

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.

CROCKER Aubrey N Aubrey N Crocker
 Name (last first middle signature date)

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From July 1967 to March 1968. Where? Bien Hoa
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? POPE Field N.E. 1963
3. Rank while in RH? MSGT (E-7) Present/retired rank? SMS (E-8)
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? SADU TRAINING NCD/OTS dates? Aug 67 - Mar 68
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? TAN SON NHUT 1963 April - August
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH _____ Other (specify) _____
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH _____ Other (specify) _____

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.

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7249

7. None

8. None

9. Yes Nov '67 Approx 15 Rounds of 60mm Mortars hit the hangar and Landing Area - Hit a 55GAL drum - 1 Round came through hangar roof and did not explode (Dud) No damage to Aircraft or Personnel,

JAN 31, 1968 TET! Rocket & Ground Attack "Charlie" infiltrated both east & west end of Bien Hoa Air Base - most activity was on east end. The attack began at approx 3 AM I understood they penetrated to the Run up pad on the east end of Runway and the attack was broken around 8 AM with a body count of 154

Hardly any infiltrators were on the west end (Ranch Nord) After the "All Clear" Siren sounded at approx 3:30 I went to the hangar with the Line Chief and some others. Security police told us to arm ourselves as there were infiltrators in the area. I did not see any "Charkis" nor were we shot at till after daylight. I saw some Runways toward the River and they were being shot at by personnel closer than I was. One aircraft sustained some damage from 122 rockets ^(sharps) but no direct hits.

After the 31st some ~~we~~ were ~~there~~ hit every 10th or every other 10th till I rotated 5 Mar 68

10. No
11. No
12. Yes - ONCE A FRUIT BAT WITH A 6 FOOT WINGSPAN ENTERED THE NOSE OF ONE OF THE PLANES. A FLOCK OF THESE BATS WERE DISTURBED BY LIGHTS SETTING THE SPRAY AREA - THEY ROSE UP OUT OF THE JUNGLE AND ONE WAS HIT BY THE LEAD AIRCRAFT. ENTERING THROUGH THE NOSE OF THE PLANE. WHEN THE PLANE LANDED WE RECOVERED THE CARCASS AND I TOOK PICTURES OF IT BEING FIELD DITCHED OUT BY CREW MEMBERS (I HAVE PICTURES IF YOU WANT IT IT'S IN SLIDES 35mm)
13. No
14. I WAS ASSIGNED TO RAUCH BLAND BY AIR FORCE IN JACAF. PROBABLY DUE TO MY C-123 TRNG AND FIRST TOUR TO NAM IN 1963 WITH TAC PROV 2 (MULE TRAIN) I ONLY KNEW SUCH AN OUTFIT EXISTED PRIOR TO JOINING IT IN 1967
15. Nothing - except it was a festering that "burned" festige and it would grow back thicker next season. This I learned in Vietnam
16. Being promoted to E-8 WAS MY HAPPIEST MY SORROW WAS THE DEATH OF FRIENDS IN VIETNAM
17. The Fruit bat episode was the odd-ball or weird thing - Looked like a Christmas dog with wings
18. None

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19. Our Quarters was concrete slab floor (underground) with wood structure covered on sides with screen wire. Open top with back porch for eating-drinking - Bill Sessions etc

Routine Day - Arise 0530 Shave-Shower - Go to Chow
Went to Hangar (Office) instructed
Classes For 5 LEVEL OTT TEST - MAINTAINING
TRAINING Records on All Side. Personally
Took care of Loggrade Forms/Records
Coordinated with Base Training Office
Parked Aircraft, helped Line Chief
ANY AND all misc duties called
upon to perform. After hours
were spent Swimming, writing
letters, reading, playing Chess -
movies - Photography
Didn't party much

20 I NEVER THOUGHT OF RANCH HAND BEING "SPECIAL
People" - we were just G.I's doing our job
FOR "THE CAUSE" IT WAS UNIQUE FOR 23 LT. COLS.
TO BE PILOTS IN AN ORGANIZATION AT ONE TIME
I THOUGHT THAT we had FOR SOME TIME I WAS
TOLD, I KNOW I SAW A LOT OF LT. COLS.

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Other Data:

A. I have some 35mm color slides of:

1. RANCH AIRCRAFT LINED UP FOR TAKE OFF (FORMATION)
2. COMING BACK FROM MISSIONS (FORMATION)
3. IN FLIGHT FORMATION (AIRBORNE)
4. AIRCRAFT & PERSONNEL ON GROUND DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS AROUND HONGAI & FLIGHT LINE
5. "PATCHES" SPRAYING BIEU HOA
6. SLIDES & PRINTS OF ~~PLACES~~ CAPTURED VC'S ON FLIGHT LINE WAITING TRANSPORTATION OUT
7. BIEU HOA AMMO JUMP BLOWING UP
8. LOADING CHEMICALS ON BOARD MISSILE ACFT.