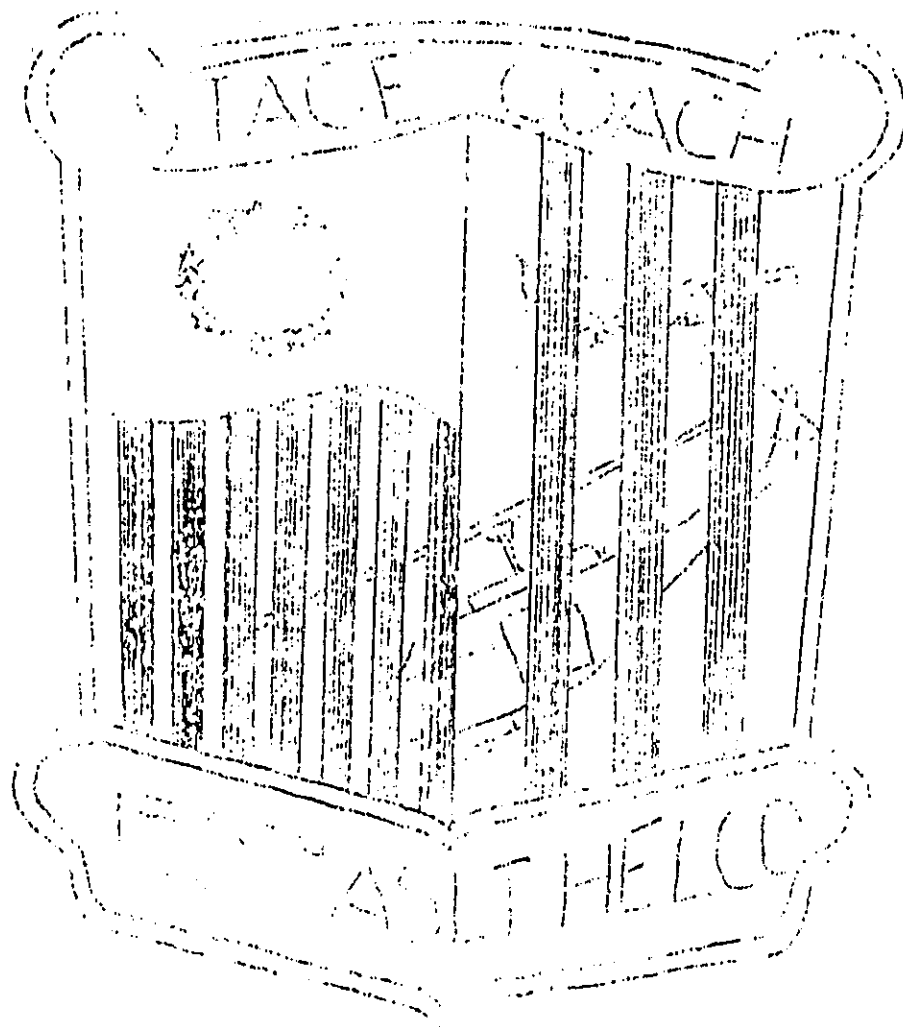


HISTORY OF THE
155TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
1 JANUARY 1968 - 31 DECEMBER 1968



DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 873541
By RT NARA Date 5/30/96

Copy of 155th A.V.C. Company History as maintained
by company clerk. FORWARD

Serving in direct support of the Free World Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the 155th Aviation Company is similar to the many other aviation units of the same size and structure. Formed originally as Co A, 1st Aviation Battalion, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas, the unit arrived at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 1 May 1965. Moving directly to Ban Me Thuot, with an aircraft complement of 24 UH-1D's the advance party was welcomed by LTC Delbert Townsend, Former Commander of the 52nd Aviation Battalion. After much preparation and many training hours through which the men of Co A became proficient in the new and demanding techniques of flying in a combat zone, the company was declared operational on 1 June 1965. On 20 November 1965 Company A was redesignated as the 155th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light).

