Garry Owen to all you troopers and your families. As we pass through the middle of the hot summer, I am reminded that in less than a year we will be meeting again in St Louis. Allen Patrick, Jasper Catanzaro and Don Shipley have already put most of the essential pieces in place. Next year you will be able to see and hear the July 4th fireworks while at the reunion which somehow seems appropriate.

As we get into the preparation phase for the next reunion, I would like to bring your attention to the Battalion Directory which can be found in each of the newsletters as well as on the 5/7 web site: http://www.Cav57.org. This directory contains the key points of contact for the association and your individual companies. As we gear up for the next reunion, I would like to see the company trustees take on a larger piece of the action. Specifically, I believe the trustee should be his company cheerleader, the meeter/greeter, the guy that matches up those missing troopers from squads, platoons and companies. At past reunions, I have had the opportunity to meet many of the new arrivals to the reunion or association. They are usually hunting for members of their unit of a particular year. The trustee is in the unique position to be able to facilitate this link-up. The hospitality room provides an excellent opportunity for this occasion.

The trustee is also the person who attempts to encourage as large a turnout as possible from his unit. One of the most effective ways to do this is through Email. I note with interest that there are still several trustees that still do not have an Email address. While that, of course, is their decision, most of us have found we have great difficulty in keeping in touch with fellow troopers without it. I encourage any of you troopers that have an Email address to make it known to us – specifically to our Vice President Karl Haartz, who is compiling a master list of Email addresses.

While we only meet officially every two years, many of you get together informally in your own mini-reunions at other times. I’m sure Allen Patrick would like to hear of these get-togethers and if you have pictures, put them in the paper. Make your plans now to reserve the first week in July 2002 for the reunion. Plan your vacations, request your time off from your boss and we will see you there.

Don’t forget the usual Veteran’s Day rendezvous this year on Nov 11th. Suzy and I will again look forward to having as many of you that can, stop by on the evening of Nov 10th. Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.
BATTALION DIRECTORY

Name                           Home Phone
President Emeritus             301-530-9039
Ted Swett                      ted6@aol.com
President                      410-551-6167
John Long                      jonlong@earthlink.net
Vice President                 603-726-7080
Karl Haartz                    krazykc@eagle1st.com
Communications Officer         734-662-9612
Allen Patrick                  apatrick@mediaone.net
Secretary                      615-790-6325
Jerry Houston                  jerryait@aol.com
Treasurer                      248-305-8405
Jasper Catanzaro               jcatanza@ford.com
Sergeant - At - Arms           303-980-0804
Will Mercer                    SargeandPegi@aol.com
Battalion Chaplain             304-453-4914
Eddie Rape                     ERape12@aol.com
Legal Advisor                  516-747-3894
Jim Harmon                     harfirm@aol.com
Veterans Affairs Advisor       816-364-5158
Doc Maxwell                    papadoc@aol.com
Dept. of Army Liaison          703-239-1761
Larry Budge                    lbudge@ida.org
COMPANY TRUSTEES
A Company                      520-647-7605
Tom Spalding
B Company                      706-685-0464
Don Diggs
C Company                      618-863-2619
Harold Dannenwitz              hoss_danenwitz@yahoo.com
D Company                      740-533-1605
Dennis Dickess                 kdickess@zoomnet.net
E Company                      407-668-7881
Bill Moore                     moore367@aol.com
HHQ                            806-364-5158
Doc Maxwell                    papadoc@aol.com
Battalion Historian           410-488-4930
Patrick Dockery               vvivdoc@erols.com
Memorabilia                   816-746-6384
Bill Brown                     missouribill@juno.com
Video                         210-914-2203
Phil Sierer                    oldrebel@texas.net

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

He was getting old and paunchy.... and his hair was falling fast,
As he sat around the VFW Post, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done.
In his exploits with his buddies, they were heroes everyone.
And though sometimes to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his VFW buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer, for 'old Bill' has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.
He'll not be mourned by many, just his family and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quiet, uneventful life.
He held a job and raised a family, quietly going on his way.
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When the politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
And thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great!
Newspapers tell their life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a simple soldier.... goes unnoticed and unsung.
What is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land?
A person who breaks his promises and cons his fellowman,
Or the ordinary fellow, who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country and offers up his life?

