

Joseph Anthony White United States Army (Aviation)



Republic Of Vietnam

1965 - 1973



Many Americans are aware of the names, and accomplishments, of the top American commanders in Vietnam, men such as generals William Westmoreland or Creighton Abrams. However most are not aware of their enlisted counterparts, the ranking non-commissioned officers during the war who often served without publicity, quietly and effectively doing their jobs. In the Army aviation field a couple of names stand out, SGM Cyril G. Manning, Aviation Soldier of the Year 1964, and 1SG Joseph White, both of whose careers encompassed multiple tours in Vietnam, effectively spanning most phases of the War.

Those of us interested in Army aviation history, heraldry and insignia got to know Joe White when he was with the pioneering "Knights of the Air" 114th Assault Helicopter Company (Air Mobile light) in Vietnam. Joe, with his passion for collecting military insignia, was kind enough to offer to share the 114th's unit's history and patches with others. His career continued in Vietnam, most of it spent in the Delta, where he served with the 164th Combat Aviation Group and ended up with the unique 18th Corps Aviation Company in late 1972. He was a charter member of that select group known as "Delta Legends," exceptional individuals, officers, warrants and non-commissioned officers, who served two or more tours with the same, or different, units in the Delta.

After retirement Joe's interest and significant contribution to Army aviation continued. He was ever helpful to the many historians who sought his support and advice, giving freely of his time and knowledge. Although he often never saw results of his labors, his love of and devotion to Army aviation caused him to persist, tirelessly, in his endeavors. Now is a fitting time to acknowledge and honor the many accomplishments and contributions of 1SG Joseph A. White to Army Aviation history, particularly during the Vietnam War 1961-1973.



Aug 65 - Dec 65 - HHC, 3rd Infantry Brigade (S2/3 Air Operations)

1st Cavalry Division (AM) An Khe, RVN **Dec 65 - Sep 66** -HHC, 11th
Combat Aviation Group

NCOIC - An Khe Army Airfield Command

Jun 67 - Jun 68 - 114th Assault Helicopter Company - Vinh Long

13th Combat Aviation Battalion 164th Combat Aviation Group

Jun 68 - Nov 68 - HHC, 164th Combat Aviation Group - Can Tho

NCOIC - S2/3 Air Operations

Apr 69 - Apr 70 - HHC, 34th General Support Group (AM&R) - Saigon

NCOIC - DPO (Directorate Plans & Operations)

Jan 71 - Jun 71 - 1SG - 165th Transportation Company (AMS) Phu Loi

Jun 71 - Dec 71 - 1SG - 214th Combat Aviation Battalion - Vinh Long

Jul 72 - Nov 72 - 1SG - HHC, 164th Combat Aviation Group - Can Tho

Nov 72 - Jan 73 - 1SG - 18th Corp Aviation Company - Can Tho

Jan 73 - Mar 73 1SG - 18th CAC - Can Tho Assigned to US Embassy
after the US Army departed. To fly UN; ICCS and NVA/VC Peace Teams
through the Mekong Delta to observe peace stand-down.



Awards, Decorations and Badges

Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star Medal with 5 OLC. Army Commendation Medal with 4 OLC.

Air Medal with 4 OLC. Purple Heart. Presidential Unit Citation.

Valorous Unit Citation. Meritorious Unit Citation.

Good Conduct Medal w/5th Award. National Defense Svc Medal w/OLC.

