A loud and enthusiastic Garry Owen to each of you and your families from the Edmonds clan. We trust you and yours are well and enjoying life.

It’s been another year in which our superb 5/7th Cav Troopers have faced our enemies in combat and prevailed. From all accounts, they have met the difficult daily challenges of fighting and winning in Iraq with great courage and commitment to their mission. Their success, as all of you can appreciate, has come with a dear cost. Six of our men have been lost to IED attacks with a number of others suffering wounds from both firefights and IEDs. The stories of those actions are replete with examples of Troopers and their leaders moving to the sound of the guns and acting to protect their buddies. We grieve for their sacrifices and those of their families; and, we are enormously grateful for their service. Please keep all our brave Troopers and their families in your thoughts and prayers for their safe return once their job is done.

It’s also been a year to celebrate finding substantial numbers of our brothers from our Vietnam years and bringing them into our fold. Thanks to those of you who have been successful in this effort. Don Shipley continues to lead the way for us.

Next on the horizon is our annual gathering in Washington to honor our fallen and lay a wreath at the Wall on Veterans Day. As usual, we plan to gather at Guapo’s Mexican Restaurant in Bethesda, Md on Saturday evening, November 10th for some good fellowship. All are invited and I hope many of you can make it. We do need to know how many to plan for dinner at Guapo’s; so, if you are able to make it, please let me, Allen Patrick or Karl Haartz know in advance. Thanks to Ted Swett for arranging the dinner as well as for the block of rooms at Double Tree Hotel next door to Guapo’s.

Finally, a reminder that it’s time to make your arrangements to attend our next Reunion in Jacksonville. And, if any of you are willing to help as part of the Ground Team, please contact Allen Patrick.

Take care of yourselves and your families. And, keep in touch with each other.

There will be a reunion planning meeting at the Jacksonville Marriott on Tuesday, November the 6. We’ll start with breakfast at 8 AM and run the rest of the day until we have all the reunion details sorted out.

Association members that want to get involved in the ground team for Reunion IX are encouraged to come out and join in the discussion that will take place on Nov 6.

Members that are living in the vicinity of Jacksonville and southern Georgia are especially encouraged to participate in the planning meeting.

Charlie Baker (CBaker611@aol.com) has agreed to take on the Ground Team Leader position.

Bill Litvjak (wlitvjak@cfl.rr.com) has agreed to head up the hospitality room team and he will be looking for more volunteers to help in this area.

Eddie Ratcliffe (eddieratcliffe@earthlink.net) has also volunteered to help sort out our reunion transportation needs.

See you on November 6!

Our thanks goes out to the following people for joining in the task of locating our missing brothers:

Richard Cope
Dan Cronnin
The Skippers
Juan Gonzales
Joe Gonzales
Bob Trimble
Herman Daves
Howard T Prince II
David Hertz
Vince Laurich
Terry Sanford
Norman Lloyd
Russ Failing
What Happened to Summer? --- September already. HEY, wait a minute, backup, who took June, July and August off the calendar? We have less than a year until Reunion IX in Jacksonville.

It is time now to make your reservations and plans to attend accordingly. We are planning for a big turnout plus a great group from the 5th Squadron to join us. They are targeted to return from Iraq in the spring of 2008. Most of you will remember that when in the Army, nothing is written in stone until it happens so we’re keeping our fingers crossed that they make back in time to join us at the reunion.

There will be a Reunion IX ground team meeting the 1st week of November at the Marriott (address on back page) in Jacksonville, Florida. All of our Florida & Georgia, members are encouraged to attend. The objective of the meeting is to sign up volunteers who want to become part of the Reunion IX Ground Team. Bill Litvjak has already raised his hand to take the lead role in organizing the hospitality room. Charlie Baker has also raised his hand to start sorting out possible venues for the Memorial service. And Eddie Ratcliffe is volunteering to lend a hand in arranging bus transportation should we need it.

Our goal will be to have all the ground team positions identified and filled and all tasks outlined before we leave the planning meeting.