It’s so easy to forget them --- for it was so long ago,
But once the wars were started, of this we all do know:
It was not the politicians with their promises and ploys,
Who won for us the freedoms that our country now enjoys.
No, it was the soldier, who paid the final bill,
He alone remembers ... and the memories haunt him still.

He was a Common Soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us.... we may need his type again.
For when our country was in conflict, we found the soldier's part:
It was to clean up all the troubles.... that others often start.
If we cannot give him honor, while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's pay him tribute at the ending of his days.
Perhaps a simple notice in the paper that would say:
"Our country is in mourning, cause a Soldier passed away."

1985 A. Lawrence Vaincourt
VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT
By “Krazy” Karl Haartz

Garry Owen All,

Can you believe it? It has been a little over a year since we left reunion V in Nashville. Now we have less than a year to Reunion VI in St. Louis Mo. Please make your reservations early. The sooner you make your reservations, the better.

We’re going to do our best to make Reunion VI as much fun as Nashville. Check out our Cav 5/7 web site http://www.cav57.org to learn more about the hotel and its facilities. You will find the hotel phone number there as well. So there’s no excuse to not go ahead and make that reservation. Hint: There also more info on the reunion in this newsletter, too.

It is Wes Westmoreland’s goal to find 1000 5/7 troopers between reunions. This is not entirely unrealistic as we still have the names of 4000 with no addresses. While you’re on vacation riding the roads of America, read the names of the towns you travel though, this might jog something from the memory bank. Stop, have an ice cream and look in the phone book. Persistence in the search will be rewarding.

I would like to thank Doc McBride from D Co. Doc has been on a mission to find as many D Co. troops as possible. He has found about a dozen. Good work and a big Garry Owen to Doc.

Don’t forget our PX. We have some new Polo shirts with a high quality embroidered crest. We have all sizes too!! Check out the full list of PX items on page 5 of this newsletter. You can also find the list on our web site: http://www.cav57.org

INFORMATION INQUIRY

I received the following requests for information. Please read and see if you might be able to help out.

Derek M. Davey (lewcovsa@northnet.org), Director at the Lewis County (New York) Veterans Service Agency, Lowville, NY 13367. Derek is representing a troop from HHC 5/7 with a PTSD claim and needs info about 70-71 activities of the 5/7 including Cambodia. Please send him anything you might remember about this. It is to help one of our fellow troopers.

Truman Udell, C Co. 67-68 would like to hear from anyone that can help him on a VA claim. He got a piece of shrapnel in his hand. I don’t have a snail mail address as of yet. His e-mail is AOHYEA@aol.com. Let’s help him out.

Keith Bodine of the 227th Aviation inquired about a wounded trooper in his copter back in Feb. of 67. This trooper is Connie Pearson of D Co. Connie and Keith have talked on the phone and are planning to get together this summer. Our battalion communications have helped put another ghost to rest.

Keep the communications coming. It’s great to hear from you and if we can help out by publishing your questions and concerns in the Airmobile, we’re happy to do it!!

TROOPERS FOUND — Welcome Home!

