

HISTORY OF
173RD ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
1 January 1967 - 31 December 1967

ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY
WO CONSTANTINOS G. ZAGKOS
UNIT HISTORIAN

APPROVED BY
ROBERT P. ST. LOUIS
Major, Artillery

173RD ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
APO San Francisco 96289

228-03
228-03

File
WJB

WJB

The new year started off calmly for the Robin Hoods with the first few days spent on "ash and trash" missions. Then on 7 January 1967 things began to happen. Captain Diesing and WO Howe were shot down coming out of an LZ north of Lai Khe. No one was injured, but the aircraft had to be destroyed. LT Wilton and WO Putek also received four hits in their ship.

January 8 brought on the big push - Operation Cedar Falls. 0430 found the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company enroute to Dan Tung where they joined five (5) other companies to lift the 1st Division, 25th Division, 196th Division and 173rd Airborne Brigade into the Iron Triangle in what to this time was the largest single operation in Vietnam. The next few days were spent resupplying and lifting the 1st Division units into the Iron Triangle.

Friday the 13th was certainly an unlucky day for the 3rd Brigade of the Big Red One for on the afternoon of this day our own artillery hit a unit clearing an LZ just west of Ben Cat, killing eight (8) and wounding 34. The Robin Hoods were called upon to medivac those people out of the area.

14 January will always be remembered as the most tragic day in the history of the Robin Hoods. Today the luck of the unit was broken. After flying resupply all morning, the 173rd was called on a tactical emergency in the Song Be Area. While enroute, the ship flown by LT LeGrow and WO Ferris, with SP4 Washington and PFC Epps as crew, suffered a tail rotor failure. The ship spun out of the sky and crashed. It immediately burst into flames with the crew trapped inside. SP4 Washington managed to get out, but was on fire. The wingman of the downed aircraft was on the spot and quickly medivaced SP4 Washington. There was nothing to be done for the other three members of the crew as they burned in the ship. Two days later, SP4 Washington died of burns received in the crash. The men of Sherwood Forest were sad this night, but the Robin Hoods will continue even through such a disaster.

The remainder of January went slowly for the 173rd even though it was filled with many hours of resupply and a few CA's for Cedar Falls and some work with the 9th Division in the Bear Cat Area. The memory of our lost friends still hung in the air and also most of the "original" Robin Hoods were preparing to go home.

The night of 27 January livened up the month with a party for the "old timers" that lasted until the wee hours of the morning.

28 January brought about the close of Operation Cedar Falls with outstanding results and highly regarded words of praise from Generals De Puy, Hollingsworth and Seaman for the Robin Hoods.

Cedar Falls, it was learned, had yielded some 3,294 tons of captured VC rice; 3,550 pounds of peanuts; 7,622 VC uniforms; 421 small arms and 18 crew served weapons. Also 377 Viet Cong were killed, 535 suspects detained and 411 ralliers. And who carried the brunt of the load? The Robin Hoods of course.

29, 30 and 31 January were spent cleaning up the extractions of Operation Cedar Falls. January had been a long and trying month for the Robin Hoods, so what better way to end it than a rousing party in the Blue Boar Inn. A fitting farewell and salute to Robin Hood 6, LTC Pim, who was leaving us for an assignment to 12th Group S-3. Everyone was sorry to see "6" leave as he was an outstanding leader as well as a friend to his men.

February 1 was a full day for the Robin Hoods. We started the day with two CA's, lifting the 173rd Airborne in LZ's north of Ben Hoa. At 1800 hours there was a long overdue awards ceremony with Col Starker and Col Campbell present. Next came the change of command as LTC Pim turned the company over to Major Richard B. Schaefer, the past Executive Officer of the Vultures. A new Robin Hood 6 was crowned.

