

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 104

“Stories worth telling”

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Phan Rang Challenge Coin Sale



The Cheap Charlies Club

There were a number of “Clubs” in 2 Squadron. One of these was “The Cheap Charlie Club”. The badge had to be carried at ALL times and was to be produced on a challenge of “Cheap Cheap”. Failure to do so would incur a fine at the next meeting and the meetings were held every two weeks and fines would be handed out by the president. The “crimes” committed were based on not being “cheap” like offering someone a cigarette, offering to shout the FIRST round of drinks, etc. The money raised went towards the drinks for the next meeting. During and after the meeting the drinks would flow somewhat freely and then “the games” would begin.

UC DAI LOI – CHEAP CHARLIE

Courtesy of former No. 2 Squadron member - Ray Simpson, Phan Rang AB Nov '69-Nov'70,
at <http://www.geocities.ws/rayandjenny4358/>

In Vietnam Australians were referred to (mainly by the bar girls) as Cheap Charlies because of our habit of not tipping, nor wanting to buy them drinks just for the pleasure of their company. It was part of their job to get you to buy them drinks and to get you to drink more. It worked

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well on others but no so on the “bloody lousy” Aussie. So as time went on a ballad to the Cheap Charlies appeared.

To those who do not know, in Vietnamese slang:

Uc Dai Loi Australian

Saigon Tea Cold tea for which you paid the price of a whiskey

Pi (dong) Vietnamese currency

MPC Military Payment Certificate

Mama San The lady who ran the bar & girls

This song is sung to the tune of **“This Old Man”**

Uc Dai Loi cheap charlie
He no buy me Saigon tea
Saigon Tea cost too many pi
Uc Dai Loi he cheap charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap charlie
He no part with MPC
MPC worth many many pi
Uc Dai Loi he cheap charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap charlie
He no go to bed with me
For it cost many many pi
Uc Dai Loi he cheap charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap charlie
Make him give me one for free
Mama san go crook at me
Uc Dai Loi he cheap charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap charlie
He gave baby san to me
Baby san cost many many pi
Uc Dai Loi he cheap charlie

Uc Dai Loi cheap charlie
He go home across the sea
Baby san he leave with me
Uc Dai Loi he cheap charlie

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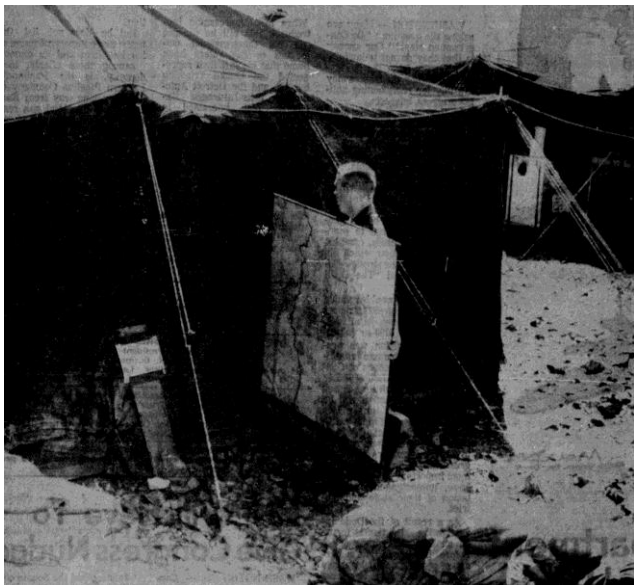
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“Once in a while we’d take a day off, but there wasn’t anywhere to go, so you might as well work,” recalled Col Obarski

Thanks from Happy Valley *(The Racine Journal-Times, Wednesday, Jan 13, 1971)*

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 76 members, who helped pack the Christmas Ditty bags sent to Vietnam, received a letter of appreciation from the American National Red Cross, Office of Field Director, Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam which said, in part, “It is appreciated how much planning and organization as well as love went into the making, the packing and finally the shipping of the ditty bags. This Red Cross field office covers Phan Rang Air Base affectionately called ‘Happy Valley’ by the servicemen. We not only have air force units here but we have army artillery units with their outlying fire bases and army aviation assault helicopter units. We know the men will have appreciation for your thoughtful gifts.”