For those of you that can’t make it to Veteran’s Day in DC the December newsletter will fill you end on the results of our early November planning meeting.

That brings me to Veteran’s Day activities. The 5/7 Association will have a short business meeting and supper at Guapo’s Restaurant in Bethesda, Md. On November 10th at 5 PM until we leave. During the business meeting we will give a summary of the decisions reached in the Reunion IX Planning Meeting.

We have also made special room rate arrangements (thanks to Ted Swett) with the Double Tree Hotel, 8120 Wisconsin Ave Bethesda that is next to Guapo’s. Call and ask for the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry rate of $99 per night. Phone is 301-652-2000. The Double Tree has included a hospitality room for us to gather in and tell lies.

Saturday, November 10 there is the 25th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Parade. This is sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America. Opening ceremony is on the Mall at the corner of Jefferson and Constitution Ave at 10 AM. It is open to all those who would like to march. Some of you will remember the last parade where it rained & rained and then poured down in buckets. I would like to have as many as possible to accompany our Colors down the parade route. You can see the Vietnam Veterans of America press release on page 4 of the newsletter.

Later, Krazy
Squadron Commander’s UPDATE:
The Squadron continues to excel here in the Al Anbar Province. Can you remember about six months ago when news reports labeled this the “restive” Al Anbar Province? What about “violent” Fallujah or “insurgent controlled” Ramadi?

Well, I am here to tell you that the month of July experienced the lowest number of attacks and violence witnessed in Al Anbar in over two years! Ramadi has gone weeks without an attack within the city, while incidents in and around Fallujah have dropped substantially.

Every day I see more progress in getting Fallujah cleaned-up…people are working to improve their city, tribal sheiks are putting their own lives on the line to stand up to Al Qaeda, and the Iraqi Security Forces are taking more and more control of their areas.

In most of the Squadron’s area, we are serving in a support role, providing partnership on operations and in daily security while working to start civil projects to employ the local people and to improve their daily lives. We have weathered the worst of the summer weather now, and the temperatures are dropping down into the more bearable low 100s after hitting 140 degrees several days in July. And we have now crossed the threshold of half-way through our extended 15-month deployment.

I am also proud to report that the Squadron has reached and exceeded our retention targets for all categories of Soldiers, from the junior enlisted to the mid-level noncommissioned officers, and the career troopers. Amazing considering this is for some their third combat tour. We have much to be thankful for and we continue to appreciate all the support we enjoy from our families and from our tremendous Association sponsors.

Success has been extremely costly once again. We lost three more extraordinary young men on the 26th of July to a massive improvised explosive device (IED). A Troop discovered a large and fiercely zealous concentration of insurgents while working in a relatively new area of operations, resulting in a very intense fight that ultimately involved the whole Troop, attack aviation and numerous other combat multipliers.

We have killed or captured many of the insurgents operating in this area and will soon bring the same level of stability we enjoy elsewhere, but the loss of SGT Bill Howdeshell, SPC Charles Bilbrey, and SPC Jaime Rodriguez has wounded us deeply and deepened our commitment to success here.

A tree dedication ceremony will be held at Cottrell Field, Ft. Stewart, GA on September 20, 2007 at 9:30 AM to honor these young warriors. Again, the Association’s support for the families and the Squadron during this time of great loss cannot be properly expressed here, and I look forward to thanking you all in person at next year’s reunion in Jacksonville.

On the 6th of July we made a major leadership change. CPT Jacob Dalton, the longest serving Troop Commander, relinquished command to CPT John Owens. John is an experienced cavalryman who brings much valuable experience and will no doubt continue to accomplish great things in Bandit Troop. We wish John and his wife Tammy much success during their command tour.

The good news is that CPT Dalton and his wife Leslie will continue to be part of the Squadron family. Jake will bring his almost two years of command experience to the Operations Section, where he will serve as the Assistant S3, while Leslie will continue to serve the FRG as the Squadron FRG Treasurer.

