

Revetments

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association



"All Included - None Excluded"

Volume 5, Number 2

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

November, 2002



Why we are still able to celebrate **Thanksgiving**

Dear fellow friends and members,

The month of November, like most months, has a number of holidays. In Ohio they celebrate because it was the month in which the territorial citizens voted for statehood. On the first Tuesday of the month, the voting booths are usually open for either local, state or national ballot issues.

I don't know about schools today, but you and I remember that they used to make a big thing about Thanksgiving. We cut out paper turkeys, made Indian headdresses with cut-out feathers and took our turn in class plays playing Squanto teaching the pilgrims how to cook turkey and make pumpkin pies.

Many of us went to church with our parents to thank our Creator for the blessings of living in this abundant land, and enjoying the greatest gift any nation could be thankful for - freedom. Most of us could recite the whole poem that began with, "Over the river and through the trees, to grandmother's house we go..."

Each year our country has more and more to be eternally grateful



by John Peele, President TSNA

for; we won our independence from foreign domination, remained united after a terrible civil war, survived bloody worldwide conflicts and at present we are victoriously defying the homicidal onslaughts of fanatic terrorists, while building and continuing to build the most industrious and prosperous nation in history.

But many of us, like millions of other Americans, will lift our eyes from the blessing and look around the table on Thanksgiving Day and note that a chair, or maybe two or more, are empty. The reason those chairs are empty is the reason that this nation, indivisible under God, is still free and able to celebrate its annual thanksgiving.

We let a warm proud and affectionate smile to briefly cross our faces, and we offer a simple silent "thank you" to them. And we thank ourselves for remembering them earlier this month on that other very important holiday, November 11th - **Veterans' Day**.

The very best to all of you, and the Lord bless your home.



by Bob Nelson

Bob Nelson, Anchorage, Alaska

New York – One Year Later



We are proud to begin our new "Salute to Distinguished Members" feature with Bob Nelson of Anchorage, Alaska. He is a psychotherapist with the Veterans Center in Anchorage. He is a retired Chief Master Sergeant, having served throughout the world, primarily in radio-television. He was with AFRS in Saigon, and then with Advisory Team 95. His military history is exceptionally distinguished, including duty with the Armed Force Presidential Inauguration Committee in Washington, Command Sergeant Major, Fort Monmouth, duty in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. But our attention in this issue is drawn to the fact that Bob has paid four official visits to New York City since September 11, 2001. Several years ago he became intrigued by a method of dealing with trauma victims called Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), critical stress incident debriefing. It was in its infancy, but over the past couple of years has taken wings and really grown. Bob has been doing CISM for Anchorage since his initial training. He assists in the debriefing of police fire, mountain rescue, rescue dogs, etc.,

after particularly messy and stress filled events – line of duty deaths, shootings, avalanches, etc. He travels to locations all around Alaska doing this work. He was with the initial team that went into New York. We deeply appreciate his response to our request that he write an article about his travels to New York. Ed.

Routine is back

Upon arriving at LaGuardia Airport the first thing I noticed was that routine has returned. There are no National Guardsmen at the entrance, but they are in the immediate high security areas. Security is thorough, but not frenetic – new luggage search devices have been installed and are in use, crowd control devices are more evident, uniformed police officers are inside and outside of the terminal, and the pace of travelers has increased, but the business of being an airport continues.

It was raining when I arrived and cars, trucks and taxis were everywhere. There are rules of the road in New York, but if you don't live there, you don't know all the rules. Survival is the name of the game – hesitate and you lose.

Downtown New York is downtown New York – totally unique. On my first visit immediately following September 11th, everything except the Ground Zero rescue site was moving in slow motion. People walked slower, there was actual eye contact between individuals, people held doors for each other, there was little or no pushing on the sidewalks or in the subways; courtesy and caring were two big words. Impromptu monuments complete with flowers and pictures could be found just about everywhere. Everybody was in shock – "How could this happen?"

