivated on 15 October 2005 at Fort Hood, Texas, and relieved from assignment to the 1st Cav Div.

The company has 14 award streamers and 29 campaign participations streamers on its Guidon. The 545th is considered the most decorated MP unit in the U.S. Army and has earned the name as "First Team's Finest."

Today, the 545th MP Company as been reassigned as the 545th MP Detachment, Arctic Defenders. Their motto, "Arctic Finest, Strike First!"

I have tried to keep this first inclusion short and to the point. In future focus, I will write about the adventures we as MPs have had thought our long history of the Military Police Corps. Please, if you have any stories about the 545th MP Co, or would like to share any up-and-coming events, please let me know, and I will include it in the *Saber* section of the 545th MP Company.

This is it for now. Thank you for my rants. Stay tuned for more!

7 CAV NEWS Continued from pg. 18

even think that you cannot write! None of us here are professionals, we are simply story tellers. If you wish to pursue a story but you are unsure of how to get started, get in touch with me, I'll be happy to help you get those thoughts, memories, and ideas down on paper. And you know what? They do not all have to be war stories! What did you do during Covid-19? What did your Legion or VFW post do to support your town or neighborhood? How did your community show the love during these past two months? What did your kids or grandkids do that really surprised you? Come on folks! Let us have those ideas!!

ENGINEER News



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TEXT Me! No, not me the compiler of this column. Get in touch with Richard Esquivel. He has now undertaken the compiling of a history of the 8th Engineers. If you read books about RVN, you never see anything about us, you, we. Yet we were there. Richard has said "enough!" and begins his book project. But he needs YOU to contact him and contribute. Helpful hint: organize your thoughts prior to calling. Have points to make or share. He will make your points in writing for you and us. <richie65@outlook.com >

Remember Me? Well for sure everybody that went to the 2006 Reunion in Louisville remembers Carl Guerinoni. He is the guy who drove down from Pittsburg on his way to Florida and his flooded condo. Gee whillikers! Dang near a year later Carl is digging thru a trunk that did not get soaked and came up with a bunch of pictures of his tour of duty. Thinking about calling Carl? Try 917-453-6409. He took a computer class once and remembered how to scan and send digital reproductions of original prints. So here ya go.



Guerinoni himself

Thought You Might Wanna Know: According to Golf Digest January 2020 issue, the Ba Na Hills golf course at Da Nang, Vietnam is ranked number 89 of the top 100 golf courses in the world. Tee times can currently be arranged but the commute to the course is a bit of a distance especially the last mile or so when it is you carrying your clubs vs the mopeds and other scooters.

SEARCHING: Hello, My Name is Chester Walker. My father is Harold G Walker SN: 17066854 Troop A, 8th Engineer Bn. I am trying to locate a full name and possible photograph of a Soldier who died/missing in action on March 11, 1944. His name is Chester, that is all I know. My father told me years ago I was named after him. He told me a few things that happened on that day. I have been doing some research and found a "Chester," he was from the 8th Engineer Bn: 1st Cavalry Division. SN: 38001862, Rank: Technician Fifth Grade. He is listed as missing on 4/6/1944. Would there be any photos of him or 8th Engineers squad, platoon, company. I would greatly appreciate any assistance on this. My phone is 434-384-1431.

Engineer History From WWII: With Europe holding primacy on available resources, the Pacific Theater would not be shortchanged but, except for the Navy, became the secondary effort. After the loss of Hong Kong and Singapore, the British wanted someone else to carry the ball in the China-Burma-India Theater. After all, Hitler was only twenty miles away across the channel. China was at war with Japan since 1931 and unfortunately at war with itself. America needed allies where we could find them and took Chaing Kai-shek and the Nationalists. GEN Stilwell, Theater Commander, had the task of supplying the Nationalists. The Army Air Corps was able to lift some 10,000 tons a month over the hump as it was called. That left ground transport to supply the Chinese army that was to beat the Japanese. And that meant ENGINEERS. Thus, the Ledo road was constructed to meet the Burma road. And that meant D7 dozers and picks and shovels and fighting ambushes and mud and monsoons and malaria. The 45th and 823rd Battalions, manned by black Soldiers led the way each mile shifting 100,000 cubic feet of dirt. By 1944, with the help of Merrill's Marauders, the Ledo and Burma roads reached the Chinese border, 1079 miles worth. Seventy-five years later the renamed Stilwell Road is still there. (Extracted from USAA, Army, January 2020 issue.) Oh, and before we go, remember that the 95th Eng Bn was instrumental in building the Alaska-Canadian highway.

FYI: As a belated nod to Black History Month, members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Bn were deployed to England as the only all African American Women's Army unit sent to Europe during WWII. They cleared years' worth of backlogged mail for U.S. Troops and were finally recognized in 2019 with a Congressional Gold Medal award.