• Frank Rueda, 4318 East 6th Street, Stockton, Ca. 95215; 209-948-6288. Frank has a little memory block. He was in C Co in 1966 - 67. He remembers Wes, but nobody can forget Wes. Wes is a experience that no one will ever forget. Thanks Wes from your loyal subjects.
• Donald R. Rundles, 1801 Harper Rd, Northport, Al. 35476; 205-333-6460; runninggun1@juno.com; C Co. mid 67 to Feb.68
• Larry J. Kibbon, 7641 W. Coach Road, Palos Heights, Il. 60463; 706-446-1275; C Co., 67-68
• Edward B. Prettiow, 934 Grodon Ave., Norfolk, Va. 23504; 757-624-9329; C Co. 3rd Platoon, March 67 to April 68
• Michael Shurley (Better know as "Hippie" when in Nam), 2367 Maricopa Place, Torrance, Ca. 90501; 310-533-5161; mshurley@socalgas.com
• Robert (Bob) J. Childs, 10141 Vrain Court, Westminster, CO, 80031; 303-466-9456; RJRJChild@aol.com; Rank 1st Lt.; B Co, Sept ‘67 to Sept. ’68; FAO and Platoon leader.
• Kenneth Easter, 325 NW State St., Bend, Oregon 97701; 541-389-5103; A Co 66 – 67
• Leonard Agnello, 2233 Farmington Dr., El Cajon, CA 92019; 619-449-5204; D Co 66 - 67
• Robert W. Fielman, 9195 Georgetown Circle, Loveland, OH 45140; 513-677-1863; C Co 68; Rwfielman@aol.com
• Greg T. Trujillo, PO Box 215, Las Animas, CO 81054; 719-456-0028; D Co 67
• Bruce (Frenchy) Bossout, 416 Meadow Creek Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23323; 757-487-8945; D Co
• Truman Udell, No address; aohyea@aol.com; C Co 67- 68; Looking for help on VA claim on shrapnel in hand wound.
• Gene Baskins, 3765 Schull Dr., Hood River, OR 97031; 541-387-2628; Sbaskins@hoodriver.k12.or.us; D Co 68
MAY DAZE

The day was not unlike the previous nine days I had spent with B Co., 5th BN, 7th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division. The heat was very intense, and we were moving at a rapid pace. I was in the mortar platoon, the weight of my load getting a little easier to bear. One became seasoned quickly in the An Loa Valley.

We had a destination and speed was important. We moved down a steep hill toward a flat area where choppers were to pick us up and transport us to another location.

One man in our platoon passed out from heat exhaustion when we reached the bottom of the hill. We were bruised and battered from the rocks and brush we encountered on the way down.

We boarded choppers and moved on to our next destination. The door gunner on my chopper told us we would be hovering a few feet off the ground when we reached the LZ because the hill was mined.

When my chopper reached the hill, I jumped out with my three mortar rounds, plus my M-16 with M-79 grenade launcher attached (the over/under weapon), personal gear, ammunition, etc. I began to move slowly to the top of the hill. I was very carefully trying to avoid anything that looked as if it could be concealing a mine.

The concussion from the explosion sent me sprawling to the ground. My ears were ringing and I wasn't sure what had happened.

A guy was staggering around holding his head. He was peppered with shrapnel wounds. A couple of drops of his blood hit me in the face. I tried to get him to get down. I was afraid he would step on another mine. Our medic got to him, and I handed "Doc" one of my canteens so he could clean the guy's wounds.

Sgt. Orlando Marcano came over to me. I was bleeding from my left side, but only a small hole was there. It burned a bit. Under the circumstances, I am not sure it warranted the Purple Heart I received.

Medivac picked us up in a few minutes. I sat there and watched a medic try to save the man who had stepped on the mine. He had been only a few feet behind me. He died just a couple of minutes after we were on our way to LZ English.

I returned to the field the next day, rejoining my company in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.

Who was he? Why him and not me? I often wondered.

That happened on May 18, 1967. Twenty years passed. I visited The Wall in July 1987, still not knowing who died on the chopper that day.

I did eventually learn it was PFC Carl Hallberg from Delayan, WI, who died that day.

At a reunion of the 5th BN, 7th CAV in July, 1998, I laid a yellow rose near his name at The Wall in Washington, DC.

Farewell, Brother. God keep you. He didn't want me that day in May.

GALEN E. GREGERSON

GENERAL GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER

Fellow troopers, I have read many books on George Armstrong Custer and The Battle of The Little Bighorn as part of my research on our battalion. The book titled TO HELL WITH HONOR by, Larry Sklenar is one of the best.

The image of the famous "last stand" of the Seventh U.S. Cavalry under General George Armstrong Custer has metamorphosed into myth. We picture the solitary Custer standing upright to the end; his troops formed into groups of wounded and dying men around him.

