

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.

Name Gross, William Thomas Middle W Signature 1-2-1 Date 1-2-1

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From 2-68 to 2-68. Where? Bien Hoa
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? 1-68, Eglin AFB, Florida
3. Rank while in RH? M/Sgt Present/retired rank? M/Sgt Ret.
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? Flight Chief dates? 2-67/2-68
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? NA
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 9 Other (specify) Flight tests
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH NA 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.) Bronze Star
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. yes - yes
11. Were you present when a Ranch crew member was killed or wounded? yes 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)? yes
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? drafted
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)? nothing
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? Should have sprayed all Vietnam and set a fire

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.

(awi)

Dear Mr. Cecil:

I regret that I was not able to answer your inquiries with greater depth, but time has made it impossible for me to remember dates and times of missions and other events. Perhaps this is due to selective forgetting since remembering is often painful.

However, I appreciate the time you are devoting to this project, and would like the finished literature if available for sale.

Thanking you for your concern
Sincerely yours

William J. Gross.