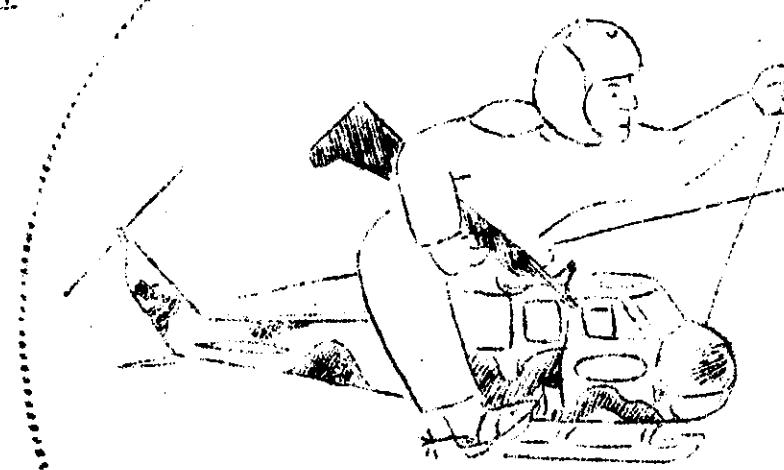


MR. TEMEYER



COWBOYS



1 JAN 66 — 31 DEC 66

History of
335th Assault Helicopter Company
145th Combat Aviation Battalion
APO San Francisco, Calif. 96227

Prepared by
Cpt. John L. Wood
&
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Approved by
Loyburn W. Brockwell Jr.
LTC Infantry
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
335th Assault Helicopter Company
145th Combat Aviation Battalion
APO San Francisco, Calif. 96227

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From 1 January until 31 August 1966 the Cowboys of the 335th were members of Company 4, 82nd Aviation Battalion. As of 1 September 1966 the Cowboys were redesignated. The 335th Aviation Company (Airmobile Light) came into being. Subsequently, this designation was changed to 335th Assault Helicopter Company (AML).

Throughout the year the mission of the unit, regardless of designation, was the same-- to provide the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) with the best, most professional airmobile support available anywhere in the world.

To provide this close support, the 335th was attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

The organization of the company with its attached units remained the same. That is, internally, the 335th consisted of two airlift platoons, known as the Ramrods and the Mustangs, an armed helicopter platoon, known as the Falcons, and the service platoon which owned the well-known recovery ship, Horsethief. Attached to the 335th were the 25th Medical Detachment, the 166th Transportation Detachment and the 234th Signal Detachment. Additionally, the 173rd Aviation Platoon, the organic aviation element of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, was under the operational control of the company, and Casper was their name.

The area of operation for the company, in support of the brigade, was the entire III Corps tactical area of the Republic of Viet Nam. Within this III Corps there were some sectors which caused anxiety in the hearts of the aviators such as War Zone D, the area around Song Be, and around Xuan Loc. But wherever the brigade went, the Cowboys of the 335th were always present.

To speak of the deeds of the Cowboys in an adequate manner, a short summary of the various operations and occurrences must be made.

1966 began in the appropriate manner — a combat lift on New Years Day to open Operation Marauder in the Bao Trai area. Then becoming Operation Crimp, the Cowboys entered the Hobo Woods, just South of War Zone C. The greater part of January was spent in crushing the Viet Cong in the Hobo Woods. Miss Jo Collins, of Playmate fame, visited the Cowboys. Subsequent mention of this was made in Playboy magazine.

The majority of February involved supporting the brigade in its TAOR (Tactical Area of Responsibility) at Binh Hoa. Codenamed Uniontown, this TAOR work was continued by elements of the brigade during the remainder of the year. Additional support was provided the 1st Infantry Division at Di An.

Possibly one of the finest hours, to date, of the Cowboys occurred during Operation Silver City, in March, in War Zone D. Specifically, on the evening of 15 March a force of two thousand VC encircled the 2/503rd Infantry, a battalion of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Throughout the night the VC remained silent, but as the first resupply helicopter arrived just after sunrise, the attack began. The resupply helicopter was shot down, ammunition was critical. The Cowboys, responding to the emergency, sling-loaded ammunition into the LZ under withering hostile fire. At the time the first sling load of ammunition arrived, the battalion was using the last that it had on-hand. When the VC broke contact after a day-long battle they left behind four hundred of their dead. To say that the Cowboys saved the day would be an understatement.

On 27 March Major Larry J. Baughman took command of the company from Major Donald A. Chapplin who returned to CONUS.

April was the scene of Operation Denver in Song Be area. For this, the company moved in its entirety to the Special Forces camp at Song Be. Numerous combat assaults were performed throughout the heavily jungled area. Very few hits were taken on this operation.

Operation Dexter, during May, took place in an area East of Biên Hoa, yet West of Xuan Loc. A. search and clear operation, it was of short duration. Following this was Operation Hardihood, by Xa Binh Gia, just North of Vung Tau. The purpose was to secure a base camp position for the newly-arrived Royal Australian Regiment. Many long range patrol missions were accomplished, to include the first recorded emergency night extraction of an LRRP under fire.

On 9 June Operation Hardihood became Hollandia, a search and destroy mission in the mountains on the seacoast just North of Vung Tau. Another first for the Cowboys — the first night combat assault in the III Corps area of RVN ever — was the assault to begin the operation. 29 June saw Major Ernest H. Johnson take command of the company from Major Larry J. Baughman. After Hollandia, Operation Yorktown commenced. Again it was a search and destroy mission. It was during this operation that six hundred and forty U.S. troopers were helilifted from the area of operation, just South of Xuan Loc, to a shower point located near the Xuan Loc airfield. This proved the Cowboys flexibility.

In the second week of July, Yorktown was completed and Operation Aurora I began. Both a road clearing and search and destroy operation, its interest was highway 20, from Xuan Loc North to Da Hoa just inside the II Corps Area. The highway was being used rather heavily by the VC. In addition, the rich rice country around Vo Dat was feeding the VC. As the brigade cleared the highway and moved into the Vo Dat area, the operation became Aurora II. The Cowboys then garrisoned themselves at the Vo Dat airfield. The event most probably remembered is the flood which swept everything into the nearby wooded area. But a very tragic occurrence was the crash of a troop-carrying Cowboy and the attendant ten fatalities.

Xuan Loc was the base of operations for the Cowboys in the month of August during Operation Toledo. The brigade, with ARVN units attached, combed the area East of Xuan Loc. Extensive use was made of the long range patrols. Most notable was the rescue, in the fog and rain, of a lone-surviving crewman of a downed medevac aircraft.

