

rcp3rd

From:
To:
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 2:23 PM
Subject: Re: Responding To Your Queries....

Rufe:

Pleased that I am on the right track..
Don't hesitate to ask for more details.

The names you mentioned are familiar, but
like the question of how we were fed in Phu Bon, I cannot recall what
led me to enquire about RA...

Most probably while I was still in DC with my SF reserve unit
(316th Special Forces Det (Airborne) It was replete with serving and
former Agency people (guess they had not yet formed the inhouse unit). .
A number of the men in the unit later went to Vietnam with the Agency
but except for John Albertson-- whom you sent to Phu Bon to replace me--
they were in other organizations.

it has been 43 years and five wars since.

NOTE: Tregaskis, in his VIETNAM DIARY,
pages 327-328, describes his visit to Phu Bon at the time, and his
comments on what I was doing there. (My 1st 15 minutes of fame everyone
is supposed to be entitled to.).

LONG AN PROVINCE

I am looking at Page One, Volume #2, --of three volumes-- of my
scrapbooks (FYI bound in calfskin, with the title in gold lettering:
"The Life And Times of E.J. Young, So Far..."
How's that for an ego trip?)

On the page is a sheet of yellow, lined, legal size paper, hand
written, dated 4 August 1963 and addressed to:

Earl Young,
Provincial Representative,
Phu Bon Province.

The method of delivery unknown but original envelope is unstamped
and marked "urgent".

"Dear Earl:

Albertson will arrive on 9 Aug in Saigon. I have been
corresponding on assignment for him and have come up with the following
thought which stems primarily from the difficulties we are having in
the Delta.

I would like to assign Albertson to Phu Bon to replace you and
have you transfer to one of the most important Delta Provinces, Long An.
Long An, as does most of the Delta, calls for a degree of

sophistication which Albertson may not have. On the other hand he sounds ideal for a fairly straight-forward situation like Phu Bon.

I know how attached you are to Phu Bon and would not want you to transfer against your will.

(Your page two)

You have done an excellent job --one of the best--and for this reason I have thought of you for the most difficult and challenging area we have.

Please think this over and let me know as soon as possible. Rest assured that whatever you decide, it will not affect the esteem I have for you or the job you are doing.

Sincerely,

Rufe"

Rufe: Since the Long An narrative, --starting now-- may run on for a bit, excuse my predilections to get things in your hands as they come off the press...So will send this off.