

SHORT MISSIONS

Compiled by David Shows

Just like **FRIENDLY FIRE**, these are comments extracted from the guestbook of our webpage.

Recently we had an exchange on the shortest missions guys could remember, that I thought might peak your interest and get you to join in on the site, or perhaps write up a memory of your own and send it to Bill Carpenter for this Newsletter, the web site, or just to be shared and added to our collective memory of that time.

Following are some of the postings that followed. Remember these have been extracted from the web site where other discussions were going on at the same time such as an in depth intellectual discussion of friendly fire incidents.

(My apologies to original authors, I used spell check on these after copying)

Doug Parkinson - Excluding Ones You Were Shot Out Of; Tiger Mts out of Uplift. TL jumped a little too soon (crew chief told him to wait) and broke his ankle (at least he came back from the aid station with a cast on). Birds circled and picked us back up. ATL

Dave Shows - Shortest mission I can recall I think Jim Mc Donald was TL and Mike Tibbetts was ATL. We had been in less than a day and were making our way minding our own business, just digging on ourselves when we were notified that the area we were in was scheduled for an "Arc Light" bombing (an apparent error in coordination / planning). We were given a short period of time (less than an hr as I recall), to get to a specific location outside of our AO for pick up. Caution to the wind we hauled ass. We were extracted and didn't even get to watch the fireworks.

Earl McCann - Had a couple that lasted about an hour. One with Elias took us 45 minutes to get down the mt, but only 15 to make it back to the top.

Wild Bill Elliot - I think my shortest mission was on was when Al Gambrell broke his leg.

Editor: this comment produced this issues "Historical Occurrences, Gambrell's last mission.

Jim Bracewell - I remember one mission that lasted only a few minutes. The LZ looked ok from the air during the flyover with Ron Hall, but when we got there it had a "false floor" of fallen bamboo. We had to hover, and the guys jumped from about three or four feet. As soon as we took off, we had to turn back and pick up the team. A couple of the team had injured their legs (ankles?) when they jumped. There is a fuzzy picture of the LZ a little over half-way down page four of my website. Anyone remember it? I remember a radio was lost, and we burned the LZ in an attempt to destroy it. Probably during the first half of 1967. Jim.

I have been informed that the aborted mission I referred to earlier happened on Feb 11, 67. The team leader was Jim Burton, who ended up wearing a cast for quite some time. Cheers,

Jim

Doug Parkinson - Perhaps Sgt Carr holds the record for consecutive missions he was shot out on.

Wild Bill Elliot - don't remember who was there but we were shot out (hot lz), and choppers shot out (hot pz) and re-inserted to the same ao 4 times on thanksgiving '68.. Never did get any first of the ninth turkey as I remember... found a lot of gooks tho

Jim Bracewell - I have been informed that the aborted mission I referred to earlier happened on Feb 11, 67. The team leader was Jim Burton, who ended up wearing a cast for quite some time. Cheers,

Wild Bill Elliot - yep.. the plf was a daily work-out off a bunker at Phouc Vinh. Lots of legs being broken on insertion then in early '69

Peter "Dutch" Eisentrager At the end, I was just a fill-in-for-who-ever team. We were about half way out to go on a mission....I think "Windy's" team....when the pilot got a call,....they looked at me and did an about-face. Dropped me off at Evan's with a plane getting ready to take off, I headed home. What a trip that whole thing was. I left the country in nothing flat. Another whole story when I got back.