

Phan Rang AB Newsletter

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.
“Keeping the memories alive” Newsletter 247

In this issue:

Americanism, Youth, Vietnam His Topics by Walter T. Galligan

Couple Say Vows Over the Phone

Orange Youth Hurt in Vietnam

Donut Dollie Tour of Duty

Memorial sought for unsung heroes

Veterans Want Dog Stamp

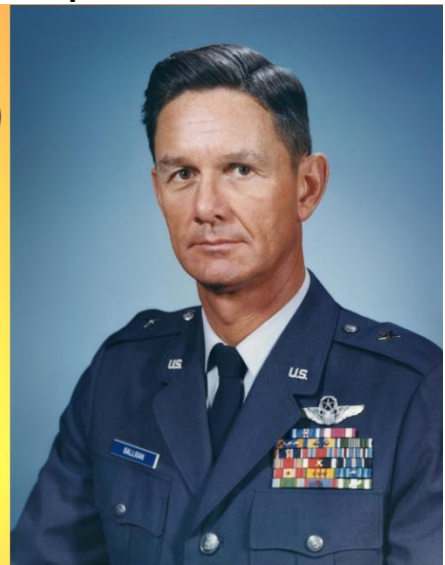
Father’s, Son’s Paths Cross In War Zone

Serving Our Country

Americanism, Youth, Vietnam His Topics

Americanism, Youth, Vietnam His Topic

WALTER T. GALLIGAN
35th Tactical Fighter Wing
Commander,
Phan Rang AB, RVN



By *KATHI LOPER*

The speaker surveyed the capacity crowd seated before him, and said, “I feel like I’m ‘preaching to the choir’ here in speaking of Americanism to the American Legion . . .”

But speak he did, and brought a standing ovation from some 175 American Legionnaires at the close of his address.

Speaking to delegates of the 7th District American Legion convention banquet here Saturday night was Brig. Gen. **Walter T. Galligan**, commandant of cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs.

“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. 247 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

General Galligan spoke not only of Americanism, but of youth and Vietnam.

Of youth, the general expressed pride and proceeded to “Set the record straight” on what kind of people they really are. Of Vietnam, he told the group, “Vietnam is one of the stickiest situations the United States has ever been involved in.”

Speaking on Americansim, General Galligan deviated from the “do or die” euphuisms often associated with “Americanism”, and told simply about a group of men he had commanded at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam.

He told of the 11,000 American GIs and the 1,500 Koreans at the base, and some of the hardships they faced.

“These men were technically prisoners — fighting for freedom, but freedom didn’t exist for them,” he said. He explains that the base was protected from the enemy by walls of barbed wire and mine fields, under the watchful eye of 78 manned guard towers and 102 dogs.

“These precautions were to keep the bad guys out, but it also kept our guys In — virtually prisoners within the compound,” he said.

He told of how Phan Rang Valley evolved from “**Happy Valley**” to “**Rocket Valley**”, and how our men were fighting the enemy within and the enemy without.

“But these men won’t come home talking about their hardships and tribulations.”

“But these men won’t come home talking about their hardships and tribulations,” he said, and added: “They will come home and tell of how they baby-sat on Sundays, how they re-built the village when one third of it was destroyed by enemy rockets, how they spent their free time in orphanages, how they instigated social programs for the Vietnamese people. Each man is dedicated to do the job he has to do over there, but they are convinced that they are not only

"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. 247 **"...keeping the memories alive"**

there as fighters, but as developers. They are building, rather than tearing down. They are leaving behind them a legacy of Americanism that you won't see here. . . This is what our GI's are doing in Vietnam."

General Galligan went on to say that the American Legion can only perpetuate itself by new members from the Armed Forces, but if the Legion believed just what they read in newspapers, they would not want these new members.

"We are led to believe that our young people are shirkers, rabble-rousers, pot-smokers. ...but as a whole, our young men are people to be proud of."

"We are led to believe that our young people are shirkers, rabble-rousers, pot-smokers. Maybe one-tenth of one percent are, but as a whole, our young men are people to be proud of," the general said.

Galligan closed his address by saying that being an American, saluting the flag, and taking pride in America is fashionable, and added:

"I'd just like to salute you men of the American Legion for what you represent. As Lord Byron said, 'He who loves not his country can love nothing.'" (*Golden City Telegram, April 5, 1971, Garden City, Kansas*)

Obituary of Walter T. Galligan

Lieutenant General Walter T. Galligan (USAF, Ret.), a great patriot, proudly served his country for over 30 years. Born March 14, 1925 in Bronx, New York to parents John and Katherine Turbush Galligan, and died December 22, 2010 at the age of 85.

General Galligan faithfully served his country for over 30 years with integrity and honor as he rose to the rank of 3-star General with much distinction and recognition for his service. He was a member of the "greatest generation" and a consummate professional. He was alive during historical events in our country and, in fact, was a part of our American history.

“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. 247 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

General Galligan graduated from St. Michael's Academy, Bronx, New York, in 1942. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., in 1945 with a bachelor of science degree, his pilot wings, and commission as a second lieutenant. Later that same year, he qualified as a pilot in B-17 and B-25 aircraft and in 1946, completed Junior Staff Officer Course.

In March 1946 he went to Tullin Air Base, Vienna, Austria, where he became the legal officer and base adjutant. During the Berlin airlift, 1948-1949, General Galligan piloted C-47 aircraft between Wiesbaden Air Base, Germany, and Tempelhof Airport, Berlin.

General Galligan returned to the United States in March 1949 and served as squadron adjutant in the 78th Fighter Wing, Hamilton Air Force Base, Calif., for five months. He then became a student at the Central Instructors School at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., where from August 1949 to August 1951 he served as an instructor in T-6, T-28 and B-25 aircraft. In August 1951 he entered the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology Program at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where he received his Master of Science degree in industrial administration in 1953. He completed transition training in B-29 aircraft at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, in October 1953.

He then transferred to Schilling Air Force Base, Kan., as a B-29 aircraft commander with the 40th Bombardment Wing; became a B-47 aircraft commander in 1954; and moved with the wing to Forbes Air Force Base, Kan., in 1961 as the assistant deputy commander for operations.

Following graduation from the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va., in February 1963, General Galligan was assigned to the Office of Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, as assistant for program control and administration and later was deputy chief, Congressional Investigation Division. In 1965 he completed the executive advanced management program at Harvard University, Mass., and from August 1966 to July 1967, attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D.C.

He next served as vice commander of the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing, Torrejon Air Base, Spain. In August 1968 he went to Lindsey Air Station, Germany, as the director of operations, U.S. Air Forces in Europe. In August 1969 he transferred to the Republic of Vietnam as commander of

“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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang Air Base. In June 1970 he was assigned to Headquarters Seventh Air Force, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, as director of the Tactical Air Control Center and in October 1970 became director of combat operations.

General Galligan assumed the duties of commandant of cadets, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., in February 1971. He was assigned as commander of the U.S. Air Force Security Service in February 1973.

