

(MON.) FEBRUARY 19 (Phan Rang)

1968

(Tues.) FEBRUARY 20 (Phan Rang) 7845

Weather: Clear & cool as usual.

Weather: Clear & cool again.

Went to 1st day of Theater Indoctrination till 12 noon. List a bunch of briefings which I've already had in bits & pieces the last two weeks.

Took it easy rest of the day and read.

Had a country-western show at the Club tonight. Wasn't too bad, even if the girl was skinny & flat-chested.

Met a major from Bien Hoa. He had some pretty hairy stories about the place. I'm not really too anxious to go down there.

Had 2nd & last day of Theater Indoctrination, in the morning.

Spent an hour talking to Maj. Harrington. Found out definitely I'm going to Bien Hoa on the 26th. Orders were cut today.

Lounged around in the afternoon. Went and made some more tapes at the Red Cross Center.

Tonight Pete got back from DaNang. Is very discouraged with his job as all us nairs are. At least Bien Hoa will give some job satisfaction.

Tape #5 came from Melis. where
w, 3 & 4.

(Wed.) FEBRUARY 21 (Phan Rang)

Weather: Clear, cool & windy

Another quiet & uneventful day. Spent most of it running around with Pete, so he could get his affairs straightened out.

Spent 3 hours listening to Melissa's tapes & making her a new one (#6.) Finally got her first one in the mail.

They had a pretty good floor show at the club. A rock & roll band with 3 girls. They were from Ceylon (near India). It wasn't much of a strip show though.

Had a few too many drinks. Guess I'll feel it in the morning.

(THURS.) FEBRUARY 22 (Phan Rang)

Weather same as usual

Spent another relaxing day. Went to the Tape Center & recorded some more Broadway Show Albums.

Saw a movie at the club - "Lord Love A Duck". Was really funny but had a weird story line.

Had a little action around the base perimeter tonight. "Spooky" was dropping flares & spraying the area with his mini-guns.

It's kind of unreal to sit on the club patio & watch the frightening going on at night. It's just like watching a show.

7845

(FRI.) FEBRUARY 23 (Phan Rang)

Weather: Clear & Windy 30-35 KTS.

Nothing again today. Made
some more tapes this morning. My
Toy orders havent come in yet.
Still should leave on Monday though.

a co-pilot & loadmaster from
the 311th got hit by mortar fire
at Khe Sanh. Not too serious, but
sure is a hot place to land. Glad
I'm not going up there.

Guess it's a good thing I'm
getting out of the 309th. Everyone
is bitching about the operation
around here. I can see it too.
There is an awful lot of wasted
manpower and use of aircraft.
They sure aren't accomplishing
much here in the airlift
business.

(SAT.) FEBRUARY 24 (Phan Rang)

Weather: Clear & very windy again

Bay the wind blows around here. It's just like a desert. It's so damn dusty and dirty.

Nothing today. Mailed
a pkg. to Melissa - 5 recording
tapes, and other odds & ends.

They had another floor show at the Club. It was some Negro singer from the states. She sure could sing. I've never heard of any of the people they bring over here but they are all excellent. I see more & more every day why they call Phan Rang the R & R Center of Vietnam. Hell they even say this area is an R & R center for the VC, & that's why he hasn't bothered this base.

(SUN.) FEBRUARY 25 (Phan Rang)

Clear & Windy!

One month down and 11
to go as of today. Still a
long haul.

③ I paid ahead of time for Feb. today - \$5.50. I'll send a check home in a few days.

I was talking to our maid,
annie, today. I asked her why she
worked 7 days a week. She told
me she was afraid to stay home
because the VC would come. She
felt safe on the base. I guess may-
be some people do want us here.
Maybe we are doing some good.

otherwise a calm & uneventful
day.
Sent Melissa another letter today.
& 1stippings from Mom.

(MON.) FEBRUARY 26 (Phan Rang)

Clear & Windy!

called Melissa this morning, about 0745, on the MARS phone patch service. Talked about 5 min. The connection was pretty bad. We really didn't say much. It didn't even sound like her voice. I guess it's still better than nothing. It's relatively inexpensive, so we might as well take advantage of our one call per month.

Stopped my allotment to the 100
savings plan. Just caught it in time. Another
day & I wouldn't have been able to stop
it for 3 months. I have control of my money
again,

Three of my Roomates flew them last flight yesterday. They go home in a week - Lucky!

Boy I sure am getting a lot of books read over here.

(Tues) FEBRUARY 27 (Phan Rang)

Partly Cloudy & Calm = What a Change!

Got a check made out to Melissa today for \$420. Sent it registered mail this afternoon.

Boy when I get mail I sure do get it. There was a Nat. Geo. from Melissa - a letter from Grandma & 3 Tapes from Mom & Dad. I really enjoyed those Tapes. That live Crap game sure was funny. I just have to send that to Melissa - she'll die. They all had to be drunk.

I'm still waiting around here, till I get one more tape from Melissa. If it doesn't come tomorrow I'm leaving 7 hrs. I'm getting bored with nothing to do. I'll read 2 books in 2 days.

(Wed.) FEBRUARY 28 (Phan Rang)

Sunny in the Morning - Cloudy Evening

Well this should be my last day at Phan Rang. I'm leaving for Bien Hoa tomorrow morning.

I'm not looking forward to it, but I guess I've got to go down sometime. To say the least I'm a wee bit scared. I heard today that they had a rocket attack last night. One hit a bunker and killed 12 men. What the hell am I doing here.

Made a Tape for Mom & Dad today. Also sent their funny tape to Melissa.

I got some old mail from Melissa. Tape #3 finally arrived. Also got a Minn. newspaper & a letter from her Mother & Dad.

(THURS.) FEBRUARY 29 (Bien Hoa)
MY EXTRA DAY

Well I finally got down here to Bien Hoa about 9:00 AM. Spent most of the day getting settled. Got a mail box & sent Mom & Melissa. Sp. Delivery letter with my new address. Also sent Melissa another tape #7. Had a tape from her & a valentine card waiting - (#4).

Apparently I'm staying in a temporary & therefore not much. Should move into something nicer in 10 days. It seems like 2/3 rds. of my new Sq. (40) were made homeless by Tues. rocket attack. Rockets didn't even hit the barracks, but were close enough to start fires. Burned down 4 out of 7 barracks. No one could save anything but the shirts on their backs. Everything they owned was lost.

Spent a quiet night. Thank God.

(Fri.) MARCH 1 (Bien Hoa)

Clean & Warmer Than Phan Rang

Didn't do much today. The main thing was getting my personal flying equipment issued - 35 lb. armour plated vest (sure provides good protection) & ballistic helmet, M-16 & .38 pistol.

This place sure has everyone on edge. Rocket attacks scare the hell out of everyone. I'm on edge & shaking & I've never been through one. What's it going to be like when I do have the experience.

Things were quiet again tonight. I guess I got about 6 hrs. sleep. I have to get in the habit of waking up at 12 - 1 & 3 A.M. That's when Charlie hits us - exactly on the hour. Someday he's going to hit us on the half hour. That scares me.