

# PHAN RANG

PHAN RANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

VOLUME III, ISSUE 7

THE HAPPY VALLEY WEEKLY

JULY 17, 1969

This unofficial bulletin is published by the Information Division, 35th TFW and is designed to keep Phan Rang Air Base personnel informed on current local events.

## 100,000th MISSION FOR 35th T. F. W.

After approximately three years of operations at Phan Rang Air Base, the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing flew its 100,000th combat sortie Sunday.

Piloting the F-100 for the 100,000th milestone flight was the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing Commander, Colonel Frank L. Galler Jr. His wingman was Lt. Col. Robert H. Buss, 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

Starting on the next 100,000 combat sorties the same day were two Air Force F-100s piloted by Lt. Col. Len C. Russell, commander, 352nd Tactical Fighter Squadron and Allen E. A. Aaronson, commander, 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

The Wing's four tactical fighter squadrons, 352nd, 612th, 614th, and 615th, are equipped with F-100 Super-sabres, the "workhorse" of air support in Vietnam. The Wing's tactical bomber squadron, 8th TBS, the only one of its kind in Vietnam, is equipped with the B-57 Canberra bomber.

Also contributing towards the 100,000th total and to the effectiveness of the 35th TFW was the Royal Australian Air Force Number 2 Squadron equipped with the MK-20 Canberra, an aircraft similar to the B-57s of the 8th TBS.

## BULLETINI

The Base Exchange has been selected as 7 AF nominee for "the best in PACAF Exchange Award."

## Gen. Brown Presents Presidential Citation to RAAF's Number 2 Sq.

The U.S. Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation was presented Friday, July 11, to the Royal Australian Air Force bomber squadron based here.

At a colorful flightline ceremony, General George S. Brown, commander, U.S. Seventh Air Force, made the presentation on behalf of the President.



"I served with your 77 squadron in Korea," General Brown told the officers and airmen of Number 2 Squadron standing before him in dress formation. "So it is doubly pleasurable for me to serve with the Number 2 Squadron here in Vietnam.

"I must say that the gallantry that is recognized by this award is again being duplicated today by the officers and men of Number 2 Squadron," the General told the joint U.S. Air Force and RAAF formation. "The record Number 2 Squadron is building in Vietnam is truly a great one. Your bombing, I can personally attest through the study of aerial photography, is second to none in the Seventh and Thirteenth Air Forces. I'm proud of you and congratulate you."

Mr. R.L. Harry, Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, Major General R.A. Hay, commander, Australian Forces, Vietnam, and Air Commodore F.B. Robey, commander, Royal Australian Air Force, Vietnam, made up the official Australian party at the ceremony.

The citation was awarded to Australia's Number 2 Squadron for its many successful attacks against Japanese forces in the Southwest Pacific at the outbreak of World War II.

The 27-year delay in the presentation was due to several factors such as the disbanding of the squadron (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

**PHAN RANG CIVIL ENGINEERS UNCOVERED AN ARMS CACHE WHILE ASSISTING LOCAL VIETNAMESE FARMERS IN DREDGING AN IRRIGATION CANAL NEAR THE BASE.**



SMITH... YOU JUST HAD YOUR  
FIRST LESSON IN INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS!

## Du Drop's Schedule of Events

- July 17 - Chess Night
- 18 - Coffee House
- 19 - Squadron of the Month
- 20 - It's A Fine Evening for Scrabble.
- 21 - Bridge
- 22 - Road Show
- 23 - Volleyball

## At Du Drop Inn...

Talk about taking on a new look! Have you seen the center lately? Stop by and see "what's next" on the advisory council project list.

And while you're here say hello to the new folk, namely Carol Hoier and Paula Wright. Carol's an 'old-timer'. She's been with us for a whole week and a half.

Paula will assume the duties of Unit Director on July 19. Paula hails from Texas, and she has just spent the last 7 1/2 months in An Khe.

She is very happy to be in Phan Rang.

Unfortunately with every action there is a reaction. Your friendly Phan Fare correspondent is moving to Cam Ranh Bay. It won't be easy to leave Phan Rang. This lap of my tour has been indelible experience, especially the friendships. Without a doubt Happy Valley will always be a part of me, maybe because part of me is left here. 'Nuff said. When in Cam Ranh, stop in and say hello - or write or call 3100. Ask for Fran.

BEST OF LUCK TO THE BEST OF 'EM!!!!