Tent Houses Briefing Room

(Alamogordo (N.M.) Daily News, Wednesday, June 22, 1966)

Air Force 1st Lt. William H Emmingham of Kellog, Idaho, an intelligence officer with the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang air base, carries a map into a tent which serves as a briefing room. Phan Rang, located about 65 miles north-northeast of Saigon, is the home of the Air Force's 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron— an F-4C Phantom unit. (Air Force Photo)

*Make your plans to attend the 5th Annual Phan Rang
Reunion in Oklahoma City in October*

Col Obarski's Job Near That of a City Manager

By BOB BRITE

Reporter-News Military Editor

Personnel - the management of people — occupies a good bit of the time of Col Stanley J . Obarski, 96th Combat Support Group commander at Dyess AFB, who is responsible for virtually everything but flying matters at the 5,250-man base.

And Col. Obarski said, he devotes more time to ‘problem’ children than to the hard workers.

Here he drew a civilian parallel:

“Along with the rest of the country, we are occupied with seeing that the rights of the accused are protected - that the culprit gets fair treatment.

“We bend over backwards to bring them along, to try to get them back on the track,” he said

Supervising the upkeep of the base and wrestling with the budget probably come next to keeping Obarski busy.

The Job, he conceded, bears definite similarities to that of a city manager.

“We both work with a budget that never affords you all you think you need,” he said.

The colonel smiling kept his silence when asked which might be the more benevolent overseer - higher Air Force headquarters or the City Council?

“We probably get mixed up more in family problems,” he said.

His previous assignment was at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam, as base commander. Phan Rang is an F-100 jet fighter base 250 miles northeast of Saigon.

The workshift there was 12 hours too, seven days a week.

“Once in a while we’d take a day off, but there wasn’t anywhere to go, so you might as well work,” he recalled.

Base-community relations rate a high priority at Dyess but Abilene civilians are so diligent it makes his job easier, said Col. Obarski.

“In other places, you have to be the guy who goes out and works on it,” he said.

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Discipline problems here are generally good, he feels.

“We have a low number of incidents for our size population.”

The main thing, he said is “keeping the young troops occupied and out of trouble and entertained in their off-duty time.”

A1C Delay Jr. awarded Airman of the Month for July (*Richardson Daily News-Wednesday, August 20, 1969*)

Airman First Class Clyde David Delay Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Robbins, 2412 Canyon Creek Drive, was recipient of the Headquarters Airman of the Month Award July. The award was presented by Col. Richard P. Goold, Base Commander of Phan Rang Air Base, South Vietnam.

The citation was awarded “for his outstanding contribution as a Security Police Augmentee during the month of July. During his 30 day volunteer assignment, Airman First Class Delay was cited for his personal killing of seven Viet Cong infiltrators and capture of 12 other enemy soldiers during a ground attack on Phan Rang Air Base on July 14.”

Airman Delay is a 1967 graduate of Richardson High School and has been in the Air Force for two years.

Playboy Army Captain Blows up Hijacked Jet (*Wichita Falls Times, September 16, 1974*)

By GEORGE ESPER

Associated Press Writer

SAIGON, South Vietnam

(AP) — A hijacker described as a wealthy playboy army captain blew up a South Vietnamese airliner and killed all 71 persons aboard after the pilot refused to fly to Hanoi, officials said today.

It was the first hijacking to result in a large number of deaths, and the first time a hijacked plane has been blown up in the air.

The officials said the hijacker, 31-year-old La Duc Tan, bypassed security checks Sunday when he boarded the Air Vietnam Boeing 727 at Da Nang for a flight to Saigon.

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Police in Da Nang were reported questioning Tan's wife, who owns a beauty parlor there, and an air force security sergeant who they said helped Tan evade the security check.

Officials said when the airliner was about halfway from Da Nang to Saigon, Tan ordered the pilot to turn back and fly to the North Vietnam capital. Instead, the pilot prepared to land at Phan Rang, 100 miles northeast of Saigon, and Tan set off two grenades he brought aboard the plane, the officials said.

Eyewitnesses said the plane made one pass over the airfield, circled back and banked sharply as it approached the runway. They said there was an explosion and the plane crashed nose first not far from a mine field.

The plane burst into flames when it hit the ground and the fire spread to the minefield, setting off a claymore antipersonnel mine.