He was promoted to the grade of lieutenant general effective May 8, 1974. He assumed duties as commander of U.S. Forces, Japan, and Fifth Air Force in May 1974, with headquarters at Yokota Air Base, Japan. As commander of U.S. Forces, Japan, he was the senior U.S. military representative in Japan. As commander of Fifth Air Force, he was responsible for the conduct of U.S. air operations in Japan and the Republic of Korea.

His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with "V" device, Combat Readiness Medal, and the Medal for Humane Action. He was awarded by the Republic of Vietnam, the Air Force Distinguished Service Order, First Class, and the Military Cross of Gallantry with palm. He was a command pilot.

As a retired man, Walter Galligan lived a life of service to his community. He was a member of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church community, actively participating in the St. Michael's Society and in the Hospitality Ministry as usher during masses. Lt. Gen Galligan also volunteered at the library and supported many charities that he believed in. He was also a member of the Harvard School of Business alumni chapter, locally. He remained active in an advisory capacity to the United States Air Force and supported his alma mater, West Point.

Lt. Gen Galligan was preceded in death in 2005 by his wife of more than 50 years, Irene. They had no children. He is survived by his brothers, Donald & Stanley Galligan, and nieces, nephews, and many life-long friends. Lt. Gen Galligan is also survived by Mrs. Nora Nash, his beloved companion and dear friend of the past five years.

"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. 247 **"...keeping the memories alive"**

Note: Additional stories and articles about Walter T. Galligan can be found in Phan Rang Newsletters 51, 72, 73, 74, 76, 115, 128, 136, 139, 141, 145, 154, 172, 179.

COUPLE SAY VOWS OVER THE PHONE

ARLINGTON, Texas (UPI) - The telephone on a table near the altar rang and the pastor picked it up and said: "This is the Rev. **James Weir**. We are in Northside Baptist church In Arlington, Texas."

At his side, **Barbara Shelton**, 34, wearing a blue dress and a corsage of white chrysanthemums, held the receiver of an extension phone to her ear.

The operator at the other end of the line at Phan Rang Air base on the Vietnamese coast put Sgt. **Jimmy Woods**, 34, of Wichita Falls, Texas, on the line.

The Vows

"Will you take this woman, Barbara Shelton, to be your lawful wedded wife, Jimmy Woods? Over and answer," intoned the pastor.

I will," crackled Woods' voice over the trans-Pacific telephone. Rev. Weir had to signal Barbara to say her "I will."

"I was a little nervous," she said later. After he pronounced them man and wife the pastor let the couple talk to each other. "I guess you had to get up awfully early this morning to get to the church and all," said Woods to his bride.

"Oh, no," she said, "It's not morning, its 7 o'clock at night." "Well, its 9 a.m. here," Woods; said.

"Well, Honey, Take Care of Yourself"

"Well, honey, take care of yourself," the new Mrs. Woods said.

"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. 247 **"...keeping the memories alive"**

"I'll be home in July," said her husband, "if I'm lucky."

The couple met 18 months ago while Woods was in Wichita Falls. They met again in Hawaii over the Christmas holidays but could not get a marriage license.

"He wrote me about two weeks ago," Barbara said, "suggesting I look into the possibility of a wedding over the phone. I did, and the state of Texas recognizes it and so does the air force. So we did it."

(Cedar Rapids Gazette, February 5, 1967, Cedar Rapids, Iowa also Norwalk Reflector, February 4, 1967, Norwalk, Ohio and probably many other outlets.)

Orange Youth Hurt In Vietnam

(Greenfield Recorder, July 18, 1967, Greenfield, Massachusetts)

ORANGE —Orange boy has informed his parents of injuries received in South Vietnam. He is hospitalized and in hopes of being moved to Chelsea Naval Hospital soon.

SP4 **Raymond Gamache**, 18, son of and Mrs. Roland Gamache, Sr., of 9 Rogers Ave., in a letter dated July 3, informed his parents he had been shot through a shattering the bone about four inches below the kneecap. For the past four months he had been serving with the 48th Helicopter Company in Phan Rang. He was wounded while on a resupply mission in the mountains near Phan Rang, about 200 miles northeast of Saigon, and it took only five minutes to get him to the Phan Rang Air Force Base, he said.

The family said yesterday that Gamache is presently in a hospital in Japan. In Vietnam he had been maintaining and servicing "Huey" helicopters. He has been in the service since September, 1966, and is a Mahar Regional School graduate of that year.

DOLLIE TOUR OF DUTY

"What can She Say? SLC Grad's Plight With Wounded GIs"

(Hammond Daily Star, February 2, 1968, Hammond, Louisiana)

HAMMOND — "I'm part way through my ninth month, over here, and I've had experiences

“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. 247 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

(good and bad) which I'll never forget, writes **Gay Nail** from Vietnam.

Shes a Southeastern Louisiana College graduate, from Metairie, working with an American Red Cross clubmobile in that war-torn land.

She writes back to the college that "seeing our young men going through untold hell and coming out of it without bitterness — still with a smile — is worth any sacrifice I have to make.

"I can't tell you how many times I've walked into a hospital and talked to someone 20 years old — with both legs gone. What can I say? They are so great; they, usually end up boosting my morale.

"My first four months were spent at Di An. with the 1st Infantry Division. Di An is down south near the "Iron Triangle." There, I experienced my first monsoon and first mortar attack. I hope to go through neither again.

"While I was with the 1st Division, I took nine day leave and went to Penang, Malaysia and Bangkok, Thailand. Really enjoyed both places. Saw classical Thai dancing in Bangkok, a great place to buy silk and jewelry. "After four months, I was transferred to Phan Rang Air Force Base, on the coast of the South China Sea, about 50 miles below Cam Rahn Bay.

"Phan Rang was a real change from Army life. We had good living conditions and a fairly secure area. Bob Hope and his Christmas troupe performed there, and I worked backstage. Got to party with the cast and had loads of fun.

"I'll never forget Christmas in Vietnam — never worked so hard in my life. This is the hardest time for the fellows to be away from home, so we try to make everything as nice as possible.

"At present, I'm stationed with the 4th Infantry Division at Pleiku, about 50 miles from the site of the battle of Dak To. Pleiku will be my last assignment — I have 3 1/2 months to go.

"I've been out twice in the past week to visit troops. Last Friday, I spent the morning on Hill 1338, where one of the major battles took place a few weeks ago. Our guys are still digging in

“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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

up there. The place is a fantastic sight. Artillery and air strikes have completely decimated the area.

"Pleiku is in the Central Highlands, surrounded by Montagnard villages. These people seem like they're 5,000 years behind the times. It is really interesting to visit their villages — but there's one catch, you have to drink their rice wine. Ugh!

"Living conditions for us here are the worst I've had so far, impossible to keep anything clean, least of all yourself. We have outdoor showers and latrines. Not really too bad — but I'll certainly appreciate a bathroom when I get home.”