Back to the slow run

On this visit I was interested how the people had changed or adjusted. I've found that the pace of walking is back to a slow run. Eyes are again looking back down not making contact. Conversation is sparse.

Mind you, this has nothing to do with anyone personally, New Yorkers just don't talk to strangers – period. When I would ask directions or for information – an answer was usually forthcoming, but it was the answer and only the answer – no chitchat, thank you very much.

Manhattan is open and mostly functioning normally again. Immediately following 9-11, it was blocked off from 17th Street south to the battery and the utilities were cut off. You could only travel through the restricted areas with proven credentials around your neck and in known vehicles. The Holland and Lincoln Tunnels were closed and blockaded to regular traffic. Going through the Holland Tunnel in "emergency vehicles" was free and performed at extremely high speeds – get in and get out. Today – there is still close scrutiny, but traffic moves as fast as the hour of the day will allow.

Emotions at Ground Zero

Most of the dust and dirt from the World Trade Center collapse are gone. Streets are basically as clean as they used to be. Ground Zero is still a myriad of emotions. For those who were there through the initial rescue efforts – it is a different world. In certain places the acrid smell of death and destruction is still there, but the 16-acre site is basically open and many sidewalks have been replaced. You can't go into the pit, but officials are erecting an official viewing area on Church Street near the financial buildings. On the south end a board sidewalk has been built temporarily connecting Church Street with West Street. The glass Atrium on West

Street was reopened on Tuesday, September 17. Tourists and curiosity seekers – young and old, all nationalities, are everywhere – cameras are in abundance.

Historic St. Paul's Chapel on Broadway, where George Washington went to pray after his inaugurations, is now the emotional center. The entire wrought iron fence surrounding the block is covered with flags, flowers, messages and other memorabilia from survivors, families and others from here and around the world. They are inspirational. The inside perimeter of the Chapel looks like a museum with many exhibits showing the care and love that was provided at St. Paul's to the many rescuers.

From God to Mammon

Unfortunately, also surrounding the block of St. Paul's and just about anywhere else they can set up, are vendors and individuals trying to make a buck on the misery of the moment. The rescuers are gone from the Chapel, but the money changers have set up camp.

Pins, pictures, flags, t-shirts and other memorabilia are on sale literally everywhere. I was surprised to realize that these items are mostly for the non-New Yorkers. A few flag and commemorative pins can be seen on some New Yorkers, but mostly they live with Ground Zero as a way of life – they don't need all the "for sale stuff" to remind them of reality.

The "new" smell of rebirth

As you walk south down Broadway, Liberty Plaza is being rebuilt and soon will be opened. Trinity Church, another rescue (See: New York, continued, next page.)

(New York, Continued from Page 2)

site several blocks lower on Broadway, has reopened. Gone are the respite stations for the rescuers. The church and its historic graveyard are again alone, but the memories and love remain.

While I was in New York the Rector Street Metro (subway) stop near Ground Zero was reopened. The new construction is evident – the steel "I" beams that had blocked the tracks have been removed, tiles and concrete have been replaced; the station almost had a "new" smell about it.

In riding the One and Nine trains you literally are taken under the Ground Zero site. Cortland Station is still closed and as the train goes through the boarded-up station you can see daylight leaking in between the boards in places – an eerie feeling. At the bottom of the site you can see walls being erected for the replacement of train tunnels. One on-site engineer told me that right now the immediate goal is to make the tunnels and utilities operational and then fill in the site with dirt. September 11, 2003 is now the forecast date for a decision to be made on the type of buildings and memorials that will be erected.

From the south end, where the viewing board walkway is located, you can see almost the entire bottom of Ground Zero. Keep in mind the "tub" is seven stories deep and sixteen acres wide. It was that "deepness" that helped contain the thousands and thousands of tons of debris and limited the destruction at street level. Collateral damage was also minimized when the buildings basically collapsed straight down thereby falling in on themselves. On the north wall you can see portions of the parking garages where the 1993 terrorist attack took place. Those garages are still there as they are holding up Vesey Street.