The eight crew members and 59 of the 63 passengers were Vietnamese, according to the passenger list. The others were two South Koreans, a Filipino and a Frenchman.

By nightfall rescue teams searching in the rain through the charred wreckage had recovered 68 bodies, many of them badly mangled, officials said. They also recovered a special tape recorder aboard the plane to record conversations during an emergency.

It was the third attempt in two years -all unsuccessful-to hijack a South Vietnamese aircraft to North Vietnam. Air Vietnam reportedly has ordered its pilots to refuse to fly to North Vietnam even under duress. Observers say the airline's security precautions have been lax and haphazard, but one official said security measures were being tightened at all airports.

Tan's motive was not known yet. Authorities said he had a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, joined the army in 1962 and had three children. Although assigned to Dalat, he lived in Da Nang and was known there as a wealthy playboy with a succession of automobiles.

Tan was wearing the uniform of a paratroop major when he boarded the airline, officials reported. They said soldiers are required to produce military travel orders, but apparently he had none and got a security sergeant to get him past the checkpoint.

*The Phan Rang Reunion will go down as a memorable event
in your life...make plans to attend now!*



Bien Hoa shut down; Viets Leave Phan Rang (*South Mississippi Sun, Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula, Miss, Wednesday Morning, April 16, 1975*)

SAIGON (UPI) A North Vietnamese artillery barrage shut down South Vietnam's sprawling Bien Hoa air base Wednesday and government troops abandoned another province capital, one of their last remaining outposts on the central coast.

Military sources said more than 30 rounds of 122mm rocket and 130mm artillery shells struck Bien Hoa, the country's largest air base, headquarters for the government's Military Region 111 and home base for half the South Vietnamese air force.

Military sources also reported that South Vietnamese rangers abandoned the province capital of Phan Rang, 165 miles northeast of Saigon on the coast of the South China Sea, after 5,000 Communist troops and 40 tanks attacked the city from three sides.

At Bien Hoa, two busloads of American contractors were turned back at the gates and ordered to return to Saigon, 14 miles to the southwest.

There were no immediate reports on casualties or damage in the 10-minute barrage of rockets and artillery.

Phan Rang was the 18th province capital lost to the Communists in their current offensive and gave the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong full control of the province of Ninh Thuan.

The Communists attacked the Phan Rang airbase, defended by a single government battalion, behind some 40 Soviet-built T54 tanks, military sources said.

South Vietnamese rangers evacuated Phan Rang by ship, the sources said. A total of about 2,500 South Vietnamese troops had been positioned at Phan Rang.

Heavy fighting also was reported on two fronts outside the besieged province capital of Xuan Loc.

"With each step, his tentative grin broke into a bigger smile until it seemed his face could no longer hold the happiness."

The Abilene Reporter-News

"WITHOUT OR WITH OFFENSE TO FRIENDS OR FOES WE SKETCH YOUR WORLD EXACTLY AS IT GOES"—Byron

Because AF Doctor Cared, Boy Walks Again (*The Abilene Reporter-News, Abilene, Texas, Wednesday Evening May 31, 1967*)

From 7th Air Force

PHAN RANG, S. Vietnam

Little Huynh Tai was a pitiful sight, that day, more than a year ago when his father, Huynh Tho, carried him into the Phan Rang Province Hospital after walking for more than three days to make the 50-mile journey through Viet Cong controlled territory.

Barely eight years old, tiny Huynh was not mauled and torn by Communist terrorists but his frail body was ravaged by a silent killer-tuberculosis. Already paralyzed, his life expectancy could be counted in days. This hospital in Phan Rang city was his last hope.

Air Force Capt. (Dr.) Harry L. Tucker, 30, of Winter Park, Fla., a physician at the Phan Rang air base hospital, found pulmonary and probably abdominal tuberculosis. The disease had attached the spinal column, destroying several vertebrae which collapsed the spine into a bent-over position. Pressure, caused by the abnormal position had paralyzed Huynh's lower extremities.

Too Weak

Too weak to survive a necessary operation to relieve the paralyzing pressure, Huynh was given anti-tuberculosis treatment by Doctor Tucker. Tension mounted as little by little the strength returned to his disease wracked body.