--O--

The Phan Fare Thanks Fran for her Du Drop Inn column, and the staff welcomes a new recreation aide, Paula Wright.

## Headed Towards Base??

### SHADOW DAMPENS CHARLIE'S 4th OF JULY

An AC-119G gunship probably spoiled a Viet Cong plan to have a fireworks display at Phan Rang AB on the Fourth of July.

On the evening of the 193rd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a "Shadow" gunship from Flight B, 17th Special Operations Squadron took off from Phan Rang for a reconnaissance mission near Ban Me Thuot.

Flying over mountainous terrain about 20 miles from the base, the night observation sighting (NOS) operator spotted some small lights moving along a trail toward Phan Rang.

The navigator called in the location and information to DASC (Direct Air Support Center) as the gunship continued on to the target area. DASC called back and asked "Shadow" to return to the spot where the lights were sighted. "There are no friendlies in the area, reported DASC, "and you're clear to fire."

"The moving objects had pulled back into the trees before we started shooting," the NOS operator said. "But we fired on their positions and got some secondary explosions."

Fourteen secondary explosions and two sustained fires were observed as the

AC-119G pounded the area around the trail.

The gunship's co-pilot and aircraft commander, Maj. Robert J. Allen relayed the results and coordinates back to DASC and recommended a Combat Skyspot Strike to be sent into the area, as "Shadow" was still causing secondary explosions when its guns ran out of ammunition.

Capt. William R. Casey, pilot of the AC-119G, stated, "There was no way of being positive, but the lights were heading toward Phan Rang. It's just possible that we blew up the rockets planned for the next strike against the base."

FROM  
"NGUVEN"  
With LOVE



Dear N,

I plan to take a leave soon, but I don't know how much leave time I have coming. How can I find out?

Leave Bound

Dear Leave Bound,

Your question could not be more timely, according to Sgt. Thomas, NCOIC, Duty Status section at CBPO. He says that around the 25th of July, his shop will send a leave balance statements to the orderly rooms of on all Air Force personnel assigned to Phan Rang. Each man will be given a statement telling him how much leave time he had remaining as of June 30, the end of the fiscal year.

N.

sorry 'bout that...



HE SAYS HE WON IT IN A CRAP GAME AND I CAN'T FLY IT WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION.

## 9 Stars Since '62

# COUNT YOUR VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL STARS

BAIGON (MACV) — Happy Valley citizens wonder about the Vietnam Service and the Vietnam Campaign medals? The service medal is an American award which shows service in Vietnam, whereas the campaign medal is a Viet-

namese award given to those who serve in the country for six months.

All military personnel assigned to U. S. Forces in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) are authorized the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM)

as soon as they arrive in RVN. Each member is authorized to wear one Bronze Service Star on his VSM for each of the following campaign periods during which he was present for duty in Vietnam for at least one day:

- \* Vietnam Advisory Campaign: March 15, '62 - March 7, '65
- \* Vietnam Defense Campaign: March 8, '65 - Dec. 24, '65
- \* Vietnam Counteroffensive: Dec. 25, '65 - June 30, '66
- \* Counteroffensive Phase II: July 1, '66 - May 31, '67
- \* Counteroffensive Phase III: June 1, '67 - Jan. 29, '68
- \* Tet Counteroffensive: Jan. 30, '68 - April 1, '68
- \* Counteroffensive Phase IV: April 2, '68 - June 30, '68
- \* Counteroffensive Phase V: July 1, '68 - Nov. 1, '68

At ninth campaign is designated commencing Nov. 1, 1968. The name of this campaign and the termination date will be determined and announced at a later date.

## Bobcat Strike Typical of the 100,000 Sorties Flown by 35th TFW Supersabres

Two F-100 Supersabres from the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing attacked an enemy base camp deep in the delta region of Vietnam recently. The aircraft, assigned to the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron, were piloted by 1st Lt. Paul K. Evans and 1st Lt. Thomas H. Clark.

Lt. Evans had this to say about the mission, "We were real lucky with the weather for a change. It was quite bad all the way down to the

target area. Then, just as we arrived over the target, the weather cleared up and we were able to see the target the Forward Air Controller (FAC) pointed out to us. It was an enemy base camp alongside a canal. We made several passes with the FAC remarking between them to be sure we completely destroyed the camp.

Lt. Clark also commented on the mission, "It was great getting a mission where we could see the

target for a change. It is easier than just bombing the FAC's smoke like we do when cannot see the target. This mission was my best since I arrived here.