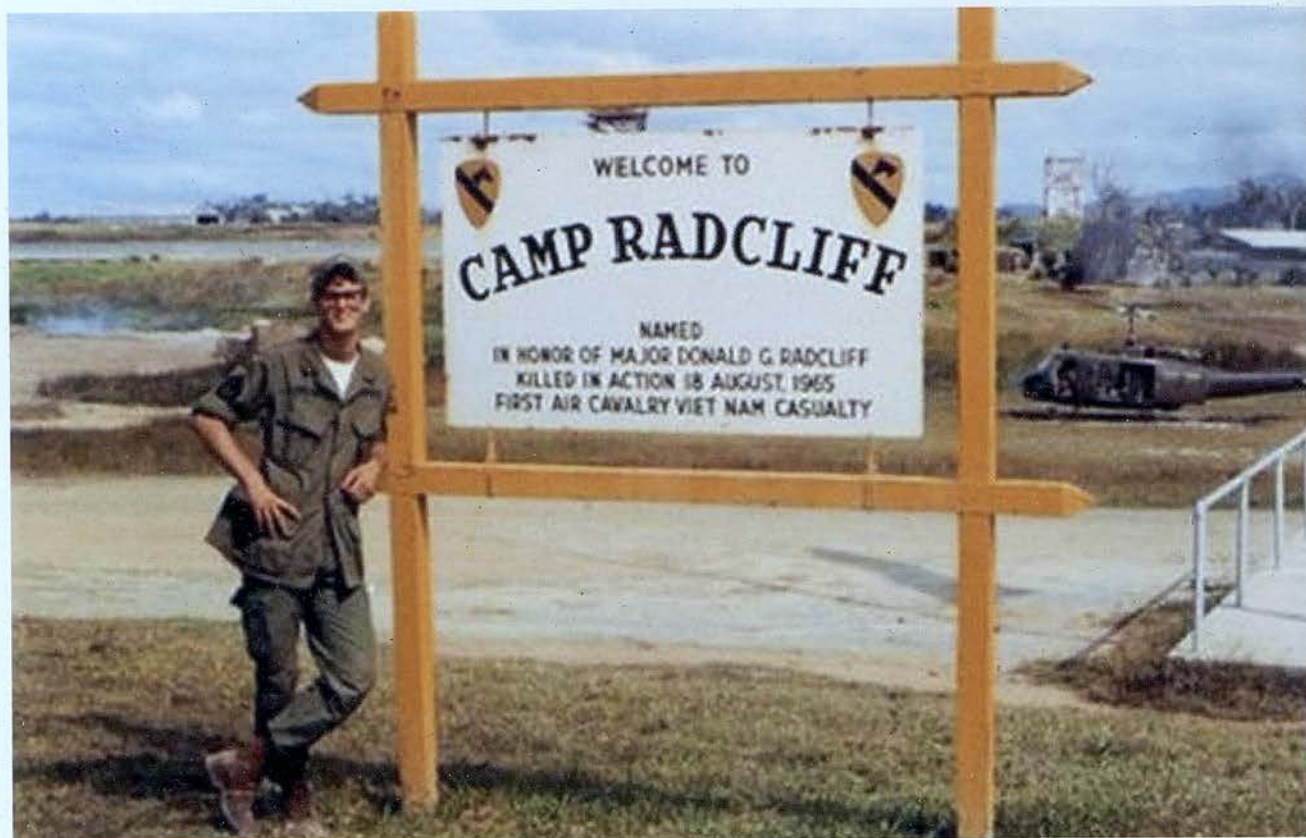
RVN Service Medal - 3 Silver Stars - 2 Bronze Stars

RVN Cross Gallantry - 5th Award. RVN Cross Gallantry Fourager.

RVN Staff Medal. RVN Campaign Medal.

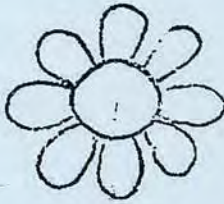
Combat Infantryman Badge. Master Aircraft Crew Member Badge.

Crew Chief Mechanic's Badge. 11th Air Assault Div Air Assault Badge.