The top of the New York Telephone Exchange was damaged and is still shrouded. From the outside the Federal Office Building at the corner of Vesey and Church Street looks to be intact.

On the south side, the Deutsche Bank remains closed. The smell of death and the "WTC dust" is very evident near the bank. Human remains were found on the roof of the building, and over the past months a mold has invaded the structure. The entire building is shrouded in black material. I was told that its future is unknown.



Traveling with the Carlsons!

by our TSNA members from Oregon,

Mary Ann & Bill Carlson

Hawaii

November four is fast approaching, and we will be on our way again to Hawaii.

While preparing to depart I have been

Monument to pride and resiliency

Several months ago the "Sphere of the World" art piece, that had stood in the center of the World Trade Center plaza was relocated to a new site in Battery Park. An Eternal Flame was lit this past September 11th on behalf of the almost three thousand victims.

On Wednesday evening, September 18, the entire memorial site was officially lighted. The Sphere was damaged in the attack, but it now stands in its new home for all to see and experience as a very proud monument to the indomitable spirit and pride of both the victims and their rescuers and the resiliency of New Yorkers.

If you are seeing Ground Zero for the first time, you can't help but be overwhelmed by its scope and the misery it represents. If you have been here several times over the past year you still feel the misery and can visualize the wanton destruction – but now the site also represents healing.

But this is far from over. The healing for everyone connected with the site is a long journey – and in many cases, it has just begun. At the New York City medical Examiners office are 216 refrigerated vans containing body parts from the World Trade Center site.

Yes, the World Trade Center site has undergone a miraculous reconstruction in just one year – but never forget the "people" part of the equation. Buildings can be built on schedule, but memories fade at their own pace. The oft-repeated line of "down, but not out" is truly represented at the World Trade Center site and in New York. Everyone has their own story to tell – and for healing to take place – somebody has to listen to each and every one of those stories. Hearing the words and feeling the emotions is a required part of the healing journey.

And that journey goes on.

thinking back to our visit last year. In the wake of September 11, we found a very different Hawaii. The streets and shopping malls were nearly empty. Many hotels, ours included, had been closed and the customers placed in other hotels owned by the same chain.

We found the Ala Moana Shopping Center almost empty of Christmas shoppers. Bargains were to be found everywhere, as shops vied to sell their goods to the limited number of customers available.

Last year's trip turned out to be a special one for us in several ways. First our friend, Lee, joined us for a week. As she had never been to Hawaii, we planned to take her to some of our favorite places.

Veterans Day found us heading out to the Arizona Memorial. Security measures to get out to it were very stringent. We had been told we could not take purses, backpacks, camera case, or bags of any kind. Nobody told us, however, that we could not take bottled water, and Lee and I arrived with bottled water in hand. We had the choice of not going to the Memorial or tossing our water into the nearest garbage can, which we did.



In honor of Veterans Day, Bill was wearing his VFW hat. As we showed Lee around the Memorial, he was approached by a member of the Park Service and asked to assist in a flag raising and lowering ceremony. He was picked from the crowd because of his VFW hat. Bill, of course, agreed to perform this honor. As cameras clicked, the duty was done, and the crowd broke into cheers and applause at the end.

Lee summed it up for all of us when she (See Traveling, Continued on Page 5)



Founded 1995

By

Don Parker & John Peele

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 statutes and law.

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Membership Information

Annual Membership \$20.00

Five Year Membership \$80.00

Life Membership \$180.00

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Terrific Website

<http://www.tsna.org>

The Chaplains Page



*The Reverend
Doctor
Billy T. Lowe,
Chaplain TSNA*

A President's Prayer

President Thomas Jefferson prayed the following prayer each day of his eight years in the Presidency:

"Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners.

"Save us from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

"Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.

"In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, let not our trust in Thee to fail, all of which we ask, through the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

A prayer that is generations old yet so relevant for today.

God bless our veterans and a happy Thanksgiving to one and all.

* * *

Are You Indispensable?

