

Revetments

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association



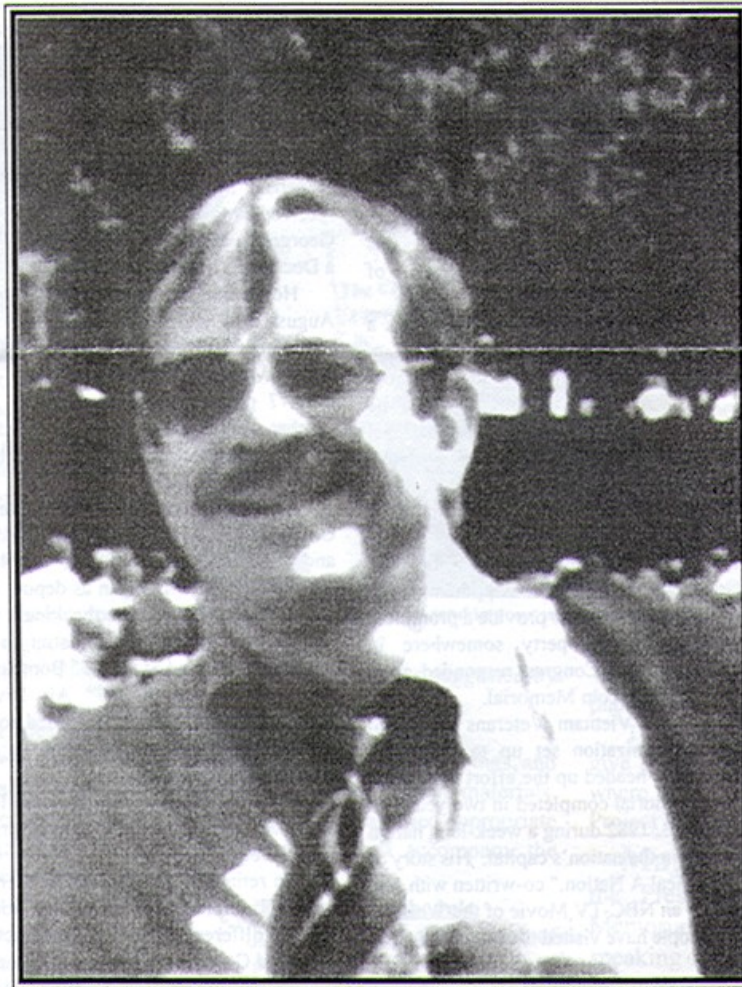
"All Included - None Excluded"

Volume 4, Number 6

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

March, 2002

Heroic Founder of "The Wall"



President VNMF, Jan Scruggs – Photo by John Peele, Memorial Day 1999

to join TSNA visit to Memorial

(See Story, Page 2)

Reunion To Hear Distinguished Speakers

To Heal A Nation

Jan Scruggs will accompany Tan Son Nhut Association members as they go to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") for a wreath-laying ceremony, Friday, April 26, 2002, during Reunion 2002.

Jan C. Scruggs is the founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. He conceived the idea of building the Memorial, the most visited monument in Washington, D.C., as a tribute to the 58,219 dead, the thousands of wounded, and to other dedicated men and women during this longest war in American history.



Mr. Jan Scruggs

Scruggs grew up in Bowie, Maryland. After graduating from high school, he served with the United States Army's 199th Light Infantry Brigade. He received his Bachelor of Science degree and Masters of Education degree from The American University in Washington, D.C. and his law degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

Scruggs was wounded and is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. While doing graduate school research on Vietnam Veterans, he developed the idea to create a national memorial inscribed with the names of all Americans who gave their lives in the Vietnam War. He felt a memorial would serve as a fitting tribute for all those who served in this controversial Asian war.

In May 1979, Scruggs took \$2,800 of his own money and launched the effort. Gradually he gained the support of other Vietnam veterans in persuading Congress to provide a prominent location on Federal Government property somewhere in Washington. After a difficult struggle, Congress responded, a site was chosen on the Mall near the Lincoln Memorial.