In this book, Larry Sklenar analyzes and interprets the widely accepted facts underlying the accepted portrayal of Custer's defeat. His perspective, however, is fresh and he offers wholly new conclusions about one of the most enduring mysteries in American history ---- the 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Sklenar contends that Custer did have a battle plan, one different from any other suggested by scholars thus far. Custer, he argues:

- Had reason to believe that his scheme might succeed with minimum bloodshed
- Made decisions consistent with army regulations and his best instincts as an experienced commander.
- Had subordinates who could not overcome the limits of their personalities in a desperate situation, and
- Made a selfless commitment to save the bulk of his regiment.

Along the way, Sklenar appraises the officers and other men who served in the Seventh, evaluating the survivors' testimony and assessing the intent and motives of each. The movements and decision of these men, the plans and goals of their regimental leader, and the remembrances and testimony of Indian eyewitnesses form the basis for this narrative history of the Seventh's famous fight.

Larry Sklenar retired from the U.S. Defense Department, concentrated six years of research on Custer and the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Garry Owen, Gary Storz C-66
PX Orders should be sent to:
John Goodpaster
303 Cora Drive
Carlisle, Ohio 45005-3268

7th Cav Baseball Hat $10
Full Size Garry Owen Crest 4
Min. Garry Owen Crest 3
1st Cav Div Patch Crest 3
1st Cav Patch Air Mobile 4
1st Cav Patch Air Cavalry 3
CIB Full Size and Miniature 4/3
Miniature Purple Heart 3
Bong Song Hat Pin 3
AnKhe Hat Pin 3
1st Cav Shoulder Patch 5
1st Cav Vietnam Sticker 2
Garry Owen Sticker 2
7th Cav Crossed Sabers Porcelain Pin or Tie tack 5
1st Cav Div Pennant 5
1st Cav Div Coin 10
1st Cav Div Flag 18
7th Cav Glass Mug 10
Polo Shirt w/Garry Owen Crest & Cav 5/7 (silk screened)
Small, Med, & Large 18
XL & XXL 21
Polo Shirt w/Embroidered Garry Owen Crest & Cav 5/7
Small, Med, & Large 21
X, XL, XXL & XXXL 23
Shipping: $2 for small items; $3 for shirts and mugs
Nashville Reunion Videos $10 + shipping

5th Battalion 7th Cavalry PX

DON’T QUIT

One of the most important questions we will ever ask ourselves is this: How do we handle adversity? How do we handle situations in which our goals seem to be impossible and our very continuance untenable?

As a busy pastor I deal every day with people who have come to a place in their daily lives that they question whether it is worth going on.

Consider the first century Christian Martyr Polycarp. When faced with having to cast incense on a Roman altar and proclaim "Caesar is Lord," he replied: " Eighty six years have I served Him, and He never did me wrong; how can I blaspheme my King that has saved me?"

What about us? What keeps us holding on even in the face of serious illness, death and destruction? How can we remain faithful in a world so unfaithful? Simply put, “Don't be afraid. Fear comes from looking at life and its challenges from our own perspective rather than from God's perspective. Our perspective is so limited, so narrow, that too often we cannot see the power of God at work in and through a given situation. I assure you God is at work. Look to Him and DON'T QUIT.

Gary Owen and God Bless,

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Dear friends,

Some of you may already know that Peter was diagnosed with malignant melanoma in January of 1989 just after we moved to Middleburg, Virginia. Initial treatment was surgery. We have been blessed since this did not substantially affect our lives for twelve years, other than periodic appointments with an oncologist and a dermatologist. Unfortunately the melanoma has reoccurred. We have looked at the limited options and have decided that Peter will enter a research program for treatment that is being conducted by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health. The treatment is designed to boost the patient's immune system.

We believe this development cannot wait to be included in an end of the year holiday message. Please continue to treat us as you would without this development. We are continuing to socialize and participate in community and family activities to the extent treatment schedules and progress permit.

Peter's treatment started in May at NCI's facility at Bethesda, Maryland. He was treated on an in-patient basis for about a week.

The weeklong in-patient treatment cycle is being repeated several times after two-week periods at home. While Peter is in Bethesda, Susan stays at a Bethesda hotel.

We strongly believe (and are told by many who have fought cancer) that the thoughts and prayers from others are an important part of any treatment and recovery program. We would appreciate your help.