Walter Damrosch, the renowned orchestra conductor, said that as a young conductor he made remarkable progress and gradually came to think himself irreplaceable as the leader of his fine little orchestra. Then one night he was disillusioned. He was preparing to conduct a particularly ambitious program when he discovered that he had forgotten his baton. He told his assistant to get it for him, when three violinists held up restraining hands. "Don't mind," each

said, "here's a baton," and each produced one from an inner pocket. "Never from that moment," said Damrosch, "have I considered myself indispensable." A proper religious attitude toward oneself is a fine balance between egotism and self-effacement. On one hand, there is a necessary and valuable self-regard, or self-reverence. If I, as a human being have been created by God, and endowed with special and unique abilities and capabilities, I am bound to put them to worthwhile use - I am bound to feel that I have a purpose or mission in life. I have dignity and meaning that belong to a child of God; I am a person who can help fulfill the purposes of God. It is written, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This saying recognizes a rightful self-love but puts on it the heavy restraint of a corresponding love for other human beings.

*The Reverend
James M.
Warrington
Chaplain TSNA*



The other danger is an exalted conception of one's own importance. It is amazing that in spite of the rebuffs life is constantly giving to us, in spite of the "times we are cut down to size," we continue to puff up and feel very important. Saint Paul must have had this in mind when he wrote to the people in Rome, "I say ... to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think" I can hope that my work is important without the illusion that I am indispensable.

Years ago I saw this motto on the wall of a home in which there was a large family: "Each person in this home counts for one, and no person counts for more than one." It is not a bad summary for a religious teaching!

**Our Nation and
the whole world
needs
your prayers!**



(Traveling, from Page 3)

said, "I was so proud of you!" It was a special "moment to remember" for the three of us.



Diamond Head, Hawaii

We plan to hike Diamond Head again this trip. In the eleven years since our first hike, reaching the top has become a bit more of a challenge - could it be we're getting older? So far, we've successfully reached the top on each attempt.

We learned after our first hike that success is much easier if you follow a few simple rules:

(1) If you don't have a car, take a taxi to the entrance instead of walking from the bus stop.

(2) Arrive as soon as possible after the Park opens, while it's cooler.

(3) Always wear comfortable walking shoes.

(4) Have lots of bottled water and a flashlight for each person.

The views from the top are spectacular and well worth the effort required to get there.

Salute to New Members

October 3, Report 52

William Gindhart, Roscoe, IL.
James Grote, Minot, N.D.
Hartman, Tom, Chester, MN
Allan Rubin, Milford, MI.

October 23, Report 53

John Burke, Yukon, OK.
Richard Cady, Salem, MA.
Jerold Cook, Walla Walla, WA.
Elmer Maloney, Gypsum, CO.
Alan Salisbury, Sumter, SC.
Lynn Patton, Accident, MD.
Thomas Sawyers, Bronx, NY.
Mike Shea, Bethlehem, PA.
Sam Spice, Panama City, FL.



The Communications Center

Hats Off!



This past month our terrific Association Webmaster, Charles Penley, sent *Revetments* a copy of the e-mail correspondence he is having with Member Mike Peltó of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Mike wrote, "Just an update on the e-mail program. 858 e-mails have been sent out as of today (Oct. 18). I have received dozens of responses back from them. Mostly say that they had not heard of, or seen the website yet, but plan to check it out right away."

"I have conversed via e-mail with a number of the guys and exchanged info. I am pleased to tell you that I have not received one negative comment about the website or my e-mail contact program."

"A cross check of the TSNA roster today (Oct. 18) turned up fifteen new members that I had contacted via the program, and about the same number of notes from other guys left on the guest book page."

"I'm working on the next idea I've got to spread the word about the site. I'll fill you in as soon as the e-mail program is complete."

(Editor's Note: WOW! Mike, you have the most sincere gratitude of the membership to the Tan Son Nhut Association.

It is having members like you that give us the pride and joy of belonging to an organization of great and creative people. Because of the

leadership efforts you are demonstrating, we can all look forward to the vigorous growth of the TSNA to the level of an authoritative and influential national veterans organization.