The two pilots were credited with destroying four structures, damaging five, destroying three bunkers and starting two secondary fires.

Write a letter  
TODAY!

# AUSSIE'S PRESENTED PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

after World War II and the Australian requirement that a unit be in continuous existence for 25 years before it can get its own standard or banner, a RAAF spokesman explained.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, who was then Supreme Commander of all Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific area, recommended the Number 2 Squadron for the award for the period April 18, 1942, to August 25, 1942. On January 4, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved a U.S. War Department order making the award official. The late King George VI approved acceptance of the citation April 20, 1943.

In the period covered by the award, the squadron then equipped with twin-engine, twin-tail Lockheed Hudson light bombers, operated from bases in northwestern Australia.

The citation reads, in part, "...this squadron, equipped with airplanes highly vulnerable to enemy fighter airplanes, made repeated attacks on enemy shipping, airdromes, troops, and installations on and near Timor, Ambona, and other islands in the Banda Sea, inflicting heavy damage to enemy material and causing numerous casualties. It successfully maintained continuous long-range reconnaissance over the waters to the northwest of Australia. The courage of its members in combat and the high morale of this unit under hazardous combat situations contributed greatly to the success of operations in the area."

By July 1942 Japanese military forces, at their zenith, had pushed their way to the shores of northern Australia. Cities such as Darwin were being hit by air raids. It was not until August 1942, with an amphibious landing on Guadalcanal, in the Solomons, that the Allies began to push the Japanese back.

Allied air power played a decisive role in the defeat of Japanese operations in the

gouth and Southwest Pacific.

The second oldest squadron in the RAAF, Number 2 Squadron was formed in Australian more than 52 years ago. It was the first Australian Squadron to see action on the Western Front during World War I. Except for a two-year period following World War II, Number 2 Squadron has been on continuous active duty. In 1954 it was equipped with the bomber it presently flies, twin-jet MK-20 Canberras.

In April 1967 the squadron arrived for duty at Phan Rang Air Base. Since then the 300-man unit has flown more than 8,000 combat sorties against enemy forces.

Commanded by Wing Commander John A. Whitehead, 35, Canberra, Australia Capital Territory, the unit has established the warmest relations with the U.S. Air Force unit it is assigned to: the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Just before the ceremony began, Phan Fare asked Colonel Frank L. Gailer Jr how the Number 2 Sq. performed as part of his 35th TFW. "Their airplanes have had the least battle damage, have flown without a combat loss, they haven't had a crewmember wounded or lost, and their BDA (battle damage assessment) per aircraft is the best of any operational unit in Southeast Asia," Colonel Gailer replied.

Two members of the RAAF who were in Number 2 Squadron during the citation period are still serving with the RAAF in Australia.

The men, Warrant Officers E.J. Lee, and C.P. Bolger, both 47, were especially flown to Phan Rang to take part in the ceremony. General Brown presented the individual citation ribbon to them.

"We both feel it is a terrific thing," Lee told Australian television newsmen after the ceremony. "We are very proud of the award, of course."

"The morale was high then, and we find here the same fine spirit we knew in the

old days," Bolger commented. "Only the faces and planes are different."

The RAAF has authorized them to wear the citation emblem as a permanent award.

The emblem is of blue silk enclosed in a gold frame and is worn on the right breast above the pocket.

The framed scroll containing the citation and the streamer was presented to the squadron by General Brown. The streamer is embroidered "Banda Sea, 1942".

Music for the ceremony was provided by a sharply dressed, and well drilled RAAF Central Band from Laverton, Victoria. In the evening, despite a light rain, the 56-piece band performed before an enthusiastic Phan Rang audience at Happy Valley outdoor theatre.

## 35th TFW Flag Files at AFA

The 35th Tactical Fighter Wing recently received a "thank you" letter from the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Wing Heritage Committee in Colorado.

The letter expressed appreciation for the Wing's participation in the cadet Southeast Asia flag project. The flag was dedicated at a cadet parade May 10 and placed on permanent display with 19 others in the Cadet Dining Hall.

## OFFICERS' CLUB FEATURES DOLLS

Snack Bar hours: 0630 to 1400  
1600 to 2200  
Only lunch meal will be served in bar.  
Bar Hours: 1000 to 2300 hrs.  
Featured attraction Saturday night: Three gorgeous dolls that sing up a storm.

## NEWS FILMS SHOWN

ABC, CBS, NBC television news is shown weekly at Du Drop Inn. Day of showing is announced on extension 112.