IN MEMORIAM CPT JIM BOWERS:

During the last week of March as I awoke, I could see the NVA bobbing up and down across my St. Augustine yard towards my Explorer just as they did towards the quad 50's at Illingworth some 50 years ago. The man who likely saved the LZ, CPT Jim Bowers, could not be seen then or now; then because he was at the FDC making holes in the sky for the Cobras to dive and strafe the wood line and now because he had just passed away. I only talked to Jim a couple of times. We were not exactly friends more like acquainted by reputation and bridged over time by his son, Jeff, whom I met while milking the VA for a degree from a local university. But then I discovered that Jim was also associated with LZ X-Ray and Albany, legendary in the 1st Cav and better known to the general public via books and Hollywood. Jim was one of those background guys, out of the spotlight, who functioned and did things where needed when needed. Oh, I do not doubt that he scammed the Army for some easy duty. We all did and do.



The point is that when it counted, really counted, he damn well came through in spades. I guess that is the point of putting 2/19 FA memoriam here in the Engineer section. We all slack off. We all avoid. But there are times places and people who do, sacrifice, implement, act, not just when called up by some authority but out of self knowledge the self will to do the right thing at the right time. In street talk, it is suck it up and geter done. Your time may not be as dramatic as Illingworth was, but you will have a time.

Lorenzo Chavez: Wake up! I have lost your phone. But do not call me. Call your friend from LZ English Daniel Shelley at 412-375-2116 or 724-989-1046 or 412-397-6033. We know you are out there. We forgive you for living in California. And you are unloading the C4 from a burning chopper has not been forgotten.

2014 Honor Roll: In 2014, these persons contacted and contributed to Engineer News. John David Floyd, Scott Smith, Steve Richey, Lynn Titus, Terry McCarl, Leo Miller, Fred Collins, Mike Miller, David Williams, Phil Kastner, Joseph Wagel, Richard Estes, D9Dozer, Ed Henk, Daniel Gilotti, Gabriel Perez, Sue Chase, Rick Van Deurzen, Melvin Blackford, Jack Garmong, Sgt Rock, Ron Killingsworth, Toni Christen, David Williams, Bob Anderson, Ken Howser, Bob Anderson, Ed Jones, Richard Esquivel, Paul Chumbley. Guys? Still out there? Pick up your keyboard and check in.

In Case You Ever Wondered: What good did those guys in HQ and especially in the 3 Shop ever do? Here is the answer provided by the Secret Scribe. "The surveyors were George Tindall, Wayne Radcliffe, Guy Patterson, C.W. Jones, me and maybe Ernie Agosto. Herm Wright was a draftsman, so was Lynn Titus. KC Jones and Paul Smith did drafting also. So did Doug Chase. Chase was a smart guy. He went on to work the Big Dig in Boston for years. Mike Lapzansky was a surveyor and later Dave Morken. I talk with Mike, Dave, KC, and Guy often. Guy and I went to Germany together two years ago. Had a really good time. We would do some surveying, but most of it was gathering information about where to build LZ's. We would sling out to where we were told to go, never good places, some bad news dangerous. LZ Jake was dangerous. So was Bu Dop. We loved to get the H out of the company and go wandering. We would catch helicopters or fixed wing plans to get to and from where we were going. We always hoped for a flight to Saigon late in the day so we could spend the night and go to a decent EM club that had cold beer and no incoming before we flew back to Phouc Vinh. I still laugh at CW wandering out in the middle of where they were training guard dogs late one night, to go to the bathroom... we heard about thirty dogs hit the end of their chains and start barking and growling.. then CW had to very carefully, in the very dark of night, get out of there without getting bitten. Of course, the rest of us were on the ground laughing at CW's misfortune. We had just left the EM club where a grunt had thrown a smoke grenade on the stage where some hoochie Momma was grinding around up there, that was it for the EM club that night."

Active Duty: COVID-19, What else? Drive in and virtual chaplains promoted safe Easter celebrations. At the PX, face masks are required, customer count in store is limited, gas pump handles are wiped hourly, plexiglass shields installed at cashier, curbside pick up encouraged. Soldier response teams are enacted. Their designation states their mission as Team: Trace, Transport, Clean and Comply. The 9th Hospital Center, a joint force, deployed to New York and got the NY thank you of persons yelling and pounding from above as the teams returned to quarters. The Sec Def has recommended using suitable face masks while in uniform if a six-foot distancing cannot be maintained. Soldiers with untenable lease agreements can access legal support to reduce their financial obligations. Does this sound like your hometown? Thankfully, it does. God bless our Troops.

OTHER REUNIONS:

77th Field Artillery Association Reunion, August 18-23. Hampton Inn, Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island, Florida. Reservations 904-491-4911, ask for Jennifer, and use Group code # 77A. POC John Moran 937-361-1333 or <john-janmoran@woh.rr.com>. Tentatively still scheduled, call John for questions.

20th & 79th ARA Reunion, 31 Aug – 4 Sept 2020. Holiday Inn Express 199 East Bay Street Savannah, GA; Hosts are Jerry and Ann Hipp.