For the next two days the unit flew ash and trash missions in the Corps. However, 4 February brought the easy living to a screaming halt. 0630 hours found the Robin Hoods enroute to Duc Hoa to lift the 25th ARVN Rangers just west of Duc Hoa, along with the Tomahawks. First lift after preparation by the Cross Bows, some fire was received on departure from the LZ. The 10 Tomahawks received fire on final and departure from the LZ and had three ships shot down in the LZ. The Robin Hoods received fire on the approach into the second LZ, while on the ground, and on departure. The lead ship, flown by CPT Blake and Major Petree took the brunt of the fire getting 21 hits and 3 crew members wounded. CPT Blake was shot in the foot. Major Petree had a round split his helmet and nick his ear. SP4 Kinoshita, the crew chief, had both forearms shattered by enemy fire. Somehow, Major Petree managed to fly the bullet riddled hip to Hotel 3 and medical aid. CPT Blake was sent to Japan to recuperate and is expected to return to the company. SP4 Kinoshita was evacuated to Honolulu, his home, where the doctors say he will suffer partial loss of use in one arm but the other should heal all right. This was a great loss to the Robin Hoods as "Pineapple" as Kinoshita was called, was one of the most professional and well-liked crewchiefs in the unit. Major Petree's ear was patched and he returned to the company that same evening. WO Goodroe, while flying gunship cover was also nicked in the arm, though only slightly. Charlie took his toll of Robin Hoods this day, punching holes in 8 out of 10 ships. However, none were shot down in the LZ and only one had to be left at Duc Hoa. This one, flown by LT Wilton and CPT Culver, had holes in the transmission. Yes, Charlie hit us this day but the wrath of the Robin Hoods shall fall upon him.

The next few days continuing through "Tet" were light for the 173rd and they took advantage of a little time off to rest and relax a little. This also gave maintenance a chance to catch up on the aircraft. After "Tet" the unit went back to work full scale, flying everything from ash and trash to CA's with the Aussies out of Vung Tau.

However, on the 17th of February things began to happen again. While working for the 2/28th Infantry, 1/16th Infantry and 1/2 Infantry on a CA, LT Cornett suffered a tail rotor failure in the refueling area at Phouc Vinh. The aircraft rolled over and crashed. Luckily, no one was hurt.

Then on February 20, after a quite day of standby, Robin Hood was called out on a Tac Emergency in the Bu Dop area. An outpost was being overrun and the 173rd was called upon to lift ARVN Rangers into the area from Song Be. On the first lift into the LZ, sniperfire was received on departure. On the second lift, the number four ship, flown by WO Jewell and WO Hartman, was shot down by intense fire and crashed into the LZ. All the crew got out with the exception of SP4 Weguan, the gunner, who was pinned beneath the aircraft. Despite the enemy sniper fire, LT Wilton and SP4 Visel showed the courage of the Robin Hoods as they rigged a sling to hook to WO Springers and WO Foster's ship to lift the downed aircraft off the trapped gunner. The enemy fire became so intense that the radios and guns were removed from the downed ship and it was destroyed by Air Force Fighters. LT Wilton, WO's Springer and Foster and SP4 Visel were recommended for the Silver Star for this show of courage and heroism in a very adverse situation.

22 February will long be remembered as the largest assault ever put together against the Viet Cong. Seven Assault Helicopter Companies and five Infantry Brigades teamed up to begin Operation Junction City. Of course the Robin Hoods were right in the middle of the Operation. Someone had to keep law and order.

The remainder of February and the first few days of March were spent in support of the Big Red One flying resupply and routine troop movements in conjunction with Operation Junction City.

3 March found the Robin Hoods on a CA in the Tan An area with the 199th Infantry Brigade. There was some sniper fire received in the PZ but none of the ships reported any hits.

4 March started another series of incidents for the Robin Hoods. While enroute to Minh Than for a CA, the ship flown by WO Golden and CPT Keller suffered an engine failure just north of Lai Khe. The Robin Hood professionalism showed through again as WO Golden put the aircraft down in a small hole in the woods. There were no injuries to the crew and only minor damage to the ship.

Then on 7 March, while resupplying out of An Loc, WO Howe had a low-side governor failure and the aircraft crashed and rolled over. No one was hurt but the ship was severely damaged.

The next few days were fairly quiet with III Corps ash and trash missions and routine CA's hauling everyone from the 9th Division to the 25th ARVN Rangers.

16 March was a very long day for the 173rd. At 0200 hours the horn blew and by 0215, 10 Robin Hoods, a light fire team and a C&C ship were enroute to Tan Tru on a tactical emergency. We picked up units of the 9th Division at Tan Tru and proceeded to the landing zone. As the first flight of 5 lifted out, Charlie started dropping mortar rounds into the area. A round exploded directly beneath the No. 3 ship in the second flight flown by WO Springer and WO Broadhurst causing it to crash into the landing zone. Again the Robin Hood luck held and none of the crew was injured other than a few minor scratches and bruises but the skids were severely spread and the aircraft had to be extracted by chinook. There were no other incidents and due to the alertness and professionalism of the Robin Hoods, their first night CA was a complete success. Also, all pilots and crew were recommended by the ground commander for an award.