I’d like to say thanks to all of you once again for your support. Those of you, who attended funerals for our fallen heroes, went out of your way to support our families at the June 21 Tree Memorial Ceremony, visited our wounded in the hospitals, and continue to support our troops with letters and packages, are our heroes. People like Jack Boyt (3 Plt, C Co, 1968) who has contacted our current C Troop Platoon Leaders to offer encouragement and support. And Nick Mascolo, who collected and sent several massive care packages to our Troopers. And COL (Ret) Troy Scott (HHC 5/7 CAV, 1970) who supports us with donations of care packages through the Military Officers Association and “Operation Support Our Troops.” I wish I could personally thank each and every one of you. You are our greatest fans and we are so very proud to be associated with you.

Thank you all, and we look forward to meeting many more of you in July 2008.

Garry Owen!
LTC Cliff Wheeler, CO

In Memory of Our Fallen Troopers

SGT William R. Howdeshell
A Troop, 5-7 Cavalry

SPC Charles E. Bilbrey
A Troop, 5-7 Cavalry

SPC Jaime Rodriguez, Jr.
A Troop, 5-7 Cavalry
MEMBERSHIP VP’s REPORT  by Don Shipley

The Continuing Search

The good news is that since the last newsletter went out in June we’ve managed to locate 35 more troopers who served in the 5/7 Cav in Vietnam. You’ll see their names and the companies they served in on page 6 of the newsletter.

The not so good news is that the search for our missing brothers continues to be more challenging with the more popular use of cell phones. As the majority of cell phones are unlisted it makes it very hard to find good addresses for people. But it’s not just cell phones. People often have phones listed in relative’s names or in a company name.

At the present time we have a list of the last known cities of residence for around 700 of our previously un-located service men.

Not being able to find phones listed for them makes addresses very difficult to find. Some may be in the metro area of a particular town or city but receive mail from a neighboring mail area. These people will take a lot of leg-work and luck to find.

On Veterans’ Day weekend in DC we will have the updated lists of un-located people. I will hand out the lists and maybe some of you can join in the hunt to help find our yet to be located bothers.

From what I hear and also read in many of the e-mails I receive it appears that our Veterans’ Day gathering in DC of 5/7 Cav people this year could top seventy persons. Thanks to Ted Swett we have been able to reserve Guapo’s again for a great Mexican dinner and mouth watering margaritas. Not only that but Ted Swett arranged for the hotel next door to Guapo’s, The DoubleTree Bethesda, to give us a great $99 room rate. So you don’t have to drive home after celebrating. See you there!

More good news is that of those troopers that have been located recently almost all are extremely excited to know that our association exists. The reunion in Jacksonville will be a large one. GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY!!!!

It also could be very helpful if you would contact your local chapters of the VFW, American Legion, DAV, and VVA to ask them to include a notice in their newsletter or bulletins that the 5/7 Cavalry Association is trying to locate troopers that served in our unit during 1966 to 1971. Use my name and address as the person to contact.

You can also let your local chapters know that the 5/7 Cavalry Association is gearing up for the 9th bi-annual reunion in Jacksonville, Florida, June 29 – July 6, 2008. They can find more info about how to sign up for the reunion on our web site (http://www.cav57.org).

Check with your local chapters soon as it often takes up to six months for notices to appear in print.

Garry Owen,
Don Shipley, Membership VP
DrShipley@aol.com
Drawer 67-A, Calhoun, Illinois 62419

Vietnam Veterans of America is sponsoring a 25th Anniversary parade celebrating and commemorating the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Saturday, November 10, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

“We’re expecting the largest gathering of veterans in Washington since the dedication of The Wall in 1982,” said VVA National President John Rowan. “We are inviting veterans of all wars to join us as we honor the men and women who served our nation during the Vietnam War.”