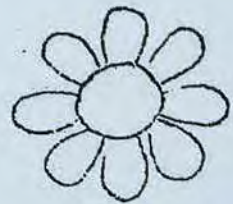




NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) WHITE JOSEPH ANTHONY				SEX M		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]		DATE OF BIRTH YEAR: 28 MONTH: 03 DAY: 03	
DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS ARMY-RA				SERIAL GRADE, RATE OR RANK MSG		PAY GRADE E-8		DATE OF RANK YEAR: 68 MONTH: 06 DAY: 27	
SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER 50 49 28 136				d. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER, CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE LB #49 Brooklyn, New York 11217		c. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (Street, RFD, City, State and ZIP Code) 542 Dean St Brooklyn, New York 11217			
3a. TYPE OF SEPARATION RETIREMENT				b. STATION OR INSTALLATION AT WHICH EFFECTED FORT RILEY, KANSAS					
TITLE 10 UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 3914 SPD 230								e. EFFECTIVE DATE YEAR: 74 MONTH: 01 DAY: 31	
6. CHARACTER OF SERVICE HONORABLE				f. TYPE OF CERTIFICATE ISSUED DD FORM 363A		10. REENLISTMENT CODE RE-4			
11. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND HHC 1st Inf Div Fort Riley, Kansas - FORSCOM				12. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED USAR CON GP (RETIRED) RCPAC 9700 PAGE BLVD ST LOUIS, MISSOURI 63132					
13. TERMINAL DATE OF RESERVE/MSR OBLIGATION YEAR: 83 MONTH: 07 DAY: 27			14. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE (City, State and ZIP Code) Can Tho Vietnam			15. DATE ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY THIS PERIOD YEAR: 68 MONTH: 03 DAY: 25			
16a. PRIMARY SPECIALTY NUMBER AND TITLE 7LP50 1 Mar 61 FH Opns Coord			b. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER 912.168 Airplane Dispatcher			18. RECORD OF SERVICE			
17a. SECONDARY SPECIALTY NUMBER AND TITLE 67Z50 25 Apr 69 Acft Maint Supv			b. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER NONE			(a) NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD 5 10 6			
						(b) PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE 14 7 28			
						(c) TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE (a + b) 20 6 4			
						(d) PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE 0 0 0			
						(e) TOTAL SERVICE FOR PAY (c + d) 20 6 4			
						(f) FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE THIS PERIOD 3 1 21			
19. INDOCHINA OR KOREA SERVICE SINCE AUGUST 5, 1964 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO See Item #27				20. HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED (In Years) SECONDARY/HIGH SCHOOL 12 YRS (1-12 grades) COLLEGE 0 YRS					
21. TIME LOST (Preceding Two Yrs) 6 days		22. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID NONE		23. SERVICEMEN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE		24. DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES DNA AMOUNT		25. PERSONNEL SECURITY INVESTIGATION a. TYPE BI b. DATE COMPLETED 14 Feb 56	
26. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/2OLC BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/2 OLC PURPLE HEART AIR MEDAL W/4 OLC PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (SEE ITEM #27)									
27. REMARKS Last Overseas Service - Vietnam Last paid reenlistment bonus - \$466.40 Total reenlistment bonus - \$2000.00 Ref Item #19 - 18 Aug 65 - 10 Sep 66; 2 Jun 67 - 5 Nov 68; 4 Apr 69 - 3 Apr 70; 7 Jan 71 - 17 Dec 71; 28 Aug 72 - 26 Mar 73 Ref #26 - VALOROUS UNIT AWARD NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/OLC MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION W/OLC ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL 5TH AWARD VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY 5TH AWARD CREWCHIEF MECHANIC BADGE VIETNAM STAFF MEDAL CIVIL ACTIONS HONOR MEDAL COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/3SILVER AIRCRAFT CREWMAN BADGE (MASTER) & 3 BZ STARS AIR ASSAULT BADGE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL Ref Item #21 - 6 days excess leave									
28. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Street, RFD, City, County, State and ZIP Code) 542 Dean St Brooklyn, New York 11217					29. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <i>Joseph A. White</i>				
30. NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER VERNON L FRENCH MAJ AUS (RET) CHIEF, PRS ACTV BR					31. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN <i>Vernon L French</i>				



114TH



KNIGHT CAP

Authorized and published bi-weekly by the 114th Assault Helicopter Company, Vinh Long, APO 96357 S.F.. WO Dennis Murphy, Editor, contents are unofficial and are written or reproduced for the interest and information of the 114th personnel, and are not necessarily the opinion of the commander, the Staff or the Department of the Army.

SOUND OFF

There are a lot of us on the compound who question just what the #?! is going on around here, but get no answers so how about this? We of the Knight Cap would like to put together a little column we'll call Sound Off and you out there who want to get some answers, logical or otherwise, can pass your questions along to us and we'll do our best to come up with something.

All you'll have to do is write down your question on some scrap of paper and drop it in the mailbox by the Orderly Room in an envelop marked "Knight Cap" you can address your question to Knight 6, Knight 5, the different platoon leaders, or anyone else you care to hear an explanation from. These people have already agreed to co-operate fully.