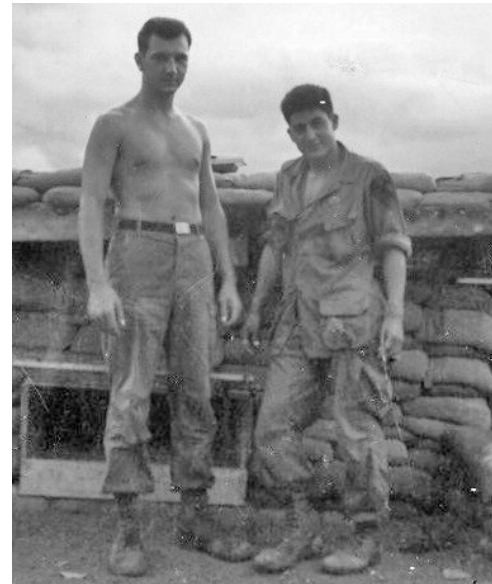
A Trp, 9 Cav Vietnam Era Reunion, Sept 2-6, 2020. Albuquerque, NM; POC: Ron Livingston, <rflivingston@msn.com>.

C Trp, 9 Cav Vietnam Era Reunion, Sept 26-28, 2020. Columbus, GA; POC: Pat Bieneman, <pcbnamin@verizon.net>.

1st Cavalry Division Association 73rd Reunion, 4-8 October 2020. Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport, KY; Reservations can be made by calling 888-233-9527 or 502-367-2251; Reunion registrations went out with the 2020 Calendar and you can register online via the website <1CDA.org>. Revised Reunion Registration is on pg. 13.

15th Annual 12th Cavalry Reunion, 13-18 October 2020. Branson, MO Welk Resort, 1984 Hwy 165, Branson, MO 65616. \$89.00 per night includes breakfast for two. \$10.00/add'l guests/room. Make reservations 417-336-3165. Reference 12th Cavalry, GP # 604821.

Have your upcoming reunions posted here!



Shelly and Chavez

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CAMBODIAN INCURSION

VIETNAM STUDIES, AIRMOBILITY 1961-1971

Written by: LTG John J. Tolson
Airmobility 1961-1971
CHAPTER XI
*The Changing War and
Cambodia, 1969-1970*

The beginning of this story appeared in the March/April 2020 *Saber* edition.

On 4 May 1970, B Trp of the Cavalry Squadron observed numerous bunkers and military structures in a densely vegetated area northwest of the current ground operations. Additional aerial reconnaissance teams further reported that these structures and bunkers related to bamboo matted trails. One pilot also reported seeing numerous antennas in the southern part of the complex. On 5 May, Co C, 1-5 Cavalry, in response to the aerial reconnaissance sighting reports, displaced into the northern half of the complex which had been dubbed the city. Immediately upon entering the suspected area, the Cavalry Troopers reported finding numerous storage bunkers measuring 16 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 8 feet deep. Subsequent reports indicated that most of the bunkers contained large quantities of weapons and munitions and that the enemy had just recently evacuated the area. Throughout the period 5-13 May, 182 storage bunkers, 18 mess halls, a training area and a small animal farm were discovered in the area.

The logistical storage bunkers contained clothing, food stocks, medical supplies, weapons and munitions. The bulk consisted of ammunition. Generally, all types of equipment and supplies were in an excellent state of preservation and in good operating condition when discovered. The city covered approximately three-square kilometers and consisted of a well-organized storage depot that was capable of rapid receipt and issue of large quantities of supplies. Judging from the general condition of the oldest bunker and from translation of supply documents found in the area, it was apparent that the storage depot had been in operation for two to two and one-half years. Some bunkers had been constructed within the last six months.

Captured supply records indicated that the supply depot primarily supported the 7th North Vietnam Army Division. Based on the discovery of classroom facilities, numerous mess halls, firing ranges, as well as large stocks of items of personal clothing and equipment in the cache site area, it was determined that the city was also used to provide refresher military and political training to recent replacements from North Vietnam.

Throughout the Cambodian campaign, Allied forces would uncover other major caches of equipment which proved that this area was truly one of the most important logistical bases of the enemy. On 25 May a large automotive parts cache was discovered by A Co 2-8 Cavalry which was the first of a series of caches of various supplies discovered in the area from 25 May to 9 June. One of these, a communications depot, discovered by D Co 2-8 Cavalry, indicated that the enemy did not have time to evacuate his most valuable communications equipment.

PART 2 begins here:

Considering the critical nature of enemy signal equipment, it was felt that his equipment would have received top priority for evacuation. Like the city cache site, this area also had supplies segregated, by type, to facilitate storage and distribution to receiving units. Equipment and supplies were for the most part new and in excellent condition.

Unlike the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the Cambodian caches were filled with material transported for the most part by truck. Truck repair centers and spare parts were part of the logistics complex. The 1st Cavalry had deprived the enemy of over 305 vehicles in its Cambodian operations. While a few of these were primarily for passengers, such as a captured Porche, Mercedes-Benz and jeeps, the vast majority were cargo carriers. These trucks had a total capacity of 442 tons. Intelligence showed that the captured vehicles were only a small part of the North Vietnam Army truck inventory in Cambodia. During the early days of the operation the Air Cavalry Squadron reported that many Cambodian roads showed heavy use of trucks away from the area of operations. Obviously, they had been among the first items to be moved out of the area.

The size of the North Vietnamese Army logistics system in Cambodia adjoining III Corps Tactical Zone was vast. It had the capacity to move thousands of tons of material from various points in Cambodia to supply depots along the South Vietnamese border and move these supplies quickly over the network of roads that connected the various caches. The system was so dependent on trucks that an extensive refueling and repair organization was necessary. Sophisticated and effective, the North Vietnam Army supply system was a major weapon in the enemy's arsenal.

