

## **“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN**

...keeping the memories alive

Phan Rang AB News No. 167 **“Stories worth telling”**

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## **3rd, 35th Fighters Aid 25th Infantry**

(Seventh Air Force News, June 18, 1969)

**HQ. 7AF** - Three hundred and twenty-three enemy soldiers were killed and 10 detained in recent action near Tay Ninh City.



**35th TFW and 3rd TFW Badges**

Twelve F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Bien Hoa AB and the 35th TFW at Phan Rang AB provided close tactical air support for elements of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division. U.S. casualties were two slightly wounded with no

fatalities.

The troopers' fire support base was attacked by North Vietnamese Army elements of the 9th VC Division.

Capt. John G. Nettleson, South Bend, Wash., was one of the Phan Rang pilots.

"We were called in to hit some bunkers located in a treeline," reported Captain Nettleton. "Upon arriving at the area, the forward air controller (FAC) told us it would be a rather difficult target because the bunkers were heavily fortified. We went in with rockets and bombs and the FAC stated they were all on target," he concluded.

Also supporting the U.S. force, who employed organic weapons, were two AC-47 Spooky gunships crews of Flight C, 3rd Special Operations Squadron, Bien Hoa AB, an AC-119 Shadow gunship crew of Flight B 14th Special Operations Wing at Phan Rang, and U.S. Army helicopter gunships and artillery.

In addition, four A-37 pilots from the 3rd TFW at Bien Hoa and two F-100 pilots of the 35th TFW at Phan Rang flew strikes against enemy bunker complexes in the same area.

**“Thousands of Australian Vietnam War veterans... marched through the streets... to a welcome home ceremony...”**

### **Australian Vietnam veterans march in welcome home parade**

(THE UKIAH DAILY JOURNAL, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1987)

**SYDNEY, Australia** (AP) - Thousands of Australian Vietnam War veterans received an emotional, sometimes tearful reception today as they marched through the streets of Sydney to a welcome home ceremony more than a decade late.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, armed forces chiefs and other dignitaries applauded from the steps of Sydney Town Hall as more than 20,000 Australian veteran's parade by, some wearing medals, berets and fatigues from war days.

Some veterans were in wheel chairs, others hobbled by on crutches helped by comrades as the crowd estimated at 100,000 threw confetti, waved flags, whistled, cheered and applauded.

An elderly woman in the crowd carried a hand-drawn placard that read: "**Welcome Home, It's About Time.**" Large contingents of American, South Korean, Vietnamese and New Zealand veterans took part in the march.

The parade was organized by the Australian Vietnam Veteran Association. Organizer "Blackie" Blackwood told The Associated Press the idea for the parade came from Australian veterans who joined the Chicago Welcome Home parade in June 1986.

More than 54,000 Australian servicemen were sent to Vietnam between 1962 and 1973. Of these 496 were killed and 2,000 wounded. Four Australian journalists were also killed in the war.



### **Flying Officer Awarded Air Medal At Phan Rang AB**

*(THE DERRICK - Oil City-Franklin-Clarion. Pa. Wednesday, July 17, 1968)*

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. **Barr D. Younker**, son of Mrs. Charles Younker of Seneca RD I, has received the Air Medal at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam, for outstanding airmanship and courage as a C-123 Provider pilot on successful and important mission's under hazardous conditions.

Younker has flown 600 combat sorties since arriving in Vietnam, some in support of the Marine outpost at Khe Santo.

A 1943 graduate of Cranberry Area High School, he holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a master of arts degree from George Washington University in Washington, D. C. He was commissioned in 1943 through the Aviation Cadet Program and served in World War II. His wife, Sarah, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Bruce Grasham of Senaca.

### **17 Phantom Jets Land At New Air Strip At Phan Rang**

*(Marshall Evening Chronicle Marshall Michigan, Monday, March 14, 1966)*

**PHAN RANG**, South Viet Nam (UPI) —Seventeen U.S. Air Force F4 Phantom jets landed today at the new air strip at Phan Rang, 65 miles northeast of Saigon, after an 18- hour flight from the United States.

The jets, from the 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, refueled eight times during the flight from Holloman Air Force base in New Mexico.

Lt. Gen. Joseph H. Moore, Commander of the 2nd Air Division, was at Phan Rang to greet the pilots. Airmen from the squadron’s support group unrolled a red carpet under the first jet to land and Moore waited at the end of the carpet to welcome the arrivals.