★★★



NOVEMBER 23, 2003

Wisconsin State Journal

\$1.75

MADISON, WISCONSIN

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Memorial sought for unsung heroes

Dogs are estimated to have saved some 10,000 lives in Vietnam.

By Craig Spychalla

Portage Daily Register

Carl Adams knew his friend Andy would never return from Vietnam.

The two spent the better part of a year and a half on patrol by themselves outside the Phan Rang Air Force Base, near the South China Sea. They had such a dangerous job during the war that it was done on a volunteer basis only.

They were the first line of defense and held the safety of the base in their hands.

Andy never complained about spending every night on watch, trying to detect enemy movements in the extreme darkness. He never showed fear and would give his life to protect his fellow soldiers.

“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. 247 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

Adams got to know Andy those nights on patrol. He knew him so well Andy didn't have to make a sound if he spotted something. His body language said it all. When the time came for Adams to leave the base in 1968, he knew Andy would stay behind and help someone else through those nights.

Like many who left or were transferred, Adams parted from his friend without knowing what became of him, but he was certain he never came back to the United States.

Years passed before a breakthrough. In 2000, Adams found out what happened to his friend. Andy had died in Vietnam in June 1970.

There was no ceremony. No name etched on The Wall in Washington, D.C.

Adams and other Vietnam veterans have not forgotten the sacrifices Andy, and others like him, made for their country. And they are trying to get a dog handlers memorial erected in the nation's capital to pay tribute to the forgotten canine heroes estimated to have saved some 10,000 lives.

Andy was one of 4,000 dogs used in Vietnam. Most of the dogs were German shepherds like Andy.

"Our real mission was to save lives," Adams said from his suburban Chicago home.

Adams is joined by 1,800 other Vietnam vets who were dog handlers there and are now part of the Vietnam Dog Handler Association. They are trying to raise money and gain government approval for a war memorial. And when Adams recently spoke to the Columbia County Humane Society at its annual banquet.

When Adams was 19, he and his friends thought that the fastest way they could get to Vietnam and help their country was to join a military program as a dog handler.

So they joined the Air Force.

“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. 247 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

“The dogs that we went through with, in dog school, were sent separately to Vietnam,” he said, noting that they were assigned dogs once arriving overseas.

Andy had been in Vietnam for a year when Adams was assigned to him. There were five different programs to which he could have been assigned. There were scout dogs, a mine and booby trap unit, water dogs that could smell the enemy 30 feet underwater, track dogs that were lab retrievers, and sentry dogs, highly aggressive dogs that patrolled areas with only their handlers at night.

“There was 20 miles of perimeter and 53 dogs, and we worked one to two miles from the base,” Adams said.

Any sound by Andy could give away their position, so Andy would relay activity to Adams through body language, and then Adams would radio back to base for help if needed.

“I could tell with Andy if he was alerting to an animal, a snake, another human being, and if it was an American or Vietnamese,” he said.

Andy had four handlers before he died in Vietnam from a disease he got from a tick and was put to sleep.

Had Andy not gotten the disease, he still wouldn't have come home. Adams said no dog came home even when the troops left.

“They were considered excess equipment,” he said.

Dogs that weren't put down were given to the South Vietnamese and never heard from again, Adams said.

About 250 dogs were transferred to other bases. The quest to build a memorial has been an uphill climb. But through his book, “Remember the Alamo, A Sentry Dog Handler's View of Vietnam from the Perimeter of Phan Rang Air Base,” and speeches, Adams and others are trying to make the country aware of their cause.

“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. 247 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

So far the National War Dog Memorial Fund has raised \$100,000, but Adams acknowledges that there is a long way to go.

“We’re lobbying very actively,” he said.

For Adams, Andy was so much more than the ID number — 314F — stamped on his ear. He was a soldier, a protector and a friend, one worthy of remembering. (*Madison Wisconsin State Journal, November 23, 2003, Madison, Wisconsin*) **Note:** I reached out to Carl Adams for an update on this story, but I did not get any response.



Veterans want war dog stamp

(Wilson Daily Times, July 7, 2000, Wilson, North Carolina)

CHARLOTTE (AP) - Veterans who handled dogs in Vietnam want their canine counterparts to be honored on U.S. postage stamps.

About a dozen former Vietnam dog handlers from North Carolina and South Carolina are part of a nationwide drive lobbying the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp to honor the 4,000 war dogs that served in Vietnam.

The Vietnam Dog Handlers Association has twice been turned down by the Postal Service’s Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee. So the group started a petition and gathered more than 100,000 signatures.

Soon, the association will make a third request, this time for four stamps to include police dogs,

“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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

search-and-rescue dogs and service dogs such as those that guide blind people.

“The four-stamp proposal will include millions more people that can put pressure on the Postal Service and also honor working dogs that deserve recognition,” said Mike Lemish of Massachusetts, who is spearheading the stamp for war dogs.

Robert Hubbard of Mount Gilead, a former dog handler in Vietnam, supports the war dog stamp drive. He was so attached to his war dog, Duke, that he cried all night before he had to leave Phan Rang Air Force Base in 1971 and leave Duke behind.

Duke helped Hubbard patrol the perimeter of the base. He never saw the dog again.

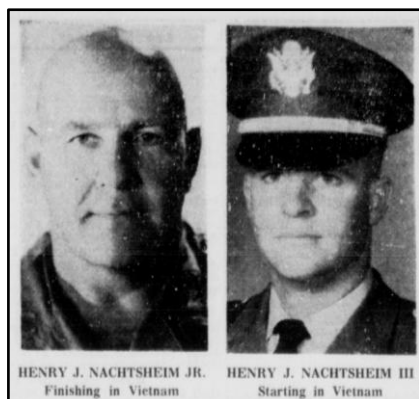
“These dogs were true heroes,” Hubbard said. “They meant so much to us, a stamp honoring them would mean everything in the world to us.”

Some dogs were used to sniff out mines or run messages.

A dog Jess Ollis of Charlotte handled, Kelly, uncovered a booby trap and Viet Cong soldiers in a fox hole, likely saving Ollis’ unit from an ambush.

Before leaving Vietnam, Ollis trained another handler to take Kelly. He never saw the dog again.

Of the 4,000 dogs that served in Vietnam, 278 were killed in action, and only 191 were shipped home to help train other dogs. The U.S. government euthanized the rest.



Father’s, Son’s Paths Cross In War Zone

A father and son from San Rafael got together in Vietnam recently, as one was on his way out and the other on his way in.

Maj. **Henry J. Nachtsheim Jr.** 44, of 535 Miller Creek Road, San Rafael, was finishing his tour of duty in Vietnam and

“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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

transferring to Heidelberg, Germany, as his son 2nd Lt. **Henry J. Nachsheim III**, 20 arrived to begin his tour of duty there.