By mid-May, the search had expanded eastward to the border area north of Phuoc Long Province where on 8 May the 2d Brigade discovered a new significant cache site. This North Vietnam Army base camp, nick-named ROCK ISLAND EAST, eventually yielded 329 tons of munitions. As the operation continued, the 1st Brigade was moved from War Zone C to the O'Rang area east of the 2d Brigade. Both brigades used the airstrip at Bu Gia Map as a forward logistics base. One rifle company patrolled out of the abandoned Special Forces camp there as security for the refuel, rearm point and the tons of palletized supplies which were offloaded from C-130's and C-123's.

The withdrawal of the 1st Cavalry from Cambodia, although the most critical of all the operations, was executed in a truly classic manner. The withdrawal sequence was time-phased to allow for the redeployment of one fire support base each day. This phasing would allow for even utilization of aircraft assets, particularly the CH-54 Cranes of the 273d Aviation Co which were required for the movement of bridges, 155-mm howitzers, 2½-ton trucks, and bulldozers. On the second day of extraction, while lifting the 1-50 Cavalry from Fire Support Base DAVID, the aviation units ran into extremely poor weather with ceilings at zero, fog and rain. The Chinooks from the 228th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion showed the ultimate in professionalism by flying at extremely low levels through the valleys, skirting the fog-covered hills, and extracting the unit. On 24 June, while extracting Fire Support Base BRONCHO, one aircraft was downed, and five others were hit. At the same time the fire support base was

taking indirect fire regularly throughout the day. Using all possible suppressive fires from the armed helicopters, Fire Support Base BRONCHO was extracted at last light.

Besides the Division's organic Cranes, the 273d Aviation Company (Heavy Helicopter) was under operational control of the 1st Cavalry during the sixty days of the Cambodian Campaign. This company with its CH-54 Flying Cranes lifted essential engineering equipment (272 bulldozers, 54 backhoes, and 41 road graders) as well as all 155-mm howitzers into (and out of) the operational area. They moved bridge sections and recovered \$7,315,000.00 worth of downed aircraft. During the Cambodian Campaign, this company flew 2,486 sorties, or, as a logistician might put it, 177,688 ton-miles.

On the final day of the operation, in the actual crossing of the border by all U.S. Troops, every possible precaution was taken to ensure success. Troop ladders, smoke ships, pathfinders, and recovery aircraft were available to cover any contingency. The crossing proved uneventful with the last CH-47 aircraft leaving Cambodia at 1523, 29 June. The honor of being the last U.S. Army aircraft out of Cambodia went to B Co 1-9 Cavalry whose screening Pink Team reported reentering Vietnam at 1728, 29 June.

1-9 Air Cavalry proved again during the Cambodian Campaign how invaluable this capability is to any airmobile operation. During the period 1 May 1970 to 30 June 1970 the Squadron had performed intensive ground and aerial reconnaissance operations almost every flyable hour. The Squadron's assets were shifted as necessary, capitalizing on mobility, reconnaissance, and firepower in order to determine enemy locations and escape routes. Using Pink Teams-one Cobra gunship and one OH-6A observation helicopter-the Air Cavalry Troops were able to cover large areas effectively. When the situation warranted, the aero-rifle platoon would be inserted to face the enemy until a larger force could be committed into the area. The intelligence provided by 1-9 Cavalry enabled the division to redeploy its assets and effectively destroy many of the enemy's large cache sites.

The 1st Cavalry Division was not sure that they would be able to evacuate or destroy all the large quantities of enemy supplies that were found during this operation; but, as the engineers repaired roads and constructed bridges to allow a convoy evacuation, these problems were solved. The enormous quantities of rice discovered were distributed to the various agencies under the watchful eyes of the G-5. This captured rice was also used to feed the large number of refugees that came pouring into the Cavalry area of operations.

The operation had revealed several previously unknown facts and confirmed several suspicions. The size and locations of the enemy's base areas were plotted and for the first time the extent and depth of the enemy's, logistical system was documented. Whereas the base areas had previously been thought to all be close to the border, it was discovered that the depth extended far into Cambodia, often serviced by unknown roads and trails built specifically for this purpose. The existence of recovery and replacement regiments as well as the organization and operations area were discovered. Vast quantities of new weapons and munitions were captured, possibly preempting their intended use against Allied forces. During the Cambodian Campaign, the 1st Cavalry Division (including those units under its operational control) accounted for 2,574 enemy killed in action and 31 prisoners of war. They captured 2,244 tons of rice and over ten million rounds of ammunition.

The 1st Cavalry Division operation in Cambodia far exceeded all expectations and proved to be one of the most successful operations in the history of the First Team. All aspects of ground and air combat were utilized-air cavalry, armor, infantry, and mechanized infantry. The U.S. Air Force reconnaissance, tactical air, and B-52's performed yeoman duty throughout the campaign there. This team effort, spearheaded by the airmobile flexibility inherent in the 1st Cavalry, carried the war to the enemy and defeated him in his own backyard.