Col. Carlos M. Talbott, 47, of Charleston, Ill., Commander of the 366th Wing, was the first pilot to land. “It was a good trip, all the way over,” he told Moore. Two Vietnamese girls dressed in colorful native dresses, placed leis around Talbott’s neck in the traditional welcome to Viet Nam. The squadron was commanded by Maj. F. Fowler, 43, of Cleveland, Ohio, who said he expected his squadron to begin strike missions within three days.

### **Rimersburg Man Heads Squadron Col. McCall**

*(THE DERRICK - Oil City-Franklin-Clarion. Pa. Wednesday, July 17, 1968)*

Col. Craig C. McCall, son of Mrs. Mae McCall of Rimersburg, is commander of a tactical fighter squadron in Vietnam which has been commended for its part in providing outstanding air support to U.S. Army units during recent military operations south of Saigon.

McCall commands the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron which, along with two other squadrons of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, were praised by Maj. Gen. Julian J. Ewell, commander of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division.

In a letter to Gen. William W. Momyer, Seventh Air Force commander, Ewell commended the U.S. and Australian aircrews for “. . . a superb job in identifying targets for air strikes, and for accuracy and timeliness with which the ordnance was delivered.” The pilots were credited with breaking the Viet Cong resistance enabling Ewell’s infantrymen to decisively defeat the enemy.

McCall, a veteran of World War II, was commissioned in 1943 through the aviation cadet program. He also served during the Korean War. A graduate of Sligo High School, he is married to the former Nancy J. Hinkle.

**“Live for something rather than die for nothing.”**

*George Patton*

### **The agonies of Australia's Vietnam vets**

**By RON REDMOND United Press international**

*(European Stars & Stripes, July 25, 1991)*

LIKE THEIR American counterparts, many Australian Vietnam veterans are still suffering the physical and emotional wounds of a war their countrymen would just as soon forget.

And like their former American comrades, the veterans are becoming increasingly vocal over what they see as widespread indifference to their problems by the Australian government.

Australia sent some 47,000 soldiers to Vietnam between 1962 and 1972  
and lost 474 men in action. Another 2348 were wounded.

Most of the veterans returned home to the nation of 14.5 million people and tried to take up where they left off before going to Vietnam.

Most did not get a hero's welcome and many found the transition back to civilian life difficult.

"I think the Australian people simply wanted to forget about the war once it was over," says Phil Thompson, national president of the Vietnam Veterans Action Association headquartered in Sydney.

"And for a while things seemed pretty quiet."

But Thompson says many of the men became disillusioned with veterans' services in the late 1970s and frightened at the growing number of reports about the effects of the herbicide Agent Orange, which was used as a defoliant in Vietnam.

From 1961 to 1970 the United States, with the aid of Australia, dumped more than 18 million gallons of herbicides and defoliants on 32 of Vietnam's 44 provinces.

"It was the Agent Orange controversy which really got us organized in 1979," Thompson says. "The province where most Australians served, Phuoc Tuy, south of Saigon, was the most heavily sprayed area in the whole country, according to American government figures. "As we began talking to veterans around the country, we noticed a number of people with common symptoms — intestinal problems, nervous disorders, liver ailments, rashes, headaches, and birth defects in the children of some men."

Thompson, 36, spent 14 years in the Australian army, including two tours of Vietnam. He joined the Vietnam Veterans Action Association the first year it was formed because, like other members, he didn't think enough was being done for veterans.

The association now has about 5,000 members and still is growing. "The system didn't cater for the unique problems faced by Vietnam veterans," he says. "So on our own and with some help from other organizations including the Vietnam veterans of America, we started gathering our own evidence on the herbicide problem for a legal case.

"We've also set up our own counseling centers around the country. We don't get any federal or state money."

Thompson says he is convinced that Agent Orange is primarily responsible for a wide range of

symptoms developed by Vietnam veterans.

“We’re sitting on a time bomb” he says. “I don’t know if we will ever win this case, financially, but on the moral issue we’re going to get an admission of guilt from someone.”

**So far, more than 3,000 Australians have joined thousands of American veterans in a class action suit against some 17 manufactures of Agent Orange in the United States.**

Thompson says he expects another 7,000 Australians to join in on the suit and predicted as many as 40,000 Americans could be involved.