From the first, the 155th's airlift platoons were known as "Stage Coach" while the Armed Platoon was called the "Falcons". Flying from Saigon in the south to Dak Peh in the north, from the coastal plains, to the Cambodian border, the Stagecoach-Falcon team has spread their reputation for accomplishing their mission while maintaining the highest of safety standards and aircraft availability throughout Vietnam.

Company A, 1st Aviation Battalion was activated on 15 July 1963 at Fort Riley, Kansas, and was originally part of the 1st Infantry Division.

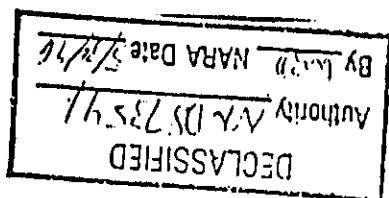
In the spring of 1965, Company A was relieved of its assignment to the 1st Infantry Division and was reassigned to USARPAC for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam.

On 1 May 1965, Company A, 1st Aviation Battalion arrived at Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam, where it was further assigned to the 52d Aviation Battalion and directed to move to its new location at Ban Me Thuot in the Central Highlands.

On 20 November 1965, the company was redesignated as the 155th Aviation Company (AML) and Company A, 1st Aviation Battalion designation was returned to the 1st Infantry Division.

MAJOR COMMANDERS
And Their Period Of Assignment

DeLoach, William W.	MAJ	067668	ARM	20 Mar 65 - 28 Aug 65
Yamagata, Fred T.	MAJ	02097050	INF	28 Aug 65 - 15 Nov 65
Napier, James W.	MAJ	072172	INF	15 Nov 65 - 18 Dec 65
Parlas, Joseph L. Jr.	MAJ	01935283	INF	18 Dec 65 - 10 Aug 66
Atkinson, Robert V.	MAJ	066671	INF	10 Aug 66 - 2 Mar 67
Fleming, Charlie P.	Maj	04005545	INF	2 Mar 67 - 6 Nov 67
Goodall, Billy R.	MAJ	090118	INF	6 Nov 67 -



JAN - DEC 1968

The new year started off with a bang for Camp Coryell and the men of the 155 Aviation Company. At 0245 on the 4th of January 1968, Camp Coryell was under attack from 82mm mortars, and B40 rockets. Fortunately no casualties were suffered, but some 46 rounds destroyed two UH1H helicopters and damaged ten others. Additionally two transient Dustoff ships incurred damage. This set back was only temporary and the 155th was fully operational within 24 hours.

After a 26 round mortar attack on the 17th January, in which five UH1H received damage, the stagecoach-falcon team was again put to the test. This occurred on the 30th of January. The intensive attack on Ban Me Thuot and the adjacent airfield began at 0150 hours. At this time both flare and gunships were ordered airborne in support of various check points and outposts under attack. At 0200 hours the 155th went to 100% alert, and at 0250 hours approximately 20 rounds of hostile mortar fire fell on the city airfield complex. Small arms fire was encountered throughout the night. Eight aircraft were damaged by hostile fire. The Falcon gunships not yet committed were ordered aloft at 0300 hours. They were later credited with destroying two enemy 82mm mortar positions. Flare and gunships flew throughout the night.

At 0815 hours a Falcon aircraft piloted by WO1 Ian Lindsey and WO1 Lawrence Hanner was downed by hostile fire two miles south of Ban Me Thuot. A 165th recovery aircraft along with Dustoff were dispatched to the scene, and several ships already in the air were diverted to the location to help the downed crew. At 0830 hours, while taking off to direct recovery operations, Major Goodall was wounded when his aircraft encountered intense automatic weapons fire.

JANUARY

The month of January brought with it a series of mortar attacks on the Camp Coryell Compound. Numerous casualties and extensive damage to aircraft and building structures. The latter part of January was the ~~beginning~~ beginning of the Vietnamese Tet New Years Holiday season which turned into a night mare for members of the 155th Assault Helicopter Compound and its detachments.

