

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

In this issue:

35th TFW Maintenance Best in AF: Wins 1967 Daedalian Trophy

Monroe Man Gets Air Medal

More Jets Arrive In South Viet

Viet Activities of Kern Resident Told

My Friend “Kuppy” by Arthur Fry

Mixup by Military Has Happy Ending

The “Bummer Saga” Continues

- Friendly Fire - Jack Anderson
- The Bomb Dump - Jack English
- The Guitar Man - G. Weeden, H. Grudzien, L. Theurer & H. Taylor

Obituaries

- Holtz, LeRoy
- Bell, Robert
- DeLone Jr., Ernest
- Creech, William
- Bunyan Jr., George
- Neyman, Thomas
- Khang Duy Phan

Serving our Country

Doug’s Comments



35th TFW Maintenance Best in AF: Wins 1967 Daedalian Trophy

(Phan Fare, The Phan Rang Weekly, March 27, 1968)

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

The 35th Tactical Fighter Wing’s Maintenance complex is the best in the United States Air Force, and the winner of the 1967 ‘**Order of Daedalian Cup**’, the highest award presented to Air Force units in the Maintenance field.

In a telegram sent to 7th Air Force Headquarters, from Gen. John D. Ryan, Commander, PACAF, to Gen. William W. Momyer, commander 7th Air Force (FACAF), stated, “Pleased to inform that Gen. John P. McConnell, Air Force Chief of Staff, has selected the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phan Rang AB, RVN, winner of the 1967 USAF ‘Daedalian Trophy’.

“My personal congratulations go to you and all personnel of 35th Tactical Fighter Wing whose dedication and accomplishments contributed to winning this award.”

Upon the official notification of the 35th TFW’s Maintenance complex winning the Order of Daedalian Cup, Col. Herndon F. Williams, wing commander, commended, “I’m proud to be a member of the wing recognized Air Force wide by award of the 1967 Daedalian Maintenance Trophy, for its superior performance.

This performance results from much more than effort alone; it stems from a positive attitude toward the task and a tenacious determination to accept nothing less than the very best of which we are capable.

“Many who have left the wing contributed significantly toward this accomplishment, and their part is not forgotten. Those who remain here and those who will come in the future have a tradition of excellence to perpetuate.

Gen. William W. Momyer, while at Phan Rang AB Tuesday, March 26, presenting the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing the PACAF Maintenance Trophy for being the best in this command he said, “I’m proud to have the opportunity of presenting this maintenance award. Not only is this unit the best in 7th Air Force, but in PACAF, and the best in the Air Force.

“It will be awarded the Daedalian Trophy, which is in recognition of a really outstanding performance in the field of maintenance.

“I know that many of the people who were responsible for this fine achievement are gone, but

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

there are many of you, I’m sure, who were a part of this record.

“I’ve always believed that good maintenance means a good organization, and if you have a good organization you do well in combat.

“The only reason we are here is to do well in combat to beat the enemy.

“So all of these are linked together. It takes a team to put a fighting organization in the field and it takes that team spirit to win...the 35th Wing has demonstrated all these qualities.”

During the period the record was being established, Col. Michael J. Pashkevich was the deputy commander of Materiel and Lt. Col. Virgil Noriega was the chief of maintenance. Colonel Pashkevich has returned to the United States for reassignment and Colonel Noriega is Special assistant to the deputy commander of Materiel.

At the presentation of the PACAF Maintenance Trophy, Colonel Noriega commended, “well of course I’m proud and pleased to have been a member of the winning team to achieve this fine recognition. **We stand up here and receive the awards, but it’s the men back in the back row that work out here day and night and sometimes both continuously in getting these aircraft in commission and off on their way to the flying of combat sorties, these are the people that really win the chips.**”



Monroe Man Gets Air Medal

(Cambridge Daily Jeffersonian, Cambridge, Ohio, October 7, 1969)



RECEIVES MEDAL - U.S. Air Force Major David S. Litten (right), son of Mrs. Martha Litten, Clarington, receives the Air Medal at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam, from Col Leslie J. Campbell Jr. commander of the 315th Special Operations Wing

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

(U.S. Air Force Photo)

WITH U.S. COMBAT AIR FORCES, Vietnam — U. S. Air Force Major **David S. Litten**, son of Mrs. Martha V. Litten, Clarington, Ohio, has received the Air Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam . Major Litten, a troop carrier pilot, distinguished himself by meritorious service, displaying skill outstanding professional skill and devotion to duty which contributed materially to the successes of the Air Force mission in Southeast Asia. The major, who holds the aeronautical rating of command pilot, is assigned at Phan Rang with the 310th Special Operations Squadron, a unit of the Pacific Air Forces.

A 1947 graduate of Clarington High School, he received his B.S. degree in physics from Ohio University and was commissioned there in 1952 through the Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

Major Litten’s wife, Anita, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Yacobozzi, 2819 Sherwood Drive, Lorain, Ohio.



More Jets Arrive In South Viet

(Brownsville Herald, Brownsville, Texas, March 15, 1966)

PHAN RANG, South Viet Nam (UPI) Seventeen U.S. Air Force Phantom jets landed Monday 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

"Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 "...keeping the memories alive"

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.

(Note: The distance between Saigon and Phan Rang is different in every newspaper article. Just the two stories that are carried in this newsletter, one reports the distance was 65 miles and the other 180 miles. Saigon is always used as a point of reference because most Americans probably had some idea where it was located. I think the authors must have just made up a number knowing that their readers wouldn't know the difference anyway. This of course is just my opinion.)



Viet Activities of Kern Resident Told

(Bakersfield Californian, Bakersfield, California, October 31, 1967)

Kern men of duty with the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam are reported by the Air Force Home Town News Center at Tinker AFB, Okla.

Ten minutes after Staff Sgt. **Vincent L. Davis** of Bakersfield, took off in the midst of enemy-held territory, his critically wounded Vietnamese patient arrived at Phan Rang City Hospital for treatment.

Davis, son of Mrs. May K. Davis of 2606 San Emidio Street, was an aeromedical technician on an H-43 Huskie helicopter crew that recently rescued a Vietnamese soldier who had been shot in the back twice by the Viet Cong 10 miles south of Phan Rang.

