

Revetments

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association



"All Included - None Excluded"

Volume 5, Number 3

The Tan Son Nhut Association, Washington, D.C.

December, 2002

A Gift to Remember

On an old lonely street, on the far side of town,
I wasn't so sure of what I had found.
I couldn't believe; it was such a shock,
To see this old man with only one sock.

His shirts was so ripped it looked like a rag,
Under his head was an old dirty bag.
I shook him a little; he looked up at me,
He said with a tear, "Is our country still free?"

I helped him up, slowly he rose,
Things started falling out of his clothes.
When I picked up his things, the tears hit my eyes,
I trembled inside at such a surprise.

They were all medals he had from a war,
This man was a soldier who ended up poor,
I left and came back, I said, "Help's on the way."
Then he fell to the ground and I started to pray.

I placed all the medals there on his chest,
I heard this voice say - "This man's done his best.
He couldn't find work, he knew nothing, you see.
But he had this great gift - to help keep us free."

*We are grateful to Member Irving E. Rice, of Dilliner, Pennsylvania
for sharing his poem with us. His poem achieved the First
Honorable Mention by the Morgantown (W.Va.) Poetry Society.*



Founder and President
John Peele



"All Included - Non Excluded"



Founder and Past President
Don Parker

Mission 2003: The Year of the Tan Son Nhut Memorial

When I assumed the office of President of this Association, at the April 2002 reunion, I took the Oath of Office, which reads in part, "I ... will uphold the Constitution of the Tan Son Nhut Association and will vigorously support all programs properly adopted by the Board of Directors and the members of the Association."

When Past President Don Parker and I founded this Association, over seven years ago, our first and foremost goal, our primary "program" was to endeavor to create and bring into being an appropriate, suitable, and overall important memorial to those who worked and died at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The story of the many years of the thousands and thousands of Americans who worked and fought for the freedom and independence of the people of a small Asian nation can not be allowed to go unremembered.

On December 6, the current Board of Directors, TSNA, will be meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, to study our business operations and future programs. One of the principal issues to be considered is the initial planning and conception of what we want to see as the Tan Son Nhut Memorial. A report of this meeting will,

of course, be published in the next issue of *Revetments*. Although there are some concepts on the table at present, nothing concerning the memorial will be settled or adopted at this meeting. But we will firmly establish the program, and from now on, we want you to join with us and let us hear your ideas and conceptions.

Is a memorial needed, is it necessary?

Jan Scruggs, Founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in a recent Vietnam Veterans Association publication said, "Veterans should congratulate themselves on the many Vietnam memorials that have been built throughout America. The memorials have had a positive impact: by recognizing sacrifices, by bringing people together, and by providing symbols that force people to remember that the war is real – **that people give their lives as a result of American foreign policy** (Italics: mine)." He closes by saying, "... memorials keep issues alive." Let us make the Year 2003, the year of our Memorial Mission; plan, adopt, start raising funds, attract many, many more members and move closer to that day when we will all stand before the great Tan Son Nhut Memorial.

John Peele

Memories of Christmas at **TAN SON NHUT** with **JOHN BURKE**

Revetments, and our Tan Son Nhut Association website (www.tsna.org) have found a veritable goldmine of talent in one of our newest members, John P. Burke, of Yukon (yes, Yukon), Oklahoma. John is both a talented cartoonist and a very humorous writer. He has volunteered to supply both the website and *Revetments* with copy on a monthly basis. Webmaster Charles Penley and *Revetments* welcome him with open arms.

If you were at Tan Son Nhut from Christmas Day 1966 to December 17, 1967, you would have known John as Sergeant Burke, 460th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron. About this cartoon, John says, "Somehow this cartoon just popped into my head for sending home to my folks that first Christmas in Vietnam. Though dated 1968, I actually drew a crude ballpoint pen version of this in January '67 and sent it home in a letter, redrawing it in '68 with "crow and quill" pen and ink as I did with most of my letter clowning in those days.

