

May 14, 1989

Dear men of the Cavalier Battalion (2/8) and Angry Skipper Company (D 2/8)

I am writing you to pass along a request by noted author and fellow Cavalier, LTC (Ret) J.D. Coleman. Many of you who belong to the First Cavalry Division Association saw J.D.'s letter to the editor in the March-April edition of Saber, but for those who are not members, the message is on the reverse of this letter. I have also enclosed an application for you non-members to hopefully fill out and mail to the Association.

In order to alert as many people as possible, I have combined Garry Bruckner's 69-71 "Range" list with mine and have added several more names including those men who left before the move to III Corps, but nonetheless shared with many of us the good and bad times in the mountains, rice paddies, and villages of I Corps during the Spring and Summer of 1968.

This years Division reunion will be held at Fort Hood, Texas from June 29 to July 2. In 1990, the Division reunion will be held in Columbus, Georgia to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Division's deployment to Vietnam. Also, there might be reduced hotel rates at a hotel adjacent to Washington, D.C. over Veterans Day weekend similiar to last year when MG Conrad got us pumped up in the hospitality room saying that President Reagan would be at the ceremony at the "Wall." Well, the seven of us from "Range" got a late start and found ourselves on the bridge over the Potomac with traffic blocked off and helicopters buzzing overhead. Looking back toward Arlington Cemetery, we saw a lot of vehicles coming toward us at high speed with bright headlights, and I swear as the President whizzed by, he personally waved at Nick Donvito and I. Oh, what a feeling! Look for details of all Division reunions in Saber.

By the time you get this letter, "Range Platoon 69-71" will have had a reunion in Boulder, Colorado. Those who are interested in further 69-71 "Range" reunions should contact Garry Bruckner or Ted Tracy.

Range 68-69 will gather for a family reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC the second week of July this summer. Arrangements for 9 members and their families have been finalized by John Malpass. If anybody else out there decides to drop in, let John or myself know when you're arriving and where you're staying so we can make contact.

People found since my last letter who served during my tour (5/1/68-4/13/69) include: Steve Kreuger, Ken Pierce, Phil Chaffey, and George Davis from Range; Gil "Apple" Carrillo and Don Mangels from Cat; plus Bob McLennan, Carl Cook, Charles Baker, Corsino "Bull" Toro, and Jim Nix from Skull.

Finally, I hope that with this expanded list, many of you have some pleasant personal reunions by "letting your fingers do the walking."

Happy Trails,

*Ed Regan*

Ed Regan

Range One India

# Vietnam Vets Network



302 N. Main  
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522-1799

616 India  
302 N. Main

A new project for J. D. COLEMAN (B 2/8 and Div. P10). After launching the excellent Pleiku last year, he has a commitment to do another major work on the

1970 Cambodia invasion, to be called *Incurtion: The Road to the Cambodian Sanctuaries*. He'll be telling the story of the political and military decision-making that led to Cambodia, and the consequences of the invasion, both in Vietnam and the United States. Central to the book, of course, will be the 1st Cav from its move to III Corps through the fighting in Cambodia.

On his first Cav tour in '65-'66, J. D. was responsible for the after-paign that became the basis for the division's Presidential Unit Citation. Later in that first shift, on May 16 and 17, he earned a Silver Star near LZ Hereford in the rugged hill mass between the Suoi Ca and Vinh Thanh valleys. Bravo Company 2/8 made contact with a VC battalion and fought a desperate battle for more than sixteen hours before the enemy broke off and later exfiltrated the area.

The battle was pivotal in that the enemy had planned a regimental attack on the Vinh Thanh CIDG camp and pacified civilian centers in the valley. For the action, B 2/8 was awarded the division's first Valorous Unit Citation from the Vietnam War. (Facts from 1st Air Cavalry Division - Memoirs of the First Team - Vietnam - August 1965 to December 1969).

J. D. writes: "I particularly need data from those who came south in Nov. 1968 and who fought the early battles in III Corps. I got (back) to the Cav in April, '69, and have collected a good bit of material for that year. But I left on 16 Apr 70, and thus missed Cambodia. So if anyone has copies of the "Cavalair" from before or after my time, through about July, 1970, I would appreciate the loan. I promise to take very good care of any documentations loaned me."

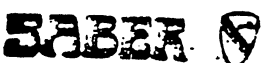
Not only did COLEMAN write *Pleiku*, but as Division P10 put together the famous "Black Book" mentioned above. So, Troopers, here's another excellent chance to have your story told accurately in J.D.'s newest book - *Incurtion*. I strongly urge you to dig out anything you have from that period and share it with J.D. Contact him at 2545 Hogan Rd, East Point, GA 30344.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To: 1st Cav. Div. Ann., 302 N. Main, Copperas Cove, TX 76522

Here is my application for LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the 1st Cavalry Division Association, and my LIFE TIME due of \$10.00. I understand I will receive a membership certificate card, insignia decal, lapel pin, plus ONE - year subscription to SABER, the Association's bi-monthly newspaper.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ SS# \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 I served with THE FIRST TEAM in \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_ (Bdc., Dn., etc.)



## Letters To The Editor

Dear Fellow First Teamers  
 I very much appreciate the kind words I have received from all over the country concerning "PLEIKU: The Dawn of Helicopter Warfare in Vietnam." St. Martin's Press has contracted with me for a second book; one a little broader in scope than the first, and one which covers the role of the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Military Region III from November, 1968 through July, 1970.  
 I will document the Cav's move from I Corps to III Corps, and then follow the division through its great interdiction campaign of 1969, and capping the book with the Cambodian incursion. The working title for the book is, "*INCURSION: The Road to the Cambodian Sanctuaries.*"

My service with the division was from April 15, 1969, to April 15, 1970. I pretty well have every division newspaper and magazine from that period. But I don't have anything from October, 1968 through March, 1969...and nothing about the Cambodian incursion. If any Cav veteran has some clippings or articles they would be willing to share, I would be most grateful. Similarly, I would like to collect anecdotes about the division's move south; some of the early firebases in III Corps, and so on.  
 I would like to obtain the same thing for the Cambodian campaign, basically May and June of 1970. I can assure any contributor that I will carefully safeguard clippings and pictures and return them safely when I have made

copies.  
 For Cambodian veterans, I would like one additional thing. I would like your candid thoughts on your reactions when you received the order to go into Cambodia. Try to separate your thoughts from what you might feel today about the operation, although those will be of great interest to me as well. Needless to say, this part of the response can be anonymous if you prefer.  
 Send all responses to 2545 Hogan Road, East Point, GA, 30344, or call collect after 6 p.m. (Eastern Time) (404) 767-4667. I am going to try to wrap up research by Reunion time, and then write steadily so that St. Martin's will get a manuscript by the end of August.  
 I appreciate any help Cav veterans can give me.  
 FIRST TEAM!  
 J. D. Coleman  
 1st Cav '65-66; '69-70