When his helicopter was unable to land in the immediate area because of the terrain, the sergeant volunteered to climb down a cable to reach the injured man. Then, with assistance of Vietnamese troops, Davis carried the victim to a clearing where the chopper had landed.

Davis is assigned at Phan Rang as a member of the highly-specialized and global Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service that has logged more than 1,000 combat "saves" in Vietnam since December 1964.

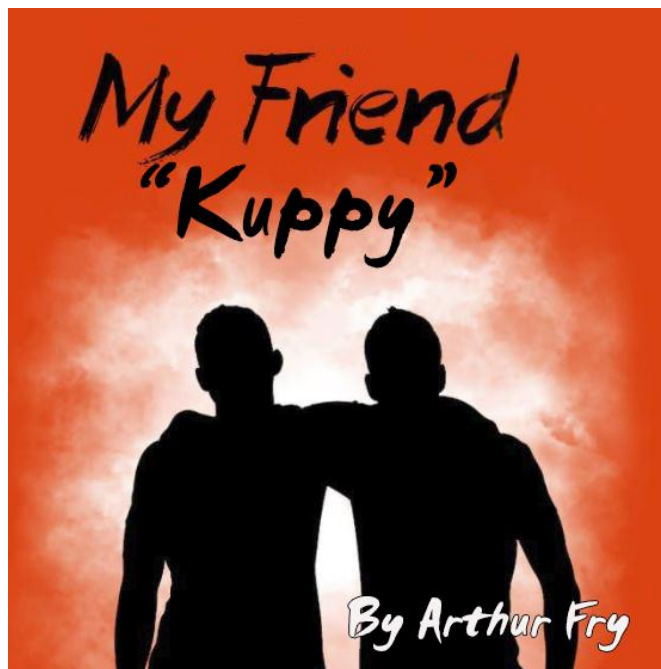
“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

The sergeant, a 1951 graduate of Bakersfield High School, has 15 years Air Force service.

My Friend “Kuppy”



I joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in August 1960 as a Radio Mechanic Trainee. I battled on as a tradesman for four years but when it was apparent that I had ‘two thumbs’ on both hands, I was quietly removed from the radio workshop and put out on the tarmac to direct taxiing aircraft.

Having a flair for foreign languages at High School, when applications were called for language aptitude testing, I was encouraged to apply. After all, I had kept smatterings of my schoolboy French and

Latin since my school days, so Asian languages should be a breeze, I thought. Not so!

I was fortunate enough to gain a place on the next Vietnamese language course in 1965, and grasped the language very quickly, a gift that has stayed with me for almost fifty-five years. After graduation from the RAAF School of Languages at Point Cook, Victoria, I was chosen to teach the Vietnamese language to colloquial courses in a short course that prepared Australian Defence Force personnel for front line contact with Vietnamese civilians and troops when on patrols.

While at the School of Languages, in January 1967, I was posted to an unknown destination in Vietnam following the announcement by our Prime Minister, Harold Holt, that Australia was going to commit a squadron of Canberra bombers to assist our American allies in the war effort in Vietnam. He did not announce where the bombers were to be based.

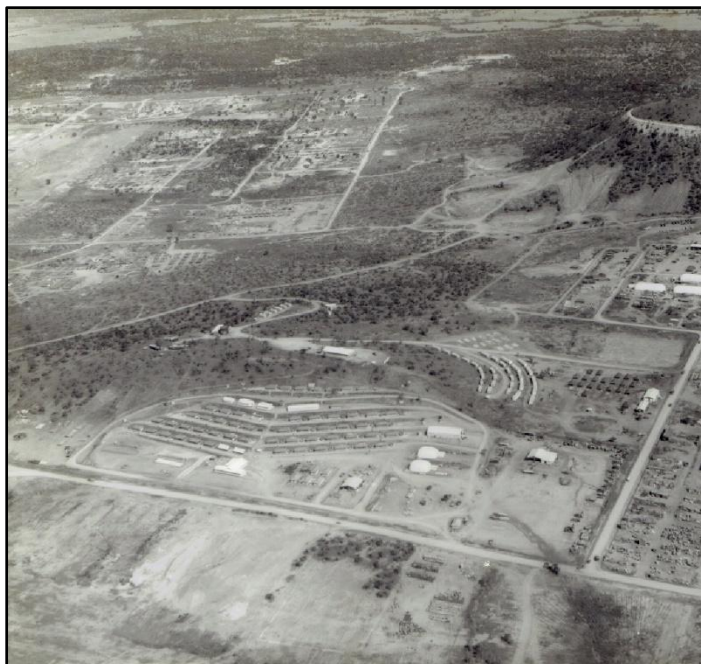
It wasn't until eight of us, the advance party of No. 5 Airfield Construction Squadron, (the ‘Flying Shovels’,) ‘Detachment ‘B’, took off from Tan Son Nhut in an RAAF Caribou that the announcement was made that we were heading towards Phan Rang. “Where the heck is Phan

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

Rang”, we all chorused.



Phan Rang Air Base in January 1967

On arrival at Phan Rang Air Base, we learned we were to be seconded to the United States Air Force’s, 554 Civil Engineering Squadron, the famous ‘Red Horse’, to prepare for the rest of the Detachment to arrive from Malaysia and Australia to set up the hangars, living quarters and Messes for No. 2 Squadron which was due to fly in from Butterworth in Malaysia on the 19th April 1967.

As the Vietnamese language interpreter, and only non-Vietnamese interpreter for miles, might I respectfully add, my Commanding Officer voluntarily ‘shared my linguistic services’ with not only the Red Horse, but every other USAF and US Army unit that needed the confidentiality of a non-local interpreter.

I found myself working in the Red Horse compound, assisting Red Horse staff to prepare the locally engaged employees’ pays and to also carry out day-to-day interpreting duties. In exchange, the Red Horse handed over their locally engaged tradesmen, (who were no longer needed and about to be made redundant,) to form the basis of the local civilian work force that was to build the No. 2 squadron hangars, living quarters and messes – in less than three months!

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**



The Australians moved from the ‘hootches’ into the USAF lines, identifying our presence with the ‘Red Kangaroo’.

