Phan Rang AB Newsletter

The History of Phan

Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. "Keeping the memories alive" Newsletter 222



A SNAPSHOT IN TIME - AUGUST 1967

- 23 Aug BASE RECEIVES HUGE GOLD TROPHY FOR BEST MISSION SUPPORT IN 7TH AF
- 23 Aug 'LUCKY DEVILS' DONATE \$1,500 TO LOCAL SCHOOL
- 23 Aug C-123'S DROP PARATROOPS NEAR BASE
- 23 Aug 35th CES BUILDING SNAZZY 'LOX' PLANT
- 23 Aug BELLY-LANDING OF B-57 PRAISED
- 23 Aug WING SELECTS TOP CREW CHIEF
- 23 Aug BASE SNAKE-HOUSE WILL OPEN ON SUNDAY
- 23 Aug 'BLACK PANTHER' GOES FROM SPORTS TO COMBAT
- 23 Aug 'GRIM REAPERS' POUND NIGHT TARGETS
- **30 Aug NEW LAPIDARY SHOP TO OPEN SOON**
- **30 Aug SECURITY POLICE OUT FRONT**
- 30 Aug THREE 'LUCKY DEVILS'
- **30** Aug BEES INVADE AIRPLANE
- 30 Aug SERGEANT UP FOR 2ND DFC
- **30 Aug SNAKE-HOUSE DRAWS CROWD**
- 30 Aug 'DAVIS CUP' MATCH DUE
- 30 Aug C-123 LANDS ON ARMY 'AIRCRAFT CARRIER'
- **30 Aug ASK AUNT PHANNY**

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

Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

30 AUG - 'YELLOW JACKET' TRAINEE CITED

30 AUG - OOPS, WRONG NUMBER

30 AUG - THERE IS NOBODY LIKE AN AIRMAN



23 Aug - BASE RECEIVES HUGE GOLD TROPHY FOR BEST MISSION SUPPORT IN 7TH AF

Major General Gordon W. Graham, outgoing vice-commander of 7th Air Force, recently presented a huge gold trophy to Phan Rang Air Bas symbolizing victory in a new quarterly 7th Air Force completion to determine which of its bases is providing the best mission support.

The ceremony took place beneath American, Vietnamese, and Australian flags outside the recently completed headquarters of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Colonel **Lewis R. Riley**, base commander, has placed the trophy, which stands almost three feet high, at the entrance to his office. The 50-year-old native of Kansas City, Mo., said "Without the high morale, and everyone pitching in and doing his job, we would never have won it.

Ten bass in South Vietnam competed for the award, which Colonel Riley described as being directed by the commander of 7th AF.

The base commander said the award is based on points scored in a management control system encompassing "the various activities across the base in support of the mission." "You know Phan Rang is noted across Southeast Asia for its high morale," he continued, "and this high morale is what goes to make this management control system a going proposition."

He noted that recreational facilities and base appearance and maintenance wee of the more important categories in the point system for the award.

Page 2

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

Other categories included: specialty knowledge testing, officer effectiveness reports, motor vehicle 'down' time (denoting vehicles temporarily out of commission), ground safety, and effectiveness of navigational aids.

"We went out to win it, and we won it," said Colonel Riley about the new award. "I don't think it was any great surprise."

Tuy Hoa scored second in the 7th AF contest, and Pleiku was third.

Named as the winner of the award was 35th Combat Support Group of Phan Rang.

23 Aug - 'LUCKY DEVILS' DONATE \$1,500 TO LOCAL SCHOOL

The An Phuoch District High School, which is located near Phan Rang Air Base, was recently given \$1,500 dollars to build two additional class rooms and a modern kitchen and dining hall by member of the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Phan Rang.

All construction work on the new building is being accomplished by the students; This is one case where the progress being made is matched only by the pride taken by the builders, which is immense.