"But in many cases the veterans themselves are their own worst enemy," Thompson says. "Many don't get involved unless they're directly affected, even though some of the symptoms may not show up for years." The Australian government offers free treatment for veterans in the nation's veteran's hospitals, but has not accepted any complaints as directly linked with herbicides in Vietnam.

A pilot study of the effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans was recently started in the Sydney metropolitan area. The government-financed study is being conducted by the Commonwealth Institute of Health based at the University of Sydney and will initially involve 600 veterans, half of whom served in Vietnam.

A spokesman for the institute says the pilot study will help determine the best method for conducting a comprehensive nationwide survey of Vietnam veterans.

But according to critics of the survey, it is too late and will take too long to complete. Bill McMillan, a Brisbane lawyer who is representing the veterans in the class action suit, says the government study is nothing but a number game. McMillan says it is already evident that Vietnam veterans as a group suffer from a number of common symptoms.

"The first results from this study are not expected until at least next March, and I doubt very much if they'll be available even then, McMillan says. In the meantime, veterans will continue to go without compensation for what they believe are Agent Orange-connected disabilities, he says.

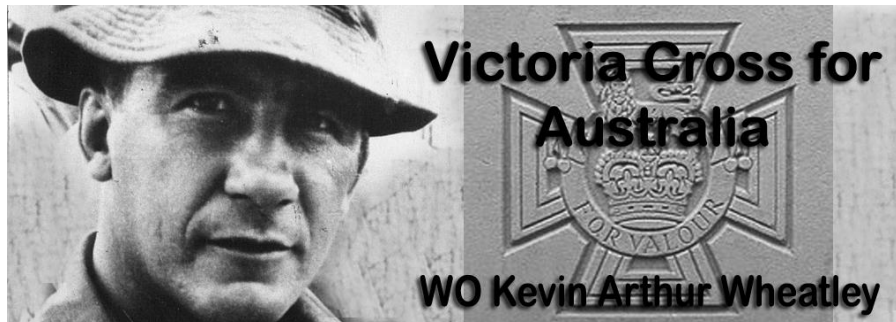
"You know, thalidomide was banned not as a result of lengthy studies but because it became readily apparent that it was causing birth defects," McMillan says. "It didn't take a long painstaking process and we don't believe this should either.

**The lawyer says he is in weekly contact with a consortium of 11 American attorneys representing U.S. veterans. He has already made one trip to the United States to confer with his colleagues.**

McMillan also represents some 200 New Zealand Vietnam veteran. He and the 11 other lawyers involved in the suit are working without a fee. They will receive a percentage of the costs awarded if they win and nothing if they lose.

**THERE ARE MOMENTS THAT TEST US AND CHOICES THAT DEFINE US.**

### Victoria Cross for Australia



*(Pacific Stars & Stripes Sunday, Dec. 25, 1966)*

S&S Vietnam Bureau

**SAIGON — WO Kevin Arthur Wheatley** of the Australian Army Training Team, who was killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam last year, has been awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for valor to British Commonwealth troops.

It is awarded only for extreme bravery, and is one of three British Commonwealth awards which may be bestowed posthumously.



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On Nov. 13 last year, a Vietnamese Irregular Defense group began a search-and-destroy operation in Tra Bong Valley in Quang Ngai Province. Wheatley, with another Australian, WO R.J. Swanton, was with a platoon which ran into heavy Viet Cong resistance.

Swanton was hit in the chest, and after Wheatley radioed for assistance, the platoon withdrew under fire.

Although told by a medic that Swanton was dying, Wheatley refused to leave him. He discarded his rifle and radio and moved Swanton 200 yards, under heavy machine-gun and automatic rifle fire, from a rice paddy into the woods.

He was assisted by a Vietnamese soldier, who urged him to leave his dying comrade. Wheatley refused, and was seen to pull the pins from two hand grenades, and calmly await the enemy who were some 30 feet away.

Shortly afterwards, two grenade explosions were heard, followed by bursts of fire. Early next day, Wheatley's body was found lying beside Swanton's. Both men had been shot at close range in the head. Wheatley enlisted in the Australian Army in 1957 and joined the Australian Army Training Team in Vietnam in March last year.

The South Vietnamese government also honored Wheatley with its highest military award, the Gallantry Cross with palm. It also awarded him the Military Merit Medal.



