

## From Phillip Horne

Outlaw II did not crash she brought us home. Many bullet holes but nothing to bring her down. One window shot out, lots of vibration from holes in the tail Rotor drive shaft but she brought us home.

We left Vinh Long right after daybreak and meet the ARVN soldiers at TanHeip airfield. Just a dirt strip large enough for C-130 type aircraft. the object was only 10 or 15 minutes of the end of the runway. VC had been reported camping in a small canal and well dug-in. Our gun ships re-conned the area at very low level (200 feet) but received no fire and saw bunkers in which the camouflage vegetation was brown and dried up. Our command suspected another dry run in which we were probably days late. It was decided to drop the troops and see what was there. Two flights of nine ships each. We were the lead ship of the first flight.

As we approached the LZ marked with smoke by the gunships, command ship called an told us to over fly the smoke and move closer. The LZ would have been divided by a dike in the rice paddies. The dike had a row of trees growing along the top. Trees about 12 or 15 feet high. So we flew directly over the trees but had to go in quiet close because we had eight more Huies behind us in the first flight. We were to close and were ambushed by ground fire, as the troops unloaded they were tumbling. I opened fire and started screaming over the radio intercom. Get us out of here, the rounds were so close I could feel them passing. They snap like a pencil breaking but the aircraft noise covers everything else. As we climbed out, I continued to fire and as we moved away, I looked over to check on Dennis. He had turned loose of his gun it was just sitting on the mount. He had leaned back on his elbow but his seat belt would not let him fall over onto the seat, he was bad hit. I reported to the pilot, he turned the flight over to number two and we broke formation for a direct flight to the airstrip.

I attempted first aide but Dennis had caught a round through his left wrist, which was across his body to hold the gunstock, that same round caught his chest. I think just above the heart. There was no blood, just a round penetration wound and nothing I could do to help. We had a doctor in a Med Evac chopper waiting at the airstrip and we got there very quickly.

Dennis was still alive but they lost him in the flight to the field hospital.

Ray, I hope this helps it has been difficult to write. All vets have guilt problems, as why he and not me. I've always wanted to tell you and his family that he did not suffer he was hit quickly and as I recall never fired his gun that day.

Please forgive me for not finding you sooner.

If I can help just ask.

Phil Horne