

CREWCHIEF 1



THE

UH-1C HUEY

BY PETE HARLEM



DETAILING THE MONOGRAM HUEY HOG KIT

3-6 Cpt John Bishop & C/E Rhodes walk into ARVN firebase after 3 days/nights of E & E in Laos They last obs gunner Padilla slumped over his m-60, apperently KIA
Lt Waugh is grazed by .51 cal that lodges in Maj Dale Spratt's chicken plate while attempting to recover "Butch Newby" and crew (Witchdoctor)

3-7 Ralph E. Elliott III & crew get out of Laos We have a company beer-bust in the maint tent on/off Quang Tri active Butch could hear the NVA tearing down the aircraft the night they went down as they lay concealed they estimate about 100 yards from the downed aircraft. They say the Air Force picked them up in a Jolly Green but every slick pilot on the operation is taking credit for the extraction Drank a lot, took pics

3-9 More of the same etc, etc

3-13 Get word that classmate Mark Mercer got shot in the neck down out of Chu Lai His "P.P." John Sharp got hit in the legs

3-14 "Cowboy" Martin gets shot down in Laos Wally Stoneburg gets shrapnel in his left arm, goes to sanctuary ship

3-17 Cpt Don "Buttermilk" Peterson & FNG shot down in Laos, he gets cut on right cheek

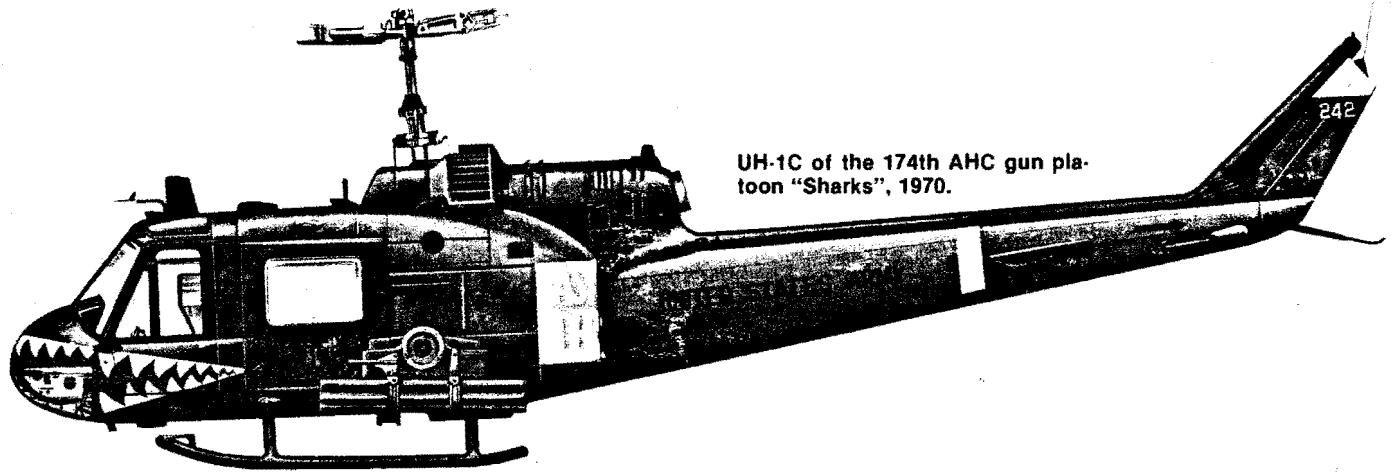
3-22 Reg Cleave, Travis (WO) & crew (Minuteman 21) go down in flames in Laos after being hit with 37mm listed as MIA History

3-26 Shut down at Logger Pad/Khe Sahn and dodge 40 plus rounds NVA ARTY (Whose Counting) 1½ hours under an APC (they leak hydraulic shit too) Night scramble to the Rock Pile 4 kills take shits Get scrambled again, they'd like us to engage NVA tanks in Laos Right WE don't have armor pearcing warheads so we respectfully pass advise arch-light of air strike