(The Victoria Cross is the highest award for acts of bravery in wartime. It was instituted in 1856 by Queen Victoria and made retrospective to 1854 to cover the period of the Crimean War. It is possible for any serving member of the armed forces to obtain this award. The Victoria Cross is designed in the form of the Maltese Cross: in the centre of the medal is a lion guardant standing upon the Royal Crown. The words “For valour” are inscribed below. The Victoria Cross is suspended from a crimson ribbon. On the reverse of the cross, the date of the act of bravery is inscribed, along with the name, rank, and unit of the recipient.)

(This story is not Phan Rang related, but it really moved me when I read it, For two reasons, the bravery and courage displayed towards another human being and secondly to note that the Australians served in the Vietnam War in the same capacity as the Americans and as reported in a previous article 474 men died in action and another 2,348 were wounded. It is important to know this because many Americans, including military personnel don't even know that the Australians were our allies.)

**“Fear can keep a man out of danger but courage only can support him in it.”**

*Thomas Fuller*

### **Australia Unions Urge Viet Mutiny**

*(Stubenville Herald -Star (Ohio), December 14, 1969)*

**MELBOURNE** (AP) - Representatives of 32 Australian trade unions today urged the 3,300 Australian conscripts in Vietnam to lay down their arms.

At a special meeting, the unions called on the soldiers to "mutiny against the heinous barbarism perpetrated in our name upon innocent men, women and children in Vietnam." They also appealed to young workers to refuse to register for the draft and urged all workers to participate in a nationwide strike next April 17 to protest Australia's part in the Vietnam War.

**It is fatal to enter a war without the will to win it.**

*Douglas MacArthur*

### **Australian union retracts stand on Viet mutiny**

*(Sunday Morning. December 21.1969, THE DOMINION POST)*

**SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA** - Facing widespread popular condemnation and a threat of possible legal action by the government, a trade union pacifist group has retreated from an earlier stand advocating "mutiny" by Australian troops in Vietnam.

Reacting to reports of the alleged massacre in March. 1988, involving United States forces at

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the South Vietnamese village of Song My. a meeting early in the week of several hundred officials and shop stewards from 32 unions had adopted a resolution calling upon Australian troops in Vietnam "to lay down their arms in mutiny against the heinous barbarism perpetrated in our name against innocent aged men, women and children.

Prime Minister John G. Gorton immediately attacked the resolution as "a stark incitement to mutiny in the armed forces " Attorney General Thomas E. F Hughes ordered an inquiry to determine whether the union action had violated any federal law.

A succession of denunciations followed from government officials, union leaders, heads of veterans organizations and others.

Spokesmen for the governing Liberal Party, seeing a political opportunity in the incident, linked the pacifist union elements and the Labor Party, which had campaigned in elections last October against Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Prominent members of the Labor Party were said to have been present at the union meeting, which adopted the controversial resolution unanimously.

Gorton called upon the head of the Labor Party and leader of the parliamentary opposition. E G Whitlam, to "disassociate himself from the resolution. Whitlam had not attended the meeting but let the challenge pass, telling newsmen that he needed time to study the resolution and Gorton's statement.

However, other Labor men stated that the resolution, adopted in Melbourne last Monday by a group called the Trade Union Anti-Conscription Committee, was unrepresentative of the majority view in unions and the country in general.

"Even those who are opposed to, or have reservations about. Australia's commitment in Vietnam would not support sabotaging Australian servicemen or inciting them to mutiny." said Laurie Short. National Secretary of the Federated Ironworkers Association.

Describing the attacks on the "mutiny" resolution as the result of "distortions and misunderstandings, the Secretary of the Anti-Conscription Committee. F. J. Lack, issued a new statement Friday qualifying the group's position.

"The resolution does not in fact mean that national servicemen should leave their mates in the face of battle as inferred by Prime Minister Gorton, but simply means that they should act on their own conscience if ordered to participate in the heinous crimes being committed in Vietnam." he declared. "We believe," he continued, "that the Nuremberg Trials made it plain that a person must act on his own conscience and that any order to shoot defenseless persons, would be an illegal act."