MG George W. Casey had taken command of the 1st Cavalry on 12 May from GEN Roberts. GEN Roberts, who had been scheduled to turn over command of the division on 3 May, had been extended until 12 May in order to plan, organize, and command the initial phases of the Cambodian operation. On 6 July 1970, he wrote a letter to his Troops summing up the 1st Cavalry's part in the Cambodian Campaign. Excerpts from the letter are as follows:

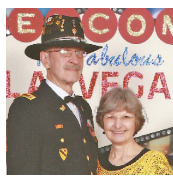
... The results are impressive. You killed enough of the enemy to man three NVA Regiments; captured or destroyed enough individual and crew-served weapons to equip two NVA Divisions; and denied the enemy an entire year's supply of rice for all his maneuver battalions in our AO. You captured more rocket, mortar, and recoilless rifle rounds than the enemy fired in all of III Corps during the twelve months preceding our move into Cambodia. And, perhaps most important, by working together in an airmobile team, you disrupted the enemy's entire supply system, making chaos of his base areas and killing or driving off his rear service personnel.

Only time will tell how long it will take the NVA to recover, but of this you can be sure—you have set the enemy back sufficiently to permit President Nixon's redeployment plan to proceed with safety while assuring that our Vietnamese Allies maintain their freedom. This is your achievement. This is yet another demonstration that you of the 1st Cavalry Division deserve, and have earned again, the accolade of the FIRST TEAM. It is my honor to have served alongside you during this crucial and historic period.

The following day on the morning of 7 July, GEN Casey was enroute to Cam Ranh Bay to visit wounded Sky Troopers in the hospital. Flying over the rugged mountains of the Central Highlands, General Casey's helicopter entered a thick cloudbank and disappeared. In the late afternoon of 9 July, the wreckage of the General's helicopter was found. GEN Casey and all the officers and men aboard had been killed instantly in the crash. George had served with me as my Chief of Staff during 1967. Prior to that he commanded the 2d Brigade under GEN Norton. His death was a great personal loss to me and everyone who had served with him. MG George Putnam, whose 1st Aviation Brigade had been doing a fantastic job in supporting Army of the Republic of Vietnam operations in the Parrot's Beak to the south, was ordered to take command of the 1st Cavalry Division.

★ ★ ★ **WELCOME HOME** ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ **SOLDIER** ★ ★ ★

HQ and Special Troops News



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IMPORTANT NOTICE: The dates for the 2020 1st Cavalry Division Reunion in KY have BEEN CHANGED to 4-8 October 2020. This change was necessary because of the virus situation. All room reservation at the Crowne Plaza were canceled; **YOU WILL NEED to call** and make your reservations again. If you made reservations at a different hotel, you **would need to contact them** and change your dates accordingly. Check out the Association website www.ICDA.org for other updates. Hope to see you in October.

Wow, how quickly things can change! Sue and I went to the board and foundation meetings of the association at Killeen, TX, in the first part of February. The stock market was booming. The association's investments had really taken off. Then, a few weeks later the bottom fell out. In a flash the whole world changed. The stock market took a huge dive, the unemployment which had been at all-time lows jumped to all-time highs. The media preaches nothing but doom and gloom. The world is coming to an end. We are all going to die! During these "stay at home" weeks it is almost impossible to find anyone who has a hopeful outlook on the future. Efforts by our leaders to instill hope and faith in our country are out blasted by the doom and gloom media. Sue and I hope that you have all stayed safe during this world crisis. We have learned to enjoy reading and even talking with each other. Sue is quilting and I am making birdhouses from scrap lumber. We have also learned the joy of eating, often to detriment of our efforts to stay healthy and lose weight. Stay positive! Stay safe! Stay home!

Neil Whetsel, who served with the 15th S&S Bn in Vietnam from 1968-69, was involved in several major operations of the 1st CD during his tour in Vietnam. Neil wrote for the Saber HQ and Special Troop news article in Jan/Feb 2020. He was informative of the Quartermaster Corps combat support activities. The purpose, as stated, was to stir memories of unusual experiences. Here are a few more from Neil:

"Two notable operations in I Corps RVN by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) were Pegasus (Relief of Marines at Khe Sanh) and Delaware (A Shau Valley raid) as mission approved by GEN Westmoreland. MG John J. Tolson was the 1st Cavalry Division Commander during Tet 68 Offensive. I Corps was ordered to implement Pegasus on 1 April 1968 with approximately 7 of the 9 Battalions engaged from LZ Stud. This was the designated TOC and main support base for both operations. The logistical support was required from the Depots at Da Nang and Qui Nhon through the division logistical units or directly to the unit(s). The extracted materials, both captured and unused supplies, were returned to Camp Evans or other LZs. The Division flew 407,806 sorties from January 1st to June 30th, 1968 with 271 rotary wing aircraft hit/damaged and 66 destroyed. (1st CD Combat Operation After Action Report dated 11 Jul 68 Tab D&K and page 198 of Vietnam Studies Airmobile) Petroleum support (JP4) for over 450 division rotary wing aircraft, reported a maximum use over six hundred thousand gallons per day in the operations area for Pegasus and Delaware. Since the daily consumption of JP4 depended on weather and missions, delivery of fuel was one of the critical supply elements. 1st Cavalry operations for the Pegasus (Khe Sanh) link up began on April 1st with relief of the 26th Marines Regiment on April 8th. 1st Cavalry units were then ordered to the A Shau Valley for Operation Delaware on April 14th, two weeks from the start of Operation Pegasus. Pegasus and Delaware were the first division scale air assaults in history according to Shelby L. Stanton in his book "Anatomy of a Division" (P141). Operation Pegasus with 315 casualties resulted in 59 KIA with 5 MIA Soldiers. The NVA count estimate was 638 KIA with significant weapons, ammunition and supplies captured.