We eight Australians were allocated one man to an eight -man ‘hooch’ (a word unknown to Australians but we gathered it meant ‘large tent’.) We bought our own meals with our allowances, so we chose where we wanted to take our meals, either at the USAF’s NCO Club, the ‘Viper Club’, or at the US Army’s helicopter squadron on the other side of the airfield which ran an open mess with delightful cuisine, well under the circumstances, it was comparatively delightful!

We made friends with many of the Red Horse Senior NCO’s. One Technical Sergeant was an older man, Stan Koropsak, or ‘Kuppy’ to everyone. ‘Kuppy’ was a great ambassador for his country and took a huge liking to his newfound Australian buddies.

When the 2 Squadron site was completed, and 5 ACS Det. ‘B’ members moved in from our USAF digs to greet the 2 Squadron new arrivals from Butterworth, Kuppy became a regular at the 2 Squadron Sergeant’s Mess and continued the friendship until his repatriation back to the States.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**



The Red Horse Top Sergeant (left) with the RAAF interpreter (right) instructing local civilian employees at the RAAF Quarters, under construction.

On Kuppy's last visit to the RAAF Sergeants' Mess, he invited all his Australian mates to come to the airport the following night to see him off. "You'll be in for a surprise", Kuppy warned us. The next night, many RAAF Senior NCO's arrived at the Phan Rang airport to see our Technical Sergeant friend depart the bounds of the Phan Rang Air Base that had been Kuppy's home for the past twelve months.

His 'surprise' sure set us back on our heels. There was Kuppy, dressed in his best regalia, read, 'Dress Uniform' and instead of a Tech. Sergeant, there he stood as a Lieutenant Colonel, with the most rows of ribbons I have ever seen.

His short explanation was that he had served in World War Two and in Korea, and he wanted to add Vietnam to his list of achievements, but as there were no openings for a retired Lt. Colonel bombardier in today's bombers, so he accepted the USAF's offer to temporarily revert to an enlisted rank, (E6), to complete his service in three wars during his lengthy military service.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

Quite an achievement!

I have never heard of any officer in the Australian Defence Force being able to revert to an enlisted rank under those circumstances.

I kept up correspondence with Kuppy in his hometown of Topeka, Kansas, and then in Wichita where he moved to the Boeing factory for post military retirement employment. I lost contact with Kuppy, and then learned that he had passed away in his late eighties and was buried in the War Cemetery as a retired Lieutenant Colonel at Topeka in Kansas.

But in the intervening years, I found out a lot more about our good mate, ‘Kuppy’, thanks to the internet. During World War Two, ‘Kuppy’ was a 1st Lieutenant bombardier in a B-29 Superfortress over Germany, which had taken several hits from German fighters. ‘Kuppy’ had removed the deceased co-pilot from his seat and took over his position. The pilot had also been shot in the wrist and talked Kuppy into flying the B-29 bomber back to England. In February 1944, Kuppy had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic action in that sortie.

Back in uniform during the Korean War, Kuppy was again in a B-29 Superfortress, flying out of Japan. On the night of 13th October 1951, flying over Sunan in B-29 ‘Miss Spokane’, his aircraft was strafed by enemy fire from a Chinese MIG in ‘MIG Alley’. Several of that crew were wounded, but ‘Miss Spokane’ was able to return to its home base in Japan. The Lord had shone on ‘Kuppy’ yet again.

I guess that after his previous war experiences, flying a desk in Red Horse was tame for Kuppy. He was a great guy, and as we later found out, he held a secret from us while he whiled away the social hours in the Australian Sergeant’s Mess bar in Phan Rang. He was an officer, a Senior NCO and a gentleman all rolled into one.

Arthur Fry

First Vietnamese Language Interpreter into Phan Rang.

Currently, Honorary Chaplain

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia – Sunshine Coast Branch

"Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 "...keeping the memories alive"

Here's some very interesting information about the author, his career and his life. Arthur served with No. 5 Airfield Construction Squadron, Detachment 8, then with No. 2 Squadron in Phan Rang from January 1967 to January 1968.

After his first tour of Vietnam, he returned in 1971 to serve at Vung Tau. He continued to serve in the RAAF for just on twenty-six years, when he left the military to enter the church.

Arthur retired from his pastorate of a Congregational Church after sixteen years, and now holds honorary positions including that of Chaplain to Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Sunshine Coast Branch, (VVAASC).

Prior to moving to the Sunshine Coast, he served as Chaplain to No. 2 Squadron (RAAF) Association for eight years.

He has a continuing connection with the United States because his son who served in the Australian Army enjoyed a tour of duty at the United States Navy Post Graduate School in Monterey, California where he met his wife. They had two beautiful daughters in Massachusetts and Joy is a wonderful mother as she was a wife. Unfortunately, they lost their son last year and he is buried in Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts. His son became an American citizen in 2005. Arthur and his wife hope to travel back to the U.S. to see them in 2020.



Mixup by Military Has Happy Ending

(Emporia Gazette, Emporia, Kansas, March 14, 1967)

SAIGON (AP) - A military chaplain told his parents he was dead. Then his wife talked to him on the telephone. But a telegram came from the Pentagon confirming his death.

Today a U.S. Navy spokesman in Saigon said the wife was right and the Pentagon was wrong — Radioman 3.C. Charles S. Wall, 27, of West Monroe, La., was not killed in the crash of a Navy transport plane north of Saigon Friday.

The spokesman said the sailor had been scheduled to fly on the plane and his name was carried

"Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **"...keeping the memories alive"**

on the manifest. But he did not make the flight.

The spokesman said he had no more details but thought Wall was now with a Navy unit Cam Ranh Bay, a U.S. air and sea base about 180 miles northeast of Saigon.

Officials in Saigon said they understood the Pentagon had sent another telegram to Wall's family expressing their regrets for the mix-up.

The young man's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley A. Wall of West Monroe, began a sad vigil Sunday when, returning home from church, they were met by a military chaplain who told them Charles had died in the plane crash.

They wept.

Their telephone rang Monday. It was their daughter-in-law, calling from Chelsea, Mass.

"I just talked to Charles!" she shouted into the phone. "Charles missed the plane! He's still alive. They put him back on a destroyer."

The parents were overjoyed. Then came the telegram — the Defense Department making official the report that their son had died in the crash.

But who made the phone call to Charles' wife?