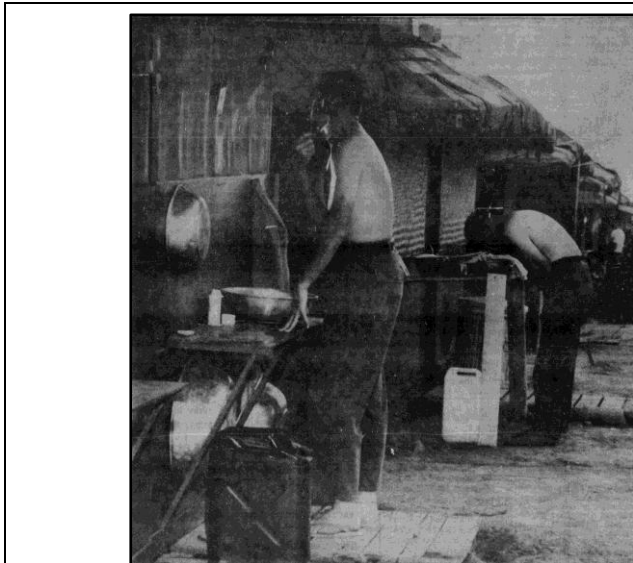
**Australian correspondents in Vietnam have reported that Australian troops reacted indignantly to the "mutiny" resolution.**

**“Great crisis produce great men and great deeds of courage.”**

*John F Kennedy*

### **Men Of 389th Operate From 'Bare' Viet Camp**

*(Alamogordo Daily News, June 19, 1966)*



**BARE NECESSITIES** - Using outdoor facilities at the Phan Rang Air Base, Air Force Maj. James R. Kirkpatrick (left) of San Antonio, Texas, and Lt. Col. Wilbur C. Penisnger of Fairborn, Ohio, prepare for the day's activities. Until permanent buildings are constructed at the base about 65 miles northeast of Saigon, Air Force men live, eat, sleep and work in tents or hastily-constructed wood buildings. (Air Force Photo)

**PHAN RANG**, Viet Nam - Operating from a “bare” base, Air Force F-4C Phantom crews flew strikes from the Phan Rang air base against Viet Cong targets only two days after completion of a new, aluminum runway here.

The base which consists of the new runway, an older runway nearby and temporary buildings

for living and office space is located about 65 miles northeast of Saigon. Although permanent buildings are being built, most men at the base still live, eat, sleep and work in tents or hastily-constructed wood buildings.

Since arriving here May 14, F-4C crews from the 389th Tactical Fighter Squadron—a 366th Tactical Fighter Wing unit— have flown more than 1,000 close air support and other combat sorties against the Viet Cong.

Phantom crews from Phan Rang have been credited with destroying or damaging more than 1,200 buildings, possibly killing more than 115 VC and destroying or damaging about 50 fortifications.

### **AF Men Pit Wits Against Vipers**

(Pacific Stars & Stripes Wednesday, July 12,1967)

**PHAN RANG**, Vietnam (7AF) — "Bring 'em back alive" is the policy of two men who have managed to capture pythons, pit vipers, and other exotic snakes within the perimeter of Phan Rang air base.

The aim of these relentless hunters, 1st Lt. Jack R. Wittman and Airman I.C. William D. Gaither, is to establish a serpent center at Phan Rang which will benefit all personnel on base. Three, pythons, four Malayan pit vipers, a yellow-bellied ribbon snake and two iridescent black earth snakes have been captured. Gaither has built four display cases for the snakes.

Assigned to the 1882nd Comm. Sq. as a systems monitor, Gaither says the two earth snakes, Norma and Lucille, are members of the rarest breed of snakes in captivity.

"They're black, but show a ribbon of colors like a prism," he said, adding that he has never seen one in any reptile collection back in the United States.

Wittman, who is the base fuels officer and is assigned to the 35th Supply Sq., has coined a new phrase for the work he and Gaither are doing—RED (emergency reptilean disposal) team. The aim of the serpent center is to teach base personnel what the snakes look like . . . "so that if

they're bitten, they'll know what they've been bitten by and know what the antidote is," Wittman said.

Armed with snake grapple and a noose, Whittman and Gaither have assisted security police in removing snakes from the bomb dump and sentry towers. "We found two Malayan pit vipers right next to the officers open mess," the lanky officer recalled.