They met July 23 in Phan Rang, Vietnam and spent nine days together. Both are with the First Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

The major has been in the service for 23 years, starting as a marine in World War II. His son graduated from Terra Linda High School in 1966 and took officer’s training at Fort Benning, Ga. His sister, Seaman Recruit Susan Nachtsheim graduated from Terra Linda High School this year, and is now in nurse’s training at the Naval Training center, Bainbridge, Md. Their father and grandfather, Henry J. Nachtsheim Sr. lives at 222 Madrone Avenue Larakspur. (*San Rafael Daily Independent Journal, September 13, 1957, San Rafael, California*)



Home From Vietnam - Captain and Mrs. **Keith A. Johnson** and their 1 1/2-year-old daughter, Cristine, left Boone Thursday, May 29, after a visit at the home of Capt. Johnson’s parents. Mr. and Mrs. S. L. “Johnny” Johnson, 2010 Tama Street. Their visit in Boone was cut short as the result of a automobile accident in which Mrs. Johnson received cuts and bruises and was hospitalized for six days in Denver, Colo., following surgery for a fracture of the cheek bone. Capt. Johnson returned to the states May 3 from Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. Before coming to Boone they visited at the home of Mrs. Johnson’s parents in Denver, Colo, where Mrs. Johnson and Kristine had made their home during the Captain’s tour of duty overseas. From Boone, the Johnson family went to Langley Air Force Base, Va., where Capt. Johnson will be stationed. His duty at Langley will be flying C-130 Cargo-Transport planes.

"Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, RVN

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

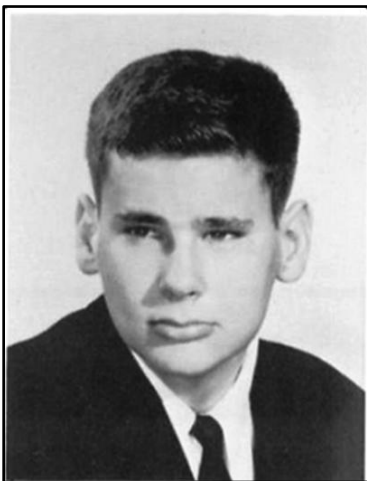
Phan Rang AB News No. 247 "...keeping the memories alive"



BACK HOME AGAIN . . . what every serviceman in Vietnam dreams about, to come home safe to his family and friends. Captain Keith Johnson is shown with his wife, Sandra, and their daughter, Kristine, during their visit in Boone at the home of Capt. Johnson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Johnson, 2010 Tam a street. Capt. Johnson returned May 3 after a year's tour of duty in Vietnam.

While in Vietnam, the Captain served as air-controller in the O-I Bird-Dog, a single engine Cessna, used for visual reconnaissance and to control air strides. During the last six months of his Vietnam tour, he was an instructor at the theater indoctrination school for qualification for air-controller.

While overseas, Capt. Johnson flew about 780 hours and 441 missions. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and has received 18 Air Medals. He is a graduate of Boone High School and received a B.S. degree and his commission in 1965 upon graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. (*Boone News Republican, May 31, 1969, Boone, Iowa*)



FAIRFIELD MAN DIES IN VIETNAM 'Lt. Mark C. Chenis, 23, Was Stationed at Phan Rang Air Force Base.' Air Force Lt. **Mark C. Chenis**, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Chenis of 309 Meadowbrook road, Fairfield, has died in Vietnam, the Defense Department reported yesterday. The death was "not as a result of hostile action," the report declared.

Lt. Chenis, was stationed at Phan Rang Air Force base where he flew F-100's.

Mark Constant Chenis

Born in Fairfield, he attended Grasmere school and graduated

“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. 247 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

from Roger Ludlowe high school in 1962. He was also a graduate from Rutgers university in 1966 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

He went to Flight school Valdosta, Ga., and graduated from Luke Air Force Base in the top five of his class in 1967.

Services are being arranged by the Wilmot, West and Goulding funeral home, 1209 Post road. Survivors, in addition to his parents, are two sisters, Paula Chenis of Alta, Utah, and Patti Lee Chenis of New York City. (*Bridgeport Post, October 19, 1968, Bridgeport, Connecticut*)

Note: Mark Constant Chenis, 615th TFS, flying F-100D 55-2929 aborted takeoff at Phan Rang Air Base, overran the runway and crashed. Also see Phan Rang Newsletters 122, 155 and 197 for more information.)

Airman 2.C. **Thomas E Williams**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Williams of Joiner is serving on temporary duty at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. He is a 1964 graduate of Shawnee High School and attended Arkansas State College. (*Blytheville Courier News, July 26, 1967*)

Conant Earns Award In Southeast Asia - Staff Sergeant **Kenneth L. Conant**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion U. Conant of Cardington, Ohio, is a member of a unit that has recently earned the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with “V” device for valor in Southeast Asia. Sergeant Conant, a pavements supervisor in the 554th Civil Engineering Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay AB, Vietnam, will wear a distinctive service ribbon to mark his affiliation with the unit. The squadron, which moved to Cam Ranh Bay in January, earned the award while stationed at Phan Rang Air Force Base. It was the third such award for the construction unit, but the first with the “V” device. The sergeant’s squadron was cited for exceptionally meritorious service while participating in airfield and facilities construction and in perimeter defense of Phan Rang from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 1969. Sergeant Conant, who has served in the Republic of Korea, is a 1961 graduate of Cardington High School. His wife is the former Shirley J. Irlbeck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Irlbeck of Canyon. The couple has one child, Roxanne, age 4. (*Canyon Sunday News, January 31, 1971, Canyon, Texas*)

Air force Capt. **Gerald R. Monk**, son of Mrs. Evelyn J. Monk, Iowa City, has received the Bronze Star for meritorious service while engaged in combat against Viet Cong. He was cited for

“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. 247 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

outstanding performance as a security police officer at Phan Rang Air base. (*Cedar Rapids Gazette, March 10, 1969, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*)

U.S. Air Force Sgt. **Gerald A. Geiser**, a graduate of Chilton High School, is an aircraft mechanic assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces on duty at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alois J. Geiser of Rt. 4, Chilton. (*Manitowoc Herald Times, August 19, 1969, Manitowoc, Wisconsin*)

PHAN RANG AF BASE, Vietnam — David A. Sulava, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sulava, 1704 Bridge St., Leechburg, Pa., recently was promoted to Army specialist five while serving with the 513th Engineer Company at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. A truck driver in the company, Spec. Sulava entered the Army in 1964 and was last stationed in Korea. The specialist's wife, Kathryne, lives at 1460 Luxton St., Seaside, Calif. (*Kittanning Leader Times, September 23, 1970, Kittanning, Pennsylvania*)

PRESTON A. ROMERO Preston A. Romero, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry J. Romero of 3820 36th street, has been promoted to the rank of Air Force sergeant while serving as security policeman at Phan Rang Air Force base in Vietnam. Sgt. Romero is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson high school. He is married and has been in Vietnam seven months. (*Port Arthur News, September 2, 1970, Port Arthur, Texas*)