It seems as though the Robin Hoods handled this first night CA so well that they were given another, the 24th of March. The unit was up at 0100 hours for a 0200 crank and lift south of Saigon. The lift went off as planned and without incident, so the Robin Hoods were off from 0330 until another CA at 0630. The Ton Son Nhut Officers Club was a sad looking place for about 3 hours with all the Robin Hoods asleep on the floor between chairs.

For the remainder of March, the Robin Hoods flew III Corps ash and trash and carried out routine missions throughout the III Corps area in their usual explicit manner. The highlight of the last week of the month of March being pay call in Sherwood Forest.

April began with 11 slicks and four gunships RON in Tan Ninh supporting the 196th Infantry Brigade with a few minor lifts and the rest resupply. On the 11th, the 187th Aslt Hel Co (Blackhawks) became operational and the Robin Hoods returned to Sherwood Forest.

A few days later, while on a lift in Duc Hoa area, WO Murphy had an engine failure and as expected of us, the aircraft was set down as if nothing was wrong. It was later determined that two 30 caliber rounds had punctured the engine oil line.

On the 30th of April we were supporting the 199th Infantry Brigade and airlifted troops for missions to include search and destroy and securing a downed aircraft. Two V's of five marked the sky, with our Cross Bows on both sides, as we flew home with 17 confirmed kills for our gunships and three for our slicks door gunners.

LTC Starker was waiting for us and his speech once again set the rule straight as to who does the real flying. LTC Starker returned on the 5th of May for a decoration ceremony.

At 2030 hours, 30 April we were ready to say goodbye to another month when a mortar attack damaged the runway and three of our aircraft. One of them was turned into our D S unit due to extensive damage. There were 4 WIA's with one of them being med-evaced to the states. Five Cross Bows were in the air within five minutes of impact of the first round. As we sat in the bunkers, their mini-guns poured their deadly note in search of "Charlie."

May saw the dawn of Operation Manhattan, west of the operation area of Cedar Falls and it was a search and destroy in nature, as a large cache of small arms (about 300), mortar rounds, and various booby trap devices were found by Dracula (1/2). This cache was found with the aid of a POW captured in Cedar Falls.

Operation Dallas was launched on the 11th as enemy positions were reported near Phouc Vinh. The Robin Hoods led the pack into the LZ covered with a rain shower, but the Crossbow vectoring once again put the Robin Hoods on top.

On the 24th we relocated three fire support bases within the operational area with no incident.

In the midst of Operation Dallas, 10 May, we celebrated Unit Day and the spirit of crews speaking highly about their aircraft and bragging on their own particular skills, filled the air. Robin Hood songs shook the ground as our men displayed their devotion to their unit and its commander.

Courage, heroism and tragedy brought the eve of the 25th. WO Bunton and WO Jones with SP4 Kirkpatrick and CPL Shappell in UH-1 079 led 087 flown by CPT Keller and WO Bradshaw with PFC Liles and SP4 Jordan on a mission to secure a downed aircraft. Upon inserting the security troops, the two slicks received heavy fire from the enemy. Tac Air, artillery and gunships silenced the enemy position temporarily. Later as the two Robin Hoods took off from the downed aircraft site with the security force, 079's vertical stabilizer and tail rotor were shot off by an enemy recoilless weapon. WO Bunton chopped the power successfully stopping the spinning of the

... saw it on the ground with all passengers and crew receiving minor injuries. Without an aircraft to pick them up and with the enemy at hand they began their walk to the river where a patrol boat picked them up and brought them to safety. In the mean time, 087 barely flyable due to a direct hit on their main rotor blades, landed in a safe area only to find PFC Liles shot in the head and unconscious. He died on the way to the hospital aboard a med-evac helicopter.

On the 20th at 1800 hours we stood at attention in memory of our brave but departed Robinhoods and as the alert horn blew its demanding call and the Crossbow crews scrambled out to the aircraft, we were reminded that the job we are here to do is far from over.

June began with another shock of misfortune. 1LT Cornett and WO Newman with PFC Ward and PFC Exum flew out of Long Binh low level to avoid the artillery. Crossing the river, wires were sighted and the aircraft climbed to avoid them only to put it in the path of a higher strand. In an attempt to control the tangled up aircraft, it hit the ground killing WO Newman, PFC Exum and four of the six passengers.

