



BELL UH

Had a career extending well over 40 years

History

Introduced in 1962, the Iroquois served effectively in many operations around the world. First designated HU, for Helicopter Utility, it is widely known as the Huey, and is the most recognised helicopter in the world, mainly due to its operations in Vietnam and its distinctive sound.

Subsequent models were designated the UH-1 series. The Iroquois' tasks included insertion and extraction of troops (often under fire), re-supply and medical evacuation (dust offs). In the late 1980s, all Blackhawk and Iroquois battlefield helicopters were transferred from the RAAF to the Army. The 25 Iroquois continued to be used for training and general support for the Army as well as United Nations missions and aid to the civil community.

Saved by the 'Huey'. *The Iroquois played a key role during 6 RAR, D Company's battle at Long Tan.*

While in Vietnam, Australians fitted out some Iroquois as 'gun-ships', to reduce reliance on American attack helicopters. An unofficial 'Aussie scrounging mission' saw an Iroquois mysteriously leave loaded with cartons of Victoria Bitter and Tarax soft drink, and return with rocket pods and mini-guns sufficient to kit out the first 'bushranger' gun-ship. Official approval and purchase of four modification kits was later secured in March 1969.