Third War A hero of two previous wars, Air Force Col. **James Jabara** returns to Bien Hoa, South Viet Nam from his first combat mission in Viet Nam. Jabara, who will spend only a week in Viet Nam, ferried an F-100 Supersabre from England Air Force Base, La., to Phan Rang Air Force Base. A World War II ace pilot, Jabara later became the world's first jet ace in Korea, where he shot down a total of 15 MIGS. (*Fort Walton Beach Playground Daily News, July 21, 1966, Fort Walton Beach, Florida*)

"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. 247 "...keeping the memories alive"



HERO BACK IN ACTION — A hero of two previous wars, Air Force Col. James Jabara, returns from his first combat mission in Vietnam. Jabara, who will spend only a week in Viet Nam, ferried an F-100 Supersabre from England Air Force Base, La., to Phan Rang Air Force Base. A World War II ace pilot, Jabara later became the world's first ace in Korea where he shot down a total of 15 MIGs. (*New Castle News, July 20, 1966, New Castle, Pennsylvania*)

Military Notes - Sgt. **Roman I. Stephanie** of Mrs. Olive S. Stephanie, R.1. Fond du Lac, is serving as an aircraft equipment repairman at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. He had been assigned to Clark Air Force Base, Philippines. (*Sheboygan Press, April 11, 1968, Sheboygan, Wisconsin*)



SERVING - A1C **Roger Balcom** is now serving at Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Balcom of 838 Cole Road, Reading. His address is A1C Roger D. Balcom, FR368-48-9423, 614 TFS APO San Francisco 96321. (*Hillsdale Daily News, July 13, 1970, Hillsdale, Michigan*)

VIETNAM - U.S. Air Force Sergeant **Kenneth D. Long**, son of Robert D. Long of Vandergrift, is on duty at Phan Rang Air Force Base here. Sergeant Long is a metal working specialist assigned to the 35th Field Maintenance Squadron, a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific area. Before his arrival at Phan Rang, he served at Charleston AFB, S. C. Long is a 1967 graduate of Worthington (Pa.) High School. His wife, Barbara, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elton M. Gaiser of Worthington RD 1. (*Kittanning Simpson Leader Times, August 6, 1970, Kittanning, Pennsylvania*)

ROBERT OHLEMACHER...to Vietnam - **Robert C. Ohlemacher**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ohlemacher, 121 E. Follet St. has been assigned to Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. He is a 1967 graduate of Sandusky High School. Mailing address is A1C Robert C. Ohlemacher, FR 28142-7453, Box 9138, 309505Q, APO San Francisco, Calif. 96321. (*Sandusky Register,*

"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. 247 "...keeping the memories alive"

November 12, 1969, Sandusky, Ohio)



A1C **Daniel T. Kelley**, 366 Security Police, Da Nang, Vietnam, has just completed Seventh Air Force Weapons and Small Units Tactics School in South Vietnam at Phan Rang Air Force Base. Those who attended, thirty in number, were from every U.S. Air Base in Vietnam and were selected to attend the course by their base chief of security police. A1C Kelley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge H. Kelley, Cullman. (*Cullman Times Democrat, January 15, 1970, Cullman, Alabama*)

Airman **THOMAS M. STANISLAWSKI** is now stationed at Phan Rang Air Force Base South Vietnam, after spending a 30-day leave with his mother Mrs. Esther Stanislawski, 207 E. Howard St. His address: 35 Combat Spt. Gp., Box 8155 APO San Francisco, Calif. 96321. (*Winona Daily News, December 28, 1967, Winona, Minnesota*)

PROMOTED — **Keith R. Bachman**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bachman of Morrisdale R. D., was promoted to Sergeant Dec. 1 at Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam where he is an aircraft mechanic in a unit of the Pacific Air Forces. Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to the 47th Field Maintenance Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Following graduation from the West Branch Area High School in 1966, Sgt. Bachman enlisted in the Air Force in June 1967. (*Clearfield Progress, December 24, 1969, Clearfield, Pennsylvania*)

News Of Our Boys In Service - Airman 1st class **William K. Conover** is spending a thirty day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conover, and family. Airman Conover has been stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Fla., since July, 1966, after receiving his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Airman Conover will report to Trask Air Force Base, Calif. December 12, then to Fort McCord, Wash., where he will fly to Vietnam. He will be stationed at Phan Rang Air Force Base for 12 months. (*Wyoming Post Herald, November 22, 1967, Wyoming, Illinois*) **Note:** I suspect that he reported to Travis AFB and not Trask and then on to McCord AFB and not Fort McCord)

“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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

Allan Beckwith Named To Administrative Post - **C. Allan Beckwith** has been named administrator of the Grover M. Hermann Division of Community General Hospital, Monticello, N.Y. He assumed his duties on Aug. 9. Beckwith is the son of Doctor and Mrs. Harry S. Beckwith of 500 Aspinwall Street, Winslow. He is a recent graduate of Cornell University's Sloan Institute of Hospital Administration, where he received his master of professional studies degree in hospital health care administration. He served his administrative residency with Samaritan Health Services, at Good Samaritan hospital, Phoenix. He is a 1962 graduate of Loyola University of Los Angeles.

From 1962 to 1974, Beckwith was on active duty with the United States Air Force, serving in various administrative positions. Among the posts he held are: chief, administrative services, wing level. Fort Miley, San Francisco; base officer-in-charge, special services, Luke Air Force Base, Phoenix; chief, special services, Luke Air Force Base, Phoenix; chief, special services division, Phan Rang Air Force Base, Republic of Vietnam; and chief, special services division, Forbes Air Force Base, Topeka, Kans.

In his new position, Beckwith will be responsible for the operation of the Grover M. Hermann Division and will assist the executive director in various staff functions in the not-for-profit health care institution. (*Winslow Mail, August 26, 1976, Winslow, Arizona*)

Captain Sable Gets Air Medal - PACKWOOD — U.S. Air Force Capt. **Ronald K. Sable**, son of Roy C. Sable. Packwood, has received the Air Medal at Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam for air action in Southeast Asia.

His mother, Mrs. Pauline Sable, resides in Keota. The presentation was made by Colonel Leslie J. Campbell, his wing commander.

Capt. Sable was cited for his outstanding airmanship and courage as a C-123K Provider troop carrier pilot on successful and important missions completed under hazardous conditions.