"It must have been a prankster," said Mrs. Wall. "We were looking so hard for something to hold. She might have been fooled over the phone. I hope not, though, I hope not. How could anyone do something like that: "How could they notify us he was dead if he wasn't?"

Today the Navy spokesman in Saigon confirmed that it had been no prankster and the Defense Department had been mistaken.

The plane that Charles missed, a two-engine C47 Navy transport, crashed near Phan Rang Friday afternoon and all aboard were killed. At least 25 persons and possibly 30 were reported to have died in the crash.

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

Note: This story “Bad Mixup Over Sailor Leaves Family Shaken” from another publication was previously reported in Phan Rang News [131](#). The aircraft was a VC-47J, tail number 99844 that crashed March 10, 1967, 5 miles north of Phan Rang AB due to a wing failure and all of the casualties from that event are listed in Phan Rang News [155](#).



The “Bummers” Saga



FRIENDLY FIRE

By Jack Anderson

(Note: This is another person’s perspective of events that occurred 26 September 1968 which was first introduced to this newsletter by Howard Taylor in Phan Rang News [179](#) titled “Unseen Scars”. If you haven’t read Howard’s account of the events on that tragic night, you should before continuing on.)

“Hey Andy!” The shout stirred me from some quiet time thought. Number 248 wasn’t scheduled to land for another hour, 0015 hours which equates to 12:15 in the morning. It wasn’t even midnight yet. Jim Hemphill’s bird was scheduled to make the last turn and his was the last flier in, and already parked in his revetment. It had come back an hour ago and wasn’t scheduled to fly for an hour or two. I had helped recover her. Now I had a little idle time before my bird landed. Quiet time...precious quiet time. What were they bugging me about now?

“Jim’s plane just went GNORS for an engine write-up. You’ll have to turn yours to make that mission. “Captain Wright was leaning out the Flight Line Van yelling to me. AH Shit! Jim’s bird an 0100 turn. That would give me 45 minutes to turn mine. “What the Heck! You kidding me? I better get some help! I screamed at Captain Wright as he pulled away. I wasn’t really screaming at him, I was screaming at the sky with clenched fists pointed down, screaming at the condition I found myself in night after night, just a release, that’s all it really was. It was

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

wasted breath. I knew help was on the way. Sgt. Waggoner and Capt. Wright would see to that. I just needed to vent.

After recovering my bird and backing her into Dog 3, the Ammo troops were the first to arrive. The previous pilot had problems with the guns and they were there to fix them. Then the fuel truck pulled up. I was fueling her as a Communications Van pulled up. They had another write-up that had to be cleared for the next flight. Because of the fuel truck being in the way, the van had to go around him and park on the right side of 248. A young troop jumped out of the van heading for the comm. hatch. Just then I heard a loud BANG, perhaps multiple bangs or so I've heard from other who were there. The noise was followed by a lot of commotion. From the top of the fuselage I looked down at the scene below. I couldn't quite see what was happening. I was on the wing opposite the commotion. The fuselage also blocked part of my view. The noise I heard was the cannon mounted in the wing firing an armor piercing 20mm shell. It hit the Comm. Troop in the shoulder, just below the neck. I stood on the wing in shock. I couldn't see clearly what was going on, but I could tell it was bad. I stood frozen on the opposite wing from the incident.

Let me back up. It happened during one of those quick turnarounds. The manual says nothing else can go on when the plane is being refueled and the same with loading the oxygen. Loading bombs...same. It takes about forty-five minutes to do a complete post-flight inspection. By the book, nothing is supposed to happen until it's complete. That night I only had time to ask the previous pilot if she was in good enough shape to turn. We only had forty-five minutes to turn her; not enough time to go to debriefing with the first pilot and get back. “Yep, chief, she's a go,” was the response, tossed over his shoulder while climbing onto the flight line van, taking him to debriefing as a flight line assistant (part of the help I had screamed for a few minutes earlier) climbed in with him.

A fuel truck had pulled up in front of my plane, and I started pumping fuel into the tanks while another guy loaded oxygen into its tank, both were dangerous activities, not supposed to happen concurrently...by the book anyway. A third guy swapped out the starter cartridges. At the same time, other guys loaded bombs into the bomb bay and hung napalm under the wings. An Armament guy entered the cockpit because of the gun problem and the ammo specialist was looking for the cause. There also had been static in the radio, so a Communications GI was called in to check it out. He pulled up in front of the plane and jumped out of his van. At that

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

instant, the ammo troop pulled the trigger to dry-check the gun. It shouldn't have gone off because he had disconnected the cannon wire first. This time, however, condensation caused the disconnect wire to connect. An empty gun had a 20mm shell left in the chamber. What should have been a dry check turned into tragedy. The gun fired, and the comm. troop was hit and killed almost instantly. The impact forced his body back almost into the van. First aid wasn't a consideration. The flight line fire department and AP's showed up within minutes and cordoned off the area around the plane and comm. van. Another comm. guy who had been with the dead man laid a fatigue shirt over the body. Refueling had moved me near the rear of the fuselage to the Number 2 fuel tank, where I couldn't see what was going on. I could only hear the report from the 20mm shell and confusion and screaming for help from those nearby. Against my nature, I just stood back and let the other comm. troop take charge of the situation. There was nothing for me to do. I was in total shock.

The fire trucks and AP's showed up in minutes. They were suddenly in charge and started directing those around them. At some officer's directions, the AP's took the devastated ammo troop to the brig for failing to follow military procedure. At least that's what I thought at the time. Truthfully, it was the ammo sergeant in charge who was on the opposite wing from me. He was the one they took away. He was later busted a pay grade. For why, I can't imagine.

Howard Taylor and I have talked on the phone in the years since. In Nashville, at our seventh reunion, I was hoping to meet him. I wanted to talk to him about the worst day of our lives, a day we had shared together without knowing the other until almost 50 years later. At the end of that night, just as day shift was ready to come in and take over, I went to the back of Dog 3, around the perimeter set up by the AP's and cried. No, I didn't, I bawled my eyes out, trying to shake the awful image out of my head. The following night, I was back in Dog 3, cleaning up. Prior to that, it had been an accident scene, and nobody was allowed in the area. I won't go into detail, but there was blood everywhere, including the tail section of my beloved 248. I didn't want anything left behind as a reminder.