Serving as President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., the non-profit organization set up to build and maintain the memorial, Scruggs headed up the effort that raised \$48.4 million and saw the memorial completed in two years. It was dedicated on November 13, 1982 during a week-long nation "salute" to Vietnam Veterans in the nation's capital. His story of building the Memorial, "To Heal A Nation," co-written with Joel L. Swerdlow, was made into an NBC-TV Movie of the Week.

More than 40 million people have visited the Memorial since its dedication in 1982.

(Editor's Note: The Association can thank member, Thomas Tessier, Nashua, New Hampshire, for inviting Jan Scruggs to participate in our reunion. Tessier is an important supporter of the Memorial and he and Scruggs have been friends for some time. This biography was prepared by members of the Southern University of New Hampshire.)

12th Tac Pilot Flies High

General John A. Shaud, a long-standing member of the Tan Son Nhut Association will be the principle speaker at the Association's Formal Banquet in the evening of April 27, 2002.

In 1968 RF-4C pilot, John Shaud, originated his tour in Southeast Asia as an operations staff officer in the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing at Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand. But soon he was in Vietnam at Tan Son Nhut Air Base as an RF-4C Flight Commander with the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.

John Shaud was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where he graduated from Cleveland Heights High School. He is a 1956 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force. He received a Master of Sciences from George Washington University and a Doctorate from Ohio State.

He received his pilot wings in August 1957 and was assigned to the 358th Bombardment Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, as a B-47 pilot. Completing B-52 combat crew training he was assigned to Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, as an aircraft commander with the 17th Bombardment Wing in the summer of 1964.

Returning from Vietnam he served on the faculty of the Air Command and Staff College, attended the National War College and in 1974 was assigned to the 449th Bombardment Wing, Kincheloe AFB, Michigan as deputy commander for operations and in April 1975 became the wing's vice commander.

General Shaud served a stint in Washington and in 1978 assumed command of the 92nd Bombardment Wing (Heavy), and later commanded the 47th Air Division at Fairchild AFB, Washington. In 1981 he returned to the Pentagon until 1986 when he became commander of the Air Training Command at Randolph AFB, Texas.

In July 1988, he was promoted to General and became the Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe at Mons, Belgium.

He retired in June of 1991. General Shaud is a command pilot with more than 5,600 flying hours and has flown in more than 35 different types of aircraft including B-47, B-52, RF-4C, T-38 and C-21As. He logged 251 combat hours in the RF-4C.

Among his many decoration are the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross and many others.

He is presently the Executive Director of the Air Force Association and lives in Northern Virginia.



General John Shaud

Project 2002

Broad Documentation Program Begins

by
William C. Grayson,
Director, Project 2002

(Editor's Note: In the January issue of *Revetments*, Member William C. Grayson's (Bowie, Maryland) initial proposals for Project 2002 were announced. This month Grayson has outlined specific details for the project.)

* * *

For several years, Tan Son Nhut Association members have been documenting reminiscences of their Vietnam service, some also submitting personal photos for publication in *Revetments*. All of the *Revetments* articles and photos are interesting and unique vignettes of that faraway war. They merit permanent, formal documentation in a multi-purpose book. Such a book would have the following characteristics:

- Providing incentives for maximum member documentation of their Tan Son Nhut and Viet Nam experiences.
- The creation of a professional, quality archive appropriate for libraries, educational institutions including military war colleges, command and staff schools and serious individual subject matter research.
- Provide a family heirloom for members to help following generations understand their roles in the Viet Nam War.
- Public commercial sales program.

Subject Areas

There are innumerable areas that can, and should be covered, among them would be the following: (Note: Those areas marked with (*) denotes material that may have been or still is classified as National Security Information and needs Department of Defense or U.S. Air Force pre-publication clearance. This would be the responsibility of the author to obtain full clearance.)

- Living and working at Tan Son

Nhut, Saigon, Republic of Viet Nam, the daily life.

- (*) On the job experiences.
- (*) Significant missions and events.
- (*) Combat action on the base or in the surrounding communities.
- (*) Air combat missions/resupply
- (*) Food, drink, clubs, entertainment (keep it G-Rated).
- Personal unit histories

for article contents, size and copyright/business-financial rules.

2. Book Format, and Outline, with Book Title and Chapter Designations Start sending in suggestions for title, chapter designation and formats in April.