If you don't wonder about certain things that are going on around here, you must be the exception to the rule, so why don't those of you who do want to have some sensible explanations whip a few questions on us.

TWICE A MONTH?
GOOD GRIEF!







Joe. To the most outstanding Operations Sgt I know Col. Al Post

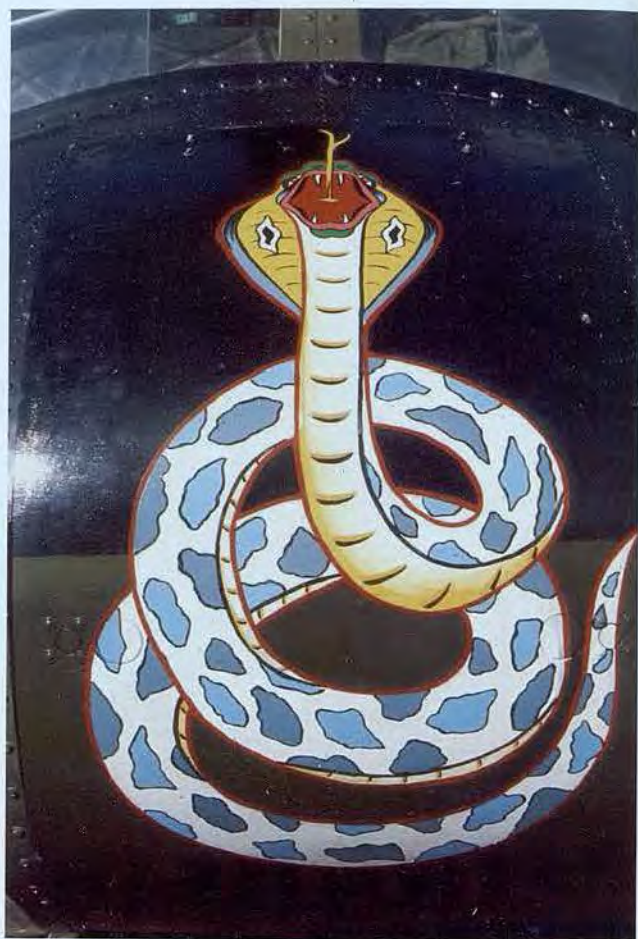


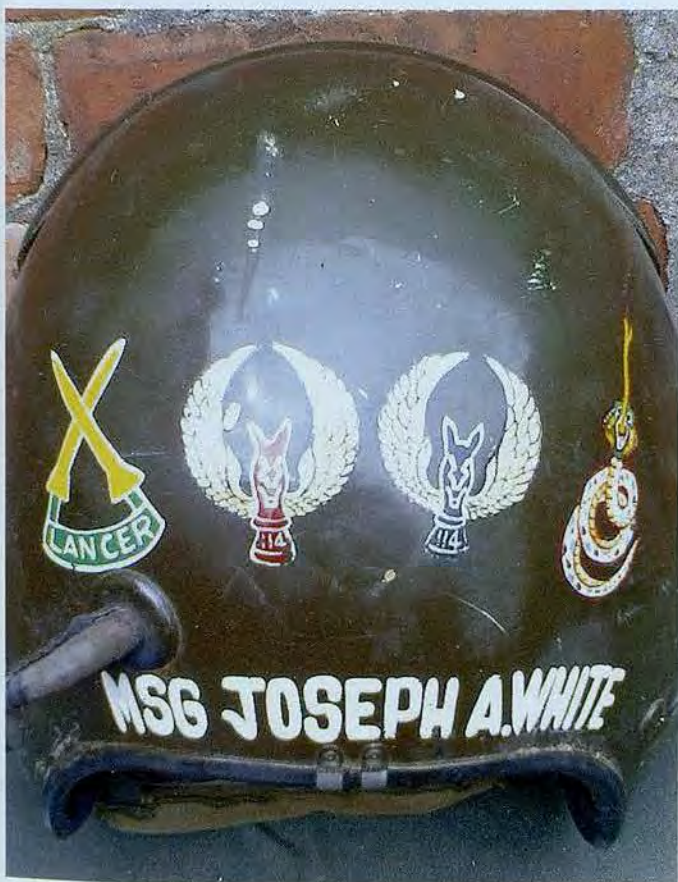
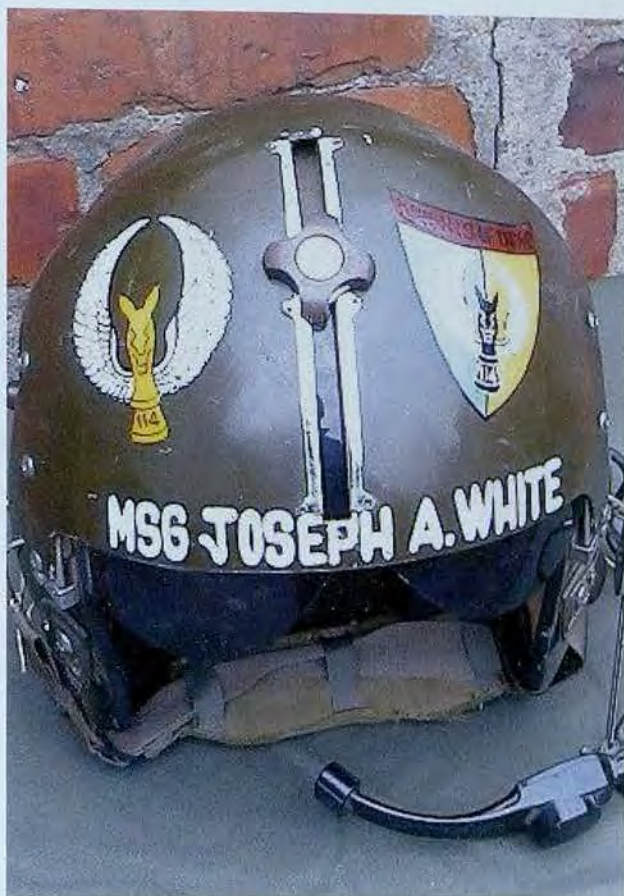
WELCOME ABOARD