We also extend special thanks to those of you who already know about this development and have supported and helped us in the past.

Sincerely, Peter and Susan Howard (Email: pschhoward@starpower.com)
I hope that all of you are having a great summer.

I would like to thank all of you for the overwhelming response to our last newsletter. As you know we had very little dues activity since our return from Nashville through March of this year and it caused our treasury to go down considerably. Well, I can't believe the mail the last few weeks.

We received a lot of dues, donations, and some PX sales. I turned over the CD from $10,000 (which earned us over $350 in 7 months) to an $8,000 CD. We were getting bank fees of $10 for each month because our checking account had fallen below $2500. This situation is now corrected and we shouldn't be charged any more bank fees.

We are in great financial shape right now.

I also appreciated the many notes that accompanied the checks. Hopefully, from now on, we will have the dues information on the mailing labels and clear up all doubts of how you stand in your dues.

Many of you apologized for not sending in your dues.

First, let me say that no one should apologize for getting behind. The reason we have yearly dues is to cover the cost of the AIRMOBILE. It costs about $1 to print, label and mail each issue or about $4 a year.

When we discussed yearly dues at our earlier reunions, we hoped that those who could afford to pay yearly dues keep them up. So, if you see, on the mailing label, that you are one or more years behind in your dues, don't worry.

If you send in a check, just let me know what years you want your dues applied to. It doesn't have to be for back dues unless you want it done that way.

One letter that I really enjoyed stated, "because of an article in the newsletter", he had been encouraged to file a VA claim and now with the extra money coming in could catch up on his dues.

We hope the newsletter helps by giving information and news you might find useful. This was a case where it did. Also, it is a way to keep in touch and keeps you posted about the reunions.

If you haven't come to a reunion, we hope that you do. It really does help to know that there are those who went through many of the same things you did.

You are not alone.

Another note, I have been cleaning up the database file. Over the years we have had numerous people handle the database. They did a great job adding names and making the many changes that come in each day, however, we all make mistakes.

There are over 4,000 names in our database with over 1400 active addresses so it's easy to make mistakes.

We had duplicate names, missing information, addresses that needed correcting, changed email addresses, dues info – you name it.

I make corrections as I find them and when directed by you.

As I type this article, I have a pile of letters in front of me, some telling me to make corrections to their address, or city, or something. I double-check your name, address, and any information I get from your letters and return addresses.

Don't be ashamed to let me know if you see a mistake. I appreciate the letters correcting the mistakes. So, if you see any mistakes, let me know. I don't like my name misspelled and neither should you.

If you see a mistake on your dues, let me know immediately. I had a couple of people who corrected me on their dues.

You don't need to take the trouble of finding a cancelled check. I BELIEVE YOU. As I'm also doing the Treasury Report, I can go back and double check all checks sent to me since the last reunion.

However, I ask one thing. If you sent in a check to me and your dues were not updated, look at the date of my Treasury Report. You will see that I usually take the last bank statement before we come out with the newsletter. In the last newsletter, that statement was at the end of March.

By the time we got all the articles together, the newsletter edited, printed, labeled and mailed, and you finally received it, a month had gone by. So, anyone sending in dues after the end of March would not see a change on how far they have "paid up" until the next newsletter.

I hope that clears any misunderstanding between sending in your dues and when you see a change on the mailing label.

Finally, it's still good hearing from you for whatever reason, even if you have a complaint.

Remember, "A soldier who doesn't complain is not a happy soldier."

Garry Owen, Jasper

---

**The Battle at LZ Colt**

General John A. Wickham Jr., the retired Chief of Staff of the Army, served as the Commanding Officer of the 5th battalion 7th Cavalry from June to October 11, 1967.

General Wickham and his command post were involved in a fierce battle with the VC at LZ Colt on October 10, 1967.

Recently, the General has been corresponding with the family of one of the soldiers killed in that battle.

General Wickham has kindly agreed that we could share his accounts of the battle with our Cav 5/7 troopers and their families.

The account an its details are rather lengthy so they have been captured in a separate article titled the "Battle at LZ Colt" and published on the Cav 5/7 web site.

