

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:

Gresham Berlin "Joe" Berl J Gresham 23 Nov 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 Dec 69 to Dec 70. Where? Dec 69-July 70 Bien Hoa July-Dec 70 Phan Rang
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? Cockbourne AFB OH, 10 Sep 69-20 Oct 69
3. Rank while in RH? TSSgt Present/~~retired~~ rank? SMSSgt
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? FM/Spry Op dates? Dec 69 - Dec 70
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? Oct 64 - Oct 65 Tan Son Nhut
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 47 Other (specify) 1 CMBT Spry
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 365.7 Other (specify) 5.3 CMBT Spry

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 skip 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.

OVER

8. DFC

9. Just the usual rocket attacks.

11. I was on a mission where the Pilot was wounded when a round came through the cockpit window, hit the pilot's left head, ricocheted off the control column wheel and hit him in the left chest of his armour vest. Everyone ~~said~~ ^{said} his vest saved his life. We diverted in to the closest friendly base because of unknown battle damage. Known damage before landing was a severed control cable and left main tire flat. Also the spray tank was hit and had to be dumped. Landed without incident. Best count of holes in the aircraft was 30+. Mostly 30 Cal size.

14. By receiving official orders for a second tour in Vietnam. I knew of the Ranch mission and was not looking forward to being part of it. During my first tour in Vietnam I worked on a few of the Ranch Birds at Tan Son Nhut. The first time I saw the box in back where the FM/spray operator was strapped in was enough for me to know I didn't want anything to do with "those crazy guys that fly low and get shot at."

15. The only thing I knew about the chemicals was that they killed rice and trees.

16. I don't remember being happy about anything while I was in Vietnam. The saddest or unhappiest part was leaving my family both times I was sent there. Also that the U.S. didn't win.

17. I guess the most weird thing that happened to me was that I departed for my second tour of Vietnam on the 13th of Dec 69 during my 13th year of military service and was assigned number 13 weapons and survival equipment to use during my tour. I guess you can say 13 is my lucky number because I made it back home.

19. The living Quarters had a lot to be desired but was better than tents. The one thing about our quarters was there was always a bar no matter where we were. We always pooled our ration cards and stocked the bar. Some guys were non-drinkers and then some guys drank enough to keep it even. There were no routine days in the Ranch. If you didn't have an additional duty to keep you busy then you were either flying or off. You got to where you looked forward to flying just to have something to do. Even though the flying day was usually finished by noon because of the early start.

20. The unique thing about the Ranch was that I know that by being a part of it that I helped save many lives of my fellow G.I.s not with fire power but by spraying the fields and forest to deprive the V.C. of a place to hide in ambush. And although at first I didn't want anything to do with the Ranch Hand, probably because of the fear of the unknown I'm proud that I was part of the Unique Ranch Hand. It was "One of a kind."