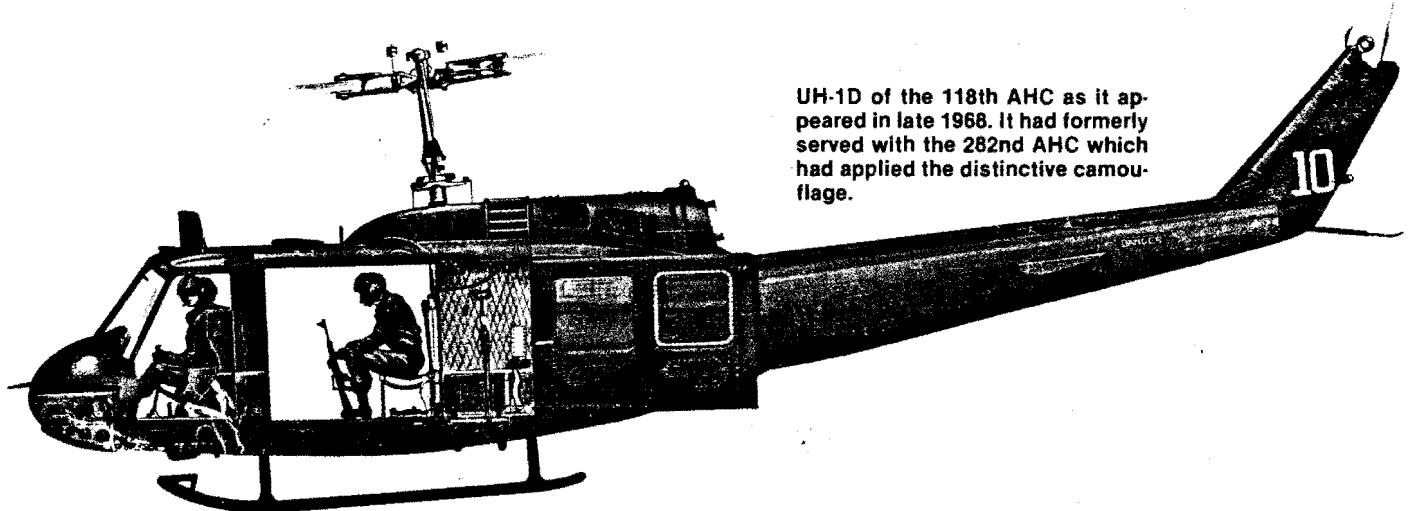
4-2 C.A.'s Kills west of Scotch while flying with FNG Shark 6

4-4 Me, P.J. & Bennie pick up stand down orders at 223 AVN BN Dong Ha (101st) We're to leave the 6th for Duc Pho "PARTY"

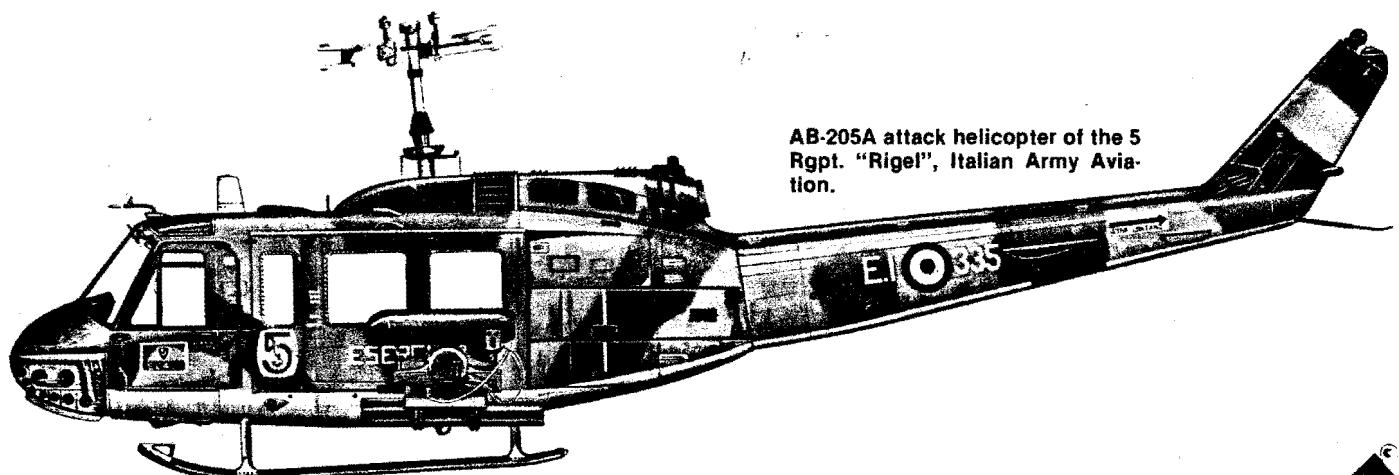
4-7 They Lied We arrive Chu Lai and advised its our new home Swell Our Co. area Sucks We hitch-hike to the flight line The only salvation from this big sand pile are 24 hour stand-by missions out of Duc Pho which I volunteer for when ever they're available Same A.O. but a shack in Chu Lai can't compare to what we had in Duc Pho (away from the flag)