The brigade returned in Operation Sioux City to its stamping ground, War Zone D, during September and early October. The Casper platoon employed its armed OH-13 aircraft for the first time. The VC seemed to stay out of sight during this operation, probably remembering vividly their defeat in March during Silver City.

Operation Robin began on 10 October. Elements of the 4th Infantry Division were arriving at Vung Tau from CONUS and were to garrison at Bearcat, about ten miles Southeast of Biên Hoa. The operation was then a road security mission, keeping open highway 15 between Vung Tau and Bearcat. Concurrently, the Cowboys provided three UH-1D's and two OH-13s from the Caspers for Operation Winchester at Da Nang Airbase in the I Corps area. It was also during October that the VC sabotaged the Falcon helicopter parking area at Biên Hoa. Before the helicopters could be evacuated one gunship was destroyed and another severely damaged.

With ARVN units attached, the brigade began Operation Meridian in November. The area was War Zone C above Tay Ninh. Making numerous combat assaults and Eagle Flights it was soon discovered that the VC were in the area in force. Thus Operation Attleboro, a multi-divisional operation was born. Despite the terrible

terrain, over one thousand VC were killed. There were almost constant combat assaults by the Cowboys throughout the period.

Upon the completion of Attleboro on 20 November the Cowboys reverted to their continual mission of supporting brigade elements in the TAOR at Bien Hoa. An eventual operation, Waco, developed from the TAOR mission in late November. A search and destroy mission, it covered the area between Bien Hoa and Xuan Loc.

The Cowboy element which was supporting the 4/503rd Infantry at Da Nang returned in early December to Bien Hoa. Operation Canary/Duck, again a mission of securing highway 15 between Vung Tau and Bearcat, began on 7 December. This time the road was secured for elements of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and the 9th Infantry Division which were arriving from CONUS. Activities during the operation were normal until 23 December when the 4/503rd Infantry was to be withdrawn from PZ Stump because of the forthcoming Christmas truce. The battalion had had minor contact with unknown enemy forces, and no particular problems were expected during the extraction. However a surprise was in store. During the extraction a large enemy force made its presence felt by ruthlessly attacking both the troops on the PZ and the Cowboys who were making the extraction lifts. After thirteen lifts by the Cowboys under extremely heavy fire the extraction was complete. The Cowboy aircraft were riddled with holes and two crewmen were injured. This sort of action by the Cowboys was indicative of their skill, their valor.

After the Christmas truce, Operation Canary/Duck continued. And the Cowboys were there. The year closed on that note.

An example of the tremendous efforts expended by the 335th Assault Helicopter Company in the accomplishment of its mission is evidenced by the following statistical data accumulated during the period 1 January 31 - December 1966.

Company-size Combat Assaults	1,560
Flying Hours	25,671
Sorties	66,329
Cargo (Tons)	3,486
Passengers	95,577
Aircraft Hit by Hostile Fire	184
Aircraft Destroyed	7
Major Aircraft Accidents	9
Personnel Killed in Action	6
Personnel Wounded in Action	29

The following awards were presented to members of the company during the period, 1 January 31 to December 1966.

Legion of Merit	2
Distinguished Flying Cross	52
Bronze Star for Valor	4
Bronze Star	60
Air Medal for Valor	180
Air Medal	4,865
Army Commendation Medal	74
Purple Heart	32

Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for Achievement in the performance of outstanding service in the Republic of Viet Nam for the period May 1965 - July 1966.

HISTORY OF
COMPANY "A" 82ND AVIATION BATTALION
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)
APO 96250 San Francisco, California

1 January 1966 through 28 February 1966

Prepared by
1/Lt GEORGE W. MURRAY

Approved by

ERNEST H. JOHNSON
Major Infantry
Commanding

For

DONALD A. CHAMPLIN
Major Armor
Commanding

Headquarters
335TH AVIATION COMPANY (AML)
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)
APO 96250 San Francisco, California

COMPANY A, 82ND AVIATION BATTALION
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)
APO San Francisco 96250

AVBEE-AM

4 November 1966

SUBJECT: Monthly History for Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion:

TO: Commanding Officer
335th Aviation Company (AML)
173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep)
APO San Francisco 96250

I. OPERATIONS:

a. The year 1966, began with the lifting of 200 paratroopers on New Years Day, into Bao Trai, an airstrip Northwest of Saigon. The Company set up operations with the Brigade at Bao Trai and supported the Brigade on Operation Marauder.

b. 2 January 1966-normal support missions for the Brigade were flown. Captain Alfred L. Dovre was hit by enemy ground fire. The wound in the foot, kept him out of action for several days.

c. Normal support of the Brigade continued through 6 January, with a 324 troop lift on the 6th.

d. Operation Marauder ended on 7 January 1966.

e. The 173rd Airborne Brigade moved into Hobo Woods on 8 January to begin Operation Crimp. The Cowboys led by Major Champlin Lifted 420 troops to secure the Brigade CP. Two aircraft were damaged by ground fire.

f. An assault in the Hobo Woods on 9 January cost the Cowboys three aircraft damaged by ground fire.

g. On 11 January 1966, normal support of the Brigade's Operation Crimp continued. One UH-1D was assigned the pleasant mission of transporting Miss Jo Collins, the Playmate of the Year, who was in Vietnam visiting the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

WO James Hunter and WO Ronald Basney were WIA. WO Hunter was evacuated to the States with a .30 Caliber round through his shin. WO Basney was flying again after medical treatment for shrapnel wounds.

h. 12, 13, and 14 January, were the final days of Operation Crimp. The Cowboys lifted 748 troops of the 173rd Airborne and 1st Infantry Division during these three days. The Cowboys moved back into Bien Hoa as Operation Crimp terminated on 14 January 1966.

i. The Cowboys flew normal support of the Brigade from the "Corral" at Bien Hoa from January 15 through the 18th.

j. 356 troops of the Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry were lifted on 19 January by the Cowboys with Falcon cover.

k. The Cowboys lifted 100 troops of 2/503 from Phu Loi to Bien Hoa, and the Falcons flew overhead cover for the Battalion's road convoy that traveled from Phu Loi to Bien Hoa on 20 January.

l. January 21, 22, and 23, were normal support of the Brigade.

m. On January 24th Major Gibbons led a lift moving 99 1st Division troops. Major Champlin led a 10 ship lift to move 140 troops of the 173rd Airborne.

n. 25, 26, and 27 January, were in normal support of the 173rd Airborne.

o. 28 through 31 January, saw the Cowboys lift 1606 troops with one ship being damaged by enemy fire.