Within two weeks Huynh was airlifted to the modern medical facilities at Cam Ranh Bay air base. A three-man team, including Doctor Tucker, performed the operation to drain an abscess

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and relieve the paralyzing pressure. Encased in a cast from hips to chin, Huynh was returned to the province hospital in Phan Rang.

Two months later and continuing to gain strength, Huynh hesitantly placed one foot in front of the other to take his first trembling steps since the dreaded disease began its attack. With each step, his tentative grin broke into a bigger smile until it seemed his face could no longer hold the happiness.

Vietnamese doctors, nurses, ward attendants and other patients watched those first steps. His happiness penetrated the pain and hardship of the other patients easing their troubled minds for a while as they shared his joy.

Miracle

Already, it seemed the kind Air Force Doctor was responsible for a miracle. But the horizons of Doctor Tucker's hope knew no bounds for he turned his efforts to a permanent cure for Huynh - an operation to fuse his spinal column.

Extremely difficult, the operation demanded a modern well-equipped hospital and a specialist in this field. Doctor Tucker contacted Dr. Royston Miller, a noted surgeon and chief of orthopedics at Orange County Memorial hospital in Florida.

Doctor Miller volunteered to operate and also arrange for Huynh to recuperate at the Harry Anna Crippled Children's Home in Umatilla, Fla.

As one barrier after another was crossed by the persistent Air Force Doctor, the reams of paperwork necessary for Huynh's trip and entry into the United States was rapidly being processed.

And then the inevitable snag. Huynh's father bore the same name as a Viet Cong terrorist. The Vietnamese National Security Police had prepared a folder on Huynh Tho and were reluctant to release a suspected terrorist from their control.

Lum Van Quang, Civic Action Liaison officer who worked closely with Doctor Tucker as interpreter and liaison with the Vietnamese government, set to work on this problem.

Soon, the folder was released and Huynh Tho was free to accompany his son when, perhaps the boy needed his father the most. But Huynh Tho's small salary as a stone mason left no money to cover his expenses for the trip.

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Meanwhile, Huynh’s struggle had attracted the attention of nearly everyone in the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing. Air Force pilots, aircraft mechanics and support personnel dug deep in their pockets to donate more than \$1,900 to allow the father and son to be together.

Boarded Jet

Nearly seven months after Huynh’s condition became known to Doctor Tucker, the Vietnamese boy and his father boarded a jet-transport aircraft that took them to the United States.

After the operation to fuse his spine, the heavy body cast was replaced with a lighter and more comfortable brace. Months of recuperative care and additional medical treatment brought a stocky Huynh back to Vietnam recently.

Airlifted by helicopter to their tiny fishing village, the little Vietnamese boy that was carried from the village to his father’s arms, returned a picture of good health.

Since Doctor Tucker has returned to the United States, Huynh will now be under the care of Dr. Henry Hamilton, 32 of Cheshire, England, a member of the International Rescue Committee at Phan Rang hospital.

Once a Month

Doctor Hamilton will examine Huynh once a month for one year. He expects the brace to be removed in about six months and said the boy is doing “...real well.”

Captain Jerry D. Cauley, 30, of Gridton, N.C., Phan Rang Air Base hospital administrator, whose office handled most of the monumental typing chores for Doctor Tucker said, “I was amazed at how well Huynh now looks. When I first met him, he was sad and looked confused at the pain he had to bear while his young friends played. Now he has happiness written all over his face.”

With bluntness typical of a Vietnamese person speaking English, Dr. Doan Trinh, who was at the Phan Rang Province hospital when Huynh was carried in, said, “He is much happier. He has a straight spine.”

The “straight spine” is a gift to the small Vietnamese boy by the tall American for a reason most people simply would not understand.

Obituary of **Dr. Harry L. Tucker**



Harry Lan Tucker, MD., died on Sunday, April 6, 2014 at his home in Winter Park, FL., ending his lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 78. Dr. Tucker is survived by his wife of 30 years, Eileen "Renee" Tucker, their son Lawrence Tucker, his daughters DeLan Gilliam and Dr. Luci Saha, their husbands Dr. Michael Gilliam and Dr. Sukamal Saha, and his five grandchildren, Cameran, Michael, Luke, Joshua and Matthew. Dr.