For the past six month, this squadron has been sponsoring needy students in the Phan Rang area and though, this is the first time they have financed a building program for a school, they are old hands when it comes to helping poor children. Captain **Ralph L. Brown**, 35, of Jackson, Mississippi is the civic action officer for the squadron and donates much of his time and money to the Vietnamese children.

For many members of the squadron, civic action work comes after a hard day at the controls of an F-100, or repairing a battle damaged aircraft, regular maintenance work or any number of different jobs it takes to keep the F-100's flying.

Everybody from the Commander, Lt. Col. **Kenneth T. Miles**, 39, of San Antonio, Texas, to Airmen who work on the wings' aircraft, take an active part in the civic action program.

The men of the 614th TFW, have also provided the school with surplus beds, lumber and other Page 3 The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

building materials.

The school has grown from 60 students to an enrolment of 150 students in the last year. Most of the students come from poor families, and would have no chance of receiving an education were it not for the An Phouch School.

23 Aug - C-123'S DROP PARATROOPS NEAR BASE

Anyone looking up above the NCO Open Mess shortly after 8 a.m. on Monday saw a C-123 of the 309th Air Commando Squadron dropping a string of Army paratroopers into a valley four miles beyond the perimeter of the base.

It was the third day of such paratrooper drops, as the air commando unit teamed up with the 1st Brigde of the 101st Airborne Division to bring about jump-qualification of over 40 members of the Army and several Navy frogmen.

The prelude to these jumps occurred on Monday, Aug. 14 as Lt. Col. **Quintin P. Sunday**, commander of the support battalion of the 1st Brigade, and more than 40 qualified paratroopers of the unit jumped from a C-123 to test the new 'paratrooper school' program.

This is the first time that the new K-model C-123's, boasting two jet engines as well as the regular two prop engines, have been used for paradrops or Army troops.

Maj. **William Robinson** of the tactical operations branch of the 315th Air Commando Wing said the K-modes provide more safety for the paratroopers than the old B-models, and climb "a lot faster."

He added that the school is a real innovation since Army paratroops are usually trained at jump schools back in the U.S. In this case, he explained, the Phan Rang jump school enables the Army to jump-qualify men who recently came into the unit from other units.

The major said that the training jumps were preceded by Army security team sweeps in the area to make sure there were no Viet Cong or cobras around.

Each trainee made five jumps. The C-123's made a series of drops in which 173 jumps were Page 4 The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

carried out on Saturday, 136 Sunday, and 174 Monday. "A few sprained angles" were the only injuries recorded.

Major Robinson said the Army plans to hold the new school once a month from now on.

Co. **Bill M. Richardson**, commander of the 315th Air Commando Wing, and Maj. **Dick Mead**, a top instructor pilot in the 309th ACS, carried out the C-123 paradrop missions with Capt. **Patrick Tinsman** and **Major Idelson** of the 309th as their navigators.

"We like to work with drops," Major Idelson commented. "The 101st is an outfit anybody wold like to work with at any time."

The drops were carried out from an altitude of 1,250 feet. It took the C-123's only 20 minutes to drop planeloads of 45 to 50 paratroopers and get set for their next load.

23 Aug - 35th CES BUILDING SNAZZY 'LOX' PLANT

Phan Rang Air Base will soon have the latest model (LOX) Liquid Oxygen Generating plant in South Vietnam. The five ton plant which is being constructed wholly by Air Force personnel under the supervision of a factory technical representative is programmed to be operational in 90 days.

Phan Rang Air Base has many uses for liquid oxygen: First and foremost, is the large quantities needed by fighter and bomber crews who have to have oxygen during many of their combat missions. Next in importance comes the base hospital where it is used to treat lung infections and diseases, and lastly is the oxygen needed to run cutting and welding torches in Phan Rang's many service organizations.

According to Master Sergeant **George W. Becker**, 37, of Pitman, New Jersey, the Air Force inspector on the project for seventh Air Force, "Installation work on the new plant is proceeding rapidly and barring no unexpected material difficulties, the construction of the physical plan should be finished on time.