On 4 January ^{0245 hours} the compound came under a barrage of mortar and B-40 rocket attack. 40 mortars and 6 B-40 rockets landed on the compound. For the first time the 155th was infiltrated by the Viet Cong through the perimeter fence. The compound suffered no casualties.

On 17 January, 0125 hours, again the compound came under mortar attack. 25 rounds landed in the limits of the Ban Me Thuot airstrip. Immediately the compound responded with a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire to prevent what had happened the 4th of January from reoccurring. Members of the 155th were rapidly learning what it was like to come under attack at more frequent intervals.

~~The early morning hours of 30 January 1968~~

On 23 ^{0115 hours} February 1968 the compound was hit by 53 mortar rounds.

On 4 ^{0350 hours} March 1968 46 rounds landed on the compound. Numerous casualties were suffered. 1 Korean Civilian was killed while enroute to repair perimeter light generators. Compound suffered the loss of 2 Air Force Air Weather Personnel who were killed in their quarters when a round struck their hootch. Compound immediately responded with a heavy return of ~~hostile~~ automatic weapons fire. The results of this return of fire was 6 confirmed enemy KIA. The enemy again were attempting to infiltrate the compound from both ends of the compound.

On 13 March 1968, 2220 hours compound came under a barrage of enemy mortar fire. 82 rounds struck the compound causing extensive damage to property and inflicting numerous casualties.

Sequence of Incidents of
attack on Camp Coryell
30 January 1968

- 0150 hours - DTOC requested flares for outlying areas of the compound including the immediate vicinity of Ban Ma Thuot. Also the ARVN checkpoint Northwest of the compound came under heavy contact along with Sector Headquarters. Flare and gun support were granted.
- 0200 hours - Major Billy R. Goodall, Commanding Officer of the 155th Assault Helicopter Company, ordered a 100% alert for the compound.
- 0250 hours - First direct attack of the day on the immediate compound. Approximately 20 Mortar rounds fell in the area containing parking facilities for the aircraft. Also small arms and sniper fire encountered continually by Camp Coryell Personnel. Approximately 8 ships damaged in the initial attack. *Falcons credited w/ 2 mortar positions.*
- 0300 hours - Standby crews immediately notified of the situation and were directed to give support to the home base.

CREWS:
Flare - ac Davis, p Haus
ce Peck, g Mosher.

Guns - ac Donaldson, p Spearman
ce Waterous, g McAvoy

ac Hanna, p Lindsey
ce ~~Fadz~~, g ~~McGettigan~~
WOODWARD TROT

* 589

* 049

Continual support given the sector and DTOC throughout the morning.

- 0715 hours - One UH-1C gun ship was downed by hostile fire while giving support in the vicinity of 2 miles south of the compound. Immediate alert given for recovery of ship and crew members. 165th Transportation Detachment Wrecker Ship and crew, Dust-off Ship and Crew, one gun ship of the 155th, two slick ships and crew plus the 155th Reaction force for security were immediately dispatched to the crash scene.

- 0820 hours - Major Billy R. Goodall, Commander was wounded by hostile fire while taking off in the traffic pattern of the compound. *30 cal. 7.62 leg*

- 0930 hours - Downed gun ship crew safely recovered, SP/5 Fadz received minor bruises, Sp/4 McGettigan received superficial wounds.

