

Phan Rang AB Newsletter

The History of Phan Rang AB and the stories of those who served there.
“Keeping the memories alive” Newsletter 274

In this issue:

F-100s kill 55 at Fire Base 6

Shipping cargo by truck instead of air saves \$

The Paula Holt story continues

Helo mechanic wins world-wide award

VNAF Command Decorates Phan Rang Airman

Just another day in Happy Valley by Kenneth Garrett

Parish handymen fix home of 72 orphans

Aussies Observe ANZAC Day

Marathon Causes Reverberations

Doug's Comments

AIR FORCE, NAVY PILOTS TRADE PLACES DURING EXCHANGE



PHAN RANG AR, Republic of Vietnam (74F) -- HAND TALK -- Air Force First.

Lt. Charles R. Harr (left) of Electra, Tex., uses body English (Charles Harr in a recent communication said “The sign language I’m using is the worldwide accepted pilot

“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. 274 “...keeping the memories alive”

communication”) to describe F-100 Super Sabre air tactics to Navy Lt. Jeff R. Woodfield of San Diego, Calif. The Navy lieutenant was hosted by the 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Phan Rang AB while participating in an Air Force-Navy pilot exchange Program. Lieutenant Woodfield is from the aircraft carrier US Hancock operating in the South China Sea at Yankee Station.

(Official News Release # 1-71-24 (D) by Sgt. Ken Garrett and U.S. Air Force Photo by Sgt. Pete Pittas.)

Note: This story was originally reported on in Phan Rang Newsletter 30, titled “Navy, Air Force Pilots Swap Seats” from Pacific Stars & Stripes, Thursday, Feb. 18, 1971, however the story continues in the next issue of the Phan Rang Newsletter from a different source and great pictures to accompany the story. Additional stories about Charles Harr can be found in Phan Rang News 30, 158 and 235 and additional stories about Jeff Woodfield are in issues 30 and 240.)



It Happened at Phan Rang

In support of ARVN

F-100s kill 55 at Fire Base 6

(7th Air Force News, 5 May 1971)

PHAN RANG — Air Force F-100 Super Sabre jet fighters of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing pounded the area around the besieged Army of the Republic of Vietnam Fire Base 6 in Kontum Province recently, hitting as close as 100 meters from the perimeter, killing 55 communist soldiers, setting off 25 secondary explosions and destroying one enemy gun position.

One of the pilots in the first two ship flight was Maj. **Henry W. Armstrong**. He said, "The "fire base was at the top of a ridgeline which was very rugged and covered with trees. Our visibility was cut down by haze and smoke from fire all over the area.

"The FAC (forward air controller), an Air Force pilot in an O-2 Super Skymaster, told us to hit about 200 meters west of the fire base where a known enemy location was threatening the base. We couldn't see anything through the haze and the trees so the ARVN directed the strike by telling the FAC where they wanted our ordnance and the FAC would then mark it

“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. 274 “...keeping the memories alive”

for us.

"We were receiving anti-aircraft fire but were able to make four bomb and two strafing runs each. When we got through, the ground troops counted 10 dead enemy soldiers and said they saw eight secondary explosions, probably from caches of small arms ammunition, grenades and mortars. The ground commander was very pleased with our bombing."

The next few flights were put in on known- enemy locations from 100 meters to 500 meters southwest of the base to stop the ground fire. Pilots in these flights were Captains **Charles P. Peterson, Allen A. Struthers, Larry D. Bruce** and **Paul J. Wagner**.

With each strike the haze and smoke became more intense. Each fighter made several bomb runs and then strafed with explosive 20mm cannon fire. After four such strikes, the FAC and the ground troops counted 36 dead enemy soldiers and 17 secondary explosions.

Less than two hours after the first Super Sabre started dropping its bombs the sixth flight rolled in on the target. One of the pilots on this flight was Maj. **Robert L. Oliver**. He said, "We came in right after an F-4 Phantom flight. We killed nine enemy soldiers and destroyed a gun position, then headed for home."

(**Note:** Additional stories about Allen Struthers can be found in Phan Rang Newsletters 152 and 197.)

Shipping cargo by truck instead of air saves \$

PHAN RANG — A Resources Conservation savings action submitted by Detachment 8, 14th Aerial Port Squadron here recently pushed the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing \$4,000 beyond its fiscal year 1971 RECON goal of \$395,000.