"By the way, neither Mr. Claus nor I were drafted, at least, I'm

reasonably certain the jolly old elf

never wore a red helmet! As for me, believe it or not, I volunteered on my eighteenth birthday. Apparently that ruffled feathers with the Selective Service folks. Mom forwarded a severe penalty registration-warning letter from them to me while I was breaking sweat in basic at Lackland Air Force Base."

John has made submissions to both *Stars & Stripes* and the *Air Force Times*.

To your left is the 1966 Tan Son Nhut Chapel Brochure that Burke has kindly sent to us. He says that he'll "be happy to e-mail the four page copy to any of the members interested in having one." His e-mail address is: jpburke@cox.net

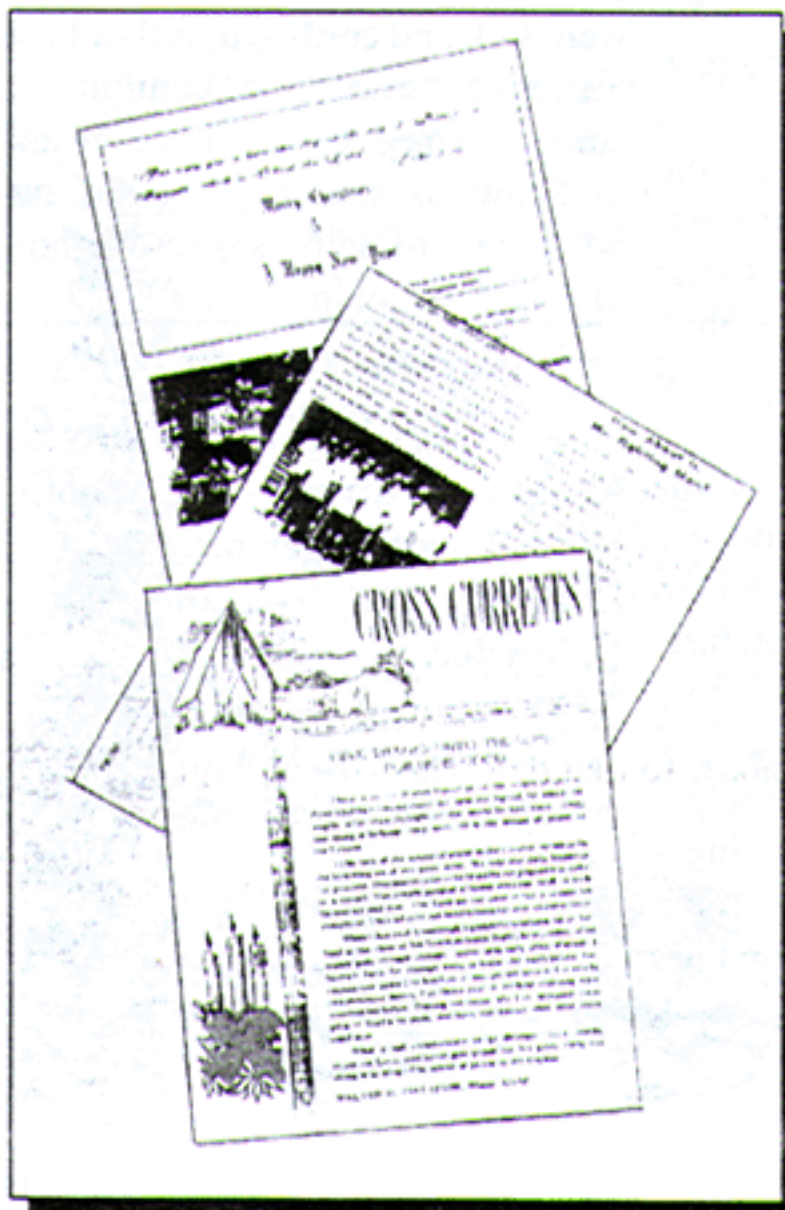
People, members like Burke, and their continuing creative contributions and support make us proud to put out this monthly publication and maintain our great website.

And we certainly join John as he closed his last message with: "... wishing a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you one and all."

