



The members of the Americal Veteran's Association very much appreciate that former Tank commander Leo Harrington shared his 1967-1968 1st/1st Cavalry book with the ADVA.

Les Hines March 4, 2011.

FIRST SQUADRON, FIRST CAVALRY



“FIRST REGIMENT OF DRAGOONS”



FIRST SQUADRON, FIRST CAVALRY

“FIRST REGIMENT OF DRAGOONS”



“The United States Army’s Most Battle Honored Unit”

*In Dedication*

*to those Dragoons who have made the  
greatest Sacrifice on the field of Battle*

*September 1967 to June 1968*

*1LT Garland D. Whitmore  
PFC Lawrence Svobodny  
PFC George H. Winkempleck  
PFC John L. Jones  
PFC David P. Kusy  
PFC David E. Ward  
SP4 Ralph Plummer  
PSG Hilliard Williams  
SSG Coleman G. Hillman  
PFC Richard Balukonis  
PFC Michael Saunders  
CPT John Barovetto  
PFC Francis P. Schmautz  
PFC Donald W. Pickering  
SP4 Earl C. Minard  
PFC Florian A. Bugni Jr.  
SGT Robert B. Selby  
SP4 Thomas L. Scott  
PFC Jerry W. Gentry  
SP4 August Battaglia  
SSG David Wainscott  
PFC Robert F. Nitz  
SGT Jack R. Lockridge  
SGT Edgar L. Bolding  
SSG Michael W. Elben  
SFC Thomas R. Kisner  
PFC Eugene Manigo  
SP4 Leslie D. Matchett  
PFC John A. Rogers  
SP4 Herbert C. Davis  
PFC John L. Adams  
SP4 Ronald J. Tebbe  
SP4 Louis L. Bradley  
PFC Ralph E. Consauage  
SP4 Zuillard F. Williams*

*SP4 Richard Saldana  
SP4 Jere D. Farrow  
SSG Arlie Terry  
PFC Joseph Caravajal  
PFC Henry B. Williams  
SP4 Bruce Badger  
PFC George Kohlmeir  
SP4 Robert Rassell  
1LT Ronald Wojtkiewicz  
PFC George H. Coppage III  
PFC Willie E. Glover  
PFC Allen D. Hanlin  
PFC David E. Gossard  
SP4 Kimmey D. Hobbs  
PFC Walter M. Powell  
SP4 David F. Cosby  
SP4 Richard J. Cullen  
SP4 Peter F. Fonda  
SP4 Stephen F. Turner  
SGT Richard A. Renfro  
PFC Edward A. Moldavan  
1LT Donald J. Mattaro  
SP4 James W. Powers  
PFC Harold Henasey  
PFC Stephen Laskinsky  
SP4 Alonso Aragon Jr.  
SP4 Roger D. Cauley  
SSG Aaron Hartness  
SP4 Daniel Thompson  
1LT Thomas L. Butler  
SP4 Patrick Scognamilio  
SSG Elwood L. Houston  
SP4 John L. Roberts  
SP4 Brandt S. Neubacher  
SP5 John L. Hasford*



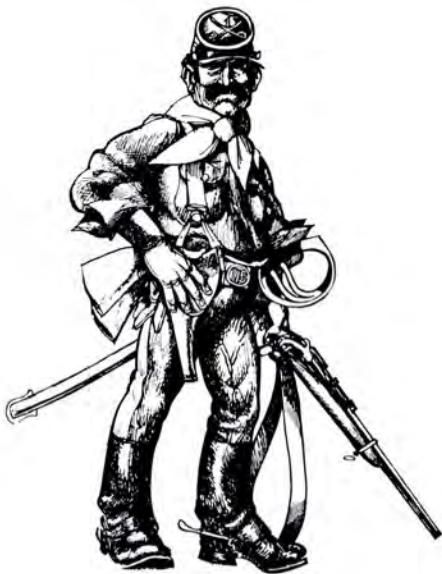
Major General Samuel W. Koster was commanding general, Americal Division when the First Squadron, First Cavalry was assigned as Division Cavalry. It was during his command that the Dragoons compiled their superior battle record in Vietnam.