II. Monthly Statistics:

	OH-13	UH-1B	UH-1B.(A)	UH-1D	Total
Sorties	1	250	445	3556	4252
Hours	1	86	493	1120	1700
Pax					8228
Cargo					257 tons
Aircraft Hits	17				

Subject: Monthly History for Company A, 82nd Avn Bn

4 November 1966

1 February 1966 through 28 February 1966

a. The Cowboys and Falcons began February with normal Brigade support missions.

b. The 3rd of the month found the Cowboys and Falcons attached to the 1st Aviation Battalion for a combat assault. Major Champlin led the 226 troop lift mission.

c. The 145th Aviation Battalion at Bien Hoa requested help from the Cowboys on the 4th day of February. The Cowboys used 10 UH-1D's to lift 215 troops, while the Falcons supplied two light fire teams as escorts for the "slicks".

d. The fourth through the eighth of February found the Cowboys in normal support of the 173rd Airborne.

e. Again on February 9th, the Cowboys with Falcon cover aided the 145th Aviation Battalion.

f. Nine Cowboys on 10 February 1966 participated in a fly-by for the 173rd.

g. Training was the order of the day for 11 February. "Peeping Tom" techniques were practiced by a UH-1D and a Falcon light fire team. Decca navigation training was conducted by two UH-1D'S.

h. February 12th - 15th brought only normal Brigade Support missions.

i. 16 February brought several lifts for the Cowboys. Three ships put a 20 man patrol of the 2/503 into an LZ. Three 10 ship lifts moved A/2/503. Five ships extracted the 4.2 mortor platoon of the 1/503. Ten "slicks" in 8 lifts moved the 1/503(--).

j. 17, 18 February --- normal Airborne Brigade missions.

k. On 19 February 5 UH-1D's lifted 70 troops from Di An to Lai Khe. Eight Cowboys lifted a 96 man reaction force of 1/RAR (1st Battalion/Royal Australian Regiment) into Phuoc Vinh, a town North of Bien Hoa in the notorious "War Zone Delta."

l. On 20 February a light fire team from the Falcons provided air cover for E troop, 17th Cavalry as they convoyed from Bien Hoa to Phu Loi.

m. The Cowboys, demonstrating their ability to support any combat unit, lifted 113 troops for the "Big Red One" and delivered 23.5 tons of cargo for the Division. A Cowboy aircraft, 610 on an R&R flight from Dalat to Bien Hoa stopped at Phan Thiet to refuel. Receiving an emergency call for

Subject: Monthly History for Company A, 82nd Avn Bn

4 November 1966

a medevac, the crew voluntarily evacuated 16 wounded ARVN from a raging ambush site. Aircraft Commander 1/Lt Fred G. Zabarsky and Flight Surgeon Captain Lonnie Hammargren received the Air Medal with the "V" device for valor as a result of this action.

n. On 22 February 300 troops were lifted in conjunction with the 145th Aviation Battalion.

o. February 23rd and 24th are spent in normal support of the 173rd Airborne.

p. 306 troops of the 1st Infantry Division were lifted by 10 Cowboys and 5 Falcons.

q. 518 troops of the 173rd were lifted by the Cowboys on 26 February.

r. The month of February closed with the Cowboys and Falcons supporting the paratroopers of the 173rd and the aviation units of the 145th Aviation Battalion.

II Monthly Statistics:

	OH-13	UH-1B	UH-1B(A)	UH-1D	Total
Sorties	734	147	442	2936	4259
Hours	315	85	357	926	1683
Pax					5705
Cargo (Tons)					247 Tons
Aircraft Hits	23				

HISTORY OF
COMPANY "A", EIGHTY-SECOND AVIATION
1 MARCH - 31 March 1966

Prepared by
Capt. Francis C. Bonnett
Unit Historian

Approved by
Larry J. Baughman
Major, Infantry
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
San Francisco, California 96250

COMPANY "A" 82D AVIATION BATTALION
APO 96250
San Francisco, California

1 April 1966

SUBJECT: Monthly History for Company "A" 82d Aviation Battalion
1 through 31 March 1966

TO: Commanding Officer
Company A, 82d Aviation Battalion
APO San Francisco 96250

A. Mission
(1) Mission

The mission of Company A, 82d Aviation Battalion for the entire month of March 1966 was to augment the aviation capabilities of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Soc) by providing support in combat operations and providing tactical and administrative air mobility.

B. Operations

Company A is capable of providing continuous (day and night) operations during visual weather conditions and limited operations under minimum visual weather conditions. It can provide airlift support for one infantry or dismounted mechanized infantry company. The unit during the month of March, was involved in supporting only the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Company A's UH-1D's performed airlanded assaults (ALA) airlanded resupply (ALR) and command and liaison (CL) mission, while the UH-1B's-Falcons, performed visual recon (VR), and escort helicopter (EH) mission.

1 March 1966

Company A extracted 2/503rd Infantry (156 troops) from field locations and transported them to the Brigade Base Camp Area at Bien Hoa. Major Addiss flew lead for this extraction. All other missions for this day were normal administrative types.

2 March 1966

All missions were normal administrative support for the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

3. March 1966

Company A participated in a troop lift for 300 ARVN troops. Major Champlin flew lead.

4 March 1966

All missions were normal administrative support for the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

5 March 1966

Company A participated in a troop lift for the 1st Bde, 1st Inf. Div. Ten UH-1D's transported 140 troops from a location South of Tay Ninh to a field location. Major Champlin flew lead. During this lift one of the Falcon gun ships was shot down with no casualties.

6 March 1966

Company A was attached to the 145th Aviation Battalion to lift elements of the 15th ARVN Division. 10-UH-1D's and 5 UH-1E's flew in this operation and 2 separate lifts were made. A total of 264 ARVN Troops were transported. Major Champlin flew lead.

7 & 8 March 1966

All missions were normal administrative support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

9 March 1966

Company A was attached to the 145th Aviation Battalion for a lift involving 400 troops. Ten UH-1D's and 5 UH-1E's flew on this lift. Major Champlin flew lead. This lift was the start of operation "Silver City" in War Zone "D" involving the entire 173rd Airborne Brigade. The troops were located at LZ #12, 083426, which became the base for support of the extensive operation. The first lift of the day was at 0730 hours and the move was completed at 1130 hours. The remainder of the day involved with logistical resupply for the elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

10 March 1966

Company A supported the 173rd Airborne Brigade with six UH-1D's flying logistical resupply during all daylight hours to various tactical locations in War Zone "D".