Once again we stood and saluted our unfortunate comrades only to fill us with the desire to continue with the job at hand as best we knew how in doing our part in this struggle.

We participated in Operation Bluefield from the 5th to the 8th and in Operation Potter Creek on the 10th.

The 11th saw the Robinhoods in the start of Operation Billings working with the Vultures and Tomahawks setting up fire support bases and infantry hold outs as they search for a large unit of VC. Contact was made and the Robin Hoods were there to resupply and the Crossbows were there to cover recon platoons as they marched into the jungle in pursuit.

On the 21st, the Robin Hoods made a night CA as required by Brigade. Battalion Path Finders, Moonglow, (Flare Ship) and six Crossbows for an actual prep of the LZ worked out well as planned and coordinated by Major Anglin the operations officer. All gained from this exercise and we proved it a couple of days later in lifting a security force into a downed aircraft site in the Guan Loi area under darkness, low clouds, and reduced visibility.

On the 25th and 26th the Robin Hoods led the pack as we extracted the troops to bring Operation Billings to a close.

The closing of the month was marked by the grinding stop of a tail rotor failure. CPT Adams was at the controls and exhibited skill and professionalism by bringing the aircraft to the ground without harm to the crew or six passengers. Within two minutes there were five Robin Hoods and three Crossbows at the scene to render assistance and protection.

Thus another month is gone doing our share of flying in the rainy season, night assaults and general support of our ground commanders in a manner which is expected to be the best in the "Rely on Us" Battalion.

July opened for the Robinhoods by extracting the 1st ATF into Luscombe AAR from the field. Accompanied by the Tomahawks, we placed Dobol and Damage along highway 13 south of Quan Loi on the second. This was followed by two days of 1st Infantry Division "ash and trash."

On one typically uneventful day the routine was sharply broken for CPT Anderson and WO McElroy. They responded immediately to a "may day" sent by a downed helicopter in the vicinity of Cu Chi. With close fire support by gunships, two attempts were made to extract the waiting crew while enemy bullets sizzled through the air. Finally, by skillfully zeroing the airspeed and carefully descending into the extremely tight area, the elephant grass gave way to the rotor wash and the downed crew scrambled on board. Immediately CPT Anderson proceeded to a safe area where he ended his heroic deed once again confirming the professionalism and devotion to duty shared by all the Robinhoods.

From the sixth to the eighth of July the Robinhoods led the Vultures and Tomahawks in extracting the remaining elements from along highway 13 to Lai Khe and Di An. On the ninth the Robinhoods met the challenge of Eagle Flights as we lifted mixed ARVN and US troops from the 25th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Duc Hoa. As the long day ended the Crossbows were credited with one confirmed and one estimated enemy kill.

During the morning of the 12th, Eagle flights were performed for the 9th Infantry Division. In the afternoon the Robinhoods resupplied off LST's moored in Song Nha Be river thus adding to the variety of missions that we have accomplished.

The 3/22 Mesh was extracted into Tay Ninh west on the 15th followed by insertions of Daintless from Lai Khe on the 16th and Defiant from Phuoc Vinh on the 17th.

With the assistance of the Tomahawks we airlifted Defiant and Dogface to the vicinity of Tan Uyen on the 19th and 20th. On the 21st while the Robinhoods were operating out of Quan Loi, "Chinaboy" was hit hard by Charlie. We were called upon to med-evac WIA's from a small clearing surrounded by 120 foot tall trees. Under the control of Robinhood Six, we landed ships one by one picking up the wounded and speeding them into Quan Loi thus adding to our long list of faces that smile when a Robinhood is on the scene.

At 0400, on the 23rd of July, we airlifted elements of the 199th LIB to seal a suspected VC village. On the morning of the 27th the horn blew at 0037 for the Crossbows. CPT Moad led his fireteam through the intense darkness in search of the enemy as mortars and rockets rounded the compound of Phouc Vinh. At 0103 two slicks were scrambled and five personnel were lifted to the 93rd Med Evac.

On the 31st, the Robinhoods were working in the Dong Tam area. ARVN troops in the vicinity were hit hard by the Viet Cong and we Med-Evaced 25 troops to Dong Tam.