Capt. **Earl D. Cauthen Jr.**, detachment commander, reported a \$63,399 RECON saving for the remainder of FY 71 by initiating a supplemental program of using U.S. Army trucks to transport air eligible cargo to nearby Cam Ranh Bay AB instead of airlifting it.

Before the action all eligible cargo was airlifted to Cam Ranh Bay by C-123 Provider aircraft. The operating cost for a C-123 for the 64-mile round trip is \$354 compared to \$34.56 for an Army

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

10-ton tractor and trailer. Captain Cauthen stated that the service is just as fast using the available trucks on the established truck run. Approximately one quarter of the cargo passing through Phan Rang's aerial port facility is trucked to Cam Ranh Bay.

During the months of February, 411 tons of air eligible cargo was trucked at a saving of \$11,914. The estimated savings for a full year is \$155,000.



The Paula Holt story continues from Phan Rang Newsletter 273

Fund Campaign successful

(Phan Fare, April 18, 1971)

“We have over \$37,200.00 cash so far and it’s still pouring in,” reported happy but tired Air Force Sgt. Robert L. Jones on Apr. 7, “and this doesn’t include the thousands of dollars in phone pledges.” The money is being raised by the concerned personnel of Phan Rang AB to help pay for the medical debts of a young Austin Tex., brother and sister who are suffering from a rare and deadly kidney disease.

Gary Holt, 20, a sophomore at Southwest Texas State University, and his 17-year-old sister, Paula, are victims of acute nephritis, a rare hereditary kidney disease that requires them to spend that requires them to spend 15 hours a week channeling their blood through a machine in order to keep alive. The machine which processes the youths’ blood consumes a non-reuseable liquid chemical which costs the H. V. Hold family at least \$360.00 a month for each person.

Gary and Paula cannot live without the costly medical supplies. The disease has already taken the lives of three of, their 10 brothers and sisters, and three other Holt children are still in the age range, 16-20, during which acute nephritis Usually strikes.

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

There was only a six week supply of the chemicals left as of Mar. 30, with no more in sight after that unless financial help arrives. Mr. Holt drives a bread truck and his wife operates a day nursery in their home, and Gary works part-time in an Austin shoe store, but their combined income does not come near meeting the medical expenses.

When Sergeant Jones, a 22-year-old security policeman here; read this in the newspaper, he decided something had to be done to help, but he never dreamed that his idea would snowball into one of the most spontaneous, lucrative fund drives ever-devised in Southeast Asia. With the backing of the base commander and an assist from the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) Information Office, the drive began in earnest at 7 p.m. on Apr. 6. The marathon appeal was made over the commander's frequency broadcasting system, and within 25 hours more than \$37,200.00 in cash and checks had been turned in to the 35th Information Office at Phan Rang AB, a U.S. Air Force installation on the South China Sea coast, 165 miles northeast of Saigon. Since then another \$985.00 has been collected, bringing the total to \$38,305.00 as of Apr. 15. The campaign still goes on.

Day and night hundreds of donors and volunteer workers, massed in and out of the small office, turning in their donations and pledges. Hundreds of pledges also came in over the telephone from units, work and recreation areas. Individuals auctioned off personal possessions, from motorcycles to beer wagon lanterns, in an effort to raise money for their "adopted" stateside family. Sergeant Jones said, "It spread like wildfire and, wasn't just limited to American GIs either. Aussies from the base's Royal Australian Air Force Number 2 Squadron, Vietnamese civilian workers, and U.S. contractors and tech reps (technical representatives) joined in." U.S. Army units at Phan Rang massed to the Air Force-sponsored drive, and helped man the phones throughout the night.

"The response was unbelievable," Sergeant Jones continued. "I didn't know we had this many people in the area, and they all seemed to come a-runnin'. Money is still coming in literally by the buckets-full, and we will keep the campaign going until every last man and gal at Phan Rang has had the chance to give.

"It really gives me a mighty good feeling inside to know that so many troops over here care so

“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. 274 “...keeping the memories alive”

much about other people who are in a tight spot too. I only wish the folks back home could understand this."