"Operation Delaware began on April 19th and the weather was a significant factor with no feasible ground access by road. The 1/9 Cavalry Squadron aerial recon determined that the A Shau Valley had significant amounts of NVA troops and supplies in several storage locations used to maintain enemy operations during Tet 68. All factors contributed to the raid being noted as much bolder than other operations. MG Tolson gambled that aerial rocket artillery and other air support would suffice until the Chinooks airlifted howitzers in right behind the assaulting infantry (DA Air Mobility Vietnam Studies). The 1/9 Air Cavalry Squadron conducted division recon between April 14th to 19th in the A Shau Valley. Operation Delaware began on April 19th with insertion of seven battalions into LZ(s) Cecil, Tiger, Vicki, Goodman, Pepper and finally LZ Stallion (A Loui airstrip). LZ Stallion's operational air strip was repaired on May 4th to accommodate fixed wing aircraft and was the hub for logistical support in the valley. Signal Hill was established as a critical communication link for use both inside valley and for command and control.

The JP4 Forward Area Refuel Equipment (FARE System) installed at Stallion provided on site critical refueling for ARA (Aerial Rocket Arty-Cobra) in the valley. The Air Cavalry flights for fuel resupply by sling load of 500-gallon fuel bladders over the 5,000-foot mountain range required extended flight time and fuel usage. Air Force fuel delivery at Stallion, when weather permitted, was the preferred delivery method. The fuel required for Cavalry unit delivery at times exceeded the amount of fuel needed, for resupply by Chinook or Ch54 Flying Crane flights, due to weather and altitude.

"LTG Tolson stated in DA, Air Mobility, Vietnam Studies, page 190 and 191 that Air Assault operations extraction began in the A Shau Valley on May 10th and continued to May 17th. GEN Rosson, Commander of Provisional Corps, stated that Operation Delaware as 'one of the most audacious, skillfully executed and successful combat undertakings of Vietnam War ... it is significant that, from its inception, Operation Delaware was a combined effort entailing association of the 1st Cavalry Division and the 3rd ARVN Regiment; 1st ARVN Division on the one hand and the 101st Airborne Division and 3rd ARVN Airborne Task Force on the other. The outstanding results, achieved through teamwork of the combined forces, reflect great credit on their leadership professionalism and unsurpassed fighting zeal.'

"A lesson learned, as stated in DA, Air Mobility, Vietnam Studies, page 152 was 'that one must be very careful to pick the proper weather indices in selecting

an appropriate time for an airmobile operation as one inch of rain that falls in thirty minutes is not nearly as important as a tenth of an inch which falls as a light mist over 24 hours.' The extraction from the valley (Operation Delaware) by 17th May resulted in significant amounts of weapons and ammunition moved to Camp Evans ammo/dump. The enemy rocket attack on 19th May on Camp Evans, with a direct hit into the ammo/dump, caused explosions and fires for over 12 hours. The explosion damaged 124 roto wing aircraft with some destroyed. The repair and replacement of aircraft required more than a week to return to full airmobile operation. The damage to structures such as Cav Chapel and equipment at Camp Evans was extensive. The task of JP4 refuel point replacement for logistical support required significant assets and time to restore full operations to the Division TOC at Camp Evans. The enemy did extract, by rocket attack damages, revenge on the 1st Cavalry for all captured and disruption due to loss of fighters and supplies in the two operations."

Thank you, Neil, for the concise summary of those two major operations of the 1st Cav.

I also heard from **Jim Wright**, who is from Minnesota and is the treasurer of the Walter H. Westman-Northland Chapter in Minnesota. Jim, who served with the 191st Military Intelligence from Jun 68 to Jun 69, wrote: "Ron, I really don't have any real interesting stories to tell. As far as U.S. Army schooling went. I did not get to go to the good schools. In 1968 they just needed bodies to do the job and I was in the first interrogator (96C) class to get pushed through fast. We should have gone to Ft Meade for our MI training but that did not happen. Instead we were sent to Ft Bragg to the 14th MI for a crash course as OJT. Because of this we did not get any promotions, so after completing the course we came out as private E-2's and were given our orders to Vietnam. The only language we had was a 2-week crash course in Vietnamese. Then we got leave time followed by orders to report to Oakland the last week of June. I was drafted on Jan 22nd so you can see how fast they moved us through. From my basic battalion there was only three of us out of over 1,000 guys that were sent to Ft Bragg for this course and all three of us were from Minnesota. I had one guy, that I never knew, that was drafted the same day as me and we spent our entire two years together and we did not sign up for any 'buddy program.' After Vietnam I went home on leave then off again to Ft Bragg to the 15th MI, where they didn't have anything for me to do because they put me in an aerial reconnaissance unit!"

