

Bisons Extract Troops Despite Jungle



'The tall trees and heavy loads complicated things...but the pilots did a beautiful job.'

2-16-69

Juy Lee X



HELICOPTER DROPS 200 FEET INTO TRIPLE-CANOPIED JUNGLE TO EXTRACT IVYMEN.

RUGGED TERRAIN and triple-canopied jungle prevented slicks from extracting Ivy-men of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, during heavy fighting northeast of Plei Djereng.

In the time of distress, the "Shamrocks" of Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, who normally fly reconnaissance patrols in the Light Observation Helicopter (LOH), responded to the emergency with lightning precision.

"It was hazardous and treacherous terrain, to say the least," recalled First Lieutenant Ronald E. Squires of Santa Clara, Calif., a Shamrock pilot describing the area near Chu Pa Mountain.

Enlarge Bomb Crater

Through the use of a chain saw which had been lowered to them