The spirit of the drive at Phan Rang was spontaneous and contagious. Units pooled their resources and came up with donations in the thousands of dollars. Many individuals gave until it hurt and then some. Three GIs offered a kidney if it would help. One airman wrote a check for \$1,267.00 which represented a healthy portion of his recent reenlistment bonus; another cancelled his new car order stateside so he could donate \$450 many men came in and gave all their cash and pledged more; and one two-striper (airman first class), with tears in his cheeks, said, "Lord, how I wish it could be more: as he emptied his billfold out onto the desk. Mechanics "sold" their aircraft to the pilots for donations; enlisted men challenged officers to top their pledges; units challenged units, barracks-barracks, and clubs-clubs. There are many clean-shaven heads and hairless chests wandering around work areas today as a result of challenge acceptance to raise cash for Paula and Gary.

When asked why he didn't challenge other bases to outdo the Phan Rang effort, he replied. "This isn't really a contest; it's too serious for that because the lives of two kids are at stake. If other bases want to help the Holts, I say 'go to it,' all Americans should want to help people who are hurting like Paula and Gary. At over \$700.00 a month for medical expenses, it doesn't take long to go through \$37,000.00.

Holt's Place Feast Tomorrow

(Phan Fare, May 2, 1971)

On Monday night, May 3, the Phan Rang All Ranks Club will be officially renamed "**Holt's Place**" in honor of Paula and Gary Holt, an Austin, Tex., brother and sister afflicted with a rare hereditary kidney disease.

The winning name was suggested by SMSgt. **Roger D. Byerly** of the 14th Special Operations Wing, who requested that the \$50 prize money be donated to the Holt fund drive.

To celebrate the renaming dedication and the closing the month-long fund drive a night of good food and lots of entertainment is planned for all airmen, NCOs officers and DoD civilians.

"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. 274 "...keeping the memories alive"

Starting at 4 p.m. Monday complete Western Bar-B-Que buffet will be served in the party room of Holt's Place. The price will be \$2.50 per plate, \$1 of which will go into the Holt's fund. Meru will consist of Bar-B-Que ribs, pork, beef, chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, macaroni salad,, bread and butter.

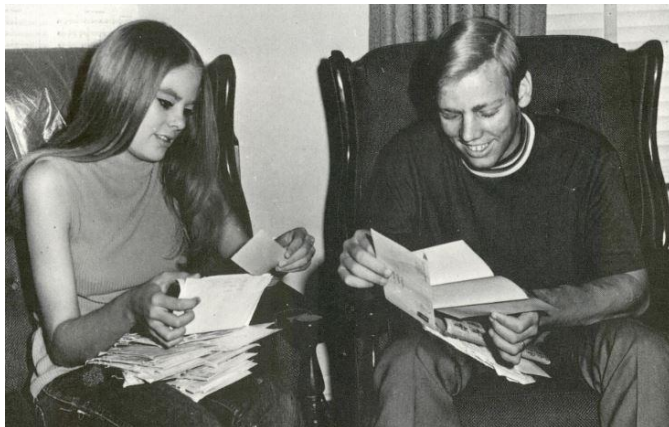
At 7 p.m., a formal dedication ceremony will be conducted by base officials renaming the club "Holt's Place" and at 7:30 the live entertainment will begin. Featured that night will be a Battle of the Bands between the Klansmen, the Cosmopolitans, and the Country Gentlemen. Local talent included Sgt. Arthur M. Gentry, formerly of the Bow-legged Flypaper, and dancing girls.

Master of ceremonies for the night will be SSgt **Donald E. White** who conducted the 25-hour Radio Phan Rang marathon for Paula and Gary on Apr. 6-7. The Holt's fund grand total will be posted throughout the night and the proclamation for Paula Holt will also be there to be signed by all in-attendance. The fund drive will close out at midnight.

The Corpus Christi Times

April 13, 1971

AUSTIN — Tears streamed down the cheeks of 17-year-old Paula Jo Holt as she thanked "all the gang at Phan Rang." Her 20-year-old brother Gary could only say "thank you" again and again.



Paula Jo Holt and her brother Gary look through all the well wishes received in the mail.

The \$30,000 Air Force Sgt. Robert L. Jones gave the Austin brother and sister last night, contributed by servicemen in Vietnam, will help Paula and Gary fight a rare disease.

(Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Holt, parents of the disease-stricken children, were in Corpus Christi last weekend visiting some of their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Lee of 4613 Anthony. Three other children

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

accompanied them.

(While here the Holts publicly thanked all the South Texans who had contributed money to purchase kidney machines which have sustained life for their family.)