Leaving July behind with 2609.5 hours logged, we began the month of August by lifting III Corps ARVN's out of Bau Tre and Song Be followed by an ATF extraction into Luscombe. Early in August eight mortar rounds hit Lai Khe. The siren blew its warning and the Robinhoods ran to the bunkers for cover. At that hurried moment a round landed on the runway killing

SP4 Baker and wounding SP4 Herron slightly. After the attack, as the dreadful news spread through the area, the Robinhoods fell silent.

at 0100 on the 7th, the horn called the Crossbows to the "Bridgesight" to aid the Special Forces camp in beating back a ground attack. After the enemy retreated leaving many casualties, the Crossbows, led by CW2 Lindsay, received credit for silencing two of the 50 caliber emplacements and for numerous casualties.

On the tenth, we joined the Thunderbirds in lifting the 25th Infantry Division and again the Crossbows came out on top by bringing down another of the enemy.

On the 14th the ceiling was extremely low as the Robinhoods set out to accomplish their missions. WO Jewel and WO Roberts were flying low level enroute to Phu Loi when automatic weapons fire hit the aircraft wounding both WO Jewel and SP4 Livingston. WO Roberts sped them to the 93rd Evacuation Hospital in time for both to get medical attention. SP4 Livingston recovered quickly, but WO Jewell was shipped to the States. We were grateful when we received news that soon he would regain full use of his leg.

On the 15th WO Jordan and WO Colcuitt had an engine failure on takeoff but the aircraft was skillfully landed despite bad terrain with little damage and no injuries. We participated in operation Witch Hunt in the vicinity of Trai Be on the 16th and Operation Shelby on the 17th. Operation Shelby included a 50 aircraft lift of the 199th LIB in an attempt to put a ring around Charlie in the vicinity of Binh Chaun.

Through the last of the month the Robinhoods lifted Dauntless, Devour, Dobol, Darkness, and Dogface to set up fire support bases. Also they completed general administrative lifts staging out of Lai Khe, Phouc Vinh and Quan Loi. August closed to break a record of flying time for the Robinhoods. 3204 hours had been flown during this busy month.

The robinhoods opened the month of September on the 3rd by standing RRF in Phu Loi with the only mission being one Med-evac to 93rd hospital. On the 4th the Crossbows were scrambled by 1st Brigade. They were credited with one confirmed and one possible kill. Also the 1/28th and 2/16th were lifted to highway 13 and were later resupplied. In the 12th we augmented the 269th Combat Aviation Bn. The Crossbows flew escort. The days results, 5 VC KIA confirmed, 1 VC FIA possible, and 1 VC WIA. On the 13th the Robinhoods led the 11th Combat Aviation Bn and 269th Combat Aviation Bn in sealing three villages with staging out of Lai Khe and Di An.

WO Putek and WO McElroy lost an engine on take off and landed the aircraft with no damage or injuries in an area just large enough to fit one UH-1D. Once again one of our pilots demonstrated the skill that the Robinhoods are known for.

On the 17th, the 11th and 269th Combat Aviation Bn's joined forces under the command of "Black Baron" to work with the 25th Infantry Division. The rest of the month went smoothly working with 3rd Brigade on the 20th, 21st and 22nd. III Corps normal, II FFV and 1st Division "ash and trash" finished the month, broken only by another exhibition of skill when CPT Anderson and WO Perez lost an engine on climb out during the sealing of a village on the 23rd. Once again, no damage, no injuries.

During September, 2554 hours were logged. During this period, LTC Schaefer, Robinhood Six, departed to become Red Dog Five. We felt sad seeing him go, remembering all the times his confident voice came from C&C reassuring us. But the feeling was not all sadness because we knew that Major Sink, our new commanding officer, was not going to do any less in keeping the Robinhoods on top.

