

VIETNAM CHOPPERS

Helicopters in Battle 1950-1975

Simon Dunstan



**Foreword by
Maj. Gen. George S. Patton,
US Army (Ret.)**

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Cover photographs:

Three studies of UH-1 'Hueys', taken in 1965 by the remarkable British photographer Tim Page. *Back cover, top left* is an unusual viewpoint, taken during a firing run by a 'Huey B' gunship north of Vung Tao; three 2.75-in. rockets can just be made out in flight. The Marine 'Dust Off', *below*, was photographed at Hoi An south of Da Nang.

Half-title page:

A CH-47A Chinook airlifts 105mm howitzer ammunition to an artillery unit in the field during 1968. (US Army)

Title pages:

'Hueys' of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) approach a landing zone on 7 March 1967 during Operation 'Pershing', a search-and-destroy mission on the Bong Son Plain. (US Army)



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134. Under an overcast sky, crewmen prepare for another mission into Laos. This February 1971 photo of a 'Sharks' UH-1C details the conditions in which much of this operation was carried out. Note the damage to the landing pad in the foreground from a mortar round. The 174th had the dubious distinction of having two of its gunships captured on the ground during a rescue operation. They were subsequently badly damaged but were still taken to Hanoi for exhibition after the battle. (US Army)

135. On 24 April 1972 the Army began to write the last chapter of the gunship story in Vietnam when it introduced the TOW missile system, the XM-26 system being used to test and evaluate the Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided missile built by Hughes. Two re-engined UH-1Bs were sent with the systems in response to an urgent Army request for an anti-armour capability because of the increased use of tanks by the enemy. Here, one of the two TOW Hueys shows off its left-hand launcher and telescopic sight unit. (US Army)





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