The captain is serving with the 310th Special Operations Squadron, a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarter for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific area. He previously was assigned at Reese Air Force Base. Texas. The 1958 graduate from 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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

Farmington High School earned his BA degree at Iowa Wesleyan College in 1963 and attended the University of Iowa before receiving his commission through Officer Training School, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. His wife, Sandra, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Trumbo, Bettendorf. (*Fairfield Daily Ledger, November 19, 1969, Fairfield, Iowa*)

Airman First Class **Ned M. Musselman**, stationed at Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam, has been officially made an educational training specialist. He is teaching a class of high school English and remedial reading to GIs twice a week in addition to his regular job of setting up schedules and issuing tests to air force men in his squadron. His wife, Judy, is a teacher at Fairborn. The son of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Musselman. Route 1, has a new service address. It is: A1C Ned M. Musselman. F-276-40-1845, Box 8569—B. 25th Combat Spt. Gp , APO San Francisco. Calif. 96321. (*Circleville Herald, November 4, 1969, Circleville, Ohio*)

Airman Chris Walling to wed Texas Girl - The engagement of Judy G. Millsap to **Chris R. Walling** has been announced. Miss Millsap is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey S. Millsap of Sherman, Texas. She is attending Oklahoma Christian College in Oklahoma. Her fiancé, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walling of El Dorado Hills, is a 1966 graduate of Ponderosa high school. He is an airman first class at Perrin Air Force base, Sherman, Texas where he serves as a weapons mechanic in the 4780th munitions maintenance squadron. Walling will be leaving for Phan Rang Air Force Base, Republic of Vietnam sometime in March of 1969. The wedding is planned for April of 1970 after his overseas tour is completed. (*Placerville Mountain Democrat, December 19, 1968, Placerville, California*)

Armed Forces News - AIRMAN 2/C **Richard A. Sebeniecher**, son of William Sebeniecher of 2902 McComas Lane, is on duty at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Viet Nam. Airman Sebeniecher, a postal specialist, is a graduate of Van Horn High School. Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to Lowry Air Force Base, Colo. (*Independence Examiner, August 14, 1967, Independence, Missouri*)

In the Armed Forces - First Lt. **Dee D. Brecheisen**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Brecheisen of Eudora is on duty at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. Lt. Brecheisen, an F-100 Super Sabre pilot, is a member of the Pacific Air Forces, America’s overseas air arm in Southeast Asia, the Far East and Pacific. A graduate of Edgerton High School, he received his commission

"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. 247 "...keeping the memories alive"

in 1964 upon completion of the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at Kansas University. (*Lawrence Daily Journal World, June 17, 1967, Lawrence, Kansas*)

PHAN RANG AF BASE, Vietnam — **David A. Sulava**, 24, son of Mr.-and Mrs. John Sulava, 1704 Bridge St., Leechburg, Pa., recently was promoted to Army specialist five while serving with the 513th Engineer Company at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. A truck driver in the company, Spec. Sulava entered the Army in 1964 and was last stationed in Korea. The specialist's wife, Kathyne, lives at 1460 Luxton St., Seaside, Calif. (*Leader Times, Wednesday, September 23, 1970, Kittanning, Pennsylvania*)

AF Chaplain Wins Medal - Air Force Chaplain **William D. Vickers**, son of Dr. and Mrs. William V. Vickers of 306 Robineau Road, received a Bronze Star at Pope Air Force Base, Fayetteville, N.C. Chaplain Vickers was cited for outstanding performance while at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. He is a 1949 graduate of Cathedral Academy and received a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1957 from St. Bernard's Seminary and College, Rochester. (*Syracuse Post Standard, June 28, 1972, Syracuse, New York*)

Our Men in Service - Sgt. **Jerry Kreil**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kreil of 914 Fifth St., Manitowoc, has been assigned to the 35th Transport Squadron at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. He entered the Air Force after graduation from Lincoln High School, Manitowoc, in 1954. He had had a three-year tour of duty at the Ariano Air Force Base, Italy, and 1 1/2 years at Charleston, S. C., before his present assignment. (*Manitowoc Herald Times, October 20, 1969, Manitowoc, Wisconsin*)



Sergeant Paul McGriff

Sergeant Paul K. McGriff, now serving with the Security Police Squadron at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam, is shown with a python snake, which he and two other servicemen killed when on patrol. The men found inside the snake a mongoose, which it had apparently eaten before being killed. To kill the snake they used three shots from a .38 caliber sidearm. Sergeant McGriff is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul McGriff and the husband of Mrs. Linda McGriff, all of Cullman, Route Five. He is due to return to the States

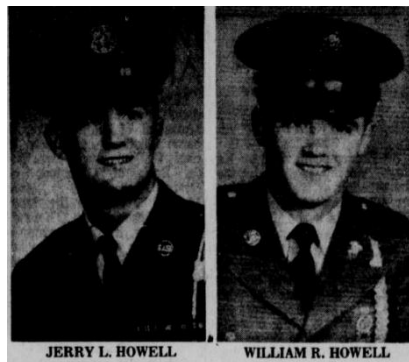
"Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, RVN

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

Phan Rang AB News No. 247 "...keeping the memories alive"

Apr. 18. (*Cullman Times Democrat, February 13, 1969, Cullman, Alabama*)

Brothers Hold Reunion



Two local brothers met recently for the first time in a year and a half at the Phan Rang Air Force base in Vietnam. Airman 1C Jerry L. Howell and Spec. 4 William R. Howell Jr., sons of Mrs. Isabel Waitson of 1037 Ephraim St., spent three days together at the base. Both volunteered for duty in Vietnam. Airman Howell, 19, a 1968 graduate of East Liverpool High School, enlisted that year. He received basic training at the Lackland base in San Antonio, Tex., where he was appointed a squad leader. He later was graduated as an administrative specialist at the Kessler base in Mississippi. He then was transferred to the Castle base in California, where he served as a key punch operator before going to Vietnam, where he works in the office of the base commander.

Spec. Howell, 20, attended East Liverpool High School and entered the service in 1966. His basic training was taken at Ft. Jackson, S.C., and advanced training in mechanics at Ft. Lee, Va. In August 1967, he was assigned to Vietnam, where he was stationed for a year as a military policeman. Upon his return to the states, he was assigned to Ft. Bragg, N.C., where he enlisted for an additional six years and volunteered for another tour of duty in Vietnam.

He has been stationed with the 1st Air Cavalry Division at Phoc Vihn, Vietnam, near the Cambodian border. He is expected to return home in June. (*East Liverpool Evening Review, March 27, 1970, East Liverpool, Ohio*)

Phan Rang — Air Force Technical Sgt. **Elmer J. Thies**, son of Mrs. Ruth M. Thies of 5915 Kim Ave., Atwater, is on duty at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. Sgt. Thies, a supply inventory supervisor, is assigned to a unit of the Air Force Communications Service. He previously served at Castle AFB. (*Modesto Bee and News Herald, October 27, 1969, Modesto, California*)

"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. 247 "...keeping the memories alive"



Is Promoted To Sergeant - William E. Conover, age 21, son Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conover, has been promoted from A1/C to Sergeant in the United States Air Force in Vietnam. Sgt. Conover enlisted May of 1966 and received his basic training at Lackland Air Force base, San Antonio, Tex. He was transferred to Tyndall Air Force base Panama City, Fla., and for eighteen months received training as a fuel specialist. He has been stationed Phan Rang Air Force base in Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam, since December 22, 1967.

