

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.

BRIGGS, EARLE H. JR Earle Briggs Jr 1-26-82  
Name (last first middle signature date)

### Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From Nov 28 1961 to Dec 1965. Where? CANGLER AFB TAN SON NHUT
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? 347 TCS POPE AFB NC. 1958-1961
3. Rank while in RH? SSGT Present/retired rank? TSgt
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? RIGHT ENGINEER dates? 1961-1965
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? NONE OTHER THAN FLYING  
MULETRAIN MISSIONS WHEN NOT  
SPRAYING
6. If aircrew member:
  - a. Number of missions: RH 286 Other (specify) — 25 approx
  - b. Combat flying hours: RH 485-30 Other (specify) — 150 approx

### 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. Missions for early ranch were mostly in the Mekong delta and a few in the Central Highlands.
8. Received two Air Medals for the entire time - Medals were for the early Ranch.
9. Went thru several mortar attacks and several sniper episodes during last tour (1965) at TAN SON NHUT and BEN WHO.
10. Only one crashed - Feb 1962 - Can't remember Pilot or Copilot, 1st ENG was MILO D. COGHELL SSgt. Never was determined that it crashed as a result of enemy action as far as I know.
11. Same as 10.
12. Just normal hole repair and engine repair - lost two engines due to enemy fire - was on Patches during many of her acquisitions.
13. Not really.
14. Volunteered at POPE in Sept 61 - Nothing
15. Only told that we would be using a Commercial defoliant in use in the U.S.

- 15 (Cont) This information was not released until we were actually in Country in January 1962. The Agent was called "PURPLE" Then.
16. The "Can do" attitude of the early Ranch was the best I've ever seen. The job was done ~~fast~~ and the relaxation was done. Everyone, Officers and enlisted, looked after each other with no thought to their own safety and managed to complete each Mission safely. The Comradery was very strong in the early Ranch.
17. My actual spray training was started and completed in the Philippines in December 61 and January 1962. From 1965 to Dec 1968 I trained Ranch Crews at HURLBURT while assigned to the 4408<sup>TH</sup> CCTS.
18. Stayed in Tents the entire time at Tan Son NHUT — Some of the early Ranch stayed in Downtown Saigon, I was never that lucky.
19. I think everything deserves to be talked about, It was a very courageous group of men, that early Ranch.

I have some slides of missions and aerial shots of Saigon and delta region. And some of cover aircraft T-28, Skyraider and B-26. Some of early Tent City and the reloading of C123's during 1961-1965.

Also have some 8x10 of spraying in VN and during the testing at Range 52 at Eglin the summer of 62.

- I was also on the crew of the only C123 to return to the U.S. across the Pacific in May 1962 (56-4362) 56-4386 sprayed in Afghanistan on its way back.

- I have some old orders of mission outside the combat zone.

And I already gave you the end of tour report by Capt Stammer, and I still have the original.

Note: Two C123's crashed at Hurlburt while I was there. One on a practice spray mission while I was in the lead aircraft and one at Duke field practicing touch and go's. I believe that part of the crew was in training for the Ranch.

Let me know if I can expand on any of this. Its twenty years ago.

Earle