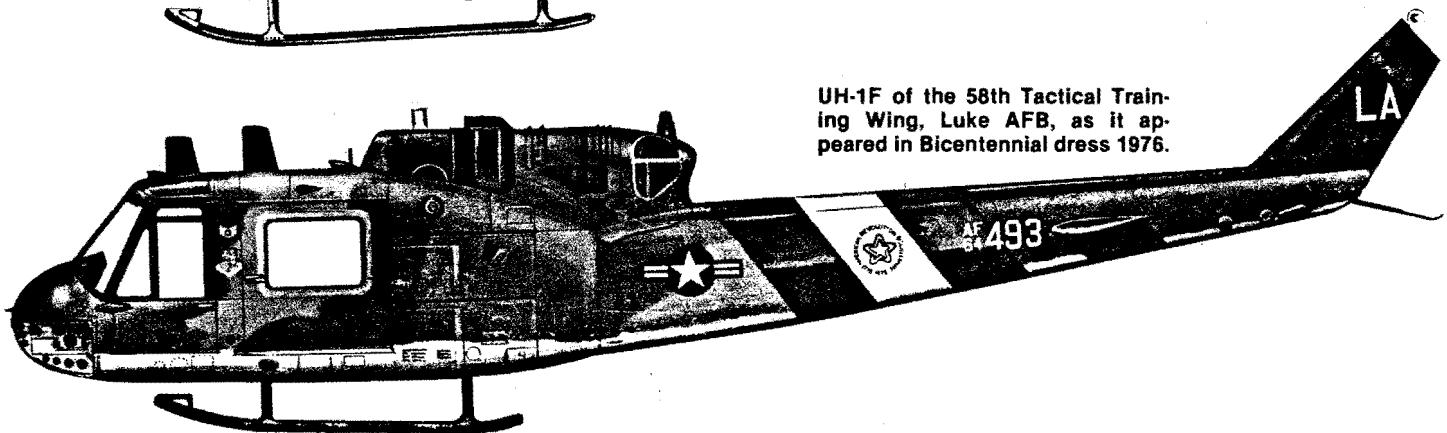
UH-1C of the 174th AHC gun platoon "Sharks", 1970.



UH-1D of the 118th AHC as it appeared in late 1968. It had formerly served with the 282nd AHC which had applied the distinctive camouflage.



AB-205A attack helicopter of the 5 Rgpt. "Rigel", Italian Army Aviation.



UH-1F of the 58th Tactical Training Wing, Luke AFB, as it appeared in Bicentennial dress 1976.

NOTES FROM A DAY-DATE CALENDAR 174th AHC JUNE 70 to JUNE 71 RVN

Jun 1 Arrive Bien Hoa Replacement Center The Shitter is infested by Crabs Swell

6-3 Chu Lai Replacement Center Introduction to Sappers and sand fleas

6-7 DUC PHO 174th AHC Introduction to helicopters with teeth and the term F.N.G. I am one and seems I'll remain one for a long, long time

6-9 Area of Operation Orientation ride (along) I do believe I've forgotten everything I've ever known I'm grateful that MR Uhlich is very patient

6-11 First actual mission We, I mean He picks up little, teeny people and drops them off in the middle of NOWHERE Mountains, jungle They have guns but I doubt that is of any consolation at all MR Strumke is not quite as patient He expected me to be able to tune in a radio I still can't find the ash tray

6-14 Sunday Don't they wind things down on certain days of the week? They seem to fly all day, drink a lot most of the night and occasionally play cards They talk a lot about missing the companioship of women but I don't think they're really sinsere Mr James Call is really an "Old Guy" 2nd tour, he's nuts

7-1 Mr Ward is shot in the leg while flying with Jack Dotterer and goes home Although he'd been here for several weeks longer, he was a nice guy and helpful to me

7-6 A classmate of mine, Leonton Mizer was killed today along with SP/4 Harrison Bell and Vandiver LT Joseph Brandt survived crash south of Hill 411 SHARKS