The festivities will begin at 10:00 a.m. with star-studded Opening Ceremonies at the parade’s starting point on the Mall at 7th Street between Jefferson and Madison Drives. The parade will step off at 11:00 a.m. It will consist of individual participants, including many prominent Vietnam veterans from all walks of life; military vehicles; floats; motorcyclists; and marching bands from around the country. The parade will end at the Washington Monument Grounds, where participants will take part in a variety of events, including unit reunions.

“We are issuing a special, open invitation to everyone who served in the military during the Vietnam War era,” Rowan said. “Come and join us in Washington in a landmark event.”

Have you changed your mailing address recently? Remember to send your change of address to: VP Operations, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, 713 Royal Bonnet Dr., Wilmington, NC 28405
Baseball Cap 5/7 embroidered $10.
Miniature Garry Owen Crest pin 3
1st CAV cloth shoulder patch 5
1st CAV window sticker (no Vietnam) 3
1st CAV Div. challenge Coin 10
Full size CIB 4
1st CAV Hat pin (1") 3
Combat Medic pin (new) 3
Air Medal Pin (new) 3
M16-A-1 Hat pin (new) 4
Combat Cavalry pin (gold wreath - new) 4
5/7 Guidon bumper sticker (new) 2
Garry Owen/American flag pin (new) 4
7th CAV Crossed Sabers (no 5) 3
Reg. Garry Owen Crest Pin 3
Miniature CIB pin 3
AnKhe Hat pin 3
5/7 porcelain tie bar pin 5
1st CAV Div. Flag 3x5' 15
Raised letter CAVALRY pin (new) 3
1st Cav Hat pin (5/8") (new) 3
UHI Huey pin (new) 3
Miniature Purple Heart pin 3
M60 Machinegun pin (new) 4
Huey Hat pin (black/gold) 4
5/7 Crossed Sabers lg. pin (new) 4
Claymore Mine Pin (new) 4
Garry Owen Canvas Tote Bag -- Great Xmas Gift 7.50
White Polo shirts button-up with collar Embroidered 5/7 Cav. and Garry Owen Crest all short sleeved, order by size 23
5/7 Cav Denim Shirts Embroidered with Garry Owen Crest. Order by size, colors are Blue, Khaki, Green; Men or Ladies, Short Sleeves or Long Sleeves 25
New Adult T-Shirt with large Garry Owen Crest screen print on front. M, L, XL 10
New Child’s T-Shirt w/silk screen 1st Cav patch on left chest & “Cav Kid” lettering under patch. Sizes: 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16. 9
“Commitment and Sacrifice” DVD. This documentary film follows the experiences of troopers from Bravo Company of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry regiment during the Vietnam War (1970) and the Iraq War (2005), through the lens of combat cameraman Norman Lloyd. 20

PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS ON SHIRT DELIVERY.
PLEASE INCLUDE $2.00 POSTAGE ON HATS & SMALL ITEM ORDERS AND $3.00 ON ALL SHIRT AND BEAR ORDERS.

SEND ORDERS TO:
JOHN GOODPASTER
303 CORA DRIVE
CARLISLE, OHIO 45005-3268
PHONE # 937-514-8247
EMAIL: jgoodpaster001@cinci.rr.com

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LETTERS

After reading the article Enduring Bond, this is for the guys that cared, shared the same but never getting real close for the worse. Sending this out to let all that served A 5/7 1970-1971 thanks for your caring. My nickname that was given to me by my Sergeant (Larry) was Scorpion. You guys put me on a chopper when I insisted on not leaving for R&R saying to me you deserve going more than someone in the rear. When returning from Australia I never got the chance to see any of you or share notes. Battalion was pulling out and A Company split up; some of you guys went home others with time went on to other companies. Two Troopers per unit were selected to represent their company in ceremonies in Vietnam and the state of Washington. I did carry the battalion flag with honors in a ceremony to cap the flag and placed behind glass. I also brought home our company A 5/7 guidon that was in Vietnam and used in the ceremonies. The flag is packed away but if I get a chance to get to one of the reunions it will be an honor to bring it for the ones that served. Hopefully this note goes out and you recognize who served with you. Thanks again for everything.