The malady, acute nephritis, already has taken the lives of three of their brothers and sisters.

The money Jones brought from his station at Vietnam's Phan Rang Air Base will be used by the young Holts for 15 hours of treatment each week by an artificial kidney machine which cleanses the blood of impurities. Some day they hope to have kidney transplants.

"This is really a thrill to me," said Jones, 22. He and his wife Norma, of Turlock, Calif., were given a red carpet greeting by the Austin Chamber of Commerce and several hundred spectators.

"This \$30,000 is all I've got with me," Jones said. "The rest is back with the gang at Phan Rang. We have over \$50,000 in pledges now."

Jones' flight from Vietnam to the United States was sponsored by World Airways and his fare from California to Austin was paid by Jones' squadron mates. He plans to leave Austin tomorrow for the return trip to Vietnam.

A heavy weapons specialist with the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, Jones read in Stars & Stripes that the Halts owed more than \$20,000 for kidney treatments.

He started a campaign for funds, hoping at first to raise \$5,000.

All of a sudden I realized there was a way and the guys in Vietnam could help these kids," Jones said. "When people started talking it up, the money began coming in almost faster than we could count it. In less than two days I had \$30,000 in my hand."

The Air Force gave him permission to fly back to the United States to deliver the money to the Holt family on behalf of all the men who had contributed.

THE DAILY TEXAN

Student Newspaper at The University of Texas at Austin

AUSTIN, TEXAS, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1972

Paula Holt Dies of Viral Flu

Stephenville Empire-Tribune

Austin Girl Dead Despite Help

By MARY JONES and JOHN YEMMA from The Daily Texan

Paula Jo Holt, who won the hearts of Austinites and servicemen as far away as Vietnam in her valiant struggle for life against a rare kidney disease, died Wednesday in San Francisco.

Paula died at approximately 4 a.m. from viremia, a viral-like flu, hospital officials said.

She became the third member of her family to die of the inherited disease, acute familial nephritis.



Flu Victim
... Paula Holt.

Paula, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Holt of 5508 Delwood Drive, received a kidney from the body of a 24-year-old man March 5. The transplant operation was performed in the University of California Medical Center Hospital.

After responding well to the new kidney, Paula was released from the hospital, but remained in San Francisco with her parents for tests and check-ups. She was readmitted a week later (March 12) because of complications.

Paula's mother said her pretty blonde daughter underwent surgery to remove a blood clot in the muscle of her stomach and underwent still another operation to remove her appendix.

Paula also suffered from a partially collapsed lung.

Mrs. Holt said then that Paula was “on the road up now.” Hospital officials reported her

“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. 274 “...keeping the memories alive”

condition was “fair to good” last week.

Funeral services for Paula will be announced by Hyltin-Manor Funeral Home. PAULA’S BROTHER, 21-year-old Gary, underwent successful transplant surgery last October, receiving a kidney from his mother.

Paula and Gary contracted the disease, which shrivels the kidneys, about the same time putting a double financial stress on the family.

Holt, who worked as a driver-salesman for a local bakery, also had skin cancer at the time. He had neglected treatments for three years to help pay for the expensive kidney machines necessary to function as kidneys for his two children.

Mrs. Holt ran a day-care center for 27 children in the Holt garage to supplement the family income. She and her husband earned \$900 per month, falling thousands short of the \$13,000 a year needed to keep their children alive.

THEY RECEIVED help from the Capital Kidney Foundation. The Northeast Lions Club donated \$1,400 and individuals gave another \$700.

The Holts were still under a heavy financial burden when The Texan published a story last spring describing their plight and requested student donations.

In- the next weeks a flurry of fund raising sponsored by the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils got under way. Car washes, benefit dances, door-to-door and on-campus campaigns ensued.

The Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, the donation center for the Holt cause, received 1,200 in a single week through the mail.

The biggest boost in their campaign came from an unexpected comer—Vietnam. Sgt. **Robert L. Jones**, an Air Force security policeman, had read of the Holts’ situation in the Saigon edition of the military paper *Stars and Stripes*. He organized a campaign and within a few days collected

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

\$30,000 from American, Vietnamese and Australian personnel at Phan Rang Air Base.

Jones then flew to Austin in April of last year and personally presented a check for that amount to Paula and Gary. Despite efforts of all these people to save her, Paula died from a viral-like flu early Wednesday morning.