11 March 1966

In addition to supporting the 173rd Airborne Brigade on operation Silver City, Company A was attached to the 145th Avn Bn for a combat assault which required ten UH-1D's and 5 UH-1E's. The lift involved 140 ARVN Troops. Major Champlin flew lead. Logistical resupply to the 173rd Avn Bde maintained from sun-up to sun-down.

12 March 1966

Continued logistical support for the 173rd Airborne Brigade in War Zone "D" required six UH-1D's during daylight hours.

13 March 1966

Operation "Silver City" continued requiring six UH-1D's from "A" Company for resupply to all elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

14 March 1966

Company A continued to support the 173rd Airborne Brigade in War Zone "D" with six UH-1D's performing logistical resupply from Phuoc Vinh. One UH-1B suffered a hard landing while on a training flight.

15 March 1966

Company A provided six UH-1D's for logistical support during daylight hours in War Zone "D" in tall, dense jungle terrain requiring maximum performance of the aircraft.

16 March 1966

This day was the most significant of all during operation "SILVER CITY". During the night 2000 Viet Cong troops encircled the 2/503rd Infantry in a tight area 50 meters in diameter the center of which was the resupply LZ. Their plan of attack was to wait until the first resupply helicopter of the day arrived and then to attack from all directions. The first UH-1D was to be flown by Lt Roush and Cpt. Bennett, but generator trouble delayed the take-off UH-1D 737, flown by CWO Geishauscr and WO McHenry made the first approach to the LZ with A/rations for the 2/503d. Upon approach to the LZ the helicopter tail rotot gear box was shot off and the main transmission was hit by an estimated four 50 caliber bulletts. The helicopter crashed in the trees on the Northeast side of the LZ. The gunner suffered an injured back, while the remainder of the crew suffered only minor cuts and bruises. The VC attack lasted for four hours, with the crew of UH-1D 737 trapped in the middle of the fire fight. As the fight between the VC and the 2/503d progressed an urgent request for resupply of ammunition went out to Company A, and only through the determined efforts of four crews dropping sling loads of small arms ammunition into this small LZ was the 2/503 able to beat back the VC attack with light casualties, while the VC suffered 400 killed 1000 wounded.

At the end of this day 7 UH-1D's had suffered combat damage from this resupply effort. Another gunner was wounded by ground fire, and UH-1D 737 was completely destroyed. Several aviators from Company A were recommended for combat decorations following this action.

17 March 1966

Following the battle of the previous day Company A had an increased resupply and extraction requirement from 2/503 Infantry in order to remove large numbers of captured weapons and fly in personnel replacements, as well as to maintain the normal logistical resupply of rations and ammunition. The Viet Cong broke contact for the remainder of the operation.

18 March 1966

Company A continued to provide logistical support to operation "Silver City".

19 March 1966

Elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade moved to various tactical locations in War Zone "D", and established many new resupply LZ's requiring maximum performance from aircraft.

20 March 1966

Company A provided the logistical needs of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, still operating in War Zone "D".

21 March 1966

In addition to providing continued logistical support for the 173rd Airborne Brigade on operation "Silver City", Company A lifted 100 ARVN troops with ten(10) UH-1D's in a combat assault. Following this lift of ARVN troops, the first extraction of troops from War Zone "D" was made by Company A. Eight UH-1D's lifted 261 troops of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

22 March 1966

Extraction of troops from War Zone "D" continued with Company A lifting 260 troops of the Royal Australian Regiment from LZ 12 back to Bien Hoa. This extraction concluded operation "Silver City".

23 March 1966

All missions were normal administrative support of 173rd Airborne Brigade. Repair of combat damaged aircraft continued.

24,25,26, March 1966

All missions were normal administrative support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

27 and 28 March 1966

All missions were normal administrative support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Ten (10) UH-1D's and five (5) UH-1B's placed on 30 minutes standby for operation Mohawk.

C. MONTHLY STATISTICS:

	OH-13	UH-1B	UH-1B(A)	UH-1D	TOTAL
SORTIES:	627	237	330	3561	4755
HOURS:	302	84	463	1098	1947
PAK:					5826
CARGO (tons):					508(tons)
AIRCRAFT HITS:					2 8

HISTORY OF
COMPANY A, 82ND AVIATION BATTALION
173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96250

1 April 1966

through

30 April 1966

Prepared by

CPT TROY REEVES JR

Approved by

LEYBURN W. BROCKWELL JR
LTC Infantry
Commanding

For

LARRY J. BAUGHMAN
Major Infantry
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
335TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY (AML)
145TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96227

14

COMPANY A, 82ND AVIATION BATTALION
173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96250

AVBEM-1M

12 March 1967

SUBJECT: Monthly History for Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion.

1 April 1966

through

30 April 1966

TO: Commanding Officer
335th Aviation Company (AML LT)
173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep)
APO San Francisco, Calif. 96250

I. OPERATIONS:

a. The month of April opened with the COWBOYS lifting 180 troops from the Brigade into the local TAOR. All other missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

b. On the 2 April the 335th began the day by airlifting two (2) ARVN companies, 220 ARVN troops, into a landing zone near Saigon. After these two (2) lifts the company returned to the TAOR and extracted 180 US troops into the Brigade base at Bien Hoa in three (3) lifts. All other missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

c. All mission flown on 3 April were in normal administrative support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

d. Two (2) UH-1D's escorted by one light fire team began 4 April at 0530 hrs by infiltrating a DELTA team into the Mangrove Swamp south of Saigon. This team was extracted that afternoon, under automatic weapons enemy fire, by the same COWBOY crews. In the afternoon 190 troops of the 1/503 were lifted from the Brigade Pad to the TAOR. All other missions were in normal administrative support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

e. On 5 April the COWBOYS lifted 520 173rd Abn Bde troops in nine (9) ten (10) ship lifts within the 173rd Abn Bde TAOR. All other missions were in support of these troops.

f. The 173rd Abn Bde was still moving troops within the TAOR as the COWBOYS repositioned 310 US troops in five (5) ten (10) lifts. All other mission were in support of these troops within the TAOR.