The concrete flab for the plant was laid by the 35th Civil Engineer Squadron at Phan Rang and all plumbing and wiring work on the project was accomplished by the same organization.

Page 5

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

Installation of the LOX generating equipment: Air Compressors, the refrigeration unit, heat exchangers, the air purifier and distillation column is being accomplished by TSgt. **Settle**, A1C. **Koeler**, A1C, **Yarbrough** and six Vietnamese laborers.

23 Aug - BELLY-LANDING OF B-57 PRAISED

Fellow pilots have hailed the skill of Captain **Donald C. Orlando**, 31, from Middlesex, N.J., in making a smooth and successful belly-landing here recently when his B-57 jet bomber's nose gear malfunctioned after a night strike.

Captain Orlando, a member of the 13th TBS, admitted that "I was a little apprehensive....I had confidence in making a gear-up landing, but I hadn't thought about making one at night before."

A veteran of 160 combat missions in North and South Vietnam, Captain Orlando added "I was very fortunate in that the aircraft stopped in about 2,000 feet with very little damage to the underside of the fuselage."

The emergency began when he was unable to get the gear to extend while making a radarcontrolled landing approach upon returning from a night interdiction bombing run.

"Fire crews on the base foamed the runway....to preclude the possibility of fire on landing, since the bottom of the fuselage would be scraping the concrete." added Capt. Orlando, "The fire teams were there as soon as the aircraft stopped...Everyone commented on how smooth a landing it was."

A wing safety official praised the pilot for making a successful landing despite the reduced vision and depth perception encountered in night landings.

The captain's emergency procedures included jettisoning of external ordnance. Then, during the landing approach, he jettisoned his canopy to prepare for a fast exit.

23 Aug - WING SELECTS TOP CREW CHIEF

Staff Sergeant Ronald Y. Cho, 31, of the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron was recently picked asPage 6The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

Crew Chief of the month for the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Sergeant Cho, is a veteran of 11 months Vietnam service and has been a crew chief on F-100 jet aircraft since arriving in this war torn nation.

According to Sgt. Cho, his day starts early since many of the missions flown by his aircraft are morning missions and he said "pre-flight maintenance, which consists of looking for leaks in the fuel tanks, running a power-on check in the cockpit, checking the aircraft's oxygen system, checking the tires, and for exterior battle damage if a night mission was flown the night before are all a part of his endless job".

Sergeant Cho's wife Shige, and his two children presently live in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Cho has also been selected for promotion to Technical Sergeant in the closing months of this year.

23 Aug - BASE SNAKE-HOUSE WILL OPEN ON SUNDAY

Come one, come all...see the 11-foot python, the spitting cobra, and poisonous crait snakes...Meet George, the meanest lizard in the valley.

The new base serpentarium (snake house) near the MARS station will open at noon on Sunday and stay open till 10 p.m. It will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 6 to 10 p.m., according to its fearless proprietor, A1C **Bill Gaither**, Motorola Systems Monitor in the 1882nd Communications Squadron.

Furnished on a self-help basis, the new base attraction features 45 snakes of all sizes and degrees of deadliness, as well as five types of lizards, including George, a cranky Monitor Lizard more than four feet long.

There are live snakes and lizards, and they're housed in attractive display cases complete with scenic bakdrops. Airman Gaither says it's okay to take photos, with or without flash bulbs. Eleven tree snakes were moved in on Sunday.

Page 7

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

23 Aug - 'BLACK PANTHER' GOES FROM SPORTS TO COMBAT

"The thrills and excitement are definitely there," said Capt. **Charles L. Henn**, 28, from Laramie, Wyoming, as he compared his sports career at the University of Wyoming a few years back to his new career as an F-100 Super Sabre pilot in Vietnam.

A veteran of 125 combat missions with the 615th ('Black Panther') Tactical Fighter Squadron, he graduated from the university in 1962.

Captain Henn held a track scholarship for his first three years at the university and a skiing scholarship during his last year there.