3. Submission Period The Book Editor will begin receiving members' submissions during the month of April 2002, and the cut-off date will be November 30, 2002.

4. Note on Already Published Material If the member's material has already been published in *Revetments* or bear another copyright, the Book Editor will have to receive a written permission for publication for inclusion in this project.

5. Editing and Publication The Project 2002 Book Editor will spend three months editing and layout planning of the formats for publication. It is projected that the Book Editor will submit the "camera-ready" electronic text and illustrations to the publisher on March 1, 2003.

The publisher will announce the publication and availability dates.

The April issue of *Revetments* will give specific instructions on how and where to send your contributions to Project 2002.

Major Gen. E. Grillo

the President of the Air Force Memorial Foundation will also be speaking on Saturday, April 27 at the Reunion Banquet. Picture and biography will be published in the April issue of *Revetments*.

* * *



Suggested prototype - You send in your suggested title!

- Other subject areas suggested by the members.

What to Send In

Photos, maps, articles, clippings, and any other written or graphic materials. If copyrighted or classified appropriate final clearances must accompany the items.

Publication Schedule

1. Initial Call During the month of March please begin to assemble your contribution(s), written, graphic, illustrative to Project 2002. Do not send anything yet. The April issue of *Revetments* will outline the ground rules



"All Included - None Excluded"

Revetments is an official publication of the Tan Son Nhut Association, Inc. 6203 57th Avenue, Riverdale, Maryland 20737. The Association is a non-profit fraternal organization chartered under appropriate and law.

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Vice President/Secretary John Evans
Chaplain James M. Warrington
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Membership Information

Annual Membership \$20.00
Five Year Membership \$80.00
Life Membership \$180.00

Send to Public Affairs, address above.



Thoughts of Our Sky Pilot

By
Chaplain James Warrington

Affirmative Living

There is something haunting about the spiritual diary of the late Dag Hammarskjöld, the brilliant leader of the United Nations who was killed in a plane crash in 1961. The diary has been published as a book titled *Markings*. Much of it has to do with the author's decision to accept life, and live it to the fullest despite one's inner fears, misgivings and desire to escape.

"To be free, to be able to stand up and have everything behind - without looking back," he writes, as though he is summing up his spiritual goal. "To say 'yes' to life is at one and the same time to say

'yes' to one's self ... 'yes' even to that element in one which is most unwilling to let itself be transformed from a temptation into a strength."

In some wise words on the subject of maturity he has this to say: "Maturity, among other things, is not to hide one's strength out of fear, and consequently live below one's best."

A particularly prophetic and revealing cry from his soul is in the form of a prayer -

"Night is drawing nigh -

For all that has been - thanks!

To all that shall be - Yes!"

These words echo with special meaning because all of us today have times when life seems so mixed up, God's plan so hidden and confused, we are tempted to say 'No,' and start running.

And yet our problem is not a new one. I am impressed to find the ancient author of Deuteronomy calling us to courageous and

affirmative living in almost the same words as the late Secretary-General: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19)



Spies of Georgetown Walking Tour

In the February *Revetments* the fascinating Spies of Georgetown Walking Tour was scheduled for Saturday, April 27th.

This unique tour, conducted by Washington tour guide and TSNA member Carol Bessette will now be conducted right after the Memorial Breakfast on Sunday, April 28. She is offering this tour free of charge to the first 20 TSNA members who indicate they would like to go. Please notify TSNA Public Affairs or e-mail Carol at: jcbessette@aol.com She may be reached by phone at (703) 569-1875.



The Heart of Saigon - 1967

Courtesy of Skip Tannery (See Website: peterb@petester.com/Skip/sttsn.html)

THE COMMUNICATION CENTER

The Rockets Red Glare!

I enjoyed Frank Ybarbo's articles in the January *Revetments*. They brought back many memories of my tour in Viet Nam, including the aircraft destroyed by rockets.

North of the engine shop there were revetments that held RF-4 Phantom aircraft, one of which was destroyed during Tet. It amazed me how an aircraft made of metal could be turned into nothing but a pile of ashes with engines sticking out.