Stephenville Daily Empire - AUSTIN (AP) - Paula Holt of Austin, a pretty teen-ager whose plight elicited more than \$30,000 in donations from GIs in Vietnam, died Wednesday in San Francisco, a month after receiving a kidney transplant.

Paula, 18, became the third child in her family to die as a result of an inherited kidney disease, acute familial nephritis.

She received a kidney from the body of a 24-year-old man March 5 in an operation at the University of California Medical Center Hospital.

After responding well to the new kidney, Paula was released from the hospital, but remained with her parents for tests and check-ups. But she was readmitted a week later because of complications.

Paula's mother said the pretty blonde received surgery to remove a blood clot in the muscle of her stomach and underwent still another operation to remove her appendix. She also suffered from a partially collapsed lung.

Mrs. Holt said on March 28, however, that Paula was 'on the road up now. Paula's brother, Gary, 21, recovered a successful transplant from his mother at the hospital in October.

Paula had four living sisters and one other brother.

Last April, servicemen at Phan Rang Air Base and other units in Vietnam donated \$30,000 to help provide treatments for Paula and Gary.

News services carried the Holts' story around the country, and contributions totaled more

"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. 274 "...keeping the memories alive"

than \$100,000, counting the funds from troops in Vietnam.

(Note: As far as I can determine, Gary is now healthy and living in Mountain View, Calif.)

Thus ends the story of Paula Holt. I don't know of another situation, past or present where an entire base rallied together to support a cause such as this.

Helo mechanic wins world-wide award

(7th Air Force News, 5 May 1971)

PHAN RANG — SSgt. **Larry K. Fisher** has been selected as the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service's Maintenance Airman of the Quarter.

Sergeant Fisher is an HH-43 Pedro helicopter maintenance specialist assigned to Detachment 1, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron here.



Sergeant Fisher prepares an HH-43 helicopter for another mission by cleaning the pilot's windshield. U.S. Air Force Photo By A1C Randy Day

Sergeant Fisher was chosen for the world-wide ARRS honor in recognition of his performance as a crew chief on the "aerial fire-trucks" of the 38th ARRS for October through December 1970, in conjunction with his additional duty as a hoist operator aboard the Pedro. His duty as a hoist operator led to his participation in the successful search and rescue mission for an Army landing craft that was floundering in the South China Sea with 13 men aboard.

Sergeant Fisher was commended in a letter from Brig. Gen.

Frank K. Everest Jr., commander of the Military Airlift Command's rescue service, who said, "His outstanding professionalism in all areas of leadership and accomplishment reflects great credit on himself and his unit."

As a Pedro crew chief, Sergeant Fisher performs all types of organizational-level maintenance including pre-flight, post-flight and regularly scheduled inspections on the twin-rotor rescue and fire-fighting HH-43 helicopters of the 38th ARRS.

“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. 274 “...keeping the memories alive”

In recommending Sergeant Fisher for the rescue service award, Maj. **James G. Dritt**, Detachment 1 commander, praised Sergeant Fisher as an outstanding, extremely conscientious helicopter mechanic. "His knowledge and ability to perform inspires those he works with; consequently he sets an example to be followed by all."

Praises Training program

VNAF Command Decorates Phan Rang Airman

(Phan Fare, May 2, 1971)

Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) Col. Phan Phung Tien, commander of the VNAF 5th Air Division at Tan Son Nhut. AB, traveled to Happy Valley on Apr. 29 to decorate 22 officers and airmen of the 315th Tactical Airlift Wing (TAW) and the 14th Special Operations Wing (SOW). The recipients were cited with the Vietnamese Air Service Medal (Honor Class) for their participation in the C-123 Provider transport and AC-119 Shadow gunship VNAF training programs at Phan Rang AB. These aircraft will be turned over to the Republic of Vietnam government later this year under: the VNAF Improvement and Modernization Program.

The 315th TAW honorees included Col. Emery J. Crane; Maj. Thomas O. Williams III and William S. Fantle; Capts. Kenneth L. Grandia, John W. Miller and Edward S. Starzyk; First Lts. John T. Lamb Jr., Richard E. Mancill (on R&R) and Lewill C. Smith; - MSgt. Jasper S. Hutcherson; SSgts Adam P. Keidl, Roger R. Kennedy and Keith P. Kukla.