Thank you, Jim. Jim also wrote a little about how he often "just missed out" on promotions and I will include that story in a future column. He seemed to always be in the wrong place and wrong time to get promoted. Jim also told me that while in Vietnam with the 1st Cav, he worked very closely with his Vietnamese counterparts to gather intelligence from Vietcong detainees and prisoners of war.

Tom McTigue of Plymouth, MA, had written once before and I had (believe it or not) forgotten about it. Tom said, "Long time reader of your column and even contributed to it back in 2017 (re: deactivation of 15th Admin Co). Enjoyed reading about the various MOS's in the Army and doing KP. Just want to add my own experiences to your story lines. First, after finishing Personnel Specialist School at Ft. Jackson, I was assigned to a Support Platoon upon arrival at Ft. Monroe, Va. My job was to check the duty roster of a unit of about 15 Soldiers every morning and that took about a half hour. The rest of the day I had to find work to do and watch the back of the E5 (SGT) in charge of the unit. I kept an eye out the window to warn of approaching brass heading toward our small building. One day the First Sergeant came over, asked me my MOS (71H) and said, 'you don't belong here, Mac.' The next day I was working in the Company Orderly Room. Goodbye to fatigues and hello to Class A's every day. Second, as far as KP is concerned, you may have liked the "Pots & Pans" job but I think the best one was the DRO, Dining Room Orderly. It was usually given to the first Soldier to arrive that morning and the Mess Sergeant liked you. All you did was easy work like making sure the salt & pepper shakers, condiments and napkins were filled and clean up a little after Soldiers left their table. Funny thing even in An Khe, RVN, the Cav went with Soldiers for KP when other divisions used locals. A smart move considering what happened to other units in trusting too much in the so called "loyal" Vietnamese kitchen workers. Third, and speaking of MOS's, I once met an E-6 (SSG) in Nam who, when I asked what he did for a job duty, said he was a LIFEGUARD at a swimming pool in Cam Ranh Bay!! He was in Special Services and I believe with a MOS of 03C? True enough, there were swimming pools there for off duty GI's and probably for ARVN's and their families along with some beautiful beaches with GI lifeguards. I think this is taking Combat Support to a new level, but someone had to do this job. There was also an Army hospital at this huge base for wounded GI's rather than sending them stateside and there was a pool for them as part of their recovery convalescence. I processed through Cam Ranh in 1969 but never saw signs for enlisted swimming pools. I was not looking anyway. Just wanted to get home. I read earlier that you are a "short timer" in writing this column for *Saber*. I want to thank you for publishing this column and making it so interesting and informative. I know you did a lot of research for your writing. I wish you well in your retirement and I know there are a couple of fish or more in Lake Caddo with your name on them. GO Get "em." I also hope the column can continue, especially for someone like me and others, whose units are not highlighted in *Saber*."

Thank you for those memories Tom. I especially like the Trooper with the lifeguard MOS! Maybe one of them will write me someday. To each his opinion but I still hold that the pots and pans man had the best job. I plan to continue writing the column until someone steps up to take the job and/or until I run out of feed-back for the column.

Louisiana was hard hit by the virus, mostly caused by the huge crowds that attended Mardi Gras in New Orleans and then returned to their homes across the state and into other states. We have had many cases in NW Louisiana, Caddo Parish, but Sue and I have stayed home now for almost a month and so far, have missed catching the virus. We hope and pray you have all remained safe and at home.

I want to once again encourage you to send me your stories of bad things, good things, slow promotions, odd jobs, and such, that happened to you during your tour in the U.S. Army. I know the stories are out there. Help me keep this column going and the readers interested. Meantime take care and watch your back. May God continue to bless each of you and your families, the great 1st CD Association, the U.S. Army, and our nation. Pray that our doctors and scientists will find a cure for this awful virus. Stay safe! Hope to see you in KY October 4-8!



HONOR ROLL



Thank you for the generous donations from our following Troopers:

SFC ABRAHAM, Richard L.
In Memory of Flying Tigers D Co COBRA'S 229th 1968-69 R.V.N.
SGT ADAMS, Robert
SGT ASHBY, Steve W.
In Memory of Casey Owen Waller
SP-4 BLALOCK, Linwood
SP-4 BOYLE, Ray N, III
In Memory of John C. Deaton, KIA Jan 16-69 A Co 227AVN 1stCav
MSG (RET) BRADLEY, William D.
In Honor of CWO Jesse Phelps
E-5 BRIKETT, Larry
In Memory of All Members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.
SP-5 CARTER, Michael D.
SP-4 CHARACKY, Michale
SP-5 CHRISTENSEN, David A.
In Memory of ALL B 1st of 9th
CPL CLARK, Richard J.
SP-4 COLEMAN, Frank K.
In Memory of Steve Bethune and Tom Sholze
SGT COMPTON, James
DR. CORLEY, Rosie L
In Memory of my husband SGT August B. Corley
SP-4 CRAIGEN, John
SGT CZAPLICKI, Matthew W.
In Memory of CPT Thomas Carney D 2/5, killed 6/15/66, friendly fire
SGT DAVIS, Doyle

E-4 BROWN, Tobias
In Memory of All Those KIA in Operation Desert Storm
E-4 GARCIA, Gabriel
CPT HUEBNER, Robert

PVT BEEMAN, Charles E.
In Memory of Co A 7th Cav Korea
SP-5 BROWN, George R.
SGT FARRIS, Robert L.
In Memory of All Medics "DOC"
SGT GARR, Allen
In Memory of 15th TC Battalion
SP-4 GIAQUINTO, Frank

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SGT BAUER, Kenneth W.