If you do not have access to the web and would like a written copy of the account, please send a letter to the editor at 1149 Southwood Ct. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 or an e-mail to editor@cav57.org.
FINANCIAL REPORT

TOTAL ASSETS 3/21/01  $12,852.52

INCOME

Donations

Green, Lawrence  $30.00 02-03 $20.00  Watson, James 02-05 $40.00
Green, Galen 03-05 $30.00  Wells, Mike 01-05 $50.00
Healy, Thomas 01-02 $20.00  Whiteford, Robert 01-05 $50.00
Healy, Larry 01-03 $30.00  Wickham, John 00-04 $50.00
Hirscher, James 01-02 $20.00  Wirgau, Neil 01-04 $40.00
Hodges, Brent 01 $10.00  Zimmerman, Laurel 01-04 $40.00
Hoy, Clinton 00-01 $20.00  Zimmerman, Walter 01 $10.00
Hughes, Greg 01-03 $30.00
Ingram, George 00-02 $30.00
Jaimson, Ed 01-02 $20.00
Janke, Wendell 00-01 $20.00
Jennings, Robert 01-02 $20.00
Johnson, Gary 01-03 $30.00
Julian, Claude 01-02 $20.00
Kinder, Robert 01-02 $10.00
Koehler, George 00-02 $30.00
Koutoubia, Bill 01-05 $50.00
Kunkel, Robert 01-05 $50.00
Lee, Carlton 02-06 $50.00
Lumbard, Gary 01-02 $20.00
Marcano, Orlando 01-02 $20.00
Martz, Jerry 00-04 $50.00
Maxwell Donald 01-02 $20.00
McCandell, Harold 99-01 $30.00
McClellan, James 97-06 $100.00
McClung, William 01-03 $30.00
McQuerry, Charles 02-06 $50.00
Mead, Joseph 01-05 $50.00
Meadowcroft, Robert 05-07 $30.00
Meyer, Robert 02-04 $20.00
Nedball, Craig 01-10 $100.00
Nordstrom, Gary 01-05 $50.00
Olson, Lois 01-05 $50.00
Patrick, Allen 01-09 $100.00
Patrick, James 98-01 $40.00
Pearson, Connie 03-07 $50.00
Perez, Manuel 00-01 $20.00
Perkins, Ronald 01 $10.00
Ragland, James 01 $10.00
Ravnaas, Orvin 01-02 $20.00
Ryan, Sateren 01-02 $20.00
Schortemeyer, Alan 01-05 $50.00
Shear, Steve 99-02 $40.00
Shehry, Dennis 01-02 $20.00
Sheumaker, Harold 02 $10.00
Sorrells, David 97-02 $60.00
Starr, Richard 00-01 $20.00
Stocker, Ronald 01-04 $30.00
Talley, Carlton 01-03 $30.00
Tidball, Dennis 99-03 $50.00
Tyson, Lloyd 01-02 $20.00
Van Bibber, Amos 00-02 $30.00
Vick, Royce 01-02 $20.00
Wagner, Harold 02-04 $30.00
X

TOTAL DUES $1,210.00

Interest on CD $358.15

PX Sales

Patrick, James $18.00
Patrick, James $49.00
Cullitan, Jerome $20.00
Mead, Joseph $18.00
Mitchell, James $10.00

TOTAL PX SALES $115.00

Total Income $2,018.15

EXPENSES

Airmobile Costs $965.00
Bank Charge $10.00
Memorial Day Flowers $166.95

TOTAL EXPENSES $1,141.95

TOTALS ASSETS 6/26/01

Savings Account $3,696.65
Checking Account $4,290.05
CD $8,000.00

Total Accounts $15,986.70
Trooper’s Name (or Family Member)
Cav 5/7 Co, Yr in Unit, Dues Paid To Yr
Address
City, State, Zip

This is the information that is displayed in your mailing label. Remember to send in your change of address if you move.

---

**Reunion VI - July 2002**

The site for Reunion VI has been selected. It is the Renaissance Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. You will be getting more details about the schedule of events in the fall newsletter. In the meantime, check out the hotel and get yourself registered so you can make sure you have a room.

See you in St. Louis!!

(June 30 through July 6, 2002)