Our hats off to both you and Charles Penley. You two have formed a team that is building a bright future for us all.)

New member with fond memories

... I cruised the (web) site and was taken back. I retired recently after thirty years, ten USAF, ten ANG, and ten AFRES, and my fond memory is of my tour in Vietnam. That tour taught me what being a friend means. I hated to see a guy go home, but at the same time I was glad he was getting the hell out of there alive. I am SO happy there is a site for us. THANK YOU.

Jimmy Grote, Jr.
Minot, South Dakota

New member would like attack information

... I am writing this for Jerold R. Cook who was stationed in Viet Nam in 1966 at Tan Son Nhut. He was in the 377th Security Police Squadron. He was assigned as NCOIC of the Echo Section, from November of 1966 to September 1967. He was a Tsgt.

He had a list of SSGTS assigned to him. Enice Johnson from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Bove from New Jersey; Miller, from Maine; and William B. William from South Carolina, a Tsgt.

I am Jerold's wife and he doesn't know how to type. He is seventy-one and in good health. He was interested in learning more about the base attack on December 7, 1966.

Jerold also remembers a

Maxie Bush, SMSgt. He has four copies of a group picture of these men, February 21, 1967. I could make a copy and mail it to you. Hope this is helpful.

Doris Cook
Walla Walla, Washington
E-Mail: dicook@bmi.net

Another new member arrives via the website

... I recently found the website for the Tan Son Nhut Association and was pleased to do so. Not only is military history one of my passions, I am an Air Force veteran who served at Tan Son Nhut with the 460th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron (December 1966 to December 1967).

We were the aerial photo lab part of the 460th work at Tan Son Nhut, developing the negatives and producing the photographs from the "Recce" birds, and supply them to the photo interpreters and intelligence people at MACV.

In browsing the website, I failed to find any members from my squadron listed. Whatever the case, I would very much like to support the association with my membership and perhaps, as time allows, submit photos and comments that others might enjoy.

Missed the Tet attack by a few weeks.

John P. Burke
Yukon, Oklahoma

(Editor's Note: We may be seeing a lot more of John. In subsequent e-mails with Charles Penley and *Revetments* he revealed that he is a cartoonist and would be happy to supply the website and *Revetments* with monthly topical cartoons. We are certainly looking forward to receiving and publishing John's cartoons, we need some laughs.)



Major General Franklin A. Nichols

1918 - 2002

Member

Tan Son Nhut Association

Dear Members,

My Dad, Major General Franklin A. Nichols (USAF-Ret.) Passed away September 16 after a long battle with lung cancer.

He enjoyed your "Revetments" Journal. He was Chief of Staff, 7th Air Force, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of South Vietnam for 18 months (1967-1968). He worked directly under General William W. Momyer, and regularly briefed General William C. Westmoreland on the daily air war campaigns. You all are probably aware of this already.

He was buried at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery, September 24. In addition to full military honors, we had a four-ship (T-38, from Holloman Air Force Base - Missing Man Formation fly-by. It was great.

If you want more information or picture of my Dad during those years, call or write me here at the house in El Paso, Texas. I will be here from now on. My phone is (915) 592-6076. Leave a message if no one is home. Address: 10921 Gary Player Drive, El Paso, Tex 79935.

Thanks,

Roger Nichols

Thanksgiving

at Tan Son Nhut, 1967

A frequent contributor, and vigorous supporter of the Association, David Koopman, of Little Canada, Minnesota, takes us back to the Airmen's Open Mess, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, to the Thanksgiving Dinner of 1967. To the right, is the cover of the menu that day for the holiday meal being sponsored by the 377th Combat Support Group.

When you opened the menu, on the left hand leaf was message from the Group Commander, reading;

"Far from the Thanksgiving of childhood, we find ourselves this day not at the family table enjoying the turkey, companionship, and thoughts of yesteryear. But at a new table, with other friends and different thoughts. The more mature Thanksgiving that this year has brought us, has found us in a place we had not expected, facing an exacting challenge... we have found ourselves in a world that does not measure up to our childhood standards... a world in which a basic ideological conflict requires of us many sacrifices and strenuous endeavors.