Neither man seems the least bit intimidated by any of the snakes in the budding collection. Both carelessly drape the pythons around their bodies without a worry in the world. The three pythons range from 7 to 11 feet in length, but the snake hunters point out that full-grown pythons are 20 feet long and the captured pythons are too small and weak to crush the men.

**The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars.**

*William C. Westmoreland*

### The ‘Bummers’ Sage Continues



# The “Bummers” Saga



### TRIPS TO THE STRIP

*By Bill (Willy) Wise*

It's been a long hot night on the flight line again. Paul and I head for Lone Tree, a little tin village built for the extraction of đồng from the local GI's stationed at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. It's just after 0800 hours and Paul and I have built a terrible thirst after loading hard bombs and napalm on B-57 Canberras for the last twelve hours. We see the Army 6X6 heading our way so we bum a ride to the gate. Lone Tree is a mile down a dusty dirt road from the gat of the air base. The area has a few bushes and trees but most of the natural landscape has been poisoned out for security reasons around the air base. There are a lot of sandstone boulders and other non-descript terrain.

At the gate the Security Police gave us the go ahead, it's not the first time Paul and I have passed this way. You could say we were frequent visitors to Lone Tree. We walked around the

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security barrier and continued down the dust hot road. We are just entering the “Strip” of 50 rusty tin buildings that contain several ways for GI’s to spend money and escape the realities of war and loneliness of being half way around the world from friends and family. Each tin shack contained different businesses. Tea houses, food places, and last but not least bars. Lots of bars, each one containing Vietnamese beer, hard liquor, and best of all ladies.

As Paul and I got to club 42. Which was our bar of choice, I pulled back the heavy red cloth curtain that was the front door. As we entered our eyes had to adjust we found our way to the third table, as usual, and were joined by Miah and Lee Lee. Tom the bartender had our “33” beer and Saigon Tea for the ladies. The beer was always chilled to perfection. The first drink was a shock to the system after being so hot and thirsty after a night of work. The name of the beer was Ba Muoi Ba, or number ‘33’ in Vietnamese. It was rumored to be half embalming fluid and rice beer. I was embalmed several times. The Saigon tea was a blue mind concoction that the girls drank while they spent time with you.

The Mama San kept a pretty close watch to make sure the girls were making money at all times. Each tea cost 200P, or about 75 cents in American money. We always bought the girls a couple of shots of tea each and turned them loose to drain a few other GI’s pockets while we enjoyed a few more brews apiece. Later we would meet the ladies in their rooms, after paying Mama San the correct sum. We would retire back to the base to shower, eat and take a nap before having to return to the flight line to load the Yellow Birds for another night of bombing.

### **NAMES UNKNOWN**

*(by John M. DeCillo)*

**I saw them every day and night. I see them now.  
They were inside those helmets, behind those crash visors.  
They bore Grim Reaper and Soaring eagle patches on their shoulders.  
I never knew their names.**

**They flew bombers, sleek machines, bellies glugged, with seven hundred and**

**fifty pound messages of death for the enemy.  
Straining wings, loaded with shining cylinders of napalm infernos.**

**Twin jet engined B-57's  
These knights of the air sat calmly in the cockpits as we charged the cannons  
and armed the bombs. We were the ones who shouldered the responsibility.  
Their lives depended on our work. They counted on us.  
I never knew their names.**

**How crushing were the fears that they faced on every mission? They were going  
out to kill, or be killed.**

**When the wheels went up, they knew this flight could take them directly to  
God, or into the hands of the enemy.**

**What did they think of us?  
Did they take pride in our awe and respect of them?  
Did they draw strength from our simple chalkboard messages?  
"God speed"--- "Kill the Cong".**

**A snappy salute, thumbs up, throttles wide open.  
Destiny awaited them. We, were left standing on the ground.  
I never knew their names.**

**We sit in the dark waiting their return. "Spooky" is working over some poor  
bastards in the nearby hills.**

**We can see his flares and tracer streams.  
All ears are strained. We listen for that tell-tale engine whine.**

**Did they all make it back?  
Are there any wounded?  
No crash trucks tonight. We breathe a sigh of relief.  
Touch down, taxi in, ground lights on.**

**Frantic moments,  
that must have seemed like years.  
George "The Weed", Donnie, Kulpie, and the rest, we all took our turns. Just us,  
and the light cart. Search lights that pointed out to the enemy exactly where  
you stood, for miles around.**