Tucker did his undergraduate studies in physics at Georgia Tech University. He graduated from Emory University School of Medicine, and began his surgical residency at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. After leaving Atlanta, Dr. Tucker served in the Air Force for three years, achieving the rank of Captain. He served as flight surgeon at Wright Patterson AFB and later as a staff surgeon in **Phan Rang, Vietnam**. During his military service he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Upon discharge from the Air Force, Dr. Tucker completed his orthopedic surgery residency at Orlando Regional Medical Center and went on to receive specialized training in hand surgery at Vanderbilt University and hip surgery at Wrightington Hospital in Wigan, England. Dr. Tucker served the Orlando community as an orthopedic surgeon in private practice and as director of the orthopedic residency training program at Orlando Regional Medical Center from 1972 to 1990. He was tireless in his pursuit to bring the highest quality care to his patients, and an exceptional educational experience to the medical residents he trained. Upon retiring in 1990, Dr. Tucker relocated with his family to Tallahassee, FL., where he volunteered at Neighborhood Health Services, a needs-based clinic. He returned to the Orlando area in 2013. Having never met a stranger, he was known for his great stories and witty sense of humor. He loved fishing and playing golf with his son and buddies, but his true love was sailing, and it inspired him to learn how to navigate by the stars.

*“...a gift to the small Vietnamese boy by the tall American for
a reason most people simply would not understand.”*

HORSEMEN Honored by Vietnamese, US, Koreans In SEA

(Playground Daily News, Friday Morning, November 15, 1968)

PHAN RANG — In two recent ceremonies, the departing commander, Colonel William T. Meredith and men of the RED HORSE 554th Civil Engineering Squadron (Heavy Repair), were feted by both local Vietnamese, American military and civilian dignitaries. The Ninth Thuan

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Piovince Chief Colonel Ngo Han Dong was accompanied by the U S Senior Advisor Paul J. Hale, representing MACV, plus district, village chiefs and elders.

Colonel Dong paid tribute to Colonel Meredith while praising the outstanding Civil Action contributions made by RED HORSE during the past year. Citing examples of assistance, he mentioned emergency bridge repairs in the early stages of TET offensive Viet Cong action which extended far into the foothills of the mountains construction assistance to the Phan Rang City Hospital, and the joint construction of a new church in Thamp Cham plus the site preparation of a large area for a new ARVN camp in the local area. He then presented Colonel Meredith with a plaque in recognition of outstanding support of MACV Advisory Team 45.

The second event was hosted by the new RED HORSE Commander Lt Colonel Niels H. Lund and attended by the entire squadron, the last time they would all be together as one unit. In addressing the group Col. Lund commented on the fact that Colonel Meredith was the originator of the PRIME BEEF (AF Civil Engineering rapid strike teams) developed back in 1964. The success of those teams responding to emergency conditions during the 1965 1966 buildup in Southeast Asia led to his being the prime mover in the formation of the RED HORSE Heavy Repair Squadrons and for that achievement he will always be familiarly known by the honorary title of **'FIRST RIDER'**.

This ceremony was marked by both serious and humorous comments on the events of the past year. Men from every technical trade carried placards identifying their specialty had brief comments to make through a spokesman.

Meredith reiterated his feeling 'that no one man in the outfit was more important than the other in overall mission accomplishment' but the section representatives took the opportunity to comment with obvious pride on then own contributions to the mission

Sergeant Albeit A. Clark. 28, Fairfield, Calif. a heavy equipment operator summed up the general feeling when he stated “They’ve always said, It takes faith to move mountains” but here at Phan Rang Colonel Meredith had it done by the Airfields Flight. (This was pointed out as a no longer existent mountain which had been blasted and run through the rock crushers for building material) No one will ever forget his demanding phrase Keep that equipment moving'

First Sergeant. Senior Master Sergeant Jesse B Hannes, 37 Staten Island NYC, emceed the program after making the initial plaque presentation, occasionally using the commanders pet phrase, ' You haven’t seen anything yet' , often heard during the past year when the troops were facing another impossible job.

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Meredith then reviewed the engineering, construction and combat accomplishments of his men during the past year.

He noted that they had embarked on a new concept of self sufficient heavy horizontal operation in which they went into major blasting and rock quarry operations including heavy crushing activities to support the asphalt and concrete paving trains for roads, aircraft aprons, taxiways and the like, to a finished product.