7-8 Classmate Dunnavent is killed flying Musket Guns (176th AHC) at Tin Phouc I don,t think I could fly guns

8-4 We move into Kham Duc Major operation with what seems all the helicopter companies in the Americal Division I fly with Maj Fred Blackburn who is the AMC When you fly with the C/O you are THE PETER-PILOT I'm awed by his skill and knowledge A chinook, refered to as a Shit-Hook is shot up by .51 cal at Kham Duc and we here of another being shot down with 50+ U.S. troops No survivors

8-8 While flying with Dolphin 16, Cpt Harold Alvord, we're shot down in flames over the Battan Peninsula We were acting as the AMC in the C/O aircraft (#200) We're picked up immediately as we're involved on a Combat Assault The ship burns to the ground but 10 crewmembers walk (run) away They say thaths a good landing but I think we may have trouble convincing Maj Blackburn that his "Brand New" aircraft is ashes The C/E is not terribly thrilled with the loss either Bill Wilder will in all probability end up crewing a "Dog" as a replacement

9-8 Shark C/E Carlson is hit by .51 cal fire at Ngia Hahn
We here that in all likelihood he will lose his leg

9-28 176th Warrant Officer's Ted Sizemore and Petty, to include entire crew are shot down at the mouth of "Happy Valley" (N/W of DFC Meadows) All are killed as upon exploding, the aircraft fell through the jungle canopy inverted I was on that C.A. I've never witnessed anything like it

10-11 Pete Goodnight, who recently returned from home (Pacoima) after burying his youngest brother was killed today while pulling a Dust-Off on a Grunt who jumped from an auto-rotating slick A tragic accident while moving a wounded trooper, caused recovered M-60, leaning against the back of seat, to fire

10-21 Slick Gunner Woodard is shot in leg west of San Juan

11-3 Lost fuel pressure flying with Doug Doers near LZ Snoopy
Got back O K

11-7 SHARK'S Jim Kinne & classmate Mark Stefan get shot up at Ngia Hahn (foot and leg respectively) Stefan goes home

11-7 SHARK Jeff Zavales inquires if I would like to come over to the SHARKS

11-9 Fly first mission/day in GUNS with W.O. Jeff Zavalez, C/E John Sparks and SHARK PLT SGT Alan D. Parker DUECE & $\frac{1}{2}$ hits landmine on 411 access road Blows truck in half, killing 10 G.I's We land and use A/C fire extinguishers to put out the burning clothing I'll never forget that smell W.O. "Hap" Holden pulls Dust-Off

11-22 While "snoopin and poopin" along the Horseshoe, we get shit shot out of us Jim Kinne's left leg is obviously shattered below the knee My right tailrotor control pedal is shot off with the bullet lodging in my left instep Most instruments are gone to include my helmet cord Sgt Parker advises Sugar Bear of my destination via his radio control panel A nice thing to have under the circumstances

11-28 Chuck Creamer, Lt Dave Juarequi and crew are missing on a night flare ship mission Shark Scramble near the foothills Weather/fog hides aircraft for days

12-2 Aircraft found All perish in flames (Powell & Field)

12-29 The Reverend Bob Black, Primo 2 goes down on the Horse-Shoe (river) Art Magee locates the aircraft heading down stream but Black is not in it

12-31 Black's body is found Happy New Year

1-5-71 Flew 2 hours "ash & trash" with Bob Gentry

1-28 The entire Company packs up and leave Duc Pho for unknown destination (up north) Lots of rumors

1-28 Buddy Howard "DOLPHIN 29" has engine failure in #516 on departure from Duc Pho with Cpt Garner A11 O K A/C is D.X.