(Wyoming Post Herald, August 14, 1968, Wyoming, Illinois)

To Be Married - Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Robinson of Chicopee, Mass., announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Miss Susan Ann Robinson, to Captain **C. Allan Beckwith**, U.S. Air Force, son of Dr. and Mrs. H.S. Beckwith of Winslow. Miss Robinson attended Holy Name High School, Chicopee, and received an associate degree from By Path Junior College. She is a legal secretary employed in the offices of Bulkley, Richardson, Ryan & Burbank, in Springfield, Mass. Capt. Beckwith received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola University of Los Angeles, Calif., and took graduate work at San Francisco State College. While at Loyola, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity, Teteron Chapter. Captain Beckwith is presently serving as the director of personnel services at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. *(Winslow Mail, April 17, 1969, Winslow, Arizona)*

Lorain serviceman wins Bronze Star - LORAIN — U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant **Jon L. Mitchell**, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Mitchell of Lorain, has been awarded the Bronze Star medal in San Bernardino, Calif., for military performance in Vietnam. The award, given at Norton Air Force Base, was for action as a command post specialist against the Viet Cong at Phan Rang Air Force Base, South Vietnam, from January to October, 1968, according to the Air Force. Mitchell is assigned to the Space and Missile Systems Organization at Norton. He is a 1961 graduate of St. Mary High School where he played football. He attended the University of Maryland European Division. Mitchell's wife, Janette, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Lesniak, 1506 Root Rd. His parents live at 228 Delaware Ave. *(Elyria Chronicle Telegram, July 14, 1969, Elyria, Ohio)*

“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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

AIRMAN TO VIETNAM - Amn. **Robert L. Richardson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Richardson, 50 Highland Avenue, has recently graduated at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, from the U. S. Air Force medical services specialist class. He is being assigned to Phan Rang Air force base, Vietnam, for duty to assist in the care and treatment of patients in the Pacific Air Forces. (*Dunkirk Evening Observer, February 20, 1970, Dunkirk, New York*)

Armed Forces - Air force Capt. **Gerald R. Monk**, son of Mrs. Evelyn J. Monk, Iowa City, has received the Bronze Star for meritorious service while engaged in combat against Viet Cong. He was cited for outstanding performance as a security police officer at Phan Rang air force base. (*Cedar Rapids Gazette, March 10, 1969, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*)

Airman In Vietnam - U.S. Air Force Sgt **Anthony J. Cottonaro** of Palatine has arrived for duty at Phan Rang Air Force base in Vietnam. Cottonaro, an aircraft mechanic in a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cottonaro, 2270 Longacre Ln., Palatine. (*Arlington Heights Daily Herald Suburban Chicago, March 24, 1971, Arlington Heights, Illinois*)

Ex-Burroughs Pupil Flies 312 Missions in Viet - Californian News Service - CHINA LAKE - Air Force Major **Richard N. Mead**, a former longtime resident of the area and a 1952 graduate of Burroughs High School, has completed his 312th and final combat mission over Vietnam. During his tour as an F-100 Super Sabre pilot based at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam, he earned 16 air medals. A veteran of 3,400 hours total flying time, Maj. Mead is being reassigned to Sheppard AFB, Texas, where he will serve as instructor pilot. Mead is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph N. Mead, former China Lake residents, now living in Palmdale. He is the nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Mead, of 309B Forrestal Street, China Lake. Mead attended Pasadena City College and San Jose State College. He also attended the University of Alabama at Selma. (*Bakersfield Californian, June 1, 1968, Bakersfield, California*)

State Man on Missing Plane - SAIGON (A P) — A Monroe, Mich., couple has been notified their son, en route home after a year’s tour of duty in Vietnam was aboard a transport plane which has been missing since Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughie H. Johnson received a telegram Sunday informing them their son, TSgt. **Robert B. Johnson**, 34, was missing. Johnson’s wife and five children reside in Dover, Del.

“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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

The telegram was delivered to the Johnsons shortly after the plane, a C-123, disappeared. The U.S. Command, however, withheld the announcement that the plane was missing for four days on security grounds and then declined to disclose the base from which the transport took off or its destination.

However, other Air Force sources said the plane was en route from Phan Rang Air Force Base to Cam Ranh Bay. The plane is presumed down in the central part of South Viet Nam. Fog and heavy clouds have hampered search operations and no emergency radio signals have been picked up. Aboard were 32 Americans and 12 Vietnamese. (*Ironwood Daily Globe, December 3, 1970, Ironwood, Michigan*) **Note:** More information about Robert Bruce Johnson, who was assigned to the 310 TAS can be found in Phan Rang Newsletter 155)

IN VIETNAM - Airman 1.C. **Philip G. Hoefler**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Hoefler, 428 La Belle Lane, Monona, is on duty at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. An air passenger specialist, he has been assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East, and the Pacific area. (*Madison Wisconsin State Journal, June 14, 1971, Madison, Wisconsin*)

Stegalls Visit Sick Grandson - Mr. and Mrs. John J. Stegall have returned from Montgomery, Ala., where they visited their grandson, Airman First Class **Donald A. Osley** — who was airlifted from Vietnam for treatment of infectious hepatitis. Airman Osley arrived at Maxwell Air Force Base Hospital in Alabama on May 24. Mr. and Mrs. Stegall visited him for three days. Also visiting him was his mother, Mrs. Richard Spencer of Shelbyville, Va. Young Osley is improving rapidly and hopes to be out of isolation soon. He was stationed at Misawa Air Force Base in Japan for nine months before going to Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam for 11 months of duty. (*Kannapolis Daily Independent, May 30, 1967, Kannapolis, North Carolina*)

Welcome home, Vietnam vet! - FREEPORT - Sgt. **Lynn Warnick** saw his eight-month old son for the first time this week when he returned home from a year's tour of duty in Vietnam. Warnick, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Warnick of Freeport will be stationed in Abilene, and accompanying him there will be his wife, Linda, and son Michael. While stationed in Vietnam, Warnick served with the 310th Special Operations Squadron at Phan Rang Air Force Base. A 1967 graduate of Brazosport High School. Warnick has been in the Air Force for the past two

"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. 247 "...keeping the memories alive"

and one half years. (*Texas Freeport Brazosport Facts, December 17, 1969, Freeport, Texas*)



VIETNAM- Airman 1c, **Joseph Frank Cattani Jr.**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cattano J. Cattani of 2406 Wood Ave., Edgely, is on duty at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. Cattani is an aircraft maintenance specialist with the 35 USAF. He a 1969 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School and has previously served at McGuire Air Force Base. (*Bucks County Courier Times, August 25, 1970, Levittown, Pennsylvania*)

Capt. Buchanan At Nevada Base - Capt. Timothy G. Buchanan, son of retired Colonel and Mrs. Dale E. Buchanan, 400 E. Pierce, has arrived for duty at Nellis Air Force Base. Nev. Capt. Buchanan, an aircraft maintenance officer in a unit of the Tactical Air Command, previously served at Phan Rang Air Force Base. Vietnam. A graduate of Leavenworth Kansas, senior high, he received his BA degree in Russian from the University of Kansas where he was commissioned in 1966 through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps program. The Captain's wife Margaret is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Schroeder, Leavenworth. (*Fairfield Daily Ledger, April 12, 1969, Fairfield, Iowa*)