(Note: Jack Anderson is the Treasure of the Phan Rang Reunion Group and he has also contributed to the Phan Rang Newsletter. His contributions include “One Tragic Day in January” News [123](#); “Lackland Bound” News [144](#) and “Sad Day for the 8th” News [145](#). SSgt Anderson also is the author of “**Vietnam Remembrances, Tales of the Flight Line**” and he has a new book out titled “**Vietnam Flight Line**” 50th Anniversary Editions available on [Amazon](#).)

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

THE BOMB DUMP

BY Dan English

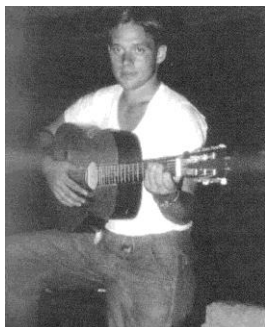
My first TDY to Phan Rang was not in the role of a Bummer; a B-57 bomb and gun loader. I was assigned from May 30, 1967 to June 28, 1967 to the Phan Rang Bomb Dump under 435th MMS. The Bomb Dump was located in a barren area far from the populated areas of Phan Rang Air Base. Here the bombs were prepared to be taken to the flight line on flatbeds to be loaded on the B-57's and F-100;s flying combat missions out of Phan Rang. These missions included close ground support for U.S. troops fighting the VC and NVA regulars out in the field as well as attacks on supply lines coming down the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

It was a little bit of a ride on a 4X4 from the barracks area to the bomb dump. There we would meet in an old rustic shack and get our daily instructions. Often this included uncrating and installing the tail fins on the various munitions housed in the multiple revetment areas that made up the bomb dump. Among the munitions we would prep were napalm, 750 pound anti-personnel bombs as these were already prepped. As previously mentioned, after being prepped the bombs would eventually be loaded on flatbeds and transported to the flightline. The types of bombs transported would be determined by the missions scheduled for that day.

One of the tragedies of the Vietnam War is that there were South Vietnamese civilians who worked with us at the bomb dump as well as assist us in various other areas of the base. These workers painted and cleared up our barracks among other duties. Some lost their lives at the hands of the VC while we were there, and many more were surely punished by the North Vietnamese after our government pulled U.S. forces out of Vietnam.

THE GUITAR MAN

By G. Weeden, H. Grudzien, L. Theurer, H. Taylor



There he sat about midway down the upper squad-bay of the weapons troop's barracks. He was plucking on that old flattop guitar again. It was the same thing night after night. Over and over on one song and then he would start up on another song. Man it has been fifty years and if I get to thinking about it I can still hear him trying to pick out those notes as he tries singing the words to those two songs. Even

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

today you can ask a Bummer what was the names of the two songs that Boone was always trying to pick and play and they can tell you. There were drilled into our foggy minds as we tried to fall asleep. “Come on Boone would you just stop that inferno racket?” someone would call out from a couple of cubes down. A budding artist among us, let’s give him some slack they said.

Finally one night someone lost their patience with “She Walks These Hills in a Long Black Vail” after having to listen to it and “I stopped at a Roadhouse in Texas” twenty times. They screamed out “For heaven’s sakes would you stop that crap, Boone?” Boone jumped up and croaked back “You want me to stop, really?” “Well OK I will” he said as he starts bashing his guitar against the frame of his bunk. Man, he trashed that guitar into a hundred pieces. It really wasn’t long until he had acquired a new one. It is probably a good thing that we didn’t have our weapons and ammo in the barracks.

OBITUARIES



Holtz, LeRoy E., 91, of Villa Park, CA, passed away May 14, 2017 in Garden Grove, CA. LeRoy was born on Aug. 7, 1925 in Omaha He joined the Marines in 1942 and during the war was stationed at El Toro and Guam. After the war, he attended the University of Omaha where he played college baseball. After graduation and a brief stint in financing, he joined the Air Force and became an OSI agent He worked as an agent in Alexandra, LA, Anchorage AK, Del Rio, TX and Clark Air Base, Philippines, before returning to Omaha to teach ROTC at his Alma Mater. He then spent a year in Phan Rang, Vietnam, in charge of base security. He was awarded a Bronze Star for his service during the Tet Offensive. He was then stationed for two years at the Air Force Headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, before retiring from the military His career continued however, as he managed the Wackenhut Operation ,in St Louis, MO and later became an internal auditor for United Brands and John Morrell He ended his working career at Northrup overseeing security for its operations. He was well-liked by all known and for his unique sense of humor and love of puns, and for being a great story-teller. He will be sorely

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

missed. He is survived by his two sons. John Holtz of Laramie WY. and James Holtz of Houston, TX. (Tustin News, Tustin, California, May 26, 2017)

Robert L. Bell, 69, retired colonel U.S. Air Force, and former associate director of operations, Physical Plant Division at the University of Florida, died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2007, at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville, Fla. Born in Lima, Ohio, on July 11, 1938, to Harvey and Winifred Copeland Bell, he grew up in Uniopolis, Ohio, and graduated from Blume High School in Wapak, Ohio, and Ohio University. He entered the U.S. Air Force in 1961 and retired after 27 years. His overseas assignments included Phan Rang, Vietnam; Moron, Spain; Osan, Korea; and Naples, Italy. He was honored to serve as commander, 554th Red Horse Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla., and continued his affiliation with the Horse after retirement. He ended his Air Force career at MacDill Air Force Base as the base civil engineer. He was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star, among others. After his Air Force retirement, Mr. Bell spent 17 years working at the Physical Plant Division of the University of Florida as assistant director, architecture/engineering, and later as associate director of operations. He was a devoted Gator fan. (Panama City News Herald, Panama City, Florida, August 22, 2007)