1-29 Leave Da Nang (after night of drinking in O Club, Gun-Fighter Village) Re-fuel HUE-Phu Bai arrive New Home Quang Tri SWELL

1-31 Fly C A cover all day out of Khe Sahn What a desolate place Days to follow, more of the same to include areas with names I recall from the news Dust Off covers and convoy escort

2-8 C A's into Laos begin as we "cross over the fence" The weather foggy, the air filled with helicopters, the radio's are unbelievable and the terrain is downright shitty We are weathered in on a hill top, low on fuel, in Laos and we hear "bird calls" that don't sound like birds Upon our return to Khe Sahn we learn of Bob Gentry being killed on one of the first insertions while flying with Doug Erb Our slicks take lots of fire

2-9 Take hits along Q L 9 Fly 4½ hours of CA's Our "C" models are dogs at this altitude

2-10 Learn of earthquake in Sylmar/San Fernando Valley Attempt to call Mom but lines are down 3 more aircraft go down Fly 6 hours in and out of Laos See a lot of fire

2-11 Rock Pile and LZ SCOTCH 3 slicks shot up, Greg Manuel gets shot in right leg and rocket warhead explodes outside his door to include a bunch of hits Greg goes home, had only 3 days left in-country A/C 170 lost to damage Blue Ghosts lose 2 LOH's (58's) & 1 slick F-4 shot down by radar 37mm I shot over 200 rockets this day "Bouque Fire"

2-12 Fly Dust Off cover out of Khe Sahn, over the fence to return and "escort" cover Gen Abrams in and out of Khe Sahn "R.F."

2-18 Quang Tri ammo dump gets blown by sappers or rockets Explosions from 0430 to 7:00

2-19 Cpt Mike "STRACT" Ackerman and Dennis McCabe go home

2-20 Mike Phillips takes mortar in LZ west of Scotch Over 100 holes in A/C No one hit or hurt Flew 6 hours of Dust Off cover over the fence It seems they're gettin their collective Ass kicked with the number of bodies and wounded comin out Recieve word from Howard Mojeski that classmate Rauen killed in crash at Khe Sahn

2-21 On dust off cover, wing ship to Bruce Marshall, they get shit shot out of them and we take major hits (565-285) Bruce (SHARK 15) is hit twice with .51 cal in left leg Co-pilot Jim Souders gets chunk of chair runner through his right thigh/ass and they go down WE expend/secure as "MO" Dust Off 13 homes in on us and pulls them out

2-21 (continued) Wilder & I unable to reach them through the brush Good thing, they'd probably shot us We took six .51 cal hits to include one on leading edge of blade

2-22 Spent a night in the bunker as Quang Tri (our end anyway) took incoming most of the night I don't think they dig us being here Visited/saw Bruce(Shark 15) He's ----ed up

2-23 More of the same Dust-off cover and re-supply cover now Every time they land for Pick-up or drop off, they have to dodge mortars

2-24 Dust Off cover "over the fence" Saw 2 ARVN'S fall from helicopter skids, trying to escape on over crowded ships Got head shot same coordinates as Bruce Hackett (Shark 9) did a great job, got me to a cave that shaved the side of my head, patched and medivac to Quang Tri I got a bed next Bruce The Doc gets me a Mars call home

2-25 Doug Erb & Birch crash in L.Z. near Scotch Both burned real bad Erb's 1st A/C mission

2-26 Hospital took a lot of in-coming last night The ugliest woman I've ever seen (complete with steel pot/flack jacket) ordered me to a sub-ground level bunker due to being ambulatory (I could walk) I stood in ankle deep water and let large mosquitos eat on me for about 10 seconds in the dark before returning to my bed Good thing as someone had thrown a mattress over Bruce and left him with one of his incredibly swollen toes bent back He was happy to see me but the Full Colonel Nurse was not I explained with all due respect She understood thankfully

2-27 Bruce trans to hospital ship off coast for prep for flight home (off Hue)

2-28 Released from hospital Grounded for 5 more days due to head wound

3-1 Receive word that classmate Catzoella missing in Laos POL & RE ARM at Vandergrif blown up

3-2 Sugar Bear (Shark 1) goes on R & R John Bishop with Lt Farner C/E Rhodes shot down in NVA smoked LZ Crew missing to captured

3-3 71st AHC gets 11 of 11 ships shot up 50 cliques into Laos Our ships on it too now (evening) Shark gunner "Jansen" shot in back but OK Dolphin C/E Davidson shot in forehead Shark 170 & 092 down in Laos Lt Edgecomb shot on left shoulder

3-4 Lt Farner E & E's with some ARVN's and escapes to a firebase He last obs Bishop going back to the aircraft for his pistol Gunner Padilla possibly killed Shark C/E John Moore (140) shot on heel of foot with .51 cal OK but sent home

3-5 169 & 094 (Shark aircraft) shot down in Laos (CPT Smith) along with one Firebird (71st AHC) one slick and Witchdoctor 5 ("Butch Newby" Elliott & crew)