114th Assault Helicopter Company
Major Robert W. Reid, Commanding





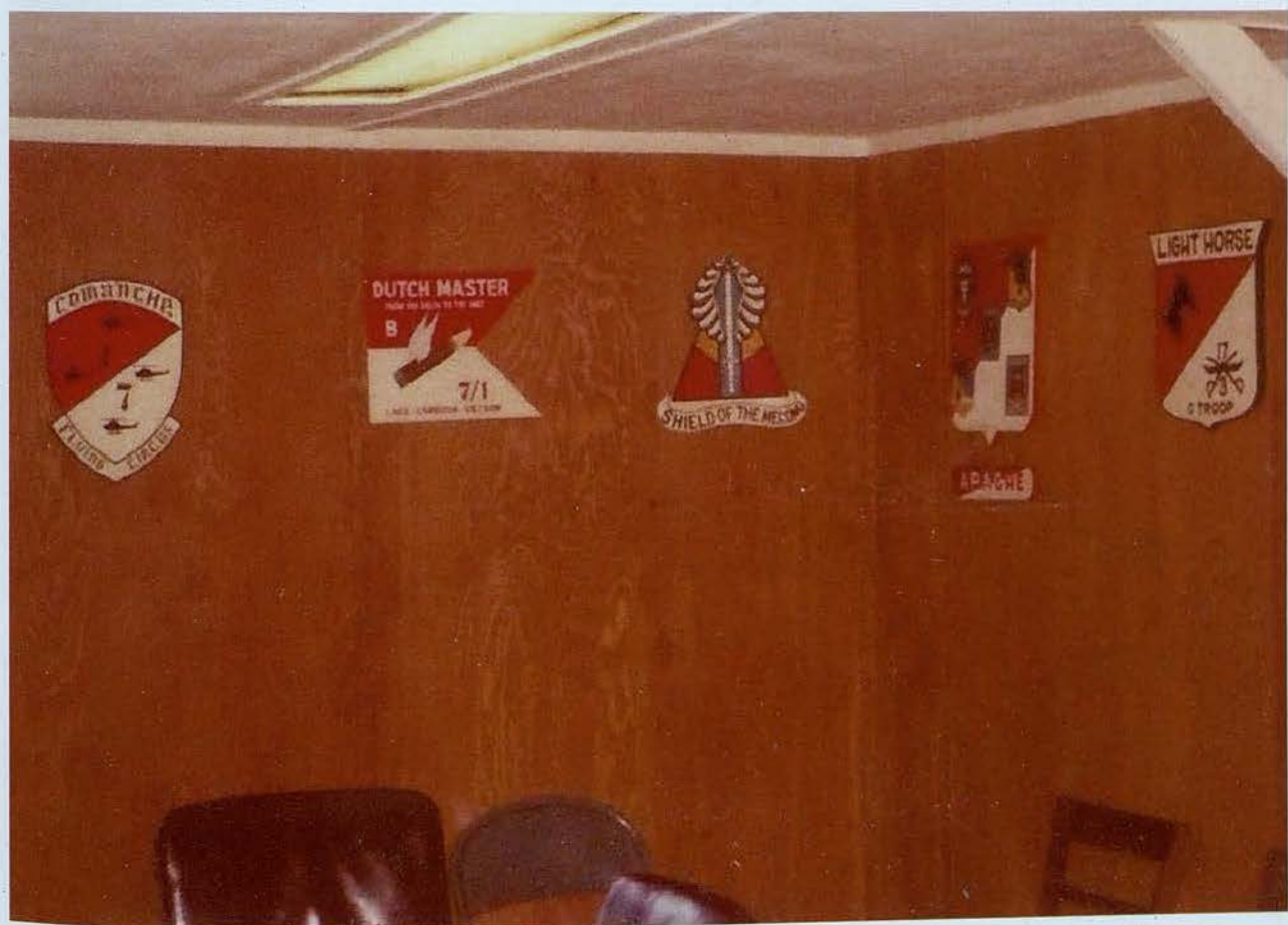




To Master Sgt Joe White, a fine friend and an outstanding performer. Ltc Samuel Walker. 34th General Support Group









SERVING THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IN THE DELTA

The Delta Dragon

Can Tho, Republic of Vietnam

ISG has over 8,000 medals

By SP5 Stan Berry

VINH LONG ARMY AIRFIELD, - First Sergeant Joseph A. White is winging his way toward a goal. His ambition is to have the most complete collection of military aviator's wings in existence.

Already the first sergeant of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 214th Combat Aviation Battalion has interested the Smithsonian Institute, National Air Museum and the Naval Aviation Museum in his hobby.

ISG White's collection of wings number more than 8,000 sets, and date from the early years of the 20th century, when flying was in its pioneer period, to today's wings worn by astronauts. The first sergeant values his collection so highly that he has it protected by the famous insurance company Lloyd's of London.

The wing collecting fanatic first became interested in his hobby while serving a tour of duty in Germany 12 years ago.

"While attached to German Army Headquarters," he explained, "I met a former World War II Messerschmidt pilot who had a few sets of wings. He told me some good stories and that got me interested."

Since that time his collection

has expanded from United States and German wings to include wings from Austria, Australia, Bavaria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Hungary, Israel, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovak (Czechoslovakia pilots who flew for Nazi-Germany), South Africa, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and Uruguay.

Included in the United States portion of the collection is one of the original 14 badges awarded to Army aviators in 1913. One of these was awarded to Second Lieutenant H. A. Arnold. Before Lt. Arnold's military career was over, he became Chief of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and a 5-star general.

Besides Army and Air Force wings, the first sergeant has wings worn by aviators of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard units, from their first authorized wings in 1917 to the present-day U.S. Navy Astronaut wings.

In searching out wings, badges and insignia, ISG White has come in contact with some fabulous fliers, such as Jacqueline Cockran, Rickenbacker, Gen. H. A. Arnold, Sikorsky and others.

An example of one of his famous contacts is Colonel Hans Rudel, a former Stuka pilot for

Nazi Germany, who flew more than 2,000 missions on the Russian front, and caused Adolf Hitler to invent six new decorations just for him. One is an expensive medal studded with jewels which the German dictator presented himself. ISG White purchased this badge, the only one of its kind in the world, while he was stationed with the German High Command Headquarters in an advisory capacity for \$500.