g. On 7 April from 0100 to 0300 hrs one (1) UH-1D with the MAD system and one (1) Light Fire Team flew a reconnaissance for Field Artillary Control in the northern part of War Zone "D". One (1) Light Fire Team was supporting the 25th Infantry Division on a sweep operation when FALCON 601 was shot down and destroyed. All personnel were rescued with only minor injuries. FALCON 928 received several hits, but was flown safely to Cu Chi with no injuries received. One platoon of the 2/503, 35 US troops, were repositioned within the 173rd Airborne Brigade TAOR. All other missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde within the TAOR.

h. All missions flown on the 8 April were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde in preparation for Operation Austin. In the late afternoon, the 173rd Abn Bde received word that they had no commitment for Operation Austin but to initiate tentative plans for airloading all equipment for an airlift. Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion began to make preparations for an airlift.

i. All missions flown on 9 April were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde in preparation for Operation Denver to be conducted in the Song Be area. The company continued plan and loading preparation for movement to Song Be for the duration.

j. On 10 April ten (10) UH-1D's and one (1) Light Fire Team were attached to the 11th Aviation Battalion to move 140 US troops of the 173rd Abn Bde from the Snake Pit to the Song Be airstrip to secure the airfield. All other missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde. Preparation and loading continued for movement in support of Operation Denver.

k. On 11 April the COWBOYS began movement by UH-1D's to Song Be in support the 173rd Abn Bde during Operation Denver. After closing at Song Be nine (9) UH-1D's and one (1) Light Fire Team returned to Bien Hoa and lifted 54 173rd Abn Bde troops to Song Be. Two (2) missions were flown for B/34th Special Forces. All other Missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde's Operation Denver.

l. On 12 April eight (8) UH-1D's and one (1) Light Fire Team extracted six (6) patrols and 300 US troops, for the 173rd Abn Bde in six separate lifts. All other missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Denver and B/34th Special Forces compound at Song Be.

m. Four (4) combat assaults were flown by the COWBOYS on 13 April for the 173rd Abn Bde lifting 360 troops in support of Operation Denver. Five (5) UH-1D's carried three(3) tons of rice from the city strip in Song Be to Be Dung for B/34th Special Forces at Song Be. All other missions were in support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

n. Three(3) combat assaults and eight (8) extractions were flown by ten (10) COWBOYS for the 173rd Abn Bde on 14 April lifting 840 US troops in support of Operation Denver. All other missions were in support of the same Operation.

o. One (1) dummy extraction and seven (7) combat assault, lifting 480 troops for the 173rd Abn Bde were flown on 15 April in support of Operation Denver. All other missions were normal support for the Brigade.

p. At dawn on 16 April, 162 Royal Australian Regiment troops were lifted in two (2) combat assaults in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Denver. Nine (9) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams re-positioned 162 US troops for the 173rd Abn Bde. Aircraft 556 crashed on take-off from Song Be city strip due to power failure. All other missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Denver.

q. On 17 April, eight (8) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams repositioned 259 RAR troops in support of Operation Denver. Six COWBOYS and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 72 US troops of the 1/503 in Operation Denver. All other missions were normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Denver.

r. Ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 120 troops from E/17th Cav on 18 April. One aircraft was hit by ground fire. Eleven (11) combat assaults with these fourteen (14) aircraft was performed moving 710 US troops into a new location in the Denver Operational area. All other missions were normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde operation.

s. On 19 April nine (9) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams repositioned 107 E/17th Cav troops. One gunner was wounded during the repositioning. All other missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

t. On 20 April all missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde's Operation Denver. Nine (9) UH-1D's and four (4) gunships stood-by for the Chief of Staff (Army) at Song Be.

u. On 21 April all missions were in normal support of Operation Denver.

v. Ten (10) extractions were made by ten (10) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams on 22 April. 620 US troops of the 173rd Abn Bde were moved to Song Be airfield for shipment back to Bien Hoa. All other missions were in direct support of Operation Denver

w. At 1205 hrs on 23 April the COWBOYS closed at Bien Hoa from Operation Denver near Song Be. All missions flown were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde's move from Operation Denver to Bien Hoa.

x. All missions flown on 24 April were of the administrative type in support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

y. On 25 April two (2) UH-1D's took part in a demonstration of the MAD system and Chemical spray system for representatives of the Commercial Research and Development Board. All other missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

z. On 26 April all missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

aa. The COWBOYS were attached to the 11th Aviation Battalion for a lift on 27 April. Nine (9) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 252 US troops in support of the 11th Aviation Battalion.

bb. All missions flown on the 28 April were administrative flight in support of the 173rd Abn Bde except four (4) combat assaults flown in support of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion lifting 360 ARVN troops with ten (10) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams.

cc. On 29 April nine (9) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 382 US troops in three combat assaults in support of the 11th Aviation Battalion in the Tay Ninh area. Three (3) aircraft were hit by enemy ground fire but all aircraft were recovered with no injuries received.

dd. All missions on 30 April were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

II. MONTHLY STATISTICS:

	<u>OH-13</u>	<u>UH-1B</u>	<u>UH-1E(1)</u>	<u>UH-1D</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
SORTIES	407	162	976	3957	5502
HOURS	319	78	498	1274	2169
PILOTS					9158
CARGO (Tons)					210
AIRCRAFT HIT					2 7

III. TRAINING:

a. On 1 April a two-hour helicopter troop loading class was conducted for Brigade elements. On 5 April the MAD system, developed and proved effective by this unit, was sent to the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion for support and training. The emphasis this month was placed on inclement weather and operational hazards during the coming wet weather season.

IV. COMPANY AREA:

Improvements during the month of April were made in the Company area in the form of new buildings.

V. CIVIL AFFAIRS:

a. The school in No Phoue is ready for the roof to be placed over parts of the building.

b. The 25th Med-Cap team treated over 1200 Vietnamese.