As a skier he participated in cross-country, 'downhill', jumping and slalom events

"Probably, standing at the top of the downhill (ski slope), waiting to race, is a little more frightening than waiting to fly a combat mission in Vietnam...or a t least it was to me," said the pilot, who now lifts weights.

23 Aug - 'GRIM REAPERS' POUND NIGHT TARGETS

The Devil's Own Grim Reapers (13th Tactical Bombardment Squadron) have been wreaking havoc in North Vietnam since their B-57's flew into Phan Rang not long ago to launch a new rotational combat tour.

The commander of the distinguished unit, which celebrated its 50th birthday in June, is Lt. Col. **George W. Cap**, 48, from Wichita, Kansas. During their latest combat tour the Grim Reapers have been flying many night interdiction missions over North Vietnam.

Such missions place "quite a bit more strain on the air crews" than the daylight strikes flown by these crews in South Vietnam, Colonel Cap commented, but "the moral in the squadron is at its peak, I feel, and I do have very highly and well-qualified crews flying with me."

According to the combat narratives logged by the crews, their B-57's have located and destroyed large numbers of enemy trucks, boats and gun positions in the dark of night, and have ignited many petroleum fires.

Page 8

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

The colonel noted that on these night strikes "we have to work under flares, exposing ourselves to very heavy anti-aircraft fire."

Back at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, home base for the 13th TBS, the air crews had received intensive night strike training. "Our main effort," said Colonel Cap, "was in training our crews in night low-levl attack against rolling stock, trucks, trains, and boats on rivers." Colonel Cap has been in service for 25 years.



30 Aug - NEW LAPIDARY SHOP TO OPEN SOON

According to present plans, a lapidary shop will be opened on base by September 10. The new personnel services facility will be stocked with \$2,500 worth of lapidary materials, including 70 different kinds of gemstones.

It will be located in Bldg. 509 (the old drivers' school) near the base theater, and will be airconditioned.

A qualified instructor will be on hand to show fledgling craftsmen how to make beautiful tiebars, tie-tacks, pendants, bracelets, rings, and cuff-links out of the gem stones which will be sold at the shop.

30 Aug - SECURITY POLICE OUT FRONT

The 35th Security Police Squadron, picked as the outstanding squadron in the 35th TFW during June and July, has its sights set on a three-month sweep.

SMSgt. **Thomas E. Charette**, 37, from Knob Noster, Mo., NCOIC of Chief of Security Police, said, "We are looking forward to winning it this month." The winner gets \$50, and a squadron which wins the honor three months in a row is entitled to a trophy.

The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

Page 9

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

The sergeant said the award is based on such things as: area inspections; personnel appearance; alert exercises; personnel behavior; on-the-job training; and performance reports.

He said the security police triumph represented "a concentrated effort by everybody."

30 Aug - THREE 'LUCKY DEVILS'

On Saturday, the last three remaining pilots among those who deployed with the 614th 'Lucky Devils' TFS from England AFB, La. to Phan Rang last September flew their final scheduled missions here.

Set to go Stateside are: Maj. James L. Fulk Jr., 33, from Everett, Wash.; Capt. Ralph L. Brown, 34, from Jackson, Miss.; and Capt. Robert M. Brown, 33, from Washington D.C.

The Saturday combat missions were the 280th for the major and the 290th for the two captain Browns.

Lt. Col. Kenneth Miles, 'Lucky Devil' commander, presented Major Fulk with the news that he had jut won an oak leaf cluster for his Distinguished Flying Cross and had been accepted into the Regular Air force just before the major left for his last scheduled mission.

"When we arrived," said Capt. Robert Brown, "it was a bare base facility, and at this time it looks like a Stateside organization."

"I certainly feel like we've accomplished quite a bit over here," said the F-100 Super Sabre pilot.

Major Fulk said, "It's been a very rewarding tour....I think we've established a reputation as one of the most accurate squadrons over here for ordnance delivery."

