

## **Purple Hearts at Phan Rang NOT ON VSPA**

-----Original Message-----

From: James Sullivan [mailto:jandpsullivan2@bellsouth.net]

Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2014 8:25 PM

To: Don Poss

Subject: Re: Purple Hearts at Phan Rang NOT ON VSPA.

OK! I didn't do a good job getting the info to you so Kestner is going to send you the link. May you have a quick recovery with your eye.

**On May 17, 2014, at 10:21 PM, Don Poss <dposs@dposs.com> wrote:**

James, I am recovering from eye surgery. It will be about two weeks before I can look at this.

Thank you, Don Poss

**On May 17, 2014, at 7:43 PM, James Sullivan <jandpsullivan2@bellsouth.net wrote:**

Don, Jim Kestner sent me this article from "Happy Valley" Phan Rang Facebook that tells of two Purple Heart recipients that are not listed in the VSPA medal listings. Could you check it out and see if they can be listed?

**\* Team Work Spares SP's Life - Phan Rang Tenants Respond (Seventh Air Force News, Sept. 25, 1968):**

**PHAN RANG - Two tenant units of the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing here cooperated to save the life of a seriously wounded Security Policeman** recently after the base came under attack. The 3rd Special Operations Squadron (Flight B) and the 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Detachment 1, combined to evacuate a man wounded while defending the base's water pumping station one mile south of the base.

1Lt. Henry S. Daniels, Olympia, Wash., the pilot of an AC-47 Spooky, and Sgt. George M. Haskett, Olympia, Wash., an aeromedical technician attached to the rescue unit, were instrumental in the saving of the life of the security policeman.

Lieutenant Daniels indicated that the Spooky gunship was preparing to relieve a sister ship which had been firing in support of U.S. Army positions near the air base.

"About this time," Lieutenant Daniels said, "the rescue helicopter was scrambled for a medical evacuation of a wounded man at the base's water pumping station. The man had to be evacuated immediately and flares were needed so the helicopter could find a landing position.

**\* News From many sources from "Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, Vietnam Phan Rang News No. 68:**

Sergeant Haskett was the Air Force Medic on board the helicopter. "We received a call from the command post that one man at the water pumps had received a severe chest injury. We flew out to the area and the Spooky gunship was giving us cover and flare support. We finally found a place

where we could set down and the flight engineer and I got out and went into a bunker where there were two men who had been wounded in the rocket and mortar attack.

"There were no lights and I had to work with flashlights held by some of the other Security Policemen in the bunker. Somebody fortunately had put a dressing over his chest which had a great deal to do with saving his life. He had lost a lot of blood.

"The bunker had been blown up and we had some trouble getting him out on a stretcher. A second man had more than 100 shrapnel wounds in his back but he could walk. I helped him out to the helicopter.

"We went directly to the Phan Rang Dispensary where the emergency room crew fixed him up so he could make the trip to Cam Ranh Bay AB.

**Doug Severt commented:** I would like to know the guys names and how they recovered...or the rest of the story. Maybe someone who sees this will know.

**George Haskett commented:** Me too. Amazing, that whole deal lasted just a couple minutes, but seemed much longer. I think Capt. Walther and Overton were the pilots.

**Robert Spence commented:** I can tell you about this. The two SPs medevaced from the Wells were Both of us recovered from our wounds. Perry had a sucking chest wound, head wound, and bad leg wound. He was medevaced to Cam Ranh and 2-3 weeks later to Andrews AFB hospital. I was at Phan Rang a week then for 10 days at Cam Ranh. Later transferred to Andrews. My wounds were not as serious as Perry's, but there were 100 or so wounds and both eardrums gone. I couldn't hear shit. Both of us served the balance of our time with the 1002nd Security Police, Andrews, AFB.

I have lost touch with Perry and have been unable to locate him. I would love to talk to him. I have 100% VA rating due to that incident and Agent Orange exposure. Anyone wanting to talk get in touch.

[<http://www.voy.com/104982/81.html> : "... I was stationed Phan Rang 12/67-9/68. I was a Panther Flight member. Mostly I was on Golf 3 on Nui Dot and Strike Teams, but in Aug 67 was wounded in a fire fight at one of the water wells. I have lost touch with everyone and don't remember many names. The man I was wounded with was James Perry; I haven't found him. A K-9 guy I remember was "Cappy" Caputo. He won a Silver Star sometime after I was Medevaced to Andrews AFB Hospital. Please email me. **Robert Spence**"]

[ Jim Sullivan, 21:38:29 05/29/12 TuePDT (74.229.160.5): "... if you are asking about the night that the water wells were almost overrun, I was in 35th SPS CSC that night and was in communication with Ssgt Shute during that event from the time it started until it was over. I contacted Cam Rhan to get the gunships and Spooky to clean up the area once the troops were underground in the fortified bunker."]

**George Haskett (note: Sgt, George M. Haskett was one of the aeromedical technicians attached to the rescue unit) commented:**

Surprised to see this. Amazing that Lt. Daniels and I were from the same hometown. Amazing, that whole deal lasted just a couple of minutes, but seemed much longer. I think Capt. Walther and Capt. Overton were the pilots.

