

BLACK ADLER

308th

CAB

~~20 Dec 67~~
Apr 96 308

4 May 1968
101st Aviation Bn

infusion

Initially the Bn was at strength & slowly became a HQS and HQS Company -

I joined the Bn in Early Feb just after Tet. Besides LTC Case, Bn Adr we had an S-1 Maj. ^{Bill} Roberts, an S-3 Maj. Pritchard, an S-4 Maj. ~~HA?~~. I think the HQS commandant was Maj. then Cpt Adamski.

we were ~~to become~~ operational on ~~or about~~ ²⁰ Feb 68?? ^{at Bien Hoa}. We did not know until a few days before ^{becoming operational} what companies we would have.

I do remember that ^{when} we were to be operational (in 3 days) ^{12 April 68} (date ??) we did not have the commo equipment to talk to anyone, let alone pass on missions etc. we received very little help & support from the 12th Gp -

The 3 companies we received were the 17th AHC, 117th AHC & ~~200th KHC~~ Chinook Co Pack-a-derms.

The AHC's were at Bien Hoa A.F. and the Pack-a-derms about 30 min. ^{Bearcat} flying time from Bien Hoa - Control was a problem initially but things fell in place.

(35)
McEnergy

(A)

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1 July 68

~~Campbell~~

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On 26 Feb 68, 2 members (EM)
 we killed in a shoot out w/ MPs
 in the village of Bien Hoa - mistaken
 identity on both sides - As a result
 Lt Col Case was relieved & I am not ~~at~~ sure
 about the Co. Cmdr[?] and the 117th AHC
 was dropped and the 188th AHC picked
 up - By Order of ~~Col~~ Gen Burdette
 Cmdr 1st Air Brigade - Spelling
 Brigadier General Allen M Burdette Jr.

The 117th AHC which
 was originally
 slated to go north
 as part of the 308th.

81 days after activation the Bn
 deployed North to II Corp by Air & Sea
 HQS & 17th to Coy Eagle
 188th to LZ Sally
 Pack-a-demos to Hue Phu Bai

The Bn gave little or no help to
 the movement of the Companies except
 scheduling shipping (Air & Sea) & obtaining
 CONEX Containers - Maj. McENERY worked
 day and night -

~~to January 1969~~

I made the initial Recon with the Co
 Ctrs & our S-3 and finally flew up
 with the 17th -

Welcome to Camp Eagle - or better known as the dust bowl.

The Bn Hqs was given a piece of real estate on a small rise south of Div Hqs. It had a good all around view of the area. The 17th AHC was immediately north of us.

Upon my arrival the staff & Hqs Co were already setting up - having arrived 2 days earlier - the Bn Cdr C. Stein joined them upon their ~~arrival~~ arrival - I had met him on our initial recon @ DANAB -

The Hqs & Hqs Co were actually operational almost immediately - I took over as Cpt(P) Adamski HHC Cdr in the supervision of the construction of bunkers, sand bagging of tents & work areas. We did not have any responsibility for the perimeter, but provided a contingency force in reserve. In my time at Bn ~~we~~ we were not called upon to use it even when the South west Div area had been breached (minor penetration)

Once operational C. Stein established

a first light weather check with the staff - at least it got them in the air - I did most of my ~~sting~~ flying w/ Maj. Al Balbache (later Cmdr A Co 101) and C. Stein flew w/ Maj. Pritchard

there were not too many controlled Bn air operations - ^{LTC CHARLES S. STEEN, JR} C. Stein always flew ~~there~~ ^{THEN} and I would fly with the 17th, mostly on log missions.

Almost immediately the S-3 shop with the help of the 101st Div Engineers built an under ground TOC - It took forever but was cool & wet -

we got mortared on & rocketed a couple of times. the time the So. west perimeter was penetrated, we got a lot of RPGs - we were sitting on top of one of our bunkers watching the show and could see them explode - the next morning we saw all the broken steel fragments on the ground - some awfully close - that wasn't a very smart idea !!!

there had been a lot of griping from

the HQs types about having to fill sand bags & dig latrines etc - But after that incident that all stopped = Camp Eagle was regularly attacked, rocketed and mortared, LZ Sally not as often.

Probably the most annoying things were the heat and the dust - the road immediately west of us - some 20-30 yards was well travelled and always full of dust - and the Chinooks & Mod Eric choppers flew right over it - I do not remember too much rain during that period.

The HQs mess was nothing ~~like~~ ~~the mess~~ - we had a tent w/ a floor, tables & chairs - that SGT HAT come much later -

LTC ^{STEEN} STEEN was an outstanding Col & Oct 68 very professional - he was a hard driver ^{dr Washington} but very fair - ^{He was later killed in 19 - as auto accident enroute a driver going the wrong way on an off ramp.} the staff was excellent especially Maj. McEnery & Maj. Pritchard they made my job very easy - SGM McCarthy was a great soldier & example for the NCOs & EM - He never brought me a problem without a solution.

One night (about 2 wks after our arrival) the Div moved in some 40 man weapons

on half tracks just to our east by about 100 yds - we knew nothing about them - well they opened up for some test firing and quite a few people came unglued - thinking it was sappers -

the one good thing about the big rockets was that they were either short or long. Our area was never hit - the mortars were close but I don't remember any casualties -

From my view point as Battalion XO, I felt ~~that~~ even though the officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel of the 188th had it rougher than the 17th, they worked hard and tried a lot more and ^{at longer} their flight formation flying was better.