Capt. Ralph Brown was Civic Action project officer of the 'Lucky Devils' for the past nine months. He spearheaded the unit's all-out aid program for the An Phuoc school near Thap Cham, and feels that this work was just as important as his combat missions.

"This is a funny war," said the officer. "The only way you're going to win it is by winning the hearts of the people."

Page 10

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

30 Aug - BEES INVADE AIRPLANE

A swarm of non-political bees temporarily halted operations in two units here recently.

Men of the 352nd Tactical Fighter Sq., known as the 'Yellow Jackets', were working near an F-100 on 'alert' status when they noticed a few bees flying around the open canopy of the aircraft.

They soon found that hundreds of the little creatures had swarmed inside the cockpit and were covering the oxygen mask there.

Were the bees too much for the Yellow Jackets?

A brave airman (unidentified) calmly took a knife and cut the oxygen hose below the mask. Then he slowly removed the buzzing bundle from the cockpit, bees, mask and all.

Several days later, personnel of the base finance office noticed bees zooming in and out of the small hooch nest to the office. Inside this hooch is a safe which holds all money for the base.

It turned out that the little stingers had established a new home on a board two feet away from the door of the safe. Exterminators were called in, and soon they were able to remove the menace.

After that things went back to normal, and it is hoped that the bees went back to their flowers.

30 Aug - SERGEANT UP FOR 2ND DFC

SSgt. **George H. Anderson**, 34, from Ridley Park Pa., a veteran of 18 years' Air Force Service, is up for his second Distinguished Flying Cross.

A member of the 310th Air Commando Sq., he finds it difficult to remember all the missions he has flown since coming to Vietnam, but he can recall two of them with amazing clarity.

Recently the squadron was called upon to make a re-supply flight with 12,000 pounds of ammo to a U.S. Army unit which was fighting near Pleiku. The unarmed C-123 was immediately Page 11 The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

engulfed in a hail of small arms fire.

The ammo was dropped right on target and a serious reversal in the Pleiku area was averted and turned into a victory.

The sergeant's newest DFC mission occurred in the Delta. An Army Special Forces Camp under attack by a Viet Cong regiment was down to 30 rounds of ammo per man, and time was running out.

After the first drop, "the sky looked like the Fourth of July," according to Sergeant Anderson, a loadmaster, "but we did not have time to get scared as we were positioning the second half of the ammunition for the next drop.

The camp was saved, despite a V.C. attempt to set up a dummy drop zone in an attempt to grab the ammo themselves, and "we got the hell out of the area."

30 Aug - SNAKE-HOUSE DRAWS CROWD

The opening of the new base snake-house on Sunday drew a crowd of some 250 goggle-eyed visitors, according to proprietor A1C **Bill Gaither** of the 1882nd Comm. Sq.

Located about 100 yards up the hill from the MARS station, the serpentarium was the scene of exclamations and must photo-taking as the visitors came face to face with pythons, cobras, lizards, and pit vipers.

The spitting cobra, according to Airman Gaither, was in such good form that the inside side of his display window became completely covered with the lethal spit and had to be cleaned off several times.

30 Aug - 'DAVIS CUP' MATCH DUE

On Sept. 13 a 'Davis Cup' tennis match will take place between the 13th TBS and the Aussies of the No. 2 Sq. (RAAF). Winner gets a G.I. coffee cup, courtesy of Lt. Col. 'Duke' Davis, ops officer of the 13th TBS.

On Aug. 24, Chaplain (Capt.) Hartsell produced a team of 'Davis Cup' challengers, but the 13th Page 12 The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

TBS swatted them down, four matches to one. (Say, that 'Davis Cup' is inscribed.)

Now that Davis Cup challenge matches have been started, anyone who can round up five or six players and wants to take a whack at the 13th TBS team for the honor of playing the Aussies in September is invited to call Major Klesert at 'Flightline 391'. Callers should leave their own phone numbers.