**All the pilots could do was sit there helplessly and wait for us to do our jobs.**



**They were home from the fight and yet they were still potential targets.  
The speed with which we dispatched the disarming, kept us from seeing their  
faces or noticing their fear or fatigue.**

**What were they feeling?  
Were they grieving the loss of comrades?  
Were they sharing the thrill of a victory?  
Were they elated at just making it back alive?  
I never got to share those feelings.  
I never knew their names.**

**Those troubled times are long since past,  
Yet in my memory, they will always remain.**

**Those brave men  
Who fought the fight will forever abide in my minds own “Twilight Zone”.  
Some lived, some died, some, may even yet be prisoners.  
I felt ten feet tall when I helped send them on their way.  
I had no thoughts that some of them might never return.  
I know some of their names now.  
I’ve seen them,  
Etched into a black granite wall.**

**Dedicated to: The Air Crews of the  
8th and 13th Tactical Bombardment Squadrons, U.S.A.F.  
Vietnam  
John M. DeCillo**

**(Note:** This poem by John M. DeCillo originally appeared in Phan Rang News 2, but at the time it was not attributed to the “Bummers”, so because I think it’s a very significant piece I thought it would be worth including it again because John was a Bummer.)

**Serving Our Country**

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**Robert Mateer Promoted In Army** Robert F. Mateer III, whose parents live at 209 Lafayette St., New Bethlehem, was promoted to Army captain June 19 in Vietnam, where he is serving with the Phan Rang Logistical Support Activity. (*THE DERRICK - Oil City-Franklin-Clarion. Pa. Wednesday, July 17, 1968*)



**2019-Phan Rang Reunion**  
**11-13 October 2019**  
**Savannah, GA.**

Here is all that you need to know about the 2019-Phan Rang AB Reunion.

<b>Dates:</b>	<b>11-13 Oct 2019</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Embassy Suites Savannah Airport, 145 W. Mulberry Blvd, Savannah, Georgia 31407 912-330-8222
<b>Hotel Costs</b>	see note below
<a href="#"><u>Reservation Web Site</u></a>	Click on the link to the left to make your reservations
<b>Costs*:</b>	
<b>Reunion Fee:</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Banquet (12 Oct):</b>	<b>\$55.41</b>
<b>CityTour-Dinner Cruise (11 Oct):</b> (See schedule below)	<b>\$77**</b>

All costs are per person.

**\*\*To obtain this cost we subsidized the event with \$5,000 of our organizational funds that you made possible through participation in various fund raising events and the generosity of**

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**so many members.**

**Hotel Costs**

October 6-13 (Sunday & Monday \$139.00)(Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday \$154.00) (Friday & Saturday \$159.00)

October 13-20 (Sunday & Monday \$139.00)(Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday \$154.00) (Friday & Saturday \$159.00)

Rates with taxes:

\$139.00 = \$162.07

\$149.00 = \$173.37

\$154.00 = \$179.02

\$159.00 = \$184.67

\$169.00 = \$195.97

All rooms are two room suites. Room rates include a fabulous breakfast with cooked to order eggs and omelets, fruit, pastries and many choices of meats. Also included is an evening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with light Hors d'oeuvres and bar drinks of your choice including all liquors, beer, wine and soda. Courtesy van for transportation to and from the airport, is available, and for nearby shopping and dining depending upon availability of the van. Old Savannah Tours will also pick up at the hotel with an advance notice. Old Savannah Tours offers a 90 minute Historic Tour and also all day hop on/off tours.

Please make your hotel reservations as soon as you think you might be able to attend. If an individual needs to cancel their own personal reservation, they need to do so **48 hours prior to arrival to avoid a cancellation or no show charge.** We have also contracted with the next-door Homewood Suites by Hilton Savannah Airport for additional rooms if we should need them. The rates are slightly less because they do not have all of the amenities as the Embassy Suites Hotel. More information on that hotel when they come available. As of this writing, the Homewood Suites is still under construction.