Richard Crowningshield, A Company 1970

My name is Stack, Jason A. I was assigned to Combat troop 5/7 Cav during Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 and never really got a chance to express my heartfelt thanks for the support that was given to not only me, but to my soldiers. We really never can say thank you enough for the contribution that you gentlemen gave us during the Vietnam War and the ultimate sacrifice that so many have given. I lost a lot of friends during OIF 3 and know what it is like, I am still in the Army today and stationed at Ft Hood, Texas with the 3rd armored Cav. Regiment, but I will always and forever bleed the 5/7 Cav. Again thank you for everything that your organization is doing and has done.

See you on the high ground, Scouts out.

SSG Jason A Stack

I would like to donate $80.00 towards purchasing two throws for our recently wounded in action 5/7 Cavalry Troopers. Having been wounded in Vietnam myself; I can remember the feeling while being initially hospitalized of having absolutely nothing. The only personal items that I had left were my wallet, my ID tags, and my broken wrist watch that was damaged at the time I was wounded. I can also fondly remember being visited twice a day while I was still in country and before I was medevac’d to Camp Drake, Japan, by the 1st Cavalry Division Association. They saw to it that I was being properly cared for, and that I had everything that I needed. Those visits truly meant a lot to me in the situation that I was in.

Enclosed you will find a check for $80.00. I hope that receiving one of our throws will mean as much to our recently wounded Troopers as the two times per day visits that I got from the 1st Cavalry Division Association meant to me.

Garry Owen,
Charles P. Sweeney, Major, USA (Retired)

Editor’s Note: The following message is an illustration of how important it can be to locate our fellow troopers from the 5/7 Cav.

I want to say thank you all and Mr. Shipley for contacting my husband and following up. It has literally saved our marriage and given me hope for the future. Please keep up the good work. Signed: Name withheld for privacy

Jacksonville ---

Something is happening in Jacksonville. There is a shared expectation here. There is a feeling that everything is moving in the right direction. Downtown is colorful. Flowers adorn the streetlight poles and parks. And parks abound, from Confederate Park on the North, to Friendship Park on the south, from the sports complex on the east, to Prime Osborn Convention Center on the west, downtown Jacksonville is once again emerging as a new city.

By building Fort Carolina in what is now Jacksonville, the French established the first protestant colony in America in 1564.

A year after Florida became a US territory in 1821, the name of the narrow spot where cows were ferried across the St. Johns River, was changed to Jacksonville after General Andrew Jackson.

Jacksonville became known as the “winter city in summer land” during the mid to late 19th century drawing tourists from around the world. In the years since, Jacksonville has seen the building of military installations, modern skyscrapers and bridges.

Jacksonville sits on the banks of the St. Johns River, one of the most mystical and scenic rivers in America and designated as an American Heritage River in 1998.

Jacksonville’s Riverwalk and a cross river shuttle afford spectacular views of the downtown skyline and varied entertainment and people watching ashore.

See you in Jacksonville.

Gary Storz C- 66
**A Soldier’s Story**

CARLISLE, OHIO  Two Carlisle men served in the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry during the Vietnam War. John Goodpaster said he was drafted in 1966 to the regiment that hadn’t existed since General George Armstrong Custer’s defeat at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in the mid-19th century.

Goodpaster said when he was drafted, Vietnam was fairly new, so there weren’t a lot of people protesting the war at that point. However, he said by the early 1970s, there were a lot of people who wanted the troops to come home.

Goodpaster said he was always a ground infantryman during the time he served in the Vietnam War.

Goodpaster’s unit came into Vietnam as a supplemental unit to the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. This is the unit featured in the Mel Gibson film, “We Were Soldiers,” which dramatizes a battle in which 123 lives were lost in two days.

He said his unit absorbed the survivors of that unit and he knows a lot of those guys.