Gun giving support for recovery - ac ~~Lindsey~~, p ~~Lindsey~~
ce Jarnigan, g Tiner

(Burton + Johnson)

* 589

Dust-Off Ship giving support - ac WOI Semones, p CPT Porta
ce SP/5 Watson, p SP/5 Clark (medic)
50th Medical Detachment Helicopter Ambulance
APO 96316

* 589

Continual Sniper fire received by personnel on the compound as of 1100 hours, 30 Jan 68

Wrecker Ship credited w/ 15 KIA while returning from

AC Malkoff ^{SPC} P Meiners ^{BS IV}
CE ^{BS IV} D. ^{BS IV} & ^{BS IV} Walte
TI ^{BS IV} O' ^{BS IV} ~~g~~ ^{BS IV} ~~ad~~ ^{BS IV} ~~o~~ ^{BS IV} ~~W~~ ^{BS IV} ~~h~~ ^{BS IV} ~~y~~ ^{BS IV} ~~e~~
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Sequence of Events of
Attack on Camp Coryell
30 January 1968

1300 hours - SP/5 Baucom received wounds from shrapnel while on a fire mission in a UH-1H gun ship, 6 miles north of compound. Ship took 5 additional hits caused by hostile automatic weapons fire.

1830 hours - WO1 Teafora was wounded by 30 cal. automatic weapons fire, in the right cheek. His UH-1H aircraft was on a high approach to the compound and received hostile fire 1/2 mile from compound perimeter. His aircraft was enroute from East Field. Aircraft took additional ~~two~~ hits.

30 January 68 - 31 January 68

2300 - 0400 hours - Continually through the night and into early morning 2 UH-1H gun ships were giving continual support to the 23rd Infantry Division ARVN in the Ban Me Thuot vicinity. In this period of time these two aircraft took a total of 32 hits from hostile fire. They were credited with silencing 2 enemy machine gun positions. As of 0400 hours all Falcon gun ships had been grounded by hostile fire at least once since the Tet celebration began at 2400 hours 30 January 1968. The Falcons have flown a total of 30 hours in the vicinity of the compound and Ban Me Thuot while being under continual enemy fire.

Crews for gun ships:

AC Donaldson, F Lane

AC W. Johnson, F Simmons

CE Baucom, G Barnum

CE Jarnigan, G McAvoy

1900 - 0500 hours - ~~Flare~~ standby UH-1H gave continual flare support while under fire, to the ARVN 23d Infantry Division and the two Falcon gun ships.

AC Campbell

F Purdy

~~AC Hennessey, F Hennessey~~

CE Dackling

G ~~Wasson~~

~~CE~~, ~~CE~~

WASSON

2600 hours - Water pumping station east of compound was lost to enemy forces. Maj Walter Urbach¹² recovered 155th personnel when they became under attack. There were no injuries.

Personnel at water point:

SP/4 Klotz

SP/4 Been

SP/5 Walton

1820 hours - 2 Mortar rounds hit compound in the aircraft parking area. There were no injuries or damage.

2015 hours - Urgent Med-Evac 5 miles south of compound, Falcons gave gun cover and received 8 hits from enemy rounds.

W. Johnson DFC
Lane - ~~AM~~ DFC
TIMMONS - AM'U'
McHettigan - AM'U'
FADZ - AM'U'
Baucom - AM'U'
Farnum - AM'U'
Buehner - AM'U'
Rouelle - "
For. Nichols "
Garnigan DFC

1 February 1968

- 0210 hours - 20 Mortar rounds hit compound in the cantonment area. There were 6 casualties. 2 were Med-Evac to Nha Trang. *During the attack MAC was in the runway to provide in traffic control to USAF aircraft and was discharged.*
- 0600 hours - Compound received intense automatic weapons fire. *chgo.*
- 0800 -0830 hours - Reaction force deployed to water plant and secured pumping station. There were no injuries.

2 February 1968

- 0310 hours - 25 Mortar rounds fell on compound, landed in aircraft parking area, Major and minor damage to aircraft. No casualties.
- 0730 hours - Compound received intense sniper fire.