The 14th SOW medal winners were Col. Francis J. Long; Maj. Donald D. Fraker, William E. Dickson and William A. Gericke; Capt. Barry S. Harmer; MSgts. Leon D. Mott and William C. Rhoades; TSgts. James Hallahan and Donald A. McMullen; and Sgt. Calvin S. Churchill Jr.

Seven other personnel who have departed Phan Rang for Stateside assignments were also listed on the award orders. Included were Maj. Robert H. Lindley and Capt. William H. King, 14th SOW; Capt. John. A. Mastronardi, Sgts. William J. Agistelis, John D. Bellew, Ronald E. McGrath and Ward E. Wickham III of the 315th airlifters.

The citation stated that these men were directly responsible for training the VNAF 5th Air Div personnel in the C-123 and AC-119 aircraft and lauded their efforts in helping the 5th Air

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

Davison complete all plans for activation of the new VNAF 421st and 423rd Transport and 819th Combat Squadrons.

In addressing the group, Colonel Tien thanked the recipients for their dedication in the training program and said, "Through your help the Vietnamization program will be successful. We put all our hope on that because in the very, very near future our armed forces, and particularly the VNAF, will have to conduct the war ourselves. Owing to the help and cooperation of your Air Force, our 5th Air Division has been activated, we have a new C-123 squadron, and our people have started to fly.

In accepting the award, Colonel Long said, "We are indeed honored and will always uphold the confidence you have placed in us. We will wear these Vietnamese awards, along with those of the U.S. Air Force, with pride and distinction to symbolize our unity purpose and brotherhood in arms in the struggle for a free Republic of Vietnam."

This is the second group of Phan Rang personnel to be so honored by the VNAF. On Mar 12, Maj. Gen. Tran Van Minh, commander of the VNAF, presented the Vietnamese Honor Medal (First Class), the Air Service Medal (Honor Class), and VNAF pilot wings to 10 senior officers who were instrumental in establishing the VNAF training program here earlier this year. The first C-123 class began on Jan. 4, followed by the AC-119 gunship crew training kickoff on Feb.1.

The afternoon awards ceremony at the Phan Rang Officers Open Mess was followed by an informal reception and refreshments.

Just Another Day in Happy Valley – It was a new year, 1970, and things were settling into a routine. It was also the time for the Government to send out W-2 Income Tax Forms to everyone to document just how little we were getting paid. I got word that several folks were getting multiple W-2s, all identical, in the mail so I grabbed a base photographer and headed to the mail room. I found a group of airmen who were all showing lots and lots of W-2s. Sensing a humorous photo opportunity, I grabbed a generic airman and posed him in front of the mail boxes. He had received a full mail tray of identical W-2s so we stuffed some of them poking out of his shirt, hanging out of all his pockets (covering up his name), and even poking

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

out under his fatigue cap. He fanned a full handful like an ultimate poker hand. As the photographer took several shots I thought of a perfect comment for the occasion, but nobody else thought of it – so I said it out loud. The photo came out great and the caption mentioned the fact that lots of folks had received multiples and multiples of W-2 forms. Then keeping up my journalistic integrity (I didn't want to quote myself), I added, “Overheard was the comment, 'I wish they would do that with my paycheck!’”

I sent the photo and caption out as a timely feature photo and it got printed in the Stars and Stripes newspaper! Then I got in trouble with the finance folks – it seems they don't come with a sense of humor. Wish I had kept a copy of the photo!

Ken Garrett

Parish handymen fix home of 72 orphans



U.S. Air Force Photo by SSgt. Thomas Wiegand
Sergeant Hirjak gives some pointers to a friend

By Sgt. Dale Lybarger

PHAN RANG — Every home needs a handyman. The Tan Tai Orphanage, home for 72 Vietnamese children in Phan Rang City, is no exception.

The handymen, members of the base Catholic parish, recently invaded the orphanage with hammers, staple guns and paint brushes in hand and are now in the midst of making it like new.

The project includes painting, replacing screens on doors and

windows, and making other needed repairs. With Chaplain (Maj.) **Eugene T. Jarcynski** leading the crew, the work got under way. Working with him are SSgt. **Jesus Cortinas**, Sgt. **Donald K. Schilling Jr.**, Sgt. **George Hirjak**, **Thomas F. Kennedy** and U.S. Army Specialist 5 **Robby Morgan**.