Master Sgt **Ernest J. DeLone Jr.** Ernest was born May 23, 1937, in New Orleans, La. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 26 years. Ernest passed away after a long illness and he went home on April 30, 2012. Ernest was preceded in death by his mother, Lillie Mae; father, Ernest J. DeLone Sr; two sisters, Lillie and Edna; four brothers, Richard, Alfred, Wilburt and Freddie; and his baby daughter, Havana Loretta Lillie. Ernest was a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School in New Orleans. Ernest joined the Air Force in July 1956. Most of his Air Force years were spent working in life support. He served his country in assignments from Lackland AFB, Texas, Chanute AFB, Ill., Tenn., Shaw AFB, S.C., Nellis AFB, Nevada, Osan AB, Korea, Eglin AFB, Fla., Bitburg AB, Germany, Wheelus AB (Tripoli), El Centro Naval Air Station Calif., Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, Castle AFB, Calif., Howard AB, Panama Canal Zone, and Hurlburt Field, Fla. Ernest completed his Air Force career in 1982 as a master sergeant. Following his Air Force career he worked as a civil servant supervisor of the parachute repair shop on Eglin AFB before retiring in 1999. During his time in the civil service he attended Bay Area Vo-Tech, where he became certified in welding, plumbing, carpentry and masonry. Ernest was well known and remembered for his excellence and professionalism as an upholsterer for nearly 40 years. (Northwest Florida Daily News, Fort Walton Beach, Florida, May 9, 2012)

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

Colonel **William T. “Bill” Creech** - Air Force Hero Dies-Colonel William T. "Bill" Creech died Thursday, March 15, 2012, in El Paso, TX. His passing was the result of a long fight with prostate cancer. He is survived by his loving wife for 65 years, Jody, and his four daughters, Terry Hill of Knoxville, TN, Connie Belcher of Clovis, NM, Sue Watkins of Midland, TX, and Pam Teicher of El Paso, TX.

Col. Creech was a veteran of all three major wars; starting as a 19-year-old P-51 Mustang fighter pilot in the India, Burma Theater during WWII. He was shot down two times in this major scrap. The first time was in the North Burma jungle and the second was a bail-out over the Gobi Desert in North China. He flew F-86 fighters for the defense of Japan during the Korean War.

During the Vietnam war, Col. Creech was assigned as commander of an F-100 Fighter Squadron at Phan Rang. After 302 combat missions, Col. Creech's squadron was declared the “show squadron” of the Wing. After this, he was promoted to Colonel.

His decorations included the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal 15 times and numerous other service awards. Upon return to “stateside”, he was assigned as Commander of Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, NM.

After a total of 31 years of service, he retired from the Air Force to work for a major insurance company. This final career change took the Creech family to El Paso, TX. In his spare time, he organized a chapter of Air Lifeline, which provides free Air Transport to people in need. He flew his personal airplane on innumerable flights. This and other efforts, resulted in Bill being voted into the El Paso Aviation Hall of Fame. Bill's flying was his life. He flew thirteen different Air Force Fighters during his Air Force career and over 2,000 hours in his personal Piper Comanche after his retirement. He was a licensed pilot for over sixty-seven years.

In 1989, Bill was elected President of the International Comanche Society, an organization of over 3,000 Piper Comanche aircraft owners worldwide. He also authored autobiography entitled, "The 3rd Greatest Fighter Pilot".

Col. Bill Creech will be sorely missed by all who knew him, but mostly by his lovely wife Jody, and his devoted daughters Terry, Connie, Sue, and Pam. (Clovis News Journal, Clovis, New

"Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **"...keeping the memories alive"**

Mexico, March 18, 2012)

May 26, 1930 - December 26, 2018

George Bunyan Jones Jr., 88, passed away to be with the Lord on December 26, 2018. He was born on May 26, 1930 to George Bunyan Jones and Elba Self in Kosciusko, Mississippi. George proudly and honorably served his country in the US Army (1947 - 1950) and in the US Air Force (1950 - 1976). He began his military career as an Army musician and played the bass horn with the William Beaumont Army Hospital Band at Ft. Bliss (El Paso), TX. After separating from the Army, he joined the US Air Force and served as a Firefighter at Williams AFB (Chandler), AZ; Chaumont AB, France; and Keesler AFB (Biloxi), MS. In 1957 he transferred to aircraft maintenance and became a crew chief on B-52 bombers at Carswell AFB (Ft. Worth), TX. Additional assignments included positions at Barksdale AFB, LA; Laredo AFB, TX; Mountain Home AFB, ID; and Bergstrom AFB (Austin), TX where he retired in 1976 as a Senior Master Sergeant. George was a Vietnam veteran and was deployed to Ubon Royal Thai AB, Thailand twice, Phan Rang, Vietnam; and Yokota AB, Japan. George valued a higher education and began taking college classes in 1968 at Laredo Junior College. That is where he met the love of his life, Maria, in an English class. They married on November 7, 1969. In 1986 he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from St. Edwards University in Austin, TX, and went on to retire from a second career as the Chief of Security for Motorola in 1995.

Thomas (Tom) Neyman 65, of San Bernardino, CA , died December 29th, 2013 at home with his wife of 40 years Dona by his side. Surviving Tom are his daughter Laura, grandson Christopher, granddaughter Carly, great grandson Caden and sister Annette of San Jose, CA. Tom was a proudly served our country in the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1980. Tom was a USAF Loadmaster on C-141s, C-123's and stationed at several bases including, 8th MAS-McChord AFB, Washington, 310 TAS-Phan Rang AB, RVN, and 15 MAS-445th Airlift Wing (Associate) at Norton AFB, CA. He was an original member of the Golden West Chapter of the Professional Loadmaster Association. After leaving the USAF Tom and Dona started a pet grooming business, Blues House of Grooming. Tom, (The Admiral), was a clamper and a member of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clapus Vitus, The Billy Holcomb 1069 Chapter for 32 years. Telling stories on these trips was one of his favorite past times.