3 February 1968

- 1600 hours - 3 K-9 personnel were injured by schrapnel by an unknown source. Two were evacuated to Cam Ranh Bay, one treated by 8th Med and released.
- HARRIS - AC*
- 1619 hours - One C&C ship in support of the 173rd Abn Div in the Ban Me Thuot vicinity took 15 .30 caliber hits from hostile fire. *while attempting recovery of downed crew.* Two casualties.
- 1615 hours - One slick downed by hostile fire. - TATUM
- 1745 hours - One recovery slick left compound to recover downed aircraft. HARRIS
- 1800 hours - One resupply slick left compound to resupply 173rd. 28 .30 hostile hits.

C&C Crew:

Harris - Henson
Lambert - Collins

recovered gunner

No further hits or casualties.

Downed Crew:

Tatum - Chido
Warren - Noble (57th AHC)

Recovery Slick:

Harris - Rutledge
Patella - Cheek

*met evac.
extracted*

Resupply Crew:

Goss - Harmon
Avery - ~~DeBourier~~

*- Dollison
recovered remainder
of downed crew*

4 February 1968

- 1300 hours: Compound alerted for 100% alert.
- 1815 hours: ~~One~~ ² UH-1C ~~was~~ ^{were} downed by hostile fire near Dalat. *hits to fuel cell and fuselage*
- Crew: *(hits to TR drive & fuselage)*
W. Johnson - Walker *Hanna, Lindsey*
Baucom - Farnum *Mageeigan*
- 1420 hours: Back light tower received scattered incoming rounds

May URBACH

- SS

Donald son

DFC

Spearman

Am "V"

Watson

"

McVoy

"

May Cochran DFC
May Goodall - ~~BS~~
SS

Hanna

DFC

Lindsey

Am "V"

Woodward

"

Trott

"

all mortar crew
ACM "V"
all switch operate
ACM "V"
all K.P.s
ACM "V"

May Malkoff

DFC

CW2 Meinhart

Am "V"

See back of page 1

WO1 Simone

DFC

CPT

Porta

DFC

Sp5

Watson

Am "V"

Clark

" "V"

Moyen

BS "V"

Jensen

BS "V"

Sweeney

BS "V"

TINER

BS "U"

E. Boudin

BS "V"

~~Dugan~~

~~BS "V"~~

Hunter

BS "V"

Been

BS "V"

Klotz

BS "V"

Walton

BS "V"

Valorous Unit
155, 185, all attached
& supporting units
Back light tower
Dog handlers
255th

4 February 1968

1845 hours - Compound received scattered sniper fire in the vicinity of the corral and K-9 area, compound returned fire.

5 February 1968

0150 hours - 20 rounds fell on compound, minor and major damage (mortars).

2240 hours - 30 mortar rounds fell on compound including aircraft area and cantonment areas. 8 casualties, 5 aircraft moderately damaged.

6 February 1968

0055 hours - one EM fatality, killed by friendly troops. William Eister, SP/5

2045 hours * scattered sniperfire southeast side of compound. Compound returned fire.
No casualties

KIA

SP/B William EISTER - 6 Feb 68

SAT EDWARD MILAN - 4 MAR 68

SAT JAMES SWANN - 4 MAR 68

SSA Robert M. PINKSTON - 13 MAR 68

KIM CHANE KWON -

2 Helicopter crew -

2 Personnel - 70th Cb+ Eng

4 MAR 68

19 Apr 68

4 Jun 68

(9 Jun ?)

~~SP4~~ Budabony

24 Jun 68

LT Pratt

26 Aug 68

WO1 Koppel + Harwood

- 8 Sep 68

WO1 Pugh

- 28 Dec 68

WO1 McCarty

- 3 Jan 69

SP4 See

- 8 Jan 69

After a period of seven weeks without an enemy attack on Camp Coryell, the longest period of respite the 155 had seen in two years, the night quiet was again broken by incoming rounds. On 23 July at 2333 hours, five B-40 rockets and ten 82mm mortars struck the compound. Due to increased bunker facilities, and the overdue nature of the attack, the rounds inflicted negative damage to personnel or equipment.