I had several close calls with rockets and mortars during my tour. I remember once when a rocket hit about 50 yards northwest of my hooch. The base attack siren was going off and the whole group of us were running down the center aisle heading for our bunker when it hit. I tripped over a trash can someone had left in the aisle and as I was falling I saw a fan-shaped spread of sparks head skyward just before I hit the floor and was trampled by those behind me heading out the door. I don't even remember hearing the sound it made when it hit.

The rocket destroyed a storage shed off behind our latrine. I don't think anyone was injured.

Ybarbo's description brought back to me that feeling of constant danger we all felt and the thrill of cheating death. I don't remember ever feeling more alive in my life than just after surviving another close call with the grim reaper in Viet Nam. Thanks for sharing the story

and Welcome Home! Best Wishes.

David E. Koopman
Little Canada, Minnesota
* * *

New Life Member speaks ...

I was assigned to the Air Force Regional Civil Engineer Office under the 7th AF Director of Civil Engineering with office space in Saigon a few blocks from the (Independence) Palace.

Spent the first night in a villa outside of Tan Son Nhut, then a few nights in the Visiting Officer Quarters across the plaza from the Brinks Senior Officer Quarters. Was assigned to a BOQ outside of Tan Son Nhut for a few weeks until space opened up at the Splendid BOQ in Saigon near my office. As the office worked for 7th AF, I spent a lot of time at TSN - both at the headquarters and passing through the Pax terminal as my job involved a lot of travel to the air bases in Vietnam.

Was advised of the Association by a close friend and member, Tom Campbell, who has also passed me his recent copies of *Revetments*. We both are looking forward to the Reunion in Washington. Hope to renew acquaintances with some old friends and coworkers. Keep up the good work. Sincerely,

Max W. Day (Lt.Col.)
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
* * *

The Night The Choppers Got

Zapped ... I was wondering if any members remembered the mortar attack, either in December 1965 or January 1966?

They hit our 98th Transportation Detachment and 120th Aviation Company flight line. Knocked out 25 of our 30 helicopters that night. Bien Hoa came down to help. Thanks,

Edward Ottney
Decorah, Iowa
* * *

New Member Kept His Head Up in The Clouds ...

I was a Navy airborne radio/TV broadcast engineer flying the Blue Eagle TV broadcast missions for AFVN/TV and THVN/TV (the Vietnamese government TV station). I broadcast the first TV in Vietnam in February of 1966.

We were assigned to Project Jenny which was a part of VSN-8 Det. WESTPAC, home based at Tan Son Nhut.

I returned in 1967 and spent three more flight tours flying with Project Jenny, but on these tours I flew PSYOPS radio broadcast missions for SOG out of DaNang Air Base.

However, Tan Son Nhut was the headquarters of Project Jenny, so I spent quite a bit of time there even when I was operating out of DaNang.

I was at Tan Son Nhut in April of 1966 when the first major VC mortar attack on the base came. Unfortunately, this attack damaged all three of our NC-121J Blue Eagle aircraft.

Steve Robbins, USNR, Ret.
Woodbridge, Virginia
* * *

Attack of The Mole Men ...

I have a book named *The Tunnels of Cu Chi*. It describes complex tunnels and living quarters around the Cu Chi area and even around Saigon. And they were at their height

of development during the years I was there (1967-1968).

Actually that was the period in Vietnam when the worst incidents and military actions happened. What luck.

It's possible that these tunnel networks might even have been right below where our hooch was at Tan Son Nhut. Many of the VC battalions were most likely in the tunnel complexes prior to the Tet attack.

What's interesting about this now, is that we're hearing about the Taliban who are living in deep caves. They're using them as protective shelters, living quarters and for staging of their operations, much in the same way the VC did. So now we're back there smoking them out of the caves like tunnel rats.

Mark Reveaux
Stony Brook, Connecticut
* * *

(Editor's Note: Mark's comments bring to mind a story that was told to us by a Navy medical corpsman working with the Marines in I Corps. He says that it was eventually found out that the V.C. had created an efficient hospital directly underneath the Americans' field hospital and that they had no worries whatsoever about obtaining adequate medical supplies. Tunnel stories are always interesting and we would appreciate it if you would send us in your favorites.)

Run! Don't Walk

to one of the best sites on the Internet - the TSNA's!