Concrete production was increased from a monthly total of 1,098 cubic yards in January 1968 to a staggering monthly total of 6,768 cubic yards by May 1968. He then recalled an aircraft parking apron project of some 60,000 yards of concrete that really "kept the equipment moving" - for 64 days. It entailed thousands of cubic yards of earth removal, fill being hauled in, compacted and then covered with 12 inches of concrete. Connecting taxiways and asphalt apron additions with terminal facilities resulted in a **prime aerial port** for Vietnam.

Rock crushing production was increased by 800 tons per days until it reached a capability of 2,100 tons per day.

Another record was set when a new asphalt aircraft apron of some 25,000 yards was built in 30 days. In this project 13,000 cubic yards of earth were removed and 4,743 tons of asphalt placed.

RED HORSEMEN opened the convoy route to Tuy Hoa in January 1968 and have maintained it ever since, even during the height of the TET offensive in February, to prevent a work stoppage from lack of equipment and materials.

The experience gained in laying 16,000 feet of 12 inch asbestos cement water main and 12,000 feet of sewer line was used to good advantage in assisting other RED HORSE units in Vietnam on similar projects. Men of the 554th have carried projects from Binh Thuy in the far south delta region to Da Nang in the mountains of the north, and at Nha Trang in between in spite of insurmountable odds.

The citation on the presented horse-bearing shield read, "To the FIRST RIDER, Colonel William T. Meredith from the officers and airmen of the 554th CES HR, Phan Rang. RVN 1967-68. "CAN DO - WILL DO - 'WE DID IT' ".

The shield will soon hang in the Pentagon where Col. Meredith will be the next Chief of Operations Division, Directorate of Civil Engineering.

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He has been the commander of the 554th since Oct. 30, 1967. A native of Halifax, Virginia, he entered the Army as a private in 1941. During service in the China, Burma, India theater 1942-1944 he received a battlefield commission as a U.S. Army second lieutenant.

Before coming to Phan Rang, he was the commander of the 560 CES(RR), "The Home of RED HORSE", Eglin Field 2, after initially establishing and directing the "Civil Engineering construction Operations Group", Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

In that capacity he was directly responsible for the establishment, equipping, manning, training and subsequent deployment of the Air Force's first six RED HORSE Squadrons to Southeast Asia.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM T. MEREDITH

Retired March 01,1973 Died February 20,2013

Brigadier General William T. Meredith was assistant for facilities management, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics). He supervised the planning, programming and surveillance of execution, on a worldwide basis, of the maintenance, operation and repair of real property, including family housing, in the Department of Defense.



General Meredith was born in Halifax, Va., in 1919. He graduated in 1937 from Brandy High School, Brandy, Va., and attended the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va., Catholic University, Washington, D.C., and the University of Maryland. He was awarded a battlefield commission.

General Meredith entered active military service in February 1941 as a private in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and after completion of basic engineer training at Fort Belvoir, Va., was assigned to the 21st Aviation Engineer Regiment at Langley Field, Va.

He was transferred to the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations where he was placed in charge of construction of the Karachi and Malir airports in India. In November 1942 he was transferred to Ledo, Assam, in India, and assigned as leader of a patrol composed of Naga hillmen, with responsibility for terrain reconnaissance for the forward security over the supply trail into Northern Burma. He, Major General R.A. Wheeler and Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Seagroves (Burma Surgeon) were ambushed and trapped by

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Japanese forces. They were surrounded for two weeks, supplied by air drop, broke out and walked 127 miles back to Ledo, Assam. During this action, in March 1943 General Wheeler awarded him a battlefield commission as second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.

General Meredith returned to Fort Belvoir in October 1944 where he was assigned to the Engineer School as an instructor. In November 1945 he was relieved from active duty and joined the Virginia Department of Highways.

In February 1947 General Meredith returned to active duty with the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir as assistant post engineer and in April 1948 again became an instructor in the Engineer School.

He transferred to the U.S. Air Force in July 1949 and was assigned to Dhahran Air Base, Saudi Arabia, as air installations officer. In July 1950 he was assigned to Headquarters Military Air Transport Service, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., where he served in the Air Installations Division as officer in charge of Master Planning, Engineering Branch; Chief of the Programming Branch; and in September 1951 was made chief of the Requirements and Development Branch. During 1953 he attended the Air Command Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

In March 1954 General Meredith was transferred to Headquarters U.S. Air Force in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installations as Assistant for Reserve Affairs. In July he was assigned as military assistant in the Directorate of Real Property, and later became executive to the director of real property, in which position he assisted in the development and presentation of the annual military construction program to Congress.

