

Hoppy stories

From Dan Int-Hout

There have to be some great stories about Hoppy. When the Movie "MASH" came out, I recognized several characters. Southerland was playing the part of Hoppy. Come on guys. Give it up!

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From Dave Burns

Dan, I remember you. you used to hang out at the Spectre bar" House" in Ubon the one with the burned out truck in front of it. Jim Wilburn had something to do with the place and after 2AM the "goodies" used to wonder in. You, Grody Oley and Larry Tener used to pal around if I remember right. The NOD you were referring to was Capt Duslek, some years back he auctioned off his helmet I think.

I remember you as a good man and after you left we started getting other fine Lt's and such. They were all great. In fact one of them put together the Infamous film in question in Korat. In case you haven't heard, we Lost Jerry Olson (grody oley) in Africa. Jim Wilburn and John Schugmann have the details. I really haven't gotten over that as Oley and I started off together in Lockborne in September 69, and he was on my crew for a long time.

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From Clyde Gowdy

Hoppy was the AC of choice in Central & South America.

I flew with Hoppy at Lockbourne in the early 60. He was a captain and his boss in Stan _Eval was Non-other than Benny The Bean. (another story or two there)

While TDY to Howard AFB Panama During December 66, Hoppy was asked not to return to the O'Club. Why? Seems he was always trying to pull a table cloth from a fully set dinner table. Not just any table, one that four people were sitting at, enjoying dinner, that is before Hoppy arrived. Needless to say Hoppy's attempt was dipterous. As I said, he was asked not to return to the club for the remainder of the TDY. Miffed, just a bit, Hoppy obtained a Silhouette of a C130A that had been used to make a display of Santa and his nine faithful Herk-deer to include Rudolph with red nose. Hoppy, it is alleged used this stencil and a spray paint to decorate all four doors, hood and trunk lid of the O'Club military car. MAINT guys loved Hoppy and came to his rescue, removing all evidence of paint on said vehicle.

Hoppy loved to use the term Beautiful-Just Fu*&ing Beautiful. He was known to use that term on the radio from time to time but the controllers were never sure who the guilty party was.

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From Dan Int-Hout

Tablecloth trick

There was a native American F4 pilot, back in '70, who, when properly lubricated, repeatedly tried the tablecloth trick. As I recall, some dishes made it clear across the room. I was told they had a "bulk rate" for charging someone for the attempt.

We also had "carrier landings", involving a lot of spilled beer, running slides, and a couple guys holding a broom handle as an arresting hook. One guy, who somehow pissed the LSO's off, "missed" the hook, and went out the door of the O Club. That, of course, was before we got the Mormon base commander, when all that wonderful nonsense sorta died down.

Hoppy, as I recall, commandeered the PA mike, and announced that we could no longer say fu** at the bar!



From Rich Silva

Nixon was in office and we were told that he was very interested in the gunship program and liked to hear and see the best of Spectre' every Friday. We were advised to control the language in order to not offend the President or his staff.

This had to be a real struggle for Hoppy. He is the only person who could cuss while saying Grace before dinner. I was scanner on his crew one night when we found a nice, fat convoy on the road. We fired and stopped them. We fired again on a tanker and there was a huge explosion with a pure white, brilliant blast.

Hoppy came up on the interphone, "JESUS CHRIST! IT LOOKS LIKE A F***ING ATOM BOMB!" There was about 5 seconds of total silence except for the inverter whine in the audio when he came back with a rather sheepish, "Sorry, Dick." That was the end of the artificial clean language.