**\*\*OLD SAVANNAH TOUR-DINNER CRUISE SCHEDULE**

3:00pm-Arrive at Embassy Suites and begin boarding guests

**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN**

...keeping the memories alive

Phan Rang AB News No. 167 **“Stories worth telling”**

3:30pm-Depart for the River Street bus stop under the Hyatt

4:00pm-Arrive on River Street Hyatt bus stop and unload passengers

**\*Discover old Savannah and be ready to board the riverboat by 6:00 PM\***

9:15pm-Riverboat arrives back at the River Street under Hyatt and begin boarding guests and depart back to the Embassy Suites

10:00pm-Arrive back at the Embassy Suites and unload guests

**River Queen Buffet:** Beef Carving Station Fresh Catch of the Day Savannah Style Shrimp & Grits Baked Chicken with Artichoke Cream Sauce Fresh Seasonal Fruit Display Garden Salad with Dressings and Toppings Roasted Fingerling Potatoes Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Squash Casserole Iced Tea, Lemonade, Soft Drinks and Coffee. Additional information: The USAF Flag will be flown on the Riverboat and a missing man table will be set in the dining room.

**HERE ARE THE COSTS**

	Single	Double
Reunion Fee, Banquet and Tour	\$152.41	\$304.82
Reunion Fee and Banquet only	\$75.41	\$150.82

**PLEASE SEND CHECK TO:**



Informaiton for groups (1).pdf

**Jack Anderson**

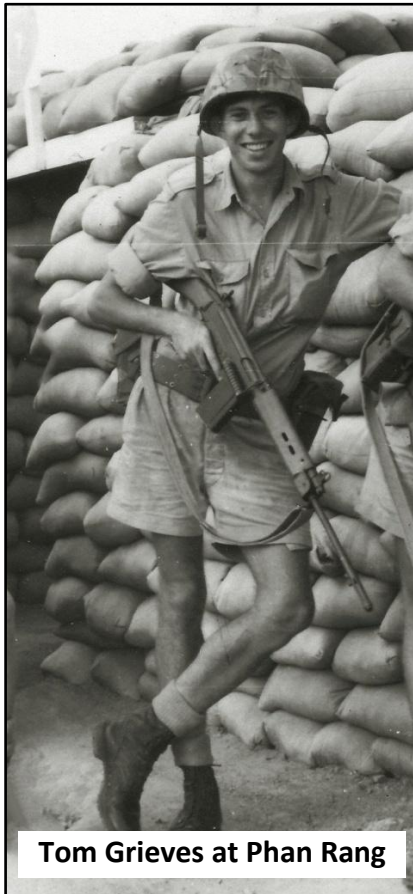
**826 72<sup>nd</sup> St. SE**

**Auburn, WA 98092**

**BilletEase**

Several years ago, I solicited for funds to help ease the burden for a member or members that might need some assistance to attend the reunion. That effort yielded over \$800 and since then we have been unable to come up with a logical way to determine who might be in need of assistance and I even thought of purchasing coupons for free nights and use them as door prizes, but that didn't work out either. We have decided to transfer the funds to General Funds, so if any donor wishes to have their money back, we will be happy to return it. **Please notify [me](#) by March 1, 2019 if you would like your contribution returned to you.**

## Letters



**Tom Grieves at Phan Rang**

Mea Culpa and I have to accept total responsibility, but I think it’s worked out very well. On 31 January 2016 I received an email from Tom Grieves who was with the No. 2 Squadron (RAAF) asking questions about the 2016 reunion and our Phan Rang group. For reason known only to my wife, I let that message slip for three years until 15 January 2019 when I found it and wrote to Tom in part “I can’t believe it, but it looks like I’ve never responded to your email and I am so sorry.” “So much has happened since you wrote and I would love to get you caught up on what is going on with the Phan Rang community including a planned reunion in Australia on ANZAC day... I’m going to wait until I hear from you again to make sure you even have the same address and you even get this message.” “Anxiously awaiting a response from you.” The very next day I get a message from Tom and he so graciously writes “Delighted to hear from you” and assuring me he is still “vertical” and closed with “I look forward to hearing more from you.” Boy, I really felt

like a clod to receive such an understanding message after I “stood him up” for three years.

That was the start of a wonderful relationship. Tom, was at a friend’s house and told them that he just received an answer to an email after three years from this ‘bloke’ in America and his friend suggested that he wait another three years to respond, **but I’m glad that he didn’t.**

I hope that you enjoyed this newsletter and if you have any comments, please let me know. This newsletter was composed by Douglas Severt. To see a list of all previous newsletters click [here](#). To unsubscribe to Phan Rang News, reply to mailto: dougsevert@cox.net and put ‘unsubscribe’ in subject line.