"Can we not find, however, in this situation, the real meaning of Thanksgiving? The reality of a hard won and hard kept peace for our selves, our families and our nation. Can we not thank God this day with a true realization of the value of our several blessings. Have we not learned to be truly thankful?"

Some of those seated at those crowded tables would soon fly home for reassignment or separation from the service.

But many of those enjoying this wonderfully authentic American Thanksgiving, would be, in just a little over two months, defending the base with their lives. Perhaps this Thanksgiving contributed in some



measure to the coming test of their resolution, devotion and bravery.

And, oh yes, the chow was terrific! Koopman regales us with a menu that opened with -

Shrimp Cocktail & Crackers

Roast Turkey

with Bread Dressing

Giblet Gravy

Cranberry Sauce Mashed

Potatoes, Glazed Sweet Potatoes

Buttered Peas

Assorted Relish Tray

Butter Flake Rolls & Butter

Fruit Cake

Mince Meat or Pumpkin Pies

with Whipped Cream

Assorted Fresh Fruit

Assorted Nuts & Candies

Tea Coffee Milk

With a feed like this, why bother to go all the way over the river and through the trees to Grandma's?

Le Affaire Jane Fonda

A Retraction & Apology by Revetments Most Chastised Editor

On Page 7, of the October issue of *Revetments*, we published an article entitled *A Woman of the Century*, purporting to be an account of a visit that actress Jane Fonda made to Hanoi in the late 1960s.

This "article" had been sent to me on several occasions by some of our members. I checked the internet for authorship, and although the article was there I could not verify an author. With my education and experience I should have seen red flags (no pun intended) and shelved the article. Instead I stupidly published it and mailed it out to our waiting readers. I deeply regret this, retract the article as false and apologize to all the members of the Association.

And I want to thank the following members who were among those who brought this mistake to my attention: **Bob Need**, Editor

Frank Ybarbo, of Mesquite, Texas, wrote on October 2nd, "I received my *Revetments* and read the article about Jane Fonda. My question is has this information ever been confirmed by anyone who was at that prison? The reason I ask is because about four years ago this info surfaced on the internet about Fonda and the little slivers of paper that she turned over to the Communist commander. I can't remember if it was Colonel Carrigan or pilot Driscoll, but one of the officers who claimed to be present during the incident responded to our e-mail discussion, and while verifying Fonda's presence and other despicable actions, reported that particular incident about Fonda turning over the slivers of paper was false. I am not a fan of Jane Fonda's for what she did (and one picture tells a thousand words) but I definitely think we should protect our credibility as Vietnam Vets and be sure about facts before we publicly accuse someone. Too often Vietnam Vets have been viewed as rag tag, bitter and worthless war mongers. What do you know about this Fonda incident, did it really happen?"

(And later in that day, Frank

continued.) "It is indeed unbelievable that Fonda would be considered for such an award (Woman of the Century). The nominating organization needs to see those photos of her siding with the enemy (and wearing their uniform). And regardless of the American split decision over that war, at the time, the Vietnamese Communists were still considered our enemy. I know that she has publically apologized for her actions of long ago. However, when you commit an atrocity you can't simply come back later and apologize. One must be held accountable for their actions. Lieutenant William Calley ???"

Nick Keck, Fair Oaks, California, wrote on October 2nd, "Read the latest *Revetments* and hate to tell 'ya, but you've been had. That tale about Jane is FALSE. I corresponded with the head of the POW organization a couple of years ago when it first surfaced and he said none of it is true and asked that I do everything I could to make sure others knew that. I'd not seen it for a long time, but there it is again. (See Box). Many of us were duped by the story because we all hate Jane Baby so much."