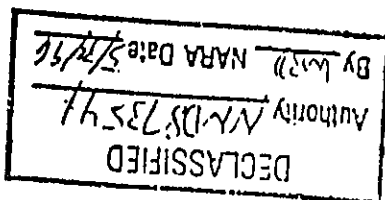
Again, there was a long period without enemy attack on Camp Coryell in July and August. Finally, the compound was attacked on 12 August. Early in the morning, a total of 37 rounds struck the compound, landing not only in the corral and dustbowl but in the billeting areas as well. Ten B-40 rockets and 27 82mm mortars impacted, causing damage to four UH-1H's, and one UH-1C, ten structures, and four vehicles. Eleven personnel were wounded during the attack. Falcon gunships and a flareship were launched, but because of difficulty encountered in getting clearance to fire, returned with negative results.

The 155 was not subject to enemy attack during the entire month of September.

In late August and early September of 1968, the 155-supported areas of Bu Trang and Duc Lap were the targets of a long, hard-hitting offensive by the enemy. Duc Lap in particular was the focal point of enemy activity in the 155th's area of operations during that year.

All sources of information gathered thus far in 1969 indicated that the enemy was planning a 1969 offensive aimed once again at Duc Lap.

The end of the summer monsoon and the beginning of the winter monsoon brought about a great increase in enemy activity in large parts of the 155's area of operation. Although the rainy weather precluded any large scale



Major Moore was presented the Bronze Star for service and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

In late August and early September of 1968 the 155 supported areas of Bu Prang and Duc Lap were targets of a long, hard-hitting offensive by the enemy. Duc Lap in particular was the local point of enemy activity. All sources of information up to June of 1969 indicated that the enemy was planning a 1969 offensive aimed once again at Duc Lap.

The end of the summer monsoon and the beginning of the winter brought about a great increase in enemy activity in large parts of the 155's area of operation. Although the rainy weather precluded any large scale enemy activity during July and August, towards the end of September the lessening rainfall afforded the enemy greater ease of mobility, as was indicated by large troop buildups in the border areas west and southwest of Duc Lap.

During these times the company was engaged in sniffer for G-2 of the 23rd ARVN Division. An increase of B-50 activities helped account for the majority of missions during this period. Day after day the Falcons were returning with ever increasing KBA's credited to their hard hitting tactics.

The question of the intentions of the enemy were answered on 22 October when it became clear that the enemy was on the move. Large size units moved across from Cambodia into positions south of Bu Prang and south of Duc Lap. Large units were still massing along the Cambodian border posing a substantial artillery and standoff attack threat to the outposts of Bu Prang and Duc Lap.

On 25 October the enemy began his offensive.

Over night with the help of the 155, 5/22 Artillery set up fire bases strung from east of Duc Lap to west of Bu Prang. "E" Troop of the 7/17 Cavalry was assigned the mission of conducting "Hunter-Killer" operations in the Bu Prang-Gia Nghia area.

As the offense took shape, fire support base Helen was the first to bend under the onslaught of a multibattalion size unit. It fell on the 29 of October with the remaining personnel being extracted by the 155 under heavy enemy fire.

As the enemy applied pressure, fire support base Annie and Kate were relocated to Duc Lap. The enemy had 50 caliber and 37mm Antiaircraft position around each fire base. As aircraft made their approaches to these bases they would sustain numerous hits. The aircraft kept returning again and again for medical evacuation and finally for the extraction.

Fighting went on. Heroic deeds became part of the every day mission as the 155 earned its name under intense enemy fire.

IN MEMORIAM

1968

SP/5 WILLIAM EISTER

6 FEB

SGT EDWARD MILAN

4 MAR

SGT JAMES SWANN

4 MAR

KIM CHANG KWON

4 MAR

SSG ROBERT G. PINKSTON

13 MAR

SP4 James D. Budahazy.

24 Jun

... That these men shall not have died in vain.