First the beds and furniture were removed from two of the bedrooms. At the same time, 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. 274 **“...keeping the memories alive”**

woodwork and old screens were being removed from the doors and windows. Once that was completed the painting and repair started.

Said Chaplain Jarcynski, "We have enough work to make this a continuing project, now all we need is more handymen."

Aussies Observe ANZAC Day

(Phan Fare, May 2, 1971)

The 56th anniversary Of ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). Day was observed by the Royal Australian Air Force's Number 2 Squadron with a memorial service and parade outside their headquarters here Sunday, Apr. 25.

Describing the significance of ANZAC Day, Number 2 Squadron's Chaplain **W.T. Wheeler**, related, "In the early dawn hours of Apr. 25, 1915, a large invasion force of British, Indian, Australian, and New Zealand troops landed in the area of Gallipoli at the northern end of the Dardanelles, a narrow sea passage leading from the Aegean Sea to the Sea, of Marmara and thence through the Bosphorus to the Black Sea.

"The opposing force was a strong army of Turkish soldiers. After eight months, and after suffering enormous casualties, the Allies were forced to withdraw, having, failed in their objective.

"Their campaign was a failure, but this defeat has been chosen to commemorate those who lost their lives in that war, and who have died in conflicts since."

In the prologue to the memorial service, Wing Commander **T.H. Thorpe**, Number 2 Squadron commander, stated, "On this day, above all days we recall those who, in the great tragedy of war, gave their lives for Australia and for the freedom of mankind; who...lie in unknown places in every continent and in every sea and now we especially remember those who have given their lives and all who are prepared to hazard their lives, in the cause of peace and. safety for South Vietnam."

“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. 274 “...keeping the memories alive”

During the service, representatives of Allied nations placed memorial wreaths at the base of the flagpole carrying the Australian flag at half-mast. Wing Commander Thorpe represented Australia, Flight Lieutenant **Murray Able** of The Royal New Zealand Air Force represented his country, the United States was represented by Col. Cregg P Nolen commander of the host 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, and Mr. Lee Tan Nhieu, deputy chief for Ninh Thuan Province, represented the Republic of Vietnam.



Marathon Causes Reverberations

Happy Valley again reverberated to the thunder of pounding feet recently during the running of the second Happy Valley Sunshine Marathon.

The second marathon was sparked by the interest of the runners who competed in the first race held here in January. Seventeen competitors entered the race in three age group classes-- "A" under 30; "AA", 31 to 40; and "AAA", over 40.

The winning entries were Sgt. **John Soupart Jr.**, 35th Field Maintenance Squadron; class "A"; First Lt. **Larry A. Gonzales**, 35th Tactical Fighter Wing, class "AA"; and Col. **Donald E. Libby**, base commander, class "AAA".

Both endurance marathons were sponsored by Detachment 22, 30th Weather Squadron, and were initiated by Capt. **Douglas Kibby**, of Media, Pa. Distances for the classes, which were run simultaneous, were: class "A", three miles; class "AA", one and three-quarters miles; and class "AAA", one and one-half miles.

Out of the nine entries in the class "A" competition, Sergeant Soupart from Smithmill, Pa., turned in a time of 17 minutes, 46 seconds. He was followed by Captain Kibby with a time of 18

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minutes, 46 seconds.

In the class "AA" category of four starters, Lieutenant Gonzales, from Gainesville, Fla., recorded a time of 11 minutes, 2 seconds, while second place Maj. **Willie R. Wall**, from Wichita Falls, Tex., 315th Tactical Airlift Wing, kept up with a time of 11 minutes, 25 seconds.

With three entries in the class "AAA" competition Colonel Libby, from Norridgewock, Me. completed the heat in 10 minutes, 5 seconds, followed by Maj. Kenneth J. Van Huila, from Niagara, Wisc., commander of Detachment 22, 30th Weather Squadron, with a time of 11 minutes', 15 seconds.



Doug's Comments: Our 10th annual reunion is fast approaching. We all look forward to these events with great joy because we will be joined with old friends and many friends that we've never met before, but also with a little sadness because as we look around we won't see many of our comrades that started out on this grand adventure who are no longer with us. I believe that most of the attendees view this as an annual pilgrimage to reunite with people that they understand and those that understand them. I hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter. 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.