SGT HENDRICKSON, Dave
In Honor of Delta Co, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Vietnam Troopers.

MR. BOLLINGER, Brian G.
SFC (RET) KRIER, John N.
In Memory of LTC Robert W Short, CDR, 1/21FA Bn From May 1965 to June 1966 Vietnam

ANONYMOUS

In Honor of those who gave their Lives at the 3 Battles: Anonymous/3-26-70, F.S.B. Jay/3-29-70 and F.S.B. Illingworth/4-1-70; 42 KIA, 137 WIA
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SP-4 HUBERT, Jerry
In Memory of Frank Brochetti KIA 04/08/72
SGT JIMENEZ, Anthony
SGT JOHNSON, Steven M.
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SGT JONES, Edward D.
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SP-4 OBETTS, Phil Jr.
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In Memory of PFC Ardon B. Cooper
SGM WICKS, D. H.
In Memory of Our Fallen Troopers
SGT WILLIAMS, James D.
SP-4 WRIGHT, Tom

LTC (RET) POLK, Patrick
LTC WAGNER, Frank H, MD
In Memory of COL Otto Wagner, Cavalry

SP-5 PARKER, Raynauld J.
In Memory of COL Leonard D. Holder, Commander 11th ACR Black Horse Regiment
MR. PATEL, Bhavan
SGT SKIDMORE, James D.
SGT SAGERHORN, James R.
1LT WILKINSON, Robert L
In Memory of SGT Herbert L. Edwards, A Co, 2nd Bn, 8th Cavalry Regt, 1967-68, Republic of Vietnam. He passed away on February 21, 2020.

SGT LICAVOLI, John D.
In memory of E 2/5 3/11/67
MRS. ROZANSKI, Gordon P.
In Memory of Gordon P Rozanski "Rosie"

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turned 99 on 5/16/2020

SSG WALTER JOHN PIKE
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turned 93 on 5/03/2020

SSG PHILIP J. KEARNEY JR.
turned 93 on 5/29/2020

SGT JAMES L. WARREN
turned 92 on 5/28/2020

1LT BERNARD SHANKMAN
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turned 97 on 6/28/2020

PFC SALVADOR G. TORRES
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Happy Birthday to these young Troopers!

8inch S.P. Howitzer

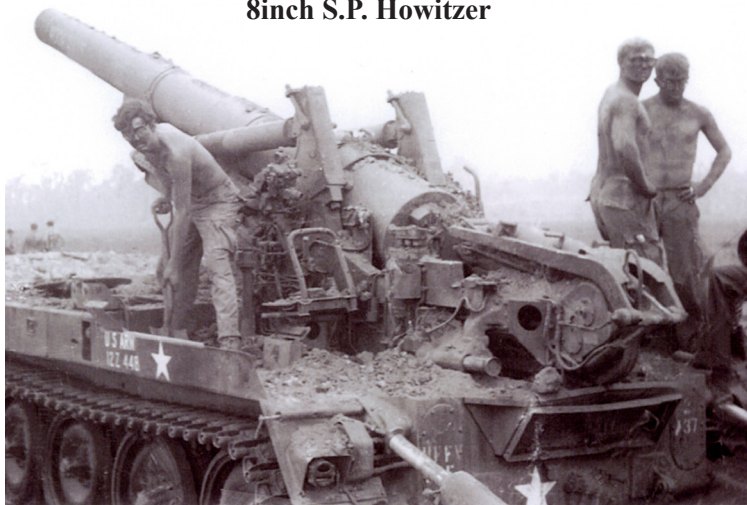
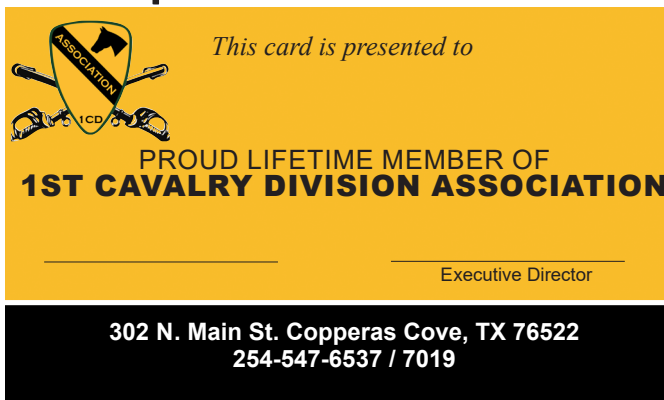


Photo right: Ralph Jones visited F.S.B. Illingworth, Vietnam in 2008.

“Baiting Operation” My friends, my brothers, they are gone but not forgotten. 50 years later, still honoring them and laying wreaths for them on their memorial site at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



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