

Dave Logan & A/C 63-8707

Aircraft with a story

When I was in the Mavericks, in 1965, I usually flew 63-8707. It was one of the Decca ships. When I went back to Vietnam in 1968, 63-8707 was one of the gunships in my company, the 335th Assault Helicopter Company at Thuy Hoa, north of Nah Trang. It had been home for its 2,500 hour rebuild and reassigned to Vietnam again. Since, by 1968, “D” and “H” models were doing all the slick work, and not everybody had “C” model gunships, the old “B” model was a gunship again.

I was the XO of the company and didn't fly gunships anymore, so I didn't get to fly it. We had a Maintenance Detachment commander that was only Huey rated in Ds and Hs, but not in B models. When he worked on the gunships and needed a test flight done, he had a gun platoon pilot assigned to do those test.

Late one afternoon when the gun platoon was off on mission, one of the gunships went down in the field with a ruptured hydraulic line, the crew was picked up and brought back to base to take another gunship to continue the mission. The maintenance team and some security were taken out to replace the broken line. When the Maintenance Officer's team had finished the repair he had no gun pilots available to fly it back. Since I was on the ground that afternoon he asked me to fly it back and flew me out to the site. The downed ship turned out to be my old friend, 63-8707.

Dave Logan