

Fifth Battalion, Seventh Cavalry Regiment Association

First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) (1966-1971)

Third Infantry Division (2004-Present)

13th Biennial Reunion Banquet

Hotel Elegante

Colorado Springs, Colorado

“GARRYOWEN”

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by

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5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry

WELCOME

MG Edmunds, guests, wives and 7th Cavalry Troopers – GARRYOWEN

This evening I want to talk to you a few minutes about what brings us all together here in Colorado Springs. That thing is a cavalry regiment which is 150 years old this year. All of the men in this room - at least the old men - have one thing in common: we all served in the 7th Cavalry Regiment – to be specific, we served in the 5th Battalion of the 7th Cavalry Regiment – one of the oldest and one of the most famous cavalry regiments in the US Army.

150 years ago in Sept 1866, the 7th Cavalry Regiment was organized at Ft Riley, Kansas Territory. The Regiment consisted of a Headquarters troop and 12 Cavalry troops. Virtually all of the officers in the Regiment were veterans of the Civil War as were many of the NCO's and some of the troopers. However, many of the troopers were recent immigrants to the United States from such countries as Germany, Scotland, England, Scandinavia and Ireland.

Some of the Irish troopers probably came from the town of Limerick and brought with them memories of a popular drinking establishment in that Town which translated into English as GARRYOWEN. They also brought with them a popular Irish tune and marching song by the same name that had been in use by several Irish Regiments, including the Royal Irish Dragoons. Legend has it that Colonel Custer heard a trooper whistling GARRYOWEN, liked it, and chose it for the Regimental March.

For the next 30 years, the Regiment served throughout the West protecting the westward movement of settlers who were flooding into the Western territories.

In the spring of 1876, the 7th Cavalry under command of Col George Armstrong Custer entered the history books. The Regiment was part of a larger force under the command of General Terry that had been sent to deal with Sioux Indians that had left their reservation and were marauding through the Dakota Territory. On 25 June 1876 Custer identified a large force of Indians and launched a three pronged attack. Two of the three attacking columns were engaged and halted by the Indians, but the third column - consisting of five troops led by Custer himself - encountered the main force of over 3000 Indians and were annihilated in what is known as the Battle of the Little Big Horn. The sole survivor of the battle was the horse Comanche, belonging to CPT Keogh, the Commander of I Troop. Although severely wounded, Comanche survived and remained a beloved veteran within the Regiment for the next 20 years.

Early in the twentieth century, The 7th Cavalry fought in the Spanish American War in Cuba and in the Philippine Insurrection. In 1914 they joined General Pershing's expedition to Mexico against Pancho Villa where they made the last Cavalry charge in the history of the US Army.

During the Interwar period, the 7th Cavalry remained at Ft Bliss Texas as part of the 1st Cavalry Division. In 1943 the era of the horse cavalry came to a sad end when the 7th Cavalry Regiment was dismounted along with all of the Army's other cavalry regiments. The 1st Cavalry Division and the Cavalry Regiments retained their Cavalry designation, but they were reorganized as infantry units to fight in World War II.

As part of the 1st Cavalry Division, the 7th Cavalry fought through the Pacific from New Guinea to Leyte in the Philippines and then on to Luzon and the final liberation of the Philippines. Following the Japanese surrender, the 7th

Cavalry was as one of the first American units into Japan as part of the Army of Occupation.

At the beginning of the Korean War on 25 June 1950, the 7th Cavalry deployed from Japan to South Korea as part of the 1st Cavalry Division during the first weeks of that war. After hard fighting, US Forces managed to halt the North Koreans along the Pusan perimeter, stabilizing the situation. On 15 September, X Corps, including the 1st Marine Division made a successful assault landing at Inchon west of Seoul, the South Korean Capital. On 20 September, the Eighth Army broke out of the Pusan Perimeter and on 26 September, the 7th Cavalry led the 1st Cavalry Division on a 100 mile thrust in 11 hours to link up with X Corps near Inchon. Eight North Korean Divisions were cut off and largely destroyed by this advance. The 7th Cavalry remained with the 1st Cavalry Division throughout the Korean War and returned to Japan following the end of that war.

Fifty years ago in April 1966, the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry was reactivated here at Ft Carson, CO where many of us trained together. In August of 1966 the battalion deployed to Vietnam where it rejoined the 1st Cavalry Division and engaged in combat operations for five years, to include the hard fighting in Hue City during TET of 1968. The battalion earned three Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry unit awards. Four troopers in the battalion received the Congressional Medal of Honor – more than any other maneuver battalion in the Vietnam War. The 5th Battalion was deactivated following the Vietnam War, but in July 2004, the 5th Squadron of the 7th Cavalry was reactivated at Ft Stewart, GA as a Brigade Cavalry squadron in the 3d Infantry Division. The Squadron has deployed three times to Iraq as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, once to Afghanistan and twice to NATO.

Just four months ago, 5th Squadron troopers again deployed this time to NATO for a 6 month rotation to train with the forces of Germany, Poland and Hungary. In addition to strengthening ties between NATO countries,

their mission is to insure that Russia understands an incursion into Western Europe will be met by NATO, led by the United States.

In the 150 years since the 7th Cavalry was organized, the Regiment has fought in every one of America's wars with the exception of World War I. No one man among us has fought in all these wars, but all of us have become a part of that regiment that fought. The Seventh Cavalry.
"Seventh First"

GARRY OWEN

Major General Larry D. Budge, USA (Ret)

General Budge held a variety of command and staff positions prior to his retirement from active duty. His last assignment was as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Department of the Army. Other key assignments include the National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces, National Intelligence Council; Assistant Division Commander, 9th Infantry Division (Motorized); Deputy Director for Operations, Readiness and Mobilization, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Department of the Army; and Brigade Commander and later, Chief of Staff, 1st Armored Division, US Army Europe. During two tours in Vietnam, General Budge served as an infantry company commander, ADC to COMUSMACV, and Secretary to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission on ending the war in Vietnam.

General Budge is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and Oxford University, where he received an MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. His military education includes the US Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit (1OLC), the Bronze Star and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal.

Since moving to Bluffton in 2006, General Budge has become a member of the Greater Island Council. He has also spoken at Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances in Bluffton and on Hilton Head Island. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Low Country Foundation for Wounded Military Heroes which hosts an annual Golf Tournament at Hampton Hall to raise funds for wounded warriors.