General Meredith was transferred in August 1957 to England where he served with the Third Air Force as director of military construction and director of project management for the deputy chief of staff, installations, and lastly as director of engineering and construction in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Civil Engineering. In that capacity he was responsible for the engineering and construction of all facilities for the Army, Navy and Air Force in the United Kingdom and Scandinavian countries. During this period he also served as president of the London Post, Society of American Military Engineers. In August 1960 he entered the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base.

In July 1961 General Meredith began a series of assignments in which he was primarily concerned with restructuring civil engineering organizations to adequately fulfill their mission of direct combat support. This was accomplished by two projects that established Air Force combat engineer organizations - PRIME BEEF (Base Engineer Emergency Forces) and RED HORSE (Rapid Engineer Deployable, Heavy Operations Repair Squadrons, Engineer).

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He first served at Headquarters U.S. Air Force in the Directorate of Civil Engineering as chief of the Operations Branch, Base Maintenance Division; then as special assistant to the deputy director for civil engineering; and from August 1964 to February 1966, as deputy chief, Plans and Operations Division. He assumed command of the Civil Engineering Construction Group at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, in March 1966, with responsibilities for implementation of the PRIME BEEF and RED HORSE projects; in July 1967 became commander of the 560th Civil Engineering Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., with responsibilities for training RED HORSE personnel for Southeast Asia duty; and from October 1967 to November 1968, served in the Republic of Vietnam as commander of the **554th Civil Engineering Squadron at Phan Rang** and as vice commander of the First Civil Engineering Group at Tan Son Nhut Airfield with responsibilities for carrying out the RED HORSE mission.

In December 1968 General Meredith was assigned to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Civil Engineering, at Headquarters Tactical Air Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va., as director of programs and in June 1969 became deputy chief of staff for civil engineering. He was appointed assistant for Real Property Maintenance, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics), Washington, D.C., in August 1970.

His military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Army Commendation Medal. In 1966 he was awarded the Newman Medal by the Society of American Military Engineers in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Air Force civil engineering as a leader in the PRIME BEEF and RED HORSE projects.

He was promoted to the temporary grade of brigadier general effective Aug. 1, 1970, with date of rank July 4, 1970.



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Upper Airman Is Awarded Medal (*The Republican-Courier, Findlay, Ohio, Monday, June 3, 1968*)

UPPER SANDUSKY — Mr. and Mrs. John Heffelfinger of Upper Sandusky have received word their son, **SSgt. William A. Heffelfinger**, has received a citation and Air Force Commendation medal for meritorious service at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam.

The citation accompanying the award of the medal reads: "Staff Sergeant Heffelfinger distinguished himself by meritorious service as an airframe technician, 315th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 315th Air Commando Wing, Phan Rang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam from 12 December 1966 to 9 November 1967. During this period, Sgt. Heffelfinger's outstanding professional skill and initiative aided immeasurably in identifying and solving numerous problems encountered in the accomplishment of his duties. The energetic application of his knowledge has played a significant role in contributing to the success of the United States Air Force mission in Southeast Asia. The distinctive accomplishments of Sergeant Heffelfinger reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."

(*The Sheppard Senator, Thursday, February 22, 1968*) **MSgt Billy G. Argo** of the 3751st Field Training Squadron received the Air Force Commendation Medal during ceremonies held Tuesday Morning. The medal, earned for meritorious service in Southeast Asia, was presented by Col James H. Havey, commander of the 3750th Technical School. Sergeant Argo received the medal for his distinguished service as NCO - in charge, crash recovery, 35th Field Maintenance Squadron, Phan Rang AB, Republic of Vietnam from Sept. 22, 1966, to May 18, 1967.