**\* News From many sources from "Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, Vietnam Phan Rang News No. 69:**

**Rich Luckhaupt commented:** I know you guys but hard to place a face. I need a refresher. I was on Golf-3 that night. Glad you made it Robert and welcome home.

respond for a possible rescue at the "Wells". By the time we all assembled at the fence line, the wounded had been air lifted out and those at the "Wells" said that they had everything under control until morning. Looks like us medics from the 35th Dispensary had all sides covered. Thank you for your service George Haskett.

Robert Spence, still in the hospital being presented the Purple Heart. Robert said, "The ceremony was very perfunctory. If memory serves, Jim Perry the other wounded SP, was pinned at the same time."

**Sabres Destroy Complex (Seventh Air Force News, Sept. 28, 1968)**

BIEN HOA - Two F-100 Super Sabre pilots from the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing here recently struck enemy fortifications 61 miles southwest of Can Tho leaving the area in flames. Maj. Clarence I. Langerud, Gig Harbor, Wash., and 1st Lt. Hugh E. Gommel Jr., Tucson, Ariz., were the pilots.

"The target was located along a canal," said. Lieutenant Gommel, "and' we were instructed by the forward air controller to hit targets on both sides. Firing his smoke rockets to the south of an intersection in the canal the FAC told us the area from his smoke to the crossroads was our target. "Major Langerud's first bomb on the east side of the canal touched of a secondary ammunition explosion," continued Lieutenant Gommel. "My first run on the other side of the canal was equally successful and I started a petroleum oil and lubricants fire that sent gray smoke 50 feet in the air. The flames were clearly visible for several Miles."

**\* News From many sources from "Happy Valley" Phan Rang AB, Vietnam Phan Rang News No. 610:**

The pilots continued to drop their ordnance destroying 3 to 4 fortifications with each delivery. "The FAC then observed several camouflaged sampans under a tree cover so we attacked with our 20mm cannon," Lieutenant Gommel said. "After the major came off of his run the FAC radioed us and said, 'you didn't get the one I wanted but you got another one.' On the next pass we destroyed the one he was after.

Thanks, Jim "Sully" Sullivan

**On Fri, 9/21/12, VSPA <DonPoss-LM37@vspa.com> wrote:**

Subject: RE: Phan Rang Sept 68-69  
To: "James Sullivan" <jandpsullivan2@bellsouth.net>  
Date: Friday, September 21, 2012, 5:52 PM

Jim,  
Your PR/CRB photos are posted for your review only, at: <http://www.vspa.com/crb-jim-sullivan-photos-1968-1969.htm>. Please update your captions by referring to the photo's number, so that I may copy/paste exactly what you submit. How are the other photos coming? Have you found them yet? Don Poss

**From: James Sullivan**  
[mailto:jandpsullivan2@bellsouth.net]  
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 9:12 PM  
To: VSPA

**Subject: Re: Phan Rang Sept 68-69: An edit to name on some photos. Vic Marble should be Vic Markle.**

From: VSPA <DonPoss-LM37@vspa.com>  
To: James Sullivan <jandpsullivan2@bellsouth.net>  
Sent: Mon, September 17, 2012 10:31:09 PM  
Subject: RE: Phan Rang Sept 68-69

James, I think what I've received will work fine. I can start on this, although it may take a little time to put it together. You will have the opportunity to review and edit what is posted. Don't forget that the story is yours alone and that's why it will carry your copyright notice. I would suggest, if you have time, to go ahead and start putting together your other photo stories. That way I will have an incentive to post them as a series as each is ready for posting. Don Poss

**From: James Sullivan** [mailto:jandpsullivan2@bellsouth.net]  
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 2:22 PM  
To: VSPA  
Subject: Re: Phan Rang Sept 68-69

The attachments did not come with the email? The photos had a caption above each photo. Maybe I need to try again?

**From: VSPA <DonPoss-LM37@vspa.com>**  
To: James Sullivan <jandpsullivan2@bellsouth.net>  
Sent: Mon, September 17, 2012 4:16:13 PM  
Subject: Re: Phan Rang Sept 68-69

James Please send them as attachments. Include captions referring to each photo's name or number if possible. Thank you, Don Poss Sent from my iPhone On Sep 17, 2012, at 1:33 PM

**James Sullivan <jandpsullivan2@bellsouth.net>wrote:**

I have been trying to get some of my poor quality pic's into something more recognizable and this is the best I've come up with. Maybe they will work. These were all taken between Sept 68 & Sept 69 around the barracks area and on a convoy detail to Cam Ranh Bay. I will work on others of the convoy to CRB through the Banana Grove if these work out. Thanks for all you do to help connect us, Jim Sullivan Byram, MS:

<50 cal Tower.JPG>  
<Convoy Phan Rang to CRB.JPG>  
<Convoy SAT to CRB Vic Marble, Rick Hernandez, Sgt Jim Sullivan.JPG>  
<Convoy Truck Driver and.JPG>  
<CQ and The Pit.JPG>  
<Laundry.JPG>  
<Panther Flt Loading up.JPG>  
<Rick Hernandez on Convoy SAT.JPG>  
<Sgt Jim Sullivan.JPG>  
<V100 Beach Patrol.JPG>