The kinship of shared dangers and the memories of remarkable accomplishments will, I hope, be fostered through the years. This book is designed to help you remember your exploits in the dedication to your country and an allied nation. You are a remarkably fine Squadron: courageous in battle, humble in victory, and selfless in your dedication to your fellow man. I hope you will recall always with fond remembrances this magnificent chapter in your lives and in the long tradition of the First Regiment of Dragoons.

W. C. COUSLAND  
LTC Cavalry  
Commanding

## History of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry



Blackhawk

More than one hundred and thirty years of service is the proud heritage of the First Cavalry Regiment, the oldest regiment of cavalry in the United States Army and the first regiment of cavalry to be completely mechanized.

It traces its history to 1833, when, as a result of the need for a mounted force to protect the pioneers who were pushing westward across the Mississippi River into the Indian country, Congress authorized the organization of "The United States Regiment of Dragoons," which became the "First Regiment of Dragoons" in 1836 and the "First Regiment of Cavalry" in 1861.

Troops A, B, C, D, and E with Regimental Headquarters, were organized at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri in the summer and fall of 1833, and marched from there to Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. They were joined at Fort Gibson in the spring of 1834 by Troops F, G, H, I, and K, which had also been organized at Jefferson Barracks.

The Regiment soon found itself scattered along the Indian frontier through Oklahoma, Kansas, Iowa, and Minnesota, living the hard life of the pioneer. In addition to this frontier duty the Regiment pushed west on long marches to explore a practically unknown country and to protect the settlers traveling the Santa Fe Trail. These marches extended as far as western Wyoming and often covered more than 2,000 miles. The Regiment participated in the Mexican War and then, until 1861, again fought Indian Wars in Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington.

Located in Arizona and on the Pacific Coast at the outbreak of the Civil War, the Regiment joined the Army of the Potomac and fought with that army in all of its principal battles. With the close of the Civil War, the Regiment resumed its Indian campaigns, fighting Apaches in Arizona and various other tribes throughout the west.

From its far western posts, the Regiment was assembled at Chickamauga for the Spanish-American War, took part in that war and the Philippine Insurrection that followed, and returned to the United States in 1903.

It served on the Mexican border during World War I and in 1933 was the first cavalry regiment to be completely mechanized, being designated the First Armored Regiment (L) in 1940, and became part of the First Armored Division stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky.



In 1942 the Regiment was deployed to Ireland with the 1st Armored Division and subsequently fought throughout North Africa and Italy. After World War II, the Regiment was reorganized as the 1st Tank Battalion and later converted to the 1st Constabulary Squadron, serving on occupation duty in Germany until December, 1948, when it was inactivated.

Reactivated as the 1st Medium Tank Battalion in March, 1951 at Fort Hood, Texas, the Regiment served with Combat Command A, 1st Armored Division, until February 1962 when the remainder of the 1st Armored Division was reactivated. At this time the Regiment was redesignated as the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, and resumed its historic role as the "eyes and ears" of its parent organization.

During October, 1962, as result of the Cuban Crisis, the Squadron moved to Fort Stewart, Georgia with other elements of the Division. As the world situation eased, the Squadron participated in a STRAC mobility exercise and amphibious training at Port Everglades, Florida. During the spring of 1963 the Squadron took part in the STRICOM exercise "Swift Strike", and then returned to Fort Hood.

In January, 1967, the squadron commander was called to Vietnam to assist in a study of the role of Armor in Vietnam. Upon his return to Fort Hood, Texas in March, 1967, the Squadron began to form and train for Vietnam. From March to August 1967, the officers and men of the Squadron trained daily in all phases of Squad, Platoon, Troop and Squadron operations.