30 Aug - C-123 LANDS ON ARMY 'AIRCRAFT CARRIER'

Last Wednesday, on his 1,000th combat sortie in Vietnam, air commando pilot Major **Richard W. Mead** eased his C-123 Provider transport atop Gia Nghia, "the army's only aircraft carrier:, and delivered above five tons of vital aircraft parts and fuel to the Special Forces camp there.

A member of the 309th Air Commando Sq., the 39-year-old native of Lisbon, North Dakota said the camp is located "right in the middle of a mountain, 85 miles northeast of Saigon.

There is good reason for calling it an aircraft carrier. Two thousand feet long and just 88 feet wide, the Gia Nghia landing strip has sheer drops of 200 to 300 feet aong every inch of its small perimeter.

The major, who is the 309th ACS chief of standardization, said the strip was created by "chopping off the top of a mountain". He landed the Provider 300 feet past the start of the strip and taxied to a halt just 500 feet from the knife-edge of the far end of the strip.

A veteran of 20 years of military service, including two as an enlisted man in the Navy during World War II, the officer said air commando transports can complete a landing in 1,000 feet.

Gia Nghia landings aren't any great problem, he noted, except when it's raining. In this case it was, but the C-123 made a smooth landing on the wet strip.

Since he came to Vietnam last December, Major Mead has landed at 66 different places to deliver food and vital supplies to Army Special Forces camps and carry out other airlift missions.

His crew on the 1,000th combat sortie included: Lt. Col. **Eugene W. Geniesse**, co-pilot; SSgt. **James H. Kimsey** flight engineer (who also flew his 1,000th combat sortie last Wednesday); and Page 13 The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

A1C Roger E. Paradis, loadmaster.

30 Aug - ASK AUNT PHANNY



(Editor's note: Aunt Phanny isn't really interested in your gripes. She has plenty of her own, however, if you letter is funny enough, the old gal just might print it. Any relationship to this column and actual facts is purely coincidental. **This column is dedicated to the troubled, the lonely, and the mildly insane.**)

Dear Aunt Phanny,

Every time I see my first sergeant, he growls at me and bares his teeth. What should I do to gain his confidence and friendship.

---A4C Clyde Zetz

Dear Airman Zetz, Buy him a dog license, put a collar around his neck, and have him properly vacinated.

Dear Aunt Phanny,

My bunk-mate snores his head off. When I ask him to stop, he throws boots and shoes at me and says nasty things. What should I do? ---A5C Kinback

Dear Airman Kinback,

Leave him alone and try long cigarettes. If you don't smoke, move to the nearest bunker. I all else fails, go to town with him and they can carry you both back.

30 AUG - 'YELLOW JACKET' TRAINEE CITED

Maj. **William G. Hartling**, operations officer of the 352nd TFS (the 'Yellow Jackets'), has praised weapons mechanic SSgt. Clair T. Scott for "phenomenal progress" in cross-training from the fire department.

The sergeant went to school and won his three-level in the weapons field bacck in January. In Page 14 The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

April, he was awarded the special 5 level, and on June 12 Sergeant Scott won technician rating after passing the 7-level test.

"This is exceptionally fast progression into the highly technical field of munitions," Major Hartling pointed out.

Sergeant Scott came to the 352nd TFS recently from Beale AFB, Calif. He was officially awarded the 7-level at Phan Rang.

30 AUG - OOPS, WRONG NUMBER

Last week's PHAN FARE wrongly credited the 35th CES with building the new liquid oxygen plant.

According to 1st Lt. Gary L. Bruehler, 554th CES project engineer for the LOX plant, the 554th 'Red Horse' men built the concrete foundation and the parking area, and did all the earth work and plumbing for the news plant.

Electric hook-ups were handled by both the 35th and 554th CES. Lieutenant Bruehler noted that the 554th is building a pre-fabricated steel structure to house plant equipment.

30 AUG - THERE IS NOBODY LIKE AN AIRMAN

(Phan Fares' editor's note: An airman in CBPO received the following from a Stateside papter. The author is unknown, but he is obviously o stranger to airmen.)