Another contact is Sgt. William Reilly, who shot down three planes flying with the Royal Australian Air Force in the Battle of Britain and in the Pacific. Reilly, who finally lost a leg in combat and today operates a store in Australia, sent ISG White a pair of wings he wore on his wartime tunic.

The hobby is further enlarged by photographs of military aviation during World War I. The collection numbers over 100 different pictures.

Each item in the wing collection has a story accompanying it to tell about air heroes both past and present, making aviation history come alive from the flying Jenny to space age rockets. To tell the story of aviation wings, ISG White is in the process of writing a book, with art and pictures showing all his finds.



*Mg Allen Burdett Jr CG, 1st Aviation bde VN.
 Inspects Joe Whites wing collection, TSN. AFB Saigon*



THIS INVOLVES ANOTHER CLOSE CALL WHICH I HAD IN VIETNAM. I HAD GONE TO SAIGON TO VISIT SOME WOUNDED PERSONNEL AT THE SAIGON GENERAL HOSPITAL. I REMAINED OVERNIGHT AND WENT OUT TO THE "GOLF COURSE" WHICH WAS OUR NAME FOR THE ARMY'S HELIPORT IN SAIGON TO BUM A RIDE BACK TO MY UNIT AT CAN THO. I ARRIVED AT THE FLIGHT OPERATIONS DESK AND SIGN UP FOR A RIDE TO CAN THO ON THE FIRST AVAILABLE AIRCRAFT RETURNING THERE. ABOUT TWO OR THREE HOURS LATER ONE OF MY UNIT'S OWN AIRCRAFT, A CH-47 ARRIVED TO DROP OFF SOME SUPPLIES AND WAS RETURNING BACK EMPTY. I WAS BOOKED ON THIS FLIGHT ALONG WITH 20 OR 30 OTHER PERSONNEL RETURNING TO THEIR UNITS. THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER HOUR DELAY WHILE THE CREW HAD LUNCH.

WHILE SITTING THERE AT OPERATIONS A COLONEL FRIEND OF MINE HAPPEN TO PASS BY AND ASKED ME WHAT I WAS DOING HANGING AROUND OPNS. I TOLD HIM I WAS WAITING FOR A RIDE TO CAN THO. HE TOLD ME HE HAD HIS OWN AIRCRAFT AND IF I DIDN'T MINE FLYING AS CO-PILOT TO VUNG TAU WITH HIM, HE'LD THEN DROP ME OFF AT CAN THO. SINCE HE HAD A MUCH FASTER AIRCRAFT I DECIDED TO GO WITH HIM. WE FLEW TO VUNG TAU BUT GOT SIDE-TRACKED WITH SOME MUTAL FRIENDS WE HAD RUN INTO. BUT EVENTUALLY WE TOOK OFF.

HE DROP ME OFF AT CAN THO AND I WALKED INTO MY ORDERLY ROOM WHERE THE UNIT SECRETARY PROMPTLY SCREAMED. EVERYBODY HAD LOOKED AT ME LIKE I WAS A GHOST.

IT WAS THEN I FOUND OUT THAT THE AIRCRAFT I WAS SCHEDULED TO RETURNED ON HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN WITH ENEMY ROCKETS KILLING ALL ON BOARD HER. SINCE I HAD NOT HAD MY NAME REMOVED FROM THE FLIGHT MANIFEST FOR THE AIRCRAFT, AND AFTER CALLING SAIGON OPERATIONS, HAS ASSUMED I WAS ON HER WHEN SHE WAS SHOT DOWN.

I PROMPTLY VOLUNTEERED TO GO OUT ON BODY RECECOVERY ALTHOUGH IN ENEMY TERRIORITY.

31 Oct 72

BOARDING PASS		
PASSENGER NAME AND NUMBER CAN THO		
FLIGHT NO./DATE 12	REPORTING TIME AND DATE 1400	FLIGHT LUNCH STAMP —







The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 32 Queens, New York arranged for Joe White's burial at Calverton National cemetery on Oct. 14, 2008..



Rest In peace Joe. 1928 - 2008



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