<http://www/tsna.org>

Webmaster Charles Penley



The Main Chapel 1967
Courtesy Mark Reveaux

The Son of God Goes South to War

Henry S. Cutler, 1872

A noble army, men and boys,

The matron and the maid,

Around the Saviour's throne rejoice,

In robes of light arrayed:

They climbed the steep ascent of heaven,

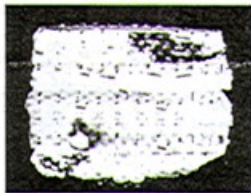
Through peril, toil and pain.

O God, to us may grace be given,

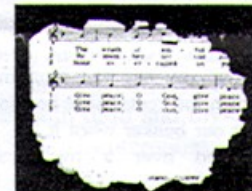
To follow in their train!



Casing,
Russian 122



Courtesy of Roy Peters



Courtesy of R. S. Need

"This is the photo (right) that I took on the morning of February 18, 1968. The chaplain was going through the debris and he gave me the above sheet from the song book I had to fold it at the top to send it.

Roy Peters
Warner Robbins,
Georgia

Hymn 444, *The Army and Navy Hymnal*, 1941



Unidentified chaplain sifts through the ruins.
Tan Son Nhut February 18, 1968

"Ironically, I was out picking up 122 casings about 3 a.m., February 18th and was coming down main street. Two of 'em came right in over my jeep and into the chapel. The next morning I went back and picked up the piece of hymnal."

Bob Need.
Norfolk, Virginia



Where did the Tan Son Nhut Association come from?

It All Began In Evansville

The hard work and planning of two Tan Son Nhut veterans achieved success as the first combined reunion of the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing and the 360th Tactical Electronics Warfare Squadron was held in the Executive Inn, in Evansville, Indiana, July 9 - 11, 1993. In the following November these two men (and their wives) published a reunion souvenir booklet. The following are some of the comments President Don Parker included ...

"Dear Brothers,

"I believe the first reunion we had together was a great success.

Although I didn't serve personally with many of you, we all had the same basic experiences and we understood the memories we shared in our short time together.....

"Now is the time for us to decide about our future reunions...I believe that as Vietnam veterans we have been excluded from the thoughts of many people as the heroes we were. We served honorably and didn't get the "welcome home" we deserved.

"That is all past now. We have each other. Over the years we have gained the respect we deserved all along from other veterans and from the general public. I believe we should no longer be excluded from anything nor should we exclude any other Vietnam veteran! Therefore, it is a firm belief of both John Peele and me that we should form a Tan Son Nhut Air Base Association. A group that includes all U.S. Air Force personnel who served there ... None of the units within the association would lose their



Co-Founder & President
Don E. Parker



The veterans who attended the first combined reunion in Evansville, Indian, July 1993
Photo by Sue Ellen Parker

identity. John (Peele) a member of the 460th suggested that each year a different unit could be distinguished as the Honor Unit. The Association's motto could be - "Never Exclude; Always Include."

"I was told that including all USAF veterans at TSN would make our group too large. John and I disagree. We can always find a hotel, a banquet hall, a convention center large enough to hold us.

"The only thing, in my opinion, that is too large is The Wall - too large because there are over 58,000 names on it. Our group must be formed to help people remember those 58,000 plus deceased veterans who are no longer with us."

Sincerely,

Don E. Parker



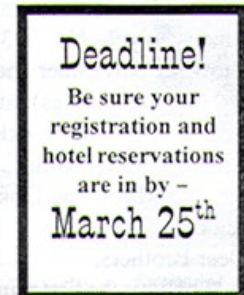
Co-Founder & Exec.V.P.
John Peele

Pilgrimage of Honor - Reunion of Remembrance***Get your registration form in NOW!***

From the number of registrations received already, it looks like we're going to have a really great **Reunion 2002!** But some questions are arising. If you want to stay at the Hilton Hotel, **do not call the 800 number!** Call directly to the Hilton Hotel Arlington, (703) 418-6800 for your special TSNA reduced rate. Yes, additional registration forms are available. Call Public Affairs (757) 627-7746 and copies will be mailed to you or faxed. Make checks or money orders payable to and mail immediately to:

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For further information call:
 (301) 277-7474 (John Peele)



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