During the mysterious time somewhere between arrival and eparture from this palnet, o9ne is sure to come in contact with a bunch of <u>blue-clad</u> fellows called "Airmen".

They come in large, medium and small sizes. Always out of <u>cash</u>, they hardly ever sleep, and are outrageously overworked.

An airman can be found in many places: in Europe; in the Orient; in Jersey City; in clubs; in <u>high</u> <u>society</u> or in ten cent carnival; <u>in debt</u>, and always, in love.

No one has been able to duplicate the almost unbelievable cramming act that takes place in his Page 15 The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

pocket. On can find a can opener; tobacco products; a lighter that is <u>out of fluid</u>; two old theatre ticket stubs; 10 keys on a ring (<u>he only uses one</u>); a bend dog tag; a picture of Brigitte Bardot; the main stem from his watch; a letter from home; a picture of the girl, and enough money from yesterday's pay for one more cup of coffee.

He can say, "I love you," in <u>12 different languages</u> and 33 basic dialects. His biggest problem in life is having the United States Air Force support him in a "manner to which he is accustomed."

When asked to pull that extra duty, he acts with the swiftness of a turtle and the cunning of a fox. Basically, airmen like; <u>money</u>; cash; moolah; skins; rocks; bills; greenbacks; coins and also girls; women; <u>females</u>; chicks; dolls; babes; and the opposite sex, in addition to a brand new Ooh La La, tiger skin interior, four on the floor, convertible type, tiger-pawed horseless carriage.

Their basic dislikes are: bills; inspections; their name on the <u>duty roster</u>; chow; and GI parties.

But after all, he is the greatest "chips are down fighter of them all." <u>No enemy</u> can hold a candle to his fierce, unswerving tenacity in battle. No enemy mind can act with the catlike swiftness of these guys, who always seem to land on their fee, no matter what the challenge, what the odds.

On the ground, he is a "damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" heroic, spitting, cutting, yelling warrior that the enemy flees from in stark terror. In the air, he is a "damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" heroic, spitting, cussing, yelling warrior that promises annihilation to any enemy foolish enough to come "<u>ditty boppin</u>" within range of his blazing boldness.

If you <u>razz</u> him about that one ribbon, he would just as soon drop you in a vat of jellow and watch you <u>quiver to death</u>.

One a person has met an Akirman there are some things that are impossible. It is impossible to force the innocence of his youth out of your mind and hear; impossible to forget that youthful walk with that <u>prideful snap</u> to it; and impossible to get back any money you have loaned him.

Alas, there is none yet born that can match his air of nonchalance upon returning from the home base, or from battle; and no power on earth can match the emotion created when he Page 16 The Phan Rang AB News No. 222

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there. Phan Rang AB News No. 222 "...keeping the memories alive"

gets off that plane and says simply, "Hi Mon, Hi Dad, Hello Honey."

Who could ask for any greater privilege - - than being an Airman.

Thus ends another month at Phan Rang, many months came before this one and many more will follow with more stories of thousands of Americans and Australians working together to accomplish the mission.



Doug's Comments: This is the second Phan Rang Newsletter that is date specific with all of the stories from the **Phan Fare**, the bimonthly publication of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing. There will be many more coming in the future. Speaking of the future, the next issue is planned to be all your stories, so if you haven't already submitted yours, it's not too late to do so.

Our 2021 Phan Rang Reunion is shaping up to be one of the best ones ever. If you are still sitting on the fence and haven't made up your mind yet, now is the time to act because space is limited both at the hotel and the Showboat Branson Belle. It looks like we may be gradually returning to some form of normalcy and putting this pandemic behind us, we are all looking forward to breaking out of our four walls.

This newsletter was composed and all graphics by Douglas Severt unless otherwise stated. To see a list of all previous newsletters click <u>here</u>. To unsubscribe to Phan Rang News, mailto: <u>dougsevert@cox.net</u> and put 'unsubscribe' in subject line.