HISTORY OF
COMPANY "A" 32ND AVIATION BATTALION
1 MAY THROUGH 31 MAY 1966
173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO 96250 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Prepared by
Captian Donald L Peters

APPROVED BY
LARRY J BAUGHMAN
Major Infantry

Headquarters
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)
APO San Francisco, Calif. 96250

COMPANY "A" 82ND AVIATION BATTALION
173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96250

AVAB-AM

1 June 1966

SUBJECT: Monthly History for Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion, 1 through 31 May 1966

TO: Commanding Officer
Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)
APO San Francisco 96250

1. OPERATIONS:

a. Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion started the month of May by supporting the 1st Infantry Division at Tay Ninh on operation "Birmingham." Eight UH-1D's and one Light Fire Team, after performing six extractions while attached to the 11th Aviation Battalion at Tay Ninh, remained over night at a forward area south of Tay Ninh, to prepare for one of the largest heliborne assaults in Vietnam up to that date.

b. On 3 May 1966, Company "A" was planning for Operation "Dexter", a search and clear operation Northeast of Bien Hoa. The next day Company "A", attached to the 145th Aviation Battalion, air lifted 457 troops from the Snake Pit to the operational area. On this day aircraft number 614 received two hits on an approach into LZ "Diamond" in the heart of the operational area - there were no injuries. Also on this day A/C #918, Falcon 87, was hit while making a firing pass on a target that had been firing at aircraft all that day. The aircraft caught fire on the way down but was landed successfully in a rice paddy despite the intense flames. The aircraft burned and became a total loss - there were no injuries. At 1600 hours on 5 May 1966, an alert was called. The Cowboys plus attachments were combat ready by 1615 hours. A briefing for all detachments and platoon leaders was given on the physical security plan for the Company. On 6 May 1966, Operation "Dexter" ended with the Cowboys attached to the 145th Aviation Battalion. Seven lifts were made out of LZ "Diamond." Six Cowboy aircraft were hit by enemy ground fire during the extractions. One man was wounded by shrapnel.

c. From the period 6 May 66 to 9 May 66, the Cowboys were attached to the 11th Aviation Battalion on Operation "Birmingham" at Tay Ninh. On 9 May, the Cowboys completed their part in Operation "Birmingham" by resupplying elements of the 1st Infantry Division. At 1500 the Cowboys started their logistical task. The last ship came back to the corral at 2030 hours. The Cowboys carried 65 passengers, 32 tons of cargo, and flew 268 sorties in that short span of time.

SUBJECT: Monthly History for Company A, 42nd Aviation Battalion 1 through
31 May 1966
1 June 1966

d. The next day the Cowboys were alerted to be ready to bring a security force from the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) to a point North West of Vung Tau where a CH-47 helicopter had crashed. The security force never had to go because the Chinook was destroyed by fire. At 2200 hours that evening the CO was notified to be ready to move to the Song Be area in support of the 2/503. Intelligence reports stated that elements of the 101st had pushed a badly beaten force of VC to a point between Song Be and an area about 25K's to the north. The 2/503 was called upon to prevent the VC from moving any farther south and to squeeze them in between the 101st and themselves. After preparation was made, the Cowboys moved out early the next morning. A part of the Cowboys was left behind to participate in Operation "HardiHood", a 173rd Airborne Brigade effort to the North east of Vung Tau. On the first combat assault at Song Be the Cowboys received automatic weapons fire from a tree line while on short final to LZ in a mountain village. A crewchief, Sp4 Woodrum, was hit in the chest from enemy ground fire. He was quickly evacuated to the rear area at Bien Hoa. The bullet punctured a small portion (5%) of his lung and went completely through his spleen. He is now recuperating and is expected to be back within a few months. On 12 May 1966, three UH-1D's and one Light Fire Team deployed a long range patrol into a dense jungle area to the North west of Song Be, near the Cambodian border. Three separate locations were chosen and at sunset the three UH-1D's completed their mission. The next day the Cowboys returned from Song Be and prepared for Operation "HardiHood."

e. On 15 May 1966, Falcon 81 and 82 fire teams were scrambled to a location North of Tan Uyen. VC were reported in a rubber plantation. The Falcons struck the area and three confirmed VC were found dead.

f. 17 May 1966 saw the start of Operation "HardiHood" for the Cowboys. On the initial combat assault one Falcon shin was hit twice in the main rotor blades. On a resupply mission on the 18th of May 1966, Aircraft number 609 was hit four times forcing it down into an LZ. It had been hit in the transmission twice and was barely flyable. WO Harrell elected to fly the aircraft to Vung Tau because the unit in the LZ had to move on thereby leaving an aircraft in an unsecure area. He made the flight without incident. The gunner on the aircraft received minor wounds from shrapnel. On the 19th of May A/C #945 took 5 hits while escorting a "Dust Off" medevac ship into a forward area. There were no injuries.

g. On 25 May 1966 two UH-1D's conducted Long Range Patrol (LRP) Recovery Techniques in conjunction with E troop 17th Cav. Some of the techniques used were: rappelling from a 50 foot rope, using a rope ladder to climb out of an inaccessible area and using two 125 foot ropes to lift 2 personnel at one time out of a simulated unimproved area where a helicopter could not land and speed would be essential in recovering the personnel to keep them from falling into enemy hands.

h. On 30 May 1966, A/C #421, an OH-13, crashed in the forward Brigade CP area. Investigation is still underway at the time of this writing.

SUBJECT: Monthly History for Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion 1 through
31 May 1966
1 June 1966

i. On 31 May 1966, an orientation class was given to newly arrived personnel into the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate). Approximately 200 people participated in the Airmobile Class. After the class, a demonstration ride was given to familiarize the new troops with loading and unloading during a combat assault.

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

	OH-13	UH-1(A)	UH-1B	UH-1D	Total
Sorties	827	1539	184	4306	6856
Flying hours	354	417	125	1404	2300
Passengers					9257
Cargo (tons)					363
Aircraft Hits	2 8				

2. TRAINING:

a. The emphasis this month was placed on Command Information Classes. Classes were given on security, Code of Conduct, survival, Escape and evasion, and CBR. A class on the .45 cal pistol was given to all officers before they went out on the range for their annual familiarization firing. The Company and its attachments then fired their TO&E weapon for familiarization.

b. The Inspector General's team had their annual inspection during the latter part of May. The inspection ended in favorable results for Company "A".

3. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

CWO Lerner	Air Medal V/V device
Maj Addis	Basic Air Medal
Maj Gibbons	Basic Air Medal
Capt West	Basic Air Medal
CWO Waters	Basic Air Medal
Sgt Casey	Basic Air Medal
Sgt Witcher	Basic Air Medal
Sp/5 Mahon	Basic Air Medal
Sp/5 Rushin	Basic Air Medal
Sp/4 Davis	Basic Air Medal
Sp/4 Partch	Basic Air Medal
Sp/4 Fettig	Basic Air Medal
WC Basney	Purple Heart
	Purple Heart

4. COMPANY AREA

a. Improvements during the month of May were as follows: a new permanent latrine with porcelain urinals, completion of a new arms room

SUBJECT: Monthly History for Company "C", 82nd Aviation Battalion 1 through
31 May 1966
1 June 1966

adjoining a new supply room, a movie screen placed where it was best suited for the Company. Other small improvements were made to individual billets. A beautification project was started when Doctor (Capt) Hammagren planted the first tree outside his new office.