Khang Duy "Tony" Phan - SAVANNAH - "Even the gorgeous royal chariots wear out; and indeed this body too wears out. But the teaching of goodness does not age; and so Goodness makes

"Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 "...keeping the memories alive"

that known to the good ones." While surrounded by his family and friends that he's made so happy over the years, Khang Duy "Tony" Phan moved on into the streams of light on the night of Thursday, September 30th, 2010 at his home in Pooler, Georgia. On Friday, October 13th 1950, Khang Duy Phan was born in Phan Rang, Ninh Thuan, Vietnam to the late Khue Phan and Moi Huynh. Tony, as many of his colleagues and friends called him, lived in Pooler, Georgia with his loving wife and soul mate since 1979, Kathleen Betty Phan. Together, they built a home and raised their only daughter, Mia Lee Phan, of Savannah, Georgia. Khang came to the United States after serving in the South Vietnamese Air Force, and spent time in California and Washington D.C. before moving to Savannah. He enjoyed fishing, vacationing with his family, and eating his sister's food. He was an active member of the Vietnamese community of Savannah, and a member of the Chua Cat-Tuong Buddhist Temple of Garden City. Tony retired from Gulfstream Aerospace after 21 years. As a great father, he was a simple man, always putting others before himself. His gracious presence will be deeply missed by all his family, friends, and community. Other than his wife and daughter, Khang is survived by his sister, Kimty Phan of Tucker, Georgia, and Cuc Phan, of Phan Rang, Ninh Thuan, Vietnam. He will be missed by several nieces and nephews, as well as many extended family. (Savannah Morning News, October 2, 2010,



A retirement ceremony held for Lt. Col. **James W. Kinney**, chaplain at Kessler Air Force Base recently. A native Winston-Salem, he is the son Annie Mae Kinney of Burlington and the late Rev. Paul G. Kinney. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. He did graduate study in counseling at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Tex. Ordained a Lutheran pastor in 1963, he served civilian churches before being commissioned an Air Force chaplain in 1968. He served Phan Rang AB, Republic of Vietnam, with other overseas tours in Italy, Australia and Turkey, and temporary duty in Saudi Arabia, and became senior chaplain at Moody Air Force Base in Ga. in 1985. Awards include the Bronze and Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with five Oak Leaf

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters. He is the husband Lois Marie Bouknight of Rock Hill, S.C. and they have two children. (Burlington Times News, Burlington, North Carolina, February 28, 1996.)

PROMOTED IN VIETNAM PAW PAW — **Thomas H. Terrell**, son of Mrs. Clarabelle Terrell, route 3, Paw Paw, recently was promoted to Army specialist four near Phan Rang, Vietnam, where he is serving with the 583rd Engineer Battalion. Terrell, a truck driver in the battalion's 513th Engineer Company, entered the Army in July. His father, Harland Terrell Jr., lives in Buckley, Mich. (Benton Harbor News Palladium, Benton Harbor, Michigan, August 27, 1970)

COL . NELSON IS DECORATED With U.S. Combat Air Forces, Vietnam U.S. Air force Colonel **Aden S. Nelson** of McAllen, Tex., has been decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Colonel Nelson distinguished himself by his outstanding duty performance while assigned to the Global Plans and Policy Division. Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Headquarters, USAF. He is now at Phan Rang where he serves as deputy commander for operations for the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific area. The colonel, a veteran of World War II, was commissioned in 1944 through the aviation cadet program and holds the aeronautic al rating of command pilot. He has also served in the Republic of Korea. A 1941 graduate of McAllen High School, he attended the University of Texas. He is a graduate of the Air Force Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College, both located at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Colonel Nelson's wife, Margie, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T.E. Matlock of 1211 Willow S t., Austin , Texas. The colonel is the brother of Mrs. L. C. Brown, P. L. Nelson Jr., and Harry E. Nelson, all of McAllen. He also has two sisters, Mrs. Melvin King and Mrs. G.T. Sandidge of Bandera, Texas and a sister, Mrs. Leon Ray, who resides in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. (Bandera Bulletin, Bandera, Texas, October 16, 1970)

The son of a former Watersmeet area couple has been awarded the Air Medal at Phan Rang Air Base, South Vietnam for aerial achievement under extremely hazardous conditions. First Lt. **Daniel E. Kuebler**, son of Mrs. Lee J. Kuebler, Waynesville, Ohio, and the late Mr. Kuebler is stationed with the U.S. Air Force at Phan Rang. The Kueblers formerly owned the North Shore Resort of the Cisco Chain, Watersmeet, for 20 years. Lt. Kuebler, who attended Miami Jackson High School, Miami, and Sycamore (Ill.) High School, received his B. S. degree in electrical engineering in 1968 from the University of Illinois, where he was

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training program. He is a member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. (Ironwood Daily Globe, Ironwood, Michigan, March 20, 1971.)



NCO Academy honors SAFB Sergeant - SSgt. **Michael W. Reynolds** is an instructor in the cable splicing course of the Department of Communications and Missiles, 3750th Technical School. A veteran of Vietnam, Sergeant Reynolds came to Sheppard AFB from Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam, in June 1969. He is assigned to the 3760th Instructor Squadron. From Holdenville, Okla.. Sergeant Reynolds attended McKinney High School in McKinney, Tex. He has been in the Air Force for eight years. (Wichita Falls Sheppard Senator, [Sergeant Reynolds](#) Wichita Falls, Texas, January 7, 1971.)

U.S. Air Force Maj. **Kenneth J. Van Hulla** of Niagara has helped his unit, the First Weather Wing, win the professional results in daily efforts award. His unit was cited for outstanding efforts in the program to reduce operational costs and increase unit efficiency and combat readiness. The weather detachment commander who services at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam, married Patricia Hager, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hager, of Rt. 2, Denmark. (Manitowoc Herald Times, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, May 11, 1971)

Air Force Maj. **Lorain F. Hennig**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hennig, Elkader, Ia., has been decorated with his second award of the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement in Vietnam. Hennig distinguished himself as an F 100 fighter bomber pilot from July 1968 to June 1969 at Phan Rang Air Base. The major, a 1945 graduate of Elkader Public High School, is now an instructor pilot with Air Training Command. (Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Dubuque, Iowa, February 22, 1970)

Staff Sgt. **Paul W. Buckley**, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Lincoln Buckley, of 707 Fairview Road, Swarthmore, has received the Air Medal for service with the Air Force in Vietnam. Buckley, whose wife, Paula, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Barr, of 206 Anderson Ave., Media, was decorated for duty as a C-123 Provider cargo troop carrier aircraft loadmaster. He received the medal at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam. (Delaware County Daily Times, Chester, Pennsylvania, October 21, 1971)

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

Sgt. **C. E. Picket**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herschel W. Pickett, Sykesville R.D. 3, is on duty at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam. Sgt. Picket, a construction equipment operator, was assigned to Lackland AF Base, Texas, before his arrival overseas. (Hanover Evening Sun, Hanover, Pennsylvania, January 13, 1968)