THAT DRAFT NOTICE JUST
 TOOK THE HO HO HO PLUM
 OUTTA ME!



-J. BURKE 68-





Founded 1995

By

Don Parker & John Peele

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* * *

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* * *

Membership Information

Annual Membership \$20.00

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Send to Public Affairs, address above.



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Thoughts of our
Sky Pilot
TSNA Chaplain
James M/ Warrington

Who Are We?

Recently I looked through the advertisements within a sophisticated American magazine. The question that came to my mind was: What kind of a person am I supposed to be, as reflected in these advertisements? These are brief and colorful appeals written by men and women who have done studies of the kind of person I am.

The result was a somewhat startling and disconcerting picture of what we typical Americans are supposed to be. We are filled with pride – pride in our appearances, our wealth and luxury, our superiority over all those around us. We are deeply dedicated to comfort and pursue it with zeal. We are people of gluttony not content with plain healthy food but in search for a new taste thrill at almost any price. We desire to move up, to be in the highest bracket of material success and glamour. We are egotistic: “make a career of being right.” “Own the world’s finest.” Above all, we yearn to be the masters of romantic love (If this seems overdone, make your own study

with this question: Who are we? I don’t like this picture, but the more I think about it the more I am sure it is correct. (The profitable results of such advertising prove them accurate in their appraisal of us.) While the



exercise was in some ways depressing, I found it time well spent for two reasons.

First we need the humility and honesty to look at ourselves. Often we think the picture of our Self-centeredness in the bible and other religious volumes is exaggerated; we need a source as completely non-religious as modern American magazines. To see ourselves truly is to see how far we are from God’s plan for us – and the first step to finding a better self.

Here also, we need to remember that God does not abandon us because we are imperfect. The Messiah came to save people who were sick and confused, full of false values. He came – and continues to come – to meet us where we are and to show us the way out of our bondage – to help us discover how to be *holy* human.

Welcome November’s New TSNA Members!

Ronald D. Fairbank, Liverpool,

NY – Harold Segerson,

Lexington, TN – William

D. Snyder, Hanover

Township, PA – Paul A.

Subbie, Bothell, WA –

Tom Wilson, Alamonte

Springs, FL

Season’s Greetings

and Happy New Year!

The Communications Center

Interested in a Do-It-Yourself Tour?

Ron Huegel, a former Marine, and Tour Director with Military Historical Tours, recently wrote to Public Affairs:

"We've been in touch with Vietnam Tourism, and we're working on putting together a tour that may interest some of you. What other sites would you like to visit in the Saigon area? We're going to try to get permission to go aboard Tan Son Nhut, of course; and we can do a city tour of Saigon. How about DaLat and some of the coastal areas? Or a boat excursion down into the Delta? Whatever interest you may have, we'll try to build them into the tour."

Replies can be sent to the Public Affairs Office, address shown on Page 4, or directly to Ron at:

rhuegel@enter.net

New member asks a few questions

- I was in and out of Tan Son Nhut twice in October and November 1972. I was flying C-130As in, to turn over to the ARVN AF (Ed.VNAF). We would RON (remain over night) and head back via Clark Air Base (Philippines). So my exposure was limited to the NCO Club, a barber shop, a great steak at Camp Alpha, and a walking tour for a few hundred yards outside the gate.

I have wanted to know all these many years, if those aircraft might still be sitting

there. Because somewhere inside Tail Number 55-034 is my flight log that I left on the plane. I have never found anyone who has been able to tell me if those birds, delivered as part of "Enhance Plus" are there, been destroyed or sold. There has to be someone who has been back and might know. Any ideas on how I might find some information?

(Tsgt.) Tom Wilson
Altamonte Springs, Florida
jwilson26@cfl.rr.com

Son seeks information on his father:

I'm Nick Flacco, son of retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Flacco. Dad served as pilot and flight commander in the EC-47 (WSI 201), 360th TEWS, at Tan Son Nhut from 8 January 1970 to 28 July 1970.

He passed away in January and I miss him a lot. Wondering if you have anything with his name on it, like a roster from that era, or maybe even a picture! It's a long shot I know, but maybe you can refer me to someone else. Thanks.