5. CIVIL AFFAIRS:

- a. The school house in Ngu Phouc is now 85% completed with the roof being put in place over the 1st classroom.
- b. The 25th MedCap team again treated over 1200 Vietnamese. They performed first aid and administered shots to the people.

HISTORY OF
COMPANY A, 82ND AVIATION BATTALION
1 June - 30 June 1966

Prepared by
Capt. Donald L. Peters
Unit Historian

Approved by
Ernest H. Johnson
Major Infantry
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96250

24

1. OPERATIONS

a. Co A, 82nd Aviation Battalion began the month of June by continuing to support the 173d Abn Bde (Sep) in operation "Hardihood". During this period E/17th Cav with its attached Long Range Patrol, performed many reconnaissance type missions. The Long Range Patrol Teams are usually sent out in six (6) man elements. They are infiltrated at dusk by helicopter so that they may not be seen by the enemy. Two teams have been put in previously during this operation and were extracted on the second of June. At 1430 hrs on 2nd of June 66 one patrol was extracted on a PZ under fire. The LRP left three (3) dead V.C. in the PZ. That evening aircraft number 736 with Capt Peters as aircraft commander and 1st Lt Reush as pilot made an emergency extraction of an LRP at night under fire from a hole in the woods, about seventeen (17) Kilometers North of the Fire Support Base. This marked the first successful completion of an LRP at night.

b. On 9 June 66 at 0400 hrs eight (8) UH-1D and two(2) Light Fire Teams left the corral at Bien Hoa enroute to a foward area about eight (8) kilometers northeast of Vung Tau. The "Cowboys" lifted one hundred ninety-eight (198) troops in three (3) LZ's. Two of the LZ's were unsecure. Under moon-light the "Cowboys" skillfully placed the troops into these LZ's making another "first" for A Co, 82nd Avn Bn. This was the first night combat assault in the III Corps area in the history of Vietnam. This also initiated operation "Hollandia", a search and destroy mission, in the mountain range East of Vung Tau.

c. On 15 June 66 a scramble was called about 1545 hrs to have the "Cowboys" report to the foward area. Ten (10) UH-1Ds and two (2) Light Fire Teams quickly reacted to the situation. The "Cowboys" heli-lifted two hundred twenty-two (222) troops into an LZ to the South of Fire Support Base. This only proved the readiness of the "Cowboys" to react to any situation at any time. Operation "Hollandia" ended on the 18th of June 1966.

d. For the next four (4) days the "Cowboys" supported the 173d Abn Bde (Sep) on operation "Uniontown". This operation took place in Bde TAOR.

e. On the 20th of June 1966 the "Cowboys" supported the 13th Avn Bn at Soc Trang. The United States Navy had run aground a V.C. vessel full of weapons and ammunition. The "Cowboys" heli-lifted 390 ARVN troops to that location so that they could secure the area and keep the V.C. from obtaining the amme and weapons. It was a very successful day for the United States Army in that they confiscated many tons of amme and numerous Chinese and Russian weapons.

f. 21 June 1966 saw the start of operation " Yorktown", a search and destroy mission approximately seven (7) kilometers South of Xuan Loc. The remaining days of the month were spent in numerous combat assaults in the Yorktown TAOR.

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE					
	<u>OH-13</u>	<u>UH-1B(A)</u>	<u>UH-1B</u>	<u>UH-1D</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Sorties	502	622	298	3721	5143
Flying Hours	297	391	215	1352	2238
Passengers lifted					8985
Cargo Lifted (Ton)					316
Aircraft Hit					20

2. TRAINING:

a. During the month of June Company A was engaged in numerous training activities. The 2nd Platoon "Mustangs" flew a night training mission landing to various fields and lighting systems.

b. The "Falcons", 3rd Platoon, conducted a night firing exercise along with the "M.D" (Mortar Aerial Delivery) ship.

c. The Casper Platoon participated in a night exercise using five (5) UH-1D's.

d. Elements of Company A dropped troops of E/17th Cav. (approx 40) in a simulated parachute assault in the Brigade T/0R.

3. AWARDS AND DECORATION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
Richardson	CWO	Air Medal with "V" Device
Waters	CWO	Air Medal with "V" Device
Patterson	WO	Air Medal with "V" Device
Dorf	CWO	Basic Air Medal
Lind	WO	Basic Air Medal
Jones	WO	Basic Air Medal
McHenry	WO	Basic Air Medal
		Purple Heart
Tilley	SSG	Basic Air Medal
Usher	SP/5	Basic Air Medal
Priest	SP/4	Basic Air Medal
Bowen	SP/4	Basic Air Medal
Shultz	SP/4	Basic Air Medal
Mangram	Maj	Purple Heart
Dumas	WO	Purple Heart
Geishaeuser	WO	Purple Heart
Boliver	SGT	Purple Heart
Spires	SP/4	Purple Heart
Eaton	PFC	Purple Heart

4. COMPANY AREA:

a. During the month of June a few invocations were made in the company area. Porcelian sinks were installed in the shower-wash room complex thereby alleviating the problem of leaking faucets and wasted water.

b. June also saw the start of new officer's semi-permanent type quarters to accomodate the newly arrived officers. Cement pads were laid by the officers of the Company.

c. A pad was laid for the new "All American Club". This complex will house an EM and NCO club, Bar, Tailor Shop, Barber Shop, and Laundry Shop.

d. On 30 of June Maj Baughman was replaced by Maj Johnson as the new Commanding Officer of Company A.

5. CIVIL AFFAIRES:

a. The Company Project, a three room school in Ngu Phuc, is nearly completed. It is expected to be finished within two weeks.

b. The 25th Med Detachment's Med-Cap team treated over a 1000 people in the Duc Tu Province this month. They performed first aid treatments in addition to giving medical advice to the people.

HISTORY OF
COMPANY A, 82ND AVIATION BATTALION
173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96250

1 July 1966

through

31 July 1966

Prepared by
CPT. TROY REEVES JR.