PH AN RANG, Vietnam (AHTNC) — Army Specialist Fourth Class **Reginald W. Rogers**, whose wife, Ruth, lives at San Benito Dr., Brownwood, recently returned to his base camp in Phan Rang with his unit, the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, after more than a year of combat in the jungles of Vietnam. Spec. Rogers, a draftsman in the brigade, and the other members of the unit traveled by land, sea and air in the longest convoy thus far in the war. The Journey began Jan. 21 and lasted five days. Land travel covered 400 miles, a great deal of which included roads blocked by the Vet Cong or several years, and proved that the famous Vietnamese Highway 1 is open and safe for civilians to traverse. The land movement covered stretches on the highway that had not been traveled since the French departure over a decade ago. (Brownwood Bulletin, Brownwood, Texas, February 9 , 1967)

PHAN RANG, Vietnam- Army Capt. **Andrew J. Hudson Jr.**, 28, whose parents live at 601 Irvin St., De Leon, recently returned to his base camp in Phan Rang with his unit the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, after more than a year of combat in the jungles of Vietnam. Capt. Hudson, assistant logistics officer of the brigade and the other members of the unit traveled by land, sea and air in the longest convoy thus far in the war. The Journey began Jan. 21 and lasted five days. Land travel covered 400 miles, a great deal of which included roads blocked by the Vet Cong or several years, and proved that the famous Vietnamese Highway 1 is open and safe for civilians to traverse. The land movement covered stretches on the highway that had not been traveled since the French departure over a decade ago. (Brownwood Bulletin, Brownwood, Texas, February 9 , 1967)

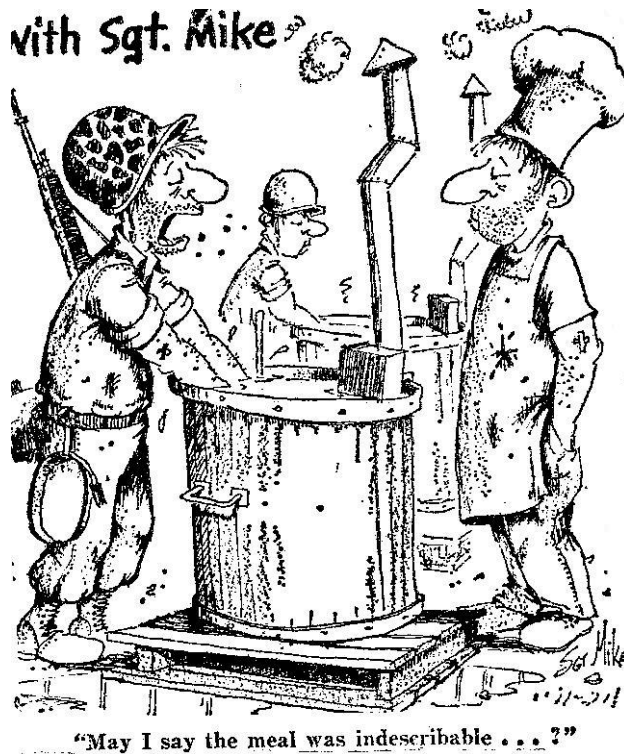
Sgt. **Roy F. Heberline**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy C. Heberlein of Augusta, is on duty at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam. Heberline is a munitions specialist. Before going to Vietnam, he was assigned to Minot Air Force Base. N.D. He attended high school in Augusta. His wife is the former Gertraud Widder of Germany. (Carthage Hancock County Journal, Carthage, Illinois, January 11, 1968)

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 “...keeping the memories alive”

Award Air Force Medal To Hamilton Technical Sergeant **Gary R. Hamilton**, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hamilton, 2171 West 171st street, Hazel Crest, has received his second award of the U. S. Air Force Commendation medal at Loring Air Force base, Maine. Sgt. Hamilton was decorated for his meritorious achievement as a flight engineer while assigned to the 311th Tactical Airlift squadron at Phan Rang Air base, Viet Nam. On July 16, 1971, while participating in a passenger transport mission from Nha Trang Air base to Tan Son Nhut Air base, one of his passengers, a soldier of the Republic of Viet Nam, became unconscious. The sergeant administered first aid and revived him. He continued emergency treatment until after landing and the arrival of medical assistance. He is now at Loring with a unit of the Strategic Air command, America’s nuclear deterrent force of long range bombers and intercontinental ballistic missiles. Hamilton is a 1958 graduate of Rochelle (Ill.) high school. (South Holland Star Tribune, South Holland, Illinois, March 23, 1972)



Doug’s Comments: I hope that you enjoyed this newsletter and if you have any comments or would like to submit a story, just send it to me. I try very hard not to repeat a story that previously ran, but sometimes one slips through, but my goal is to never repeat a story that previously ran unless it is used to enhance a new story. One place where duplicates

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, RVN

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.

Phan Rang AB News No. 181 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

slip through is “Serving our Country”, because I can’t easily search that column between issues. This newsletter was composed and all graphics by **Douglas Severt**. To see a list of all previous newsletters click [here](#). To unsubscribe to Phan Rang News, reply to mailto:<mailto:dougsevert@cox.net> and put ‘**unsubscribe**’ in subject line.

The **8th Annual Phan Rang AB Reunion** is rapidly approaching (11-13 October 2019). This year we honor Savannah or more specifically, Pooler Ga. with our presence. If you are just learning of the reunion for the first time or have not committed, there still is a small window open for you to get in if you act now before the end of August 2019. The reason it is hard or nearly impossible to accommodate someone at the last minute because we have contracts for the banquet, busses and riverboat company that are based on number of people. If you are one of those that still want to go, please contact me at the email address in the previous paragraph so that we can expedite the process.

ANZAC DAY 2020 Reunion is progressing very nicely with information coming out almost daily. If you are just learning of this a group of Phan Rangers (currently about 70 people) who are going to Brisbane, Australia to march with No. 2 Squadron in the ANZAC Day parade. The trip also includes tours, including visiting the cities of Canberra and Sydney and going to New Zealand for an extended trip. There are various options available, so if you might be interested in joining us or want more specific information, please let [me](#) know as soon as possible so that I can add you to the visitors list so that you can join us for the trip of a lifetime...not counting your trip to the Republic of South Vietnam.