

7 Feb #2

RANCH HAND HISTORY PROJECT

Form No. 7 162

Please type or use pen to provide the requested information. This data will be used for the Ranch Hand History Project and then placed in the Archives at Texas A&M. It is your information. If you wish to restrict any part of this material, please indicate so.

I hereby authorize the scholarly use of the following information, except as indicated.

Boone George Thomas George J. Boone 27 Oct 81
Name (last) (first) (middle) signature date

Specific Information

Please answer the following questions in the spaces provided. Be specific.

1. Ranch Hand service: From JAN 68 to JAN 69. Where? BIEU HOA - DANANG
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? HURLBURT Oct 67 to JAN 68
3. Rank while in RH? MAJOR Present/retired rank? COLONEL
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? PILOT - CIVIC ACTIONS OFFICER dates? JAN 68 - JAN 69
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? YOUNG TIGER - APR - JUN 1970 - 4TH ACFT AFN
6. If aircREW member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH ? Other (specify) _____
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 627.4 Other (specify) \$ 5,000

Narrative Information

On a separate sheet(s) of paper, please answer the following questions with as much detail as possible. Write too much, rather than too little. Use names and dates, if possible. If you want a name "blacked out" before this goes in the archives, just circle the name. On the sheets, indicate the number of the question you are answering, and put your last name and the form number in the upper right-hand corner of each sheet.

7. Special missions/operations participated in? (name, when, where, what, who else)
8. Decorations? (If Purple Heart, DFC, or above, give date and details of the act. If you have a copy of the narrative justifying the medal, please attach a copy.)
9. Were you present during an attack against the base, Ranch site, or quarters? Explain.
10. Were you present when a Ranch aircraft was shot down or crashed? Give all details.
11. Were you present when a Ranch crew member was killed or wounded? Give as much data as possible, even if you didn't directly observe it or are not sure of date or names.
12. Did you ever see or repair unusual battle damage (more than routine skin holes)?
13. Did you ever help plan RH missions? If so, what was the procedure?
14. How did you get into the Ranch? What did you know about the mission beforehand?
15. What were you told about the chemicals used? In Vietnam? Before Vietnam?
16. Other than something already discussed (or going home), what is your happiest memory of the Ranch (or Vietnam)? What is your unhappiest (saddest)?
17. What unusual, odd-ball, weird, funny, etc., thing happened to you in VN or training?
18. Same as question 17, but you saw it happen to another person(s).
19. What were your quarters like? Your routine day? Your parties? Anything else?
20. We know that the Ranch was unique. What should I tell the reader that will help him understand why this was a special outfit of special people? What or who should I not talk about?

Other data: Do you have any good pictures (especially of RH members), any journals, notes, diaries, letters, briefing notes, maps, etc., that I could copy? If so, DO NOT SEND THEM with this form. Repeat...DO NOT SEND THEM!!!! Describe the items on a separate piece of paper, with your name and form number on it. I will write and give you instructions on when to send them, or how to get them copied, at a later date. All materials will be protected and returned to you!!! Thank you for your help and time.

Please return this form and the narrative sheets in the enclosed envelope to Texas A&M.

⑦ The Ranch had stayed out of Laos for as long as anyone could remember because it was too hot an area for us. We returned after this long absence in October of 1968. All six pilots were 1Ps and most of the co-pilots were. The mission was on the Ho Chi Minh Trail near Attapeu, Laos. We flew out of Pleiku. I flew on Frank Moore's wing - Frank got an engine shot and in descent - all six planes got shot up badly and landed with emergencies. It was probably the toughest mission the Ranch ever flew that I knew anything about. Joe Dwyer was also one of the pilots. The funny thing about the mission was that Art McCann, the commander, volunteered the Ranch for the mission (which I think showed a lack of good judgment) and then asked for pilots to volunteer for the mission - nobody volunteered.

⑧ 2 DFC's

⑨ Late Oct of 68 the VC hit Bien Hoa. We lost three footballs by fire resulting from the rocket attack. I don't think any VC got through the fence, but a lot of them tried.

⑩ Emmet Rucker got shot down on a delta run & crashed into the sea. He was # 2 and I was # 3. A 50 cal site hit him and got his left engine burning - He let the gas tank go & the plane spun into the sea from about 500 ft. It hit straight down & the tail stuck out of the water.

⑪ See # 10 - the whole crew was killed.

(12) I got my windshield shot out on my very last mission. On another mission my controls locked on to run (the latches lock activated) and the manual release handle won't work — the spray operator manually released the valve in the rear — scared hell out of all of us for awhile.

(13) Yes — all standards

(14) Les Easton & I were in C-123 training at Shurbert and they needed two more pilots — we got selected. Prior to that I didn't know anything about it.

(15) It was 240 and wouldn't hurt a thing — including the trees. I knew damn well it was hurting the trees.

(16) Happiest — Art McConal being replaced as Commander
Unhappiest — Emmet Rucker getting killed.

(17) Our hooch was really terrible — so I swiped a truck load of plywood meant for the BX offices for paneling and seven window airconditioners from Hon. Smith Compound in Bien Hoa. Panelled & airconditioned the hooch — it was great. Had to use an air conditioner on the Commander's office to keep him happy and quiet.

(18) Routine day — up at 03:30 ~~to~~ to eat, brief, & fly. Through flying & debriefing by 1130 ~~to~~. Game of Rocked Ball or tennis until about 1400. Brief nap — write letters — check mail. til 1700. Eat dinner & then try to get a poker game started.