Sgt. Virgil E. Adkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Adkins of 116 Arborland Acres, St. Albans, has received Air Force Commendation medal at Perrin AFB, Tex. Sgt. Adkins was decorated for meritorious service as a weapons mechanic at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He was cited for his professional skill, initiative and dedication to duty in loading munitions on the F-4C Phantom aircraft under extremely hazardous conditions. He is now at Perrin as a member of the Aerospace Defense Command. (*The Charleston Gazette, Saturday, April 13, 1968*)

Sgt. Stephen D. Jarrell, son of Mrs. Thelma Careway of Dawes, was a flight engineer on the first AC-47 crew at the coastal installation to strike an enemy trawler at Nha Trang AB, Vietnam. Sgt. Jarrell is assigned on the South China Sea coast 200 miles northeast of Saison. His wife peggy, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur T. Petty Sr. of Dawes. Sgt Jarrell's father Gordon Jarrell, resides in Oak Hill. (*The Charleston Gazette, Saturday, April 13, 1968*)

Airman 1. C. Steve E. Harrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Coy D. Harrison of 1833 Lotus Dr., is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. His wife, Glenda is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Less Hall of Rt. 3. Hurricane. (*The Charleston Gazette, Saturday, April 13, 1968*)

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Airman Alfred G. Beane, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Beane Jr. of 207 First St., St. Albans, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Airman Beane, an aircraft mechanic is a member of the Pacific Air Forces. (*The Charleston Gazette, Saturday, April 13, 1968*)

Sgt. Clifford R. Bates, whose wife Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Cox of 2019 41st St., has received the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He was decorated for meritorious service as an aircraft mechanic at Phan Rang. (*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Friday Morning, August 30, 1968*)

Airman 1. C. Rafael Valasquez Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Velasquez of Wilson is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. He is a security policeman. (*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Friday Morning, August 30, 1968*)

Kenneth Galbreath, Phan Rang, Vietnam. Kenneth L. Galbreath, 26, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Galbreath of Rt. 2 Rockdale was recently promoted to Army Specialist Five while serving with the 27th Artillery near Phan Rang, Vietnam. A clerk in service battery of the Artillery's 5th Battalion he entered the Army in September 1969, completed basic training at Ft. Bliss, Texas and last station at Ft. Lewis, Washington. He is a 1963 graduate of Rockdale High School. His wife, the former Peggy Mann, is living in Cameron with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mann while Kenneth is overseas. (*Cameron, Texas Herald, February 8, 1971*)



**If for some reason life prevents you from attending the reunion, you can always
cancel the reservation without any penalty.**

Here's some basic information about our reunion for those that haven't had the pleasure of attending one before: The dates for the 2016 reunion are **6 through 9 October**. Most people arrive on Thursday afternoon 6 Oct. Over the years we've seen more and more people arriving earlier and we usually have get-togethers with each other and I know that many are already planning on an early arrival. On Friday, 7 Oct. we traditionally have a group tours (See the **Tours** section). On Saturday, 8 Oct. usually is a free day where you can explore the local

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area and in the evening we have our gala banquet. The hospitality suite is open all of the time, except during the tour and banquet. Most people check out Sunday morning, 9 October.

[**Click here to make your hotel reservation.**](#)

Please make your hotel reservations now!



Phan Rang AB Challenge Coins

Order your challenge coin now. Price includes postage.

MAIL ORDER PRICE* LIST		Total Amount to remit
Each	Price	
1	\$6.56	\$6.56
2	\$7.00	\$14.00
3	\$7.22	\$21.66
4	\$7.44	\$29.76
5	\$7.66	\$38.30
6	\$7.88	\$47.28
7 or more call for cost.		

Send Check or money order for the exact amount to **Jack Anderson, 826 72nd St. SE, Auburn, WA 98092**. Please make check payable to **Happy Valley Reunion**. Because of the high cost of manufacturing these coins we are going to need your money up front and will have to amass sufficient funds to have coins made. Your understanding is appreciated and we will do everything to insure prompt delivery. I expect to hear something any day now about their availability.

** Price includes a \$.50 profit for the Phan Rang AB Reunion fund.*

Buy 10 or more coins for only \$4.44 Ea.

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Coins must be paid for now with pickup at the Phan Rang AB Reunion in Oklahoma City in October.

I hope that you enjoyed this issue of the Phan Rang Newsletter. The humanitarian efforts of Dr. Harry Tucker are a shining example of American generosity that represented what Phan Rangers were all about. I will not forget this story! I hope someone is practicing singing “UC DAI LOI – CHEAP CHARLIE” so that they can entertain us at the reunion. “This newsletter was compiled and published by [Douglas Severt](#).”