During this period of training, the Squadron received superior ratings in their annual training test, annual general inspection, and Command Maintenance Management Inspections. The Squadron surpassed every assigned mission with such professionalism, that in late July, 1967, the Squadron was awarded the Third US Army Corps Superior Unit Award.

Upon their arrival in Vietnam in August, 1967, the 1st Squadron was deployed in I Corps Tactical Zone around the city of Chu Lai. The Squadron was committed to battle two days after its arrival and has been in the field operating against the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong continuously since that time.

Since September 1, 1967 the Squadron has been involved in eleven major battles and numerous smaller engagements. Cigar Island, Que Son Valley, Pineapple Forest, the Western Valley and Tam Ky have been the sights of repeated defeats for the enemy. Since its arrival through the month of June, 1968, the Squadron has accounted for over 2200 enemy killed, 70 prisoners of war and 239 crew served and individual weapons captured.

Instrumental in many of the successes of the Squadron has been Troop F, 8th Cavalry. The air cavalry troop was attached to the Squadron in January, 1968. As the eyes and ears of the Squadron, the air cavalrymen have repeatedly found the enemy and led the ground cavalrymen to them. As the battle ensued, they would provide aerial fire support.

In the Pineapple Forest Battle of February 27 and 28, 1968, the ground-air cavalry team had its greatest victory, killing 180 of the enemy without losing one of their own number.

The devastating firepower and great mobility of the ground-air cavalry team has proven an unbeatable combination.

## Campaign Streamers

The First Cavalry has a proud tradition of more than one hundred thirty years of distinguished service in the United States Army. This heritage is symbolized by the Squadron's sixty-eight Battle Honors, more than any other unit in the United States Army.

### Indian Wars

Modocs  
Apaches  
Nez Perces  
Bannocks  
Pine Ridge  
California 1846  
California 1852  
California 1860  
California 1868  
New Mexico 1849  
New Mexico 1850  
New Mexico 1851  
New Mexico 1854  
New Mexico 1855  
New Mexico 1956  
Oregon 1851  
Oregon 1853  
Oregon 1855  
Oregon 1856  
Oregon 1860  
Oregon 1866  
Oregon 1867  
Oregon 1868  
Colorado 1855  
Arizona 1857  
Arizona 1859  
Arizona 1866  
Arizona 1868  
Arizona 1869  
Arizona 1870  
Arizona 1871  
Arizona 1872  
Arizona 1881  
Washington 1858  
Idaho 1879  
Montana 1887

### Mexican War

Buena Vista  
Coahuila 1846  
New Mexico 1846  
New Mexico 1847  
Chihuahua 1848

### Civil War

Peninsula  
Antietam  
Fredericksburg  
Chancellorsville  
Gettysburg  
Wilderness  
Spotsylvania  
Appomattox  
Cold Harbor  
Petersburg  
Shenandoah  
New Mexico 1862  
Virginia 1862  
Virginia 1863  
Virginia 1864  
Virginia 1865  
Maryland 1863

### War with Spain

Santiago

### Philippine Insurrection

Luzon 1901  
Luzon 1902

### World War II

Algeria-French Morocco  
(with arrowhead)  
Tunisia  
Naples-Foggia  
Anzio  
Rome-Arno  
North Apennines  
Po Valley

# VIETNAM 1967-68



Hawk's Nest





Allright-does everybody have enough beer?



Dragoons on the make!



Into the wool



The things you can do with an erector set!



Makin' tracks



Surf's up!



Blue Ghost screens the flanks



Contact!



Niner zeros sound off!



Helix strikes again



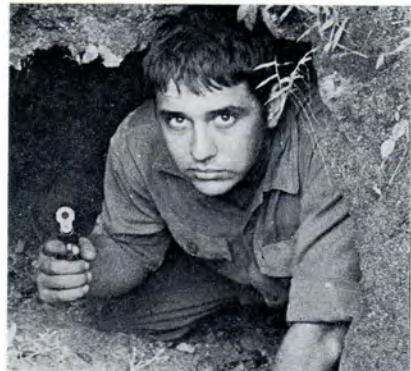
Zippo-guaranteed to light every time



Blue Ghost riders in the sky



Blue Ghost Blues



Tunnel Rat



Dustoff



Charlie 6 models this year's mod head gear



Now, how would they do it at Fort Knox?