There’s a reunion every two years for those that served in the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry. He said it’s held in a different place each time and the next one is scheduled for June 29 – July 6 of 2008 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Goodpaster currently serves as the quartermaster for the group. He said these reunions have changed his life, having attending the first in 1992.

He explained the reunions show that they are not alone and at least they understand one another.

Goodpaster added sometimes they have to say “Welcome Home” to each other, because they don’t always hear that from others. He said he’s healed tremendously just having the association with his peers.

Goodpaster goes to see the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. almost every year and the Traveling Vietnam Wall’s visit to Franklin marks the second time he’s seen it.

He was amazed to see the dog tags of those who have been killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Seeing the more than 3000 service members that had fallen in the nation’s current conflict brings reality to home and broke Goodpaster’s heart.

“Nothing touched me like that touched me,” he added.

DON CLARKSON, also of Carlisle, was in same the 5/7 Cavalry company that Goodpaster served in but two years later. He recalled that he and his fellow replacements flew into Saigon on a commercial airline. He believes it was Pan Am that took him to Vietnam, but remembers well the airline that took him home: American.

Clarkson recalled looking out the window as they started to land and the base was under fire as they were trying to land. He said the pilot had to land fast and the men in the unit had to jump out of the plane fast.

Clarkson remembers the blast of air and the heat, adding it was hot even though it was in the middle of the night.

Clarkson said everybody was a buddy over there and they all relied on each other.

He said faith was also important to just about everyone during the war. He said every two weeks a chaplain and a priest came and brought meals and held a service, adding that every person would attend the services when they were held out in the field. Clarkson said they stayed out in the field much of the time in Vietnam and food and water was brought to the soldiers. He added that he would typically carry about eight to ten quarts of water and they would bathe in bomb craters.

Clarkson said he came home without a scratch.

Extracted from the article originally published August 23 by RICK AMBURGEY of the Franklin Chronicle and Miller Publishing Company.
Financial Report by Royce Vick

Fifteen members of our recently located troopers have sent in their dues. This is a very good response to the hard work of Don Shipley and Karl Haartz and all the others that have been helping to locate troopers. Thank you.

The past two months have been relatively quiet but this has been a norm for the summer months. Our reunion is now less than 12 months away so each of us needs to start making reservations and travel plans.

The appeal for funds for the purchase of additional throws has exceeded our need at the present time. We received $665 through July 31, the period covered in this report. With additional funds received in August, I have deposited $705.00 to purchase throws. We have spent $240.00 for the first six that have been distributed. Mr. "Goody" just ordered 10 more for a cost of $400.00. This leaves us with a surplus of $65.00 in the Throws account. Hold your contributions for now. It is our hope and prayer that these last 10 throws will not be needed and they can be sold at the reunion.

Many of you still send your dues checks to Allen or Karl and they have to forward the checks to me. This is time consuming and a personal expense to them. Please forward your dues to:

Royce A Vick or
5th Bn 7th Cav Association
3724 Shelby Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76109-2733

If you have questions about your dues status you can send them to Allen at editor@cav57.org as he maintains the master roster.

Garry Owen, Royce

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<th>DUES AND DONATIONS</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ALL DUES</strong> $1,460</td>
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<th>DONATIONS FOR THROWS</th>
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<td>Sweeney Charles P $80</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL FOR THROWS</strong> $665</td>
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| BALANCE 5/31/07 | $18,511 |
| INCOME |                     |
| Interest Income $62 |                     |
| PX Sales $50 |                     |
| Dues $1,460 |                     |
| Donations $665 |                     |
| **Total Income** $2,237 |                     |

| EXPENSES |                     |
| Tamaz - Memorial -$61 |                     |
| Memorial Day Wreath -$211 |                     |
| Printing June NL -$1,599 |                     |
| Postage Stamps -$41 |                     |
| **Total Expenses** $1,911 |                     |

| BALANCE 7/31/07 | $18,837 |
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5TH BATTALION 7TH CAVALRY ASSOCIATION
REUNION IX
JUNE 29 - JULY 6, 2008

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