Nicholas L. Flacco
Ste 400, 5000 Van Nuys Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403-1717
(818) 501-2880

And now, kiddies, more about Miss Fonda

- After reading your mea culpa on Jane Fonda, I would offer the following item from Michael P. Kelley's *Where We Were in Vietnam*, Page F-31, under Hanoi

Hannah per David Lamb of the Los Angeles Times: "Her scripts were taken by propagandists in the North Vietnamese Army who lifted their material from articles in magazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek* and newspapers such as *The New York Times* that Vietnamese diplomats stationed abroad had sent home."

(Following is Kelley's statement) "Members of the U.S. anti-war movement also brought articles to North Vietnam, among them activists Tom Hayden and actress Jane Fonda." (I believe they were married at the time.)

Regardless of the accuracy of your previous *Revetments* piece, we all know her leanings. Best,

Mark Fleisher
Horseheads, New York

Member recalls air operations near the end

- In late 1967, I was offered temporary duty to Tan Son Nhut to learn how EW (electronic warfare) was used and how the daily data was compiled. Colonel Rose (later General Rose) wanted me to take over the EW Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

I had just received a promotion to NADGEMO at Headquarters, NATO. So in January 1973, I volunteered and was selected as the civilian DMM at Bien Hoa Depot-MACV/DAO, which was limited to fifty military in Vietnam under the terms of the "Bamboo Peace." (Continued, Page 6)

Communications Center from Page 5

I arrived at Tan Son Nhut on 22 March 1973 and stayed in B.O.Q. No. 1 for three days while in-processing. In January 1974 I moved to the Air Force Division DAO Headquarters at Tan Son Nhut.

Colonel Fred Steadman, USAF (now deceased) and Colonel Da, VNAF Director of Maintenance, Tan Son Nhut, had a weekly maintenance support meeting to review problems that kept the fifteen C-130A aircraft out of the air. We had twelve flying for the yearly Air Show. I worked with Colonel Steadman as the VNAF Air Bases Logistics Support Director.

Would be glad to hear from former VNAF/LSI Maintenance people who helped support the VNAF aircraft (with almost no parts). In 1989, the Saigon Mission Association (www.saiгонmsn.org) established a memorial at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Museum to all of the people killed in the April 1975 C5 "Baby Lift" aircraft crash.

Harold Segerson
Lexington, Tennessee
logassoc@bellsouth.net

Project 2002!

Come on writers! Member Bill Grayson has been working all year on compiling an anthology of Tan Son Nhut AB stories. As soon as you can call him at (202) 651-2281 or E-Mail at WGrayson@webtv.net

QANTAS



Logged Maintenance Complaints and corrective action

(This piece is contributed by longtime and strong supporting member, Lance Coar, of Penllyn, Pennsylvania. All of our aircraft types will love it - and we hope Australian member, Phil Greethead does too. Ed.)

People are funny, especially Aussies. Never let it be said that ground crews and engineers lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual logged maintenance complaints by Qantas pilots, and the corrective action recorded by mechanics. By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never had an accident.

(P - stands for the Problem the pilots entered in the log, and, S - stands for the Corrective Action taken by the mechanics.)

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto land very rough.

S: Auto land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on backorder.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200-fpm descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: SME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what they're there for!

P: IFF inoperative.

S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windscreen.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing. (Not running smoothly)