You say you've been to Sydney?



Hear no evil-See no evil-Speak no evil!



The dry season



In Que Son Valley



The early days-Fat City



After operations maintenance?



Voice of the Hawk



The pause that refreshes



“300 NVA moved through here last night”



Redball Express



Presentation of Awards



Pop smoke!



Keep pulling!



Take a break!



Base Camp



VALOR



## Distinguished Service Cross

1LT James A. Taylor

PSG Charles N. Boyd

## Silver Star

1LT Rhesa Barksdale	SP4 Gary L. Henspeter
1LT Raymond H. Mahoy with OLC	PFC William F. Preston
SP4 Dean E. Wingrove	CPT John Barovetto
SSG Gary L. Boggs	SSG Kenneth L. Bouche
PSG Sidney M. Cheek	SP5 Troy L. Clancy
SP4 Raymond Dezara	SP4 Edward D. Dickson
SP4 James B. Stufflick	SP4 Michael J. Sears
1LT George R. Wallace III	PSG Curtis J. Tinker with OLC
SSG Elzie R. Wilhoite with OLC	1LT William L. Wheeler
SP5 Michael A. Esmond	SP4 James G. Chamberlain
SP4 Jerry W. Gentry	SSG Kenneth B. French
SP4 John L. Jones	LTC Richard H. Harrington
SSG Jesse F. Sullivan	CPT David H. Staley with OLC
SSG Albert E. Utley	MAJ Crosbie E. Saint
SGT Michael B. Barnes	SP4 Eddie Griffin
SP5 Marvin A. Barnard	CPT Ralph P. Brown with OLC
SP4 Lee Visner	PSG Charles N. Boyd with OLC
CPT David E. Roesler	1LT Francisco Mantua
1LT Ronald L. Snyder	MAJ Donald C. Lundquist
SGT Eugene Black	SSG Ronald D. Schilter
SP4 Dick L. Taskey	SSG Bobby R. Butler
CPT Billy J. McKenzie with OLC	1LT Conley L. Smedley
LTC Walter C. Cousland with OLC	MAJ James D. Maret
SP5 George J. Hills	1LT Thomas L. Butler
SSG Antonio M. Garcia	PSG Gil J. Martinez
CPT Michael B. Prothero	SP4 Ronald P. Bradford
PSG Herman R. Jesse	1LT Ronald J. Wojtkiewicz
1LT David Wilkins	SP4 William McKinney
1LT George E. Norton III	1SG William McPherson
	SP4 Gerald F. Peplinsky

## Distinguished Flying Cross

CPT David H. Staley
CW2 Gregory G. Ross
1LT Donald R. Williamson
SP5 Joseph H. Johnson
CW2 Jeffrey R. Reif

LTC Walter C. Cousland
CW2 Harold F. Nicely
1LT George B. Jones
1LT John L. Shepardson
CPT Jack S. Reed

## Bronze Star "V"

SGT Marvin W. Barnard	PSG Charles N. Boyd with OLC
SP4 Michael L. Colichio	SP5 Michael K. Dansby
SP4 John A. Davis	SP5 Wayne D. Freeman
SGT Ray C. Gay	PSG Donald L. Gilliam
SSG Walter R. Hearn	1LT James S. Lindsey
SSG Evans G. McGowan	SP4 Danny R. Newman
SSG John M. Pryor	1LT Jack W. Ramsey
SP4 James E. Robinson	SP4 David W. White
SGT Kelly G. Bloom	SGT Thomas H. Buchanan
SSG Willis Cobb	SP4 Richard De Champlain
SSG Horace E. Gardner	SP5 David Hanes
PFC Jeffery A. Hermes	SP4 Gene R. Hotchkiss
SP4 Henry H. Keiffer	PFC Kenneth R. Kantz
SP4 Thomas McIlhaney	SP5 Frank L. Moses
SP4 Robert D. Roeder	SGT Peter Schmidt
SP4 James B. Sufflick	SSG Robert Thurston
PSG Curtis J. Tinker	SP4 Stephen F. Turner
PFC William Walker	1SG Richard F. Williams
SP4 Roger D. Hooper	PFC Rodney B. Healey
SP4 Earl C. Minard	SP4 James M. Nowicki
SP4 Glenn M. Holgren	PFC James L. Percy
SSG Elzie R. Wilhoite	SP4 Roy B. Forsythe
PFC Charles L. Motin with OLC	SGT Robert G. Selby
SP4 James R. Boyd	SP4 Robert D. Iverson
SP4 Douglas J. Belmonte	1LT Rhesa H. Barksdale
SSG Kenneth L. Bouche	PFC Richard R. Pautsch
SP4 Robert A. Graving	CPT John Barovetto with OLC
CPT Joseph C. Cornad	1LT James A. Dickens
SP5 Edward D. Dickson	SSG Robert W. Eddy
SP5 Patrick Harrington	1LT Raymond A. Haeme
SP5 Calvin D. Kilpatrick	PFC Percy L. James
LTC Richard H. Harrington	SSG Shirley R. Miller
SP4 Robert F. Hitz	MAJ Donald C. Lundquist
SGT Robert A. Rogers	SP4 Thomas L. Scott
SP4 Dale D. Satcher	1LT James A. Taylor
1LT Garland D. Whitmore	SSG David Wainscott
SGT Jack R. Lockridge	1LT Robert D. Webster
SP4 William P. McKinney	SP4 Donald E. Wedkind
PFC Leonard J. Kuchers	SSG Lowell C. Floyd
SP4 Paul D. Bradley	PSG Herman R. Jessie with OLC
SGT Edward L. Bolding	SSG James R. Wright
SP4 Thomas L. Motley	1LT William L. Wheeler
SGS George J. Hills	SSG Donald W. Durst

## Bronze Star "V"

SGT James W. Lupichuk	PFC Willian F. Stewart
SP4 Dennis E. Ross	SP4 Wayne Thompson
SP5 Richard J. Hoover	MAJ Wade E. Medbery
SP5 Jay A. Froh	PFC Robert C. Van Ohlen
SGT Anderson E. Dunn	SP4 Wilson L. Carney
SP5 Michael A. Esmond	SP4 Charles L. Pugh
PFC George Gomez	SGT Wendel Adams
SP4 Arvin W. Schoep	SP4 Raymond Mangini
SP5 Larry L. Gaydon	SP4 Ronald McCarthy
SP4 Edwin M. McDonnel	SP5 Robert Holloway
1LT David Wilkins	SP4 Jessie L. Camp
PSG Gil I. Martinez	1LT James C. Sutton
SGT Gary R. Bakewell	SSG Emery L. Martin
SP4 Robert B. Keyes	SGT David G. Saxon
SP4 Peter J. Dovi	SP4 Jerry L. Anderson
SP4 Jude Bullard	SP5 Richard J. Hoover
SP4 Joseph C. Nestupa	PFC Richard Saldana
SGT Arlie Terry	SP4 Jerry D. Farnow
SSG John W. Mardis	SP4 Ronald E. Kline
SP4 Robert J. Zawisa	SP4 Curtis Morgan
SSG Robert C. Dufexis	1LT Joe H. Chambliss
SSG Jessie L. Jackson	SP5 Troy L. Clancy
SP5 Harry O. Russell	PFC Kimmey D. Hobbs
SGT Gary W. Cooper	SGT John J. Mowry
SP4 David J. Peterson	SP4 Eric J. Bechtel
SP4 Arnold Kilgore with OLC	SP4 Wade A. Brackett
1LT George E. Norton III	SSG Manual V. Martinez
SP4 Donald W. Ehlers	SP4 Gregory D. Grey
1LT Thomas L. Butler	SSG Antonio M. Garcia
SP4 John A. Boratko	SP4 Anthony J. Smith
SP5 Wayland Cook	LTC Walter C. Cousland
SSG Jeremiah Kennedy	SP4 Edward McDermott
SSG James M. Cunningham	SSG Michael B. Barnes
1LT James D. King	SP4 Jon L. Graham
SSG Coy Sanders	SP4 Dennis L. Wood
PSG Walter D. Coleman	CPT George R. Kaczor
CPT Walter R. Reed	1LT Donald J. Mattaro with OLC
SSG James R. Nicholas	1LT John A. Emens
CPT Daniel J. Buckley	

### Air Medal "V"

MAJ Crosbie E. Saint with OLC  
LTC Walter C. Cousland  
1LT George R. Wallace III  
WO1 Robert B. Pewitt

MAJ Donald C. Lundquist with OLC  
LTC Richard H. Harrington  
SGT William D. Ogden  
SP4 Johnny Rone

### Army Commendation Medal "V"

PFC Rodney B. Healey  
SP4 Marvin Spiva  
CPT Michael B. Prothero  
PFC Brian A. Elliot  
SSG John G. Brooks  
SP4 Richard W. Bacon  
CPT David E. Roesler  
PFC Willie L. Carr  
SP5 Millard F. Donnel  
SP5 John Huggins  
WO1 James Miller  
SP5 Ronald L. Oglesby  
SSG James R. Wright  
SP4 John W. Klosterman  
SP5 Scott R. Prinz  
SGT Anderson E. Dunn  
WO1 Alan Sabaka  
SP4 Donald J. McConeghy  
SGT Alan J. Wodak  
SP4 Michael Fiske  
SP4 Blair F. Noel  
WO1 John L. Shepardson  
SP4 Robert L. Duffy  
CPT Ronald L. Grooms  
WO1 Ronald Sprinkle  
1LT Edward Stephens  
LTC Walter C. Cousland  
1LT Donald W. Venn

PFC Marvin Kennedy  
SGT Roger D. Cassidy  
SP4 Tommy J. Bigler  
SP4 William Stewart  
SP4 Milford F. Bonnet  
SP4 Larry Cotton  
SP4 Richard J. Deckard  
SP4 Donald O. Brazie  
SP5 Victor E. Cook  
SP4 Edward Ventura  
WO1 Richard Parr  
CPT Billy F. Hatch  
SP4 Pat G. Armstrong  
SSG Robert Thurston  
SP4 Denver Hyatt  
WO1 Herald Glaze  
SP4 Byron Cagle  
SP4 Johnny Rone  
SP4 Carter L. Davis  
PFC George Gomez  
CPT George H. Handley  
WO1 Glen Opheim  
SP4 Gerald D. Brobst  
MAJ Harold J. Earwood  
WO1 Ronald Kleson  
SP4 Robert G. Stultz  
SP4 Larry D. Crites  
SGT Heinz J. Hammelberg

## First Squadron, First Cavalry

### Commanders in Vietnam

#### Squadron Commanders

LTC Richard H. Harrington	16 Aug 1967 to 1 Jan 1968
LTC Walter C. Cousland	1 Jan 1968 to 1 Jul 1968
LTC Richard D. Lawrence	1 Jul 1968 to present

#### HQ Troop Commanders

CPT Thomas F. Sullivan	16 Aug 1967 to 16 Dec 1967
CPT Michael B. Prothero	16 Dec 1967 to 3 Mar 1968
CPT Charles W. Donaldson	3 Mar 1968 to present

#### A Troop Commanders

CPT Joseph C. Conrad	16 Aug 1967 to 16 Dec 1967
CPT David A. Roesler	16 Dec 1967 to 26 May 1968
CPT George R. Kaczor	26 May 1968 to present

#### B Troop Commanders

CPT David H. Staley	16 Aug 1967 to 8 Nov 1967
CPT John O. Barovetto	8 Nov 1967 to 7 Jan 1968
CPT Walter R. Reed	7 Jan 1968 to 25 June 1968
CPT Wayne J. Lewis	25 Jun 1968 to present

#### C Troop Commanders

CPT Ralph P. Brown	16 Aug 1967 to 3 Mar 1968
CPT Michael B. Prothero	3 Mar 1968 to present

First Squadron, First Cavalry

Unit Crest



Motto: Courage and Faith

Perhaps the most personal vestige of our proud heritage is our unit crest. It depicts the Black Hawk, symbolizing the Black Hawk Wars against the Indians in Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. The Hawk is encircled by the Dragoon saber belt and buckle which has a "D" thereon, symbolizing the Dragoons. The gold, eight pointed star which forms the background of the crest was the Dragoon's insignia until 1851. The black and gold are old Dragoon colors, while the yellow is the Cavalry color. The inscription, "Animo et Fide", is Latin for "Courage and Faith."

## The Legend of Fiddler's Green

About halfway down the road to Hell there is a broad meadow dotted with trees and crossed by many streams. On this meadow known as Fiddler's Green is located an old Army Canteen, and near it are camped all dead Cavalrymen, with their tents, horses, picket lines and campfires around which the souls of the dead troopers gather to tell stories and reminisse.

No other branches of the service may stop at Fiddler's Green but must continue the march straight through to Hell. It is true that occasionally some trooper who has a longing as most troopers have, for a change of station, packs his saddle bags, mounts his horse and continues his journey. But none of them has ever reached the gates of Hell, for having emptied his canteen of liquor, he needs to return to Fiddler's Green for a refill.

That is why there are no Cavalrymen in Hell.

Halfway down the trail to Hell,  
In a shady meadow green,  
Are the souls of all dead troopers  
camped  
Near a good old-time canteen,  
And this eternal resting place  
Is known as Fiddler's Green.

Marching past, straight through to Hell,  
The Infantry are seen,  
Accompanied by the Engineers,  
Artillery and Marine,  
For none but the shades of  
Cavalrymen  
Dismount at Fiddler's Green.

Though some go curving down the trail  
To seek a warmer scene,  
No trooper ever gets to Hell,  
Ere he's emptied his canteen,  
And so rides back to drink again  
With friends at Fiddler's Green

And so when man and horse go down  
Beneath a saber keen,  
Or in a roaring charge of fierce melee  
You stop a bullet clean,  
And the hostiles come to get your  
Scalp,  
Just empty you canteen,  
And put your pistol to your head  
And go to Fiddler's Green.

## Ode to the M48A3

The broad backed Hippopotamus  
Rests on its belly in the mud,  
And having wrenched a time or two  
Lays helpless as flesh and blood.

The keepers dismount the 'potamus,  
Stand off and look in fear,  
And having looked a time or two  
Remove their shirts and gear.

Flesh and blood is weak and frail  
And the 'potamus is mired fast,  
But with dirty hands and broken nails  
The keepers sweat at their task.

The mud is thick and heavy and bleak  
And the 'potamus humbles a man,  
The cables whine and strain and creak  
As the keepers offer a hand.

The Hippo stirs. The keepers smile,  
The cables strain at the awesome feat,  
A trail in the mud is cut like an aisle  
And the 'potamus comes to his feet.

They put on their shirts and curse the sun  
But now there is nothing to fear.  
They mount the 'potamus one by one  
And the Hippo is put into gear.

Off it lumbers across the paddies  
Coated with slime to the top,  
And having stumbled a time or two  
Slowly it grinds to a stop.

The broad backed Hippopotamus  
Rests on its belly in the mud,  
And having wrenched a time or two  
Lays helpless as flesh and blood.

Lt James S. Lindsey

# FIRST SQUADRON, FIRST CAVALRY MAJOR BATTLES—QUANG TIN PROVINCE, VIETNAM