A2C **James R. Firestine**, Richland, will have good reason to remember his 19th birthday today. He is stationed at Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam. He is in the ammunitions and weapons division of the Air Force. The son of Mrs. Caroline Firestine, 200 Oak St., Richland, he is a 1965 graduate of Eastern Lebanon County High School. He has been in the Air Force since Sept. 27, 1965. He went overseas in September 1966. (*Lebanon Daily News, December 16, 1966, Lebanon Pennsylvania*)

ROBERT OHLEMACHER...to Vietnam - Robert C. Ohlemacher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ohlemacher, 121 E. Follet St. has been assigned to Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. He is a 1967 graduate of Sandusky High School. Mailing address is A-C Robert C. Ohlemacher, FR 28142-7453, Box 9138, 309505Q, APO San Francisco, Calif. 96321. (*Sandusky Register, November 12, 1969, Sandusky, Ohio*)

Anderson Gets AF Promotion - Air Force Airman First Class, Terry J. Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney J. Anderson, 50 Dixon St., was promoted to Sergeant recently. Anderson is

“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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

stationed at Phan Rang Air Force Base, Viet Nam. (*Madison Capital Times, July 19, 1971, Madison, Wisconsin*)

S.M.SGT. **Marvin C. Riggs**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Riggs of Route 7, was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal for service at Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam. The presentation was made by the Wing Commander of the 15th Tactical Fighter Wing at MacDill Air Force Base. Tampa, Fla., where he is now assigned. He has completed 28 years of service. The citation read in part: “Sergeant Riggs displayed outstanding management techniques in supporting over 60,000 combat sorties. The exemplary leadership, personal endeavor and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Riggs reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.” (*Morgantown Post, August 4, 1970, Morgantown, West Virginia*)

Miss Janice Hull to wed veteran of Vietnam war - Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hull of Sherburne have announced the engagement of their daughter, Janice Marie to Sgt. **Gene M. Miner**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Winfield of Mr. Upton and the late Raymond C. Miner. Miss Hull is a senior at Sherborne - Earlville Central School and attends BOCES Vocational School in Norwich. Sgt. Miner, of the United States Air Force, is a 1968 graduate of Mt. Upton Central School. He is presently stationed at Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam. No date has been set for the wedding. (*Norwich Evening Sun, December 23, 1970, Norwich, New York*)

Airman Heim Home from Vietnam - A1C **Leo R. Heim**, who has been stationed in Vietnam at Phan Rang Air Force Base for the past year, has arrived home for a 30-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo R. Heim and family at 1701 Pollock Rd. Following his leave, Heim will report to Nellis AFB at Las Vegas, Nev. as a new assignment. (*Mexico Ledger, June 30, 1971, Mexico, Missouri*)

Veteran of Viet Nam Is Visiting Relatives Here - Staff Sergeant **Joe Hickey** who returned recently from 11 months and 23 days service with the Air Force in Viet Nam is here visiting his mother-in-law, Mrs. James C. Capps of 307 Seventh Street, Nocona. With him are his wife, Loreila and five-year-old son, James. Sgt. Hickey and his family will leave soon for his new assignment at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The Air Force sergeant is a career man and has previously served in Korea, during the war there, and in Germany from 1962 to 1964. Sgt Hickey was stationed in Viet Nam at Phan Rang Air Force Base, and in fact, helped to build 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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

base. This is located some 165 miles northeast of Saigon and its only six miles from the beach. He was an electrical power specialist in Viet Nam, operating diesel generators which produced Power for the post. He said that Viet Nam is a hot tropical country, that the natives are not too industrious and that most of them are living well in spite of the war. He flew home From Saigon leaving there in high of 90 degrees weather, finding 64 degrees in Tokyo, 15 degrees in Anchorage, Alaska, and 67 degrees in San Francisco. He arrived in Dallas Nov. 11th. (*Nocona News, November 24, 1966, Nocona, Texas*)

MY BROTHERS By THERESA McNAIR - Uniontown - I have four brothers and they are: Ivan who is 20; Russell who is 17; Shannon who is 25, and Larry who is 29. I am very fond of them, especially Ivan and Russell. **Ivan** is a sergeant in the Air Force. He is stationed at the Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam. Russell is a senior at the Uniontown High School. They are both good brothers to me. (*Uniontown Morning Herald, January 3, 1970, Uniontown, Pennsylvania*)

In The Armed Forces - Major **Fred R. Nordin**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Nordin of Orangeburg, SC. has received his fourth award of the U S. Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service in Vietnam. He is married to the former Norma Ellberg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ellberg of 13 Willey St , Warren. Nordin recently served as chief of current operations division of 35th Tactical Fighter Wing of Phan Rang Air force Base. He was commissioned in 1957 through the aviation cadet program and now holds the aeronautical rating of senior pilot. (*Warren Times Mirror and Observer, December 8, 1971, Warren, Pennsylvania*)

Airman 1/C Charles E. Floyd To Vietnam - A 1/C **Charles E. Floyd**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Floyd Route I, Burnet, has been home on 30 day leave. He reported to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for three weeks school before going to Phan Rang Air Force Base, Viet Nam. Airman Floyd, a graduate of Marble Falls High School, has been in the US Air Force since October 31, 1964. (*Burnet Bulletin, July 13, 1967, Burnet, Texas*)

A.1.C. STEVEN C. AMERINE - A1C Steven C. Amerine is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Amerine of 212 E. 6th St., Wilton. His wife, Nancy, lives in Bennett. His address is: 478586470, 435 M.M.S., PO Box 7418, APO San Francisco, 96321. He is stationed in Phan Rang Air Force Base, Vietnam. (*Muscatine Thursday Muscatine Journal, November 26, 1970, Muscatine, Iowa*)

“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. 247 “...keeping the memories alive”

“TAPPS” (God Is Nigh)

Jimmy Weber pays tribute to our fallen military service members and the families they leave behind in this linked video. Based on the original military bugle melody and the lyrics "Day Is Done" (author unknown). Background vocals by Taryn Lamont. I received a note from Frank Brocato, US Army Veteran of Phan Rang and he said “I showed (this video) this to my wife and she reminded me that she is the great-Grand Daughter of Oliver Willcox Norton, the bugler who put the music to TAPS as requested by Daniel Butterfield. We actually have a picture from her Great Grandparents indicating her great grandfather put the music together for Commander Butterfield. This is a very beautiful rendition of the song and it’s a great honor to see it. Click [here](#) to see and hear the video.



Doug’s Comments:

I hope that you enjoyed this newsletter. Sometimes I wonder if all the stories from Phan Rang have already been told, but I don’t really think so because years ago I thought they were, but they just kept on coming. Every week we add new members to the Phan Rang Facebook site and everyone one of those new members might have a story that is unique to them, even if the story has been told before, it still could be told differently from your perspective, so let me hear you. This newsletter was composed by Douglas Severt and all graphics by Douglas Severt. To see a list of all previous newsletters click [here](#). To unsubscribe to Phan Rang News, dougsevert@cox.net and put ‘unsubscribe’ in subject line.