The month of October opened when 10 Tomahawks and 5 Bulldogs joined the Robinhoods under the direction of Red Dog 6 to insert elements of the First Division to begin Operation Shenandoah. Later that day the Robinhoods split up to perform Eagle Flights for the 1/16 out of Phouc Vinh as well as First Division general support. Extractions and Eagle Flights were the commitments for 10 Robinhoods and 5 Bulldogs on the second, around Hwy 13. On the fourth 10 Robinhoods, 10 Thunderbirds and 5 Bulldogs inserted Dobol from Phouc Vinh to Chon Thanh and other LZ's in AO Shenandoah. A day of III Corps normal and one of II FFV followed this. On the ninth the Robinhoods were scrambled by the 18th ARVN Division while on Ready Reaction Force at Lai Khe, in order to lift them into an active area South East of Xuan Loc. During this exercise WO Roberts and WO Pearson lost an engine only to set the aircraft down with a superb display of airmanship. On the tenth, Eagle Flights for the 199 LIB were staged out of Tan Tru while on the eleventh, 10 Robinhoods and 10 Vultures inserted elements of the Australian Task Force out of Luscombe. On the 17th, while flying II FFV the Crossbows demonstrated their superior marksmanship by killing 2 VC and destroying 2 structures and 3 bunkers. Shortly after on the 19th, they added 4 VC KBA, 2 structures and 6 bunkers to their credit. The rest of the month consisted of First Division Ash & Trash, III Corps Normal, II FFV and support of Operation Shenandoah, requiring 3022 flying hours for the Robinhoods to meet their commitment.

November 1st, the Robinhoods augmented by 10 Blackhawks lifted a Battalion of the 25th Division in support of the Battle of Loc Ninh. Concurrently the Robinhoods worked in finishing up Operation Shenandoah and moving troops to Qual Loi, An Loc and Loc Ninh as well as performing resupply and numerous Medical Evacuations. On the 6th, while Warrant Officers Jones and Artman were inserting a small party to detonate an armed 500 pound bomb, two VC were spotted and SP4 Brown's lethal machine guns cut the enemy down while the Crossbows sank two sampans and destroyed one bunker.

On the 16th, 10 Robinhoods, 10 Tomahawks, 10 Kingsmen and 10 Greyhounds inserted elements of the 9th Division out of Dong Tam into three LZs, followed by flying 1st Division Ash & Trash. From the 17th through the 20th, 1st Division elements were positioned to complete the securing of Hwy 13. November 21st, II FFV kept the Robinhoods and Crossbows busy working AO Moon River ending up with 15 VC confirmed killed and 4 bunkers destroyed and 1 damaged. The remainder of the month, RKF and 1st Division Ash & Trash kept the Robinhoods busy. A total of 2822 flying hours were logged for the month. The routine was broken on the 22nd when Robinhood 6, Major Sink, departed Sherwood Forest to become Red Dog 3. Only the Robinhoods could know how deserving he was of his new job, and the pride we felt when Major St. Louis returned to the Robinhoods, not to carry his old callsign of 26 but rather as Commanding Officer of the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company that is accepted as the best in Army Aviation.

9th Division ARVN were lifted on the 1st of December on Hwy 1, East of Nui Be Mountain, followed by Eagle Flights out of Bear Cat on the 3rd with 1 VC KBA from a slick gunner and 5 VC KBA by the Crossbows who sustained a 50 Caliber hit but with no injuries.

On the 8th of December, the Robinhoods took part in opening Operation Yellowstone as 6 Assault Helicopter Companies lifted troops from Day Tieng, Soui Dat, and Tay Ninh into Katum and to the west. In the afternoon of the same day, 9th Division Eagle Flights were staged out of Rach Kien by the Robinhoods. The Crossbows were scrambled on the night of the 10th to Quan Loi, where they were credited with 15 estimated VC KBA. Later that day, they were credited with sinking three sampans and destroying one bunker for Moon River. From the 12th to the 21st, missions ranging from supporting 52nd ARVN Regiment by Gia Ray Mountain and the Royal Tai Army southwest of Bear Cat to the 199th LIB. 9th Division Eagle Flights were also flown. On the 22nd, while flying 1st Division Ash and Trash, WO De Maranville and WO Benston were engulfed by a cloud of dust on takeoff from a field location when consirtina wire caught the aircraft, inverting it and killing SP4 Fuller, the crew chief. SP4 Pittman and the two devoted Pilots required evacuation to the states. Painfully realizing once more the everpresent dangers other than the enemy here in Vietnam, we continued our work with Robinhood professionalism and devotion to duty. A May-Day was heard over guard by WO Brown and WO Stanley on the 28th and response was instantaneous as the Robinhood aircraft sped to the site, securing the aircraft and crew with the Infantry passengers aboard. Proving once more the flexibility used to assist each other and thwart the enemy at all times.

The year of 1967 came to an end logging 29,286 flying hours as the Robinhoods celebrated the Holidays and waited anxiously to lead the way and set the standards in the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion and all Aviation Companys in Vietnam for the coming year.