Approved by
LEYBURN W. BROCKWELL JR.
LTC Infantry
Commanding

FOR
ERNEST H. JOHNSON
Major Infantry
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
335TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY (AML)
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96227

335TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96250

AVBE-AM

12 March 1967

SUBJECT: Monthly History for Company A, 82nd Aviation Battalion
1 July through 31 July 1966

TO: Commanding Officer
335th Assault Helicopter Company
173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep)
APO San Francisco, Calif. 96250

I. OPERATIONS:

- a. This month began with the COWBOYS in normal support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Operation "Yorktown".
- b. On 2 July, all missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde in Operation "Yorktown". One FALCON ship received a hole in the main rotor blade when a rocket prematurely exploded after it was fired. There were no crew injuries
- c. Early on the 3rd Of July all aircraft were dispatched to the Yorktown area for a possible lift of a reaction force. Ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 360 US troops in six (6) combat assaults in support of Operation Yorktown. Aircraft 935 received one round of small fire through the pilots compartment. All other missions were in support of the 173 Abn Bde operation Yorktown.
- d. On the 4th of July all missions flown were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Yorktown.
- e. Ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams airlifted 180 US troops, on the 5th of July, for the 173rd Abn Bde in three (3) combat assaults. All other mission were in support of Operation Yorktown.
- f. On 6 July, ten (10) slicksand two light fire teams lifted 180 troops as the COWBOYS repositioned units of the 173rd Abn Bde. Six (6) UH-1D's carried 640 173rd troops from field positions in the Yorktown operational area to a Xuan Loc shower point and return them to their field positions. All other mission flown were in support of 173rd Abn Bde Operation Yorktown.
- g. All missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Yorktown.
- h. On the 8 of July six (6) UH-1D 's lifted 120 ARVN troops in support of a 173rd Abn Bde Med-Cap Operation south of Xuan Loc. All other missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde .

i. Ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams supported the 173rd Abn Bde in six (6) combat assaults for the beginning of Operation Aurora, on the 9 Of July. All other missions flown were in support of Operation Aurora.

j. On July 10, ten (10) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 180 US troops in three combat assaults in support of Operation Aurora. Six (6) UH-1D's and one (1) Light Fire Team extracted 190 US troops of the 4/503 from their company training area in the TAOR into the Brigade foward area. All other missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Aurora.

k. All missions flown on the 11 July were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Aurora.

l. On the 12th of July five (5) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 210 US troops in six (6) combat assaults in support of Operation Aurora. All other missions were in support of the same Operation.

m. Ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 640 173rd Abn Bde troops in several combat assaults in support of Operation Aurora on 13 July. One gunship received a hit which wounded the gunner in the leg, knocked out the hydraulics and punctured a fuel line. The aircraft was landed at the Brigade Command Post without further damage. All other missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

n. On 14 July ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 690 US troops in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Aurora. All other missions were in support of the same operation.

o. Ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams flew nine (9) combat assaults repositioning 476 troops for the 173rd Abn Bde in support of Operation Aurora, on the 15th of July. All other missions were in support of Operation Aurora.

p. On 16 July all mission were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Aurora.

q. Aurora II began on 17 July with the COWBOYS attached to the 145th Aviation Battalion for movement of the 173rd Abn Bde into the Vo Dat area. Ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams made six (6) combat assaults in the area of operation carrying 360 US troops. All other missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation.

r. Early on the 18 July an advance party from the company moved to the Aurora II area of operation. After five (5) combat assaults with the slicks (ten) and two (2) Light Fire Teams, moving 300 173rd Abn Bde troops, all elements of the company were moved to Vo Dat. All other missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde .

s. Ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams made one combat assault in support of operation Aurora II, on 19 July. The COWBOYS moved 60 173rd Abn Bde troops in the combat assault and supported the Brigade by flying normal missions after the combat assault.

t. Nine slicks and two (2) Light fire teams made three (3) lifts in support of the 173rd Abn Bde on 20 July, moving 162 US troops. All other missions were in support of Operation Aurora II.

u. On the 21 July, the COWBOYS using nine (9) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams repositioned 360 173rd Abn Bde troops in four (4) lifts in support of Operation Aurora II. All other missions were in normal support of the operation.

v. Eight (8) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams conducted fourteen (14) combat assaults, carrying 642 173rd Abn Bde troops, on the 22 of July. Aircraft 735 crashed in one of the LZ's. The aircraft was a total loss; the crew was evacuated with only minor injuries. All other missions were in support of Operation Aurora II.

w. All mission flown on the 23 July were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Aurora II. The FALCON Fire Team sank thirteen (13) sampans and were credited with 2 KIA's. A slick on a medical evacuation mission received one hit while aiding "Dust Off" aircraft in the evacuation of 173rd Abn Bde troops.

x. On 24 July all missions flown were in support of Operation Aurora II. COWBOY 884 received one round while delivering supplies to the forward 173rd Abn Bde element. The pilot was slightly wounded and the aircraft was evacuated to Bien Hoa for repairs. The FALCONS sank sixteen sampans and received credit for one (1) KIA.

y. Nine (9) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams made three (3) lifts while repositioning 162 173rd Abn Bde troops in support of Operation Aurora II on July 25. All other missions were in support of this operation.

z. On the 26 of July ten (10) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams made four(4) combat assaults carrying 240 US troops in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Aurora II. All other missions were in support of this operation.

aa. Ten (10) UH-1D's and two (2) Light Fire Teams repositioned the 4/503 in four combat assaults in support in support of Operation Aurora II, on 27 of July. On the first lift aircraft 571 crashed with a load of six (6) 173rd Abn Bde Troops. There were ten (10) fatalities in the accident. A security platoon was lifted to the crash site. All other missions were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation.

bb. On 28 July all missions flown were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde in Operation Aurora II.

cc. All missions flown on the 29 July were in support of the 173rd Abn Bde Operation Aurora II. Five (5) UH-1D's and one (1) Light Fire Team lifted a large security forces into the crash site of 571 to secure the area so that a CH-47 could recover parts of the wreckage. Aircraft 557 received one round during this lift.

dd. Nine (9) UH-1D's and one (1) Light Fire Team made one combat assault on 30 July repositioning 94 173rd Abn Bde troops in Operation Aurora II. Ten (10) slicks and two (2) Light Fire Teams lifted 240 troops of the 1/503 to the Brigade area in four (4) lifts. All other missions were in normal support of the 173rd Abn Bde.

ee. The COWBOYS were attached to the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion on 31 July for movement of the 173rd Abn Bde back to Bien Hoa. Six (6) extractions were flown moving 360 troops back to their base camp.

II. TRAINING:

a. Due to the operational commitment of this month very little training was accomplished other than training new pilots and crew members reporting into the unit.

III. COMPANY AREA:

Construction beginning on the officers lounge during this month and work continued on individual living quarters.

IV. CIVIL AFFAIRS:

The 25th Medical Detachment continued MED-CAP operations in the Duc TV District.