S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

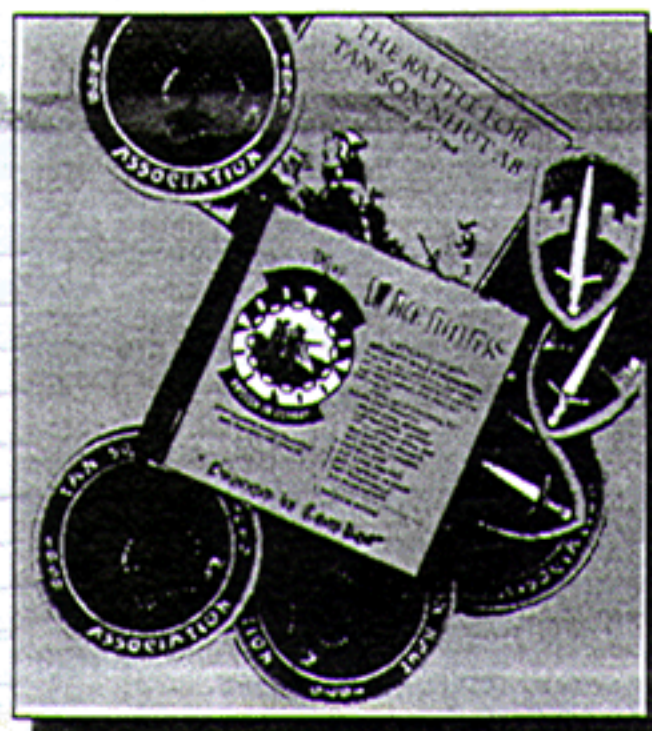
P: Radar hums.

S: Reprogrammed with words.

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed.

This Season Give Tan Son Nhut Gifts



Why not give that special friend a gift that has a special meaning? Invite that friend to join you each month in sharing the stories, pictures and memories that are found in Revetments. Give that friend an Association membership. (One year \$20, Five Years \$80, Life Membership \$180.) An attractive gift card and the last 12 issues of Revetments are sent out immediately. And patches are also available, TSNA \$5 and MACV \$7. Make out money order or check to the Tan Son Nhut Association, and mail to Suite 709, 330 West Brambleton Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23510.

* * *

The Battle of Tan Son Nhut, 4CD Set, \$49.95, Make out money order or check to ANACHRON STUDIOS, and mail to address shown above.

* * *

"The Victors" by Taylor McKinnon and his musicians. The CD set is dedicated to the 377th Security Police Squadron, with songs that appeal to anyone who has been assigned to the Far East. It is \$19.95. Make money or check payable to Taylor McKinnon and mail to the address shown above.

* * *



All profits accrue to the Tan Son Nhut Association
For Charles Penley's fine Saigon Facility Maps
go to our website: <http://www.tsna.org>



This is not a pot of gold - it is a pot of Tan Son Nhut

Association Members' hearts! Take a look at the Current Pledge List, they have brought us to over \$5,000 and we are just short of our goal! THANK YOU! Join all these wonderful generous members and let's cross the finish line this month! Do not send money at this time, just write in, fax, phone or e-mail your pledge, and your complimentary copy of the CD set (dedicated to the 377th Security Police Squadron). "The Victors" by member Taylor McKinnon will be on its way to you immediately.

The Current Pledge List -

—Thomas Tessier	—Wayne Salisbury	—Richard Fulton	—Mark Fleisher
—Bill & Mary Carlson	—Richard Skea	—Robert J. McDonald	—Mike Pelto
—Walter J. D'Ambrosio	—Julian Mills	—Buck Zehringer	—Dean Gard
—David Koopman	—Steve Carter	—Robbie Robertson	—Richard Starke
—Kenneth Moll	—Albert Keeler	—Johnnie Jernigan	—Edie Straw
—Michael Monteith	—Rebecca Clark	—Frank Bracken	—Linda Billings
—Charles Woods	—Nancy Joyner	—William Blackmon	—Charles Penley
—Ben White	—Wilma & Bob Davis	—Larry Fry	—Dale M. Baker
—Lance Coar	—Skip Tannery	—James Warrington	—Tom Campbell
—Robert Anisko	—John Hagler	—William Simms	—Arrel Bruce
—Joseph Davenport	John Burke	William Coop	Margaret Parker-Sergeant
Brent Cool	Mike Lemley	Daniel Lindsay	Bill Katsones
Jerald Fish			Elmer Maloney

For further information call Bob Need, (757) 627-7746 or Fax: (757) 672-0878. Mail pledges to: Suite 709, 330 W. Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23510. Thank you, please help us as soon as you can!

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