Thomas M. Tadpole, of Branson, Missouri, wrote on October 3rd, "The article 'A Woman of the Century' in the October 2002 issue contains many urban myths about Ms. Fonda. Although I despise what she did, I do believe in the truth. Check out the following sites ..." (Ed. See Box, Internet Sites)

Larry Mayes, of Rapid City, South Dakota, wrote on October 4th, "The article you printed in your October 2002 edition ... is untrue. This article has been on the internet off and on for several years. When I first saw it I thought it sounded unlikely. Having a number of friends and acquaintances who were POWs in North Vietnam, I thought this story would have been advanced decades earlier if it were true, so I checked with a REAL expert, Mike McGrath, President of NAM-POWs

and POW in the Hanoi Hilton for over five years. Write (See Box for e-mail address) if you wish to confirm what I am telling you. ... I suggest you check the official website of the POW's and look for confirmation of the existence of your source as a POW ... my suspicion is that he is a hoaxer and I KNOW his story about Jane Fonda is a hoax.

"I know you cannot verify every single story submitted for publication, but in this case a disservice has been done - while I hold Jane Fonda among the most despicable of those who have ever been American citizens, I also believe she is entitled to being truthfully described. I suggest you follow up on what I have said and provided, and when you have verified what I've said, print a retraction of the Fonda article."

Kenneth Moll, Alexandria, Virginia, wrote on October 15, "You probably have already heard that the story you ran on Jane Fonda ... is partly a hoax. If not, I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad tidings - but of course you should know about this and probably run a correction in the next issue. I have no direct personal knowledge of these details, but understand that the part about Jane passing slips of paper to the North Vietnamese is not true. I'm so informed from two fully credible sources:

"1. I heard a review on C-SPAN of Air and Comfort: *Jane Fonda in North Vietnam* by the book's authors, Henry and Erika Holzer. That review was May 25, 2002. I heard a rebroadcast, July 28, and made a note of it because I'm trying to follow some of these Jane-Fonda kind of things from the Cold War. Anyway, the authors specifically said the business about Jane passing slips of paper to the North Vietnamese was a hoax. They noted that there's plenty to criticize about Jane Fonda without making up things.

"2. The full story is on the web. You can check it yourself. (See Box)"



Carol and John Bessette, Springfield, Virginia, wrote on October 22nd, "I thought this entry from the Urban Legends Reference Pages might interest you (See Box).

"We just received the latest *Revetments* and, as usual, you're doing a great job. One thing, though. We noted ... the piece on 'Hanoi Jane.' It was taken from the Internet. Guys - always carefully check out stuff from the Internet! We have seen this piece before, and wondered about the charges. So we went to our favorite 'urban legends' site and checked it out. Please use the site reference. Blow the ad that first pops up, and you'll find a long but good analysis of this article. What you will see there is that the details of the accusations concerning the F-4E pilot (Jerry Driscoll) and Larry Carrigan are provably untrue. Driscoll and Carrigan have both denied them. Some of the other details are also wrong. The general thrust of the piece, that Fonda is contemptible for what she DID do is provably true. We would suggest that you take some of the info from this site and write an 'update' for the next *Revetments*. Lay it on 'Hanoi Jane' but point out the inaccuracies."

Post Script: Again let me thank all those who wrote and called me. Your support and interest keep *Revetments* a proud publication. At least Nick Keck confirms that the photograph was authentic.

INTERNET REFERENCES

Use <http://> and the following:

www.snopes2.com/military/fonda.htm

urbanlegends.about.com/library/weekly/aa110399.htm

www.taftac.org/ulz/fonda.htm

For Mike McGrath E-Mail
mmcgrath@iex.net

NAM-POW Website
www.nampows.org



We're close to The Finish line!

We're close to our \$7,000 goal for our new printer (and first year maintenance contract). Join all these wonderful generous members who have brought us close to \$5,000. Please help us get to our goal during 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
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✓ Robert Anisko	✓ John Hagler	✓ William Simms	✓ Arrel Bruce
✓ Robert Atkin	✓ Joseph Davenport		




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!

The Tan Son Nhut Association
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