

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Tom Percy and Greg Ross,

25 Dec 1991

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

As you most likely know, Bill Greenhalgh and I have decided to feature the 7/17 in the History Section of the 1992 VHPA Directory. For the last several months we have been "getting prepared" and now that I can spend some time on it things are moving into a higher gear. Bill and I plan to send a draft version to all 7/17ers in the Spring and really start beating the drum for input.

The reason for writing this letter to you guys is that I'd like to use some of the material you two pulled together for the F/8 Cav history presentation we enjoyed so much at the Long Beach Reunion. I am especially interested in the story about the guy who put the briefcase near the front seat in the LOH just before flying it off the ship. The case fell over, wedged the controls, and caused the LOH to nose dive into the water. Then the story of Tom getting shot down a few hours after the Troop became operational. Maybe it was the way that Greg presented it and knowing that Tom is still able to grow old gracefully; but I really, really enjoyed it!! And the picture of the holes in the LOH from the VC bullets and from the US tank canister rounds, we have to have that in the Directory!! We now have a scanner, so we can insert photos or documents or drawings or patches into the narrative. We could prepare the narrative describing Tom's experience and include a picture of the damaged ship within the narrative. If I remember correctly, your pictures are on slides. Slides are the best media because the printers can go directly from the slide to the plate they use or we can scan them in.

Also I have a copy of your C Troop unit history 1 JAN 67 thru 31 DEC 67 prepared by CPT Cornelius C. Holcomb, Jr., the Unit Historical Officer and signed by MAJ James D. Marett, the Commander in Chu Lai. (If you want a copy of this history, just let me know.) HOWEVER, I believe you guys carried the name C/7/17 for the first few months of 68. The unit history of my C/7/17 says that on 1 MAY 68 we were redesignated at from C/2/17 to C/7/17 while still at Ft. Campbell. I clearly remember that day. Anyway, I'd like to include anything that happened to your troop during 1968. DO EITHER OF YOU HAVE A COPY OF THE 1968 UNIT HISTORY OR KNOW ANYONE THAT DOES? I'd really like to get a copy of it. Ft. Rucker doesn't have a copy of it; only the 1967 one. DO EITHER OF YOU KNOW THE EXACT DATE WHEN your C/7/17 was redesignated F/8 (it would be great if you have a copy of the General Order so we can reference that as well).

I also believe you both have a good collection of color pictures and know of others that do as well. I have letters out to Marty Martinez and Jim Cunningham concerning cover photos; but would love any input from you guys. I NEED CANDIDATES FOR COVER PHOTO. You both have seen what I have put on the covers in the past.

current thoughts (but suggestions from you are most welcome) are to put 3 or 4 helicopter pictures on the front cover (OH-6, UH-1H, UH-1C, and AH-1G). The trick is they all MUST BE FROM THE 7/17. Color is preferred. Clarity and contrast are important. (Contrast is measured by how clearly the helicopter is distinguished from the background. For example, the 1990 issue has the Skycrane silhouetted against the sky and in 1991 the background didn't bother the H-34 at all; both had good contrast. The 1989 picture of the hook hauling the snake is an example of poor contrast (and clarity too because you couldn't see many of the details on either helicopter).) If you have some candidates, please let me BORROW them.

Thanks for all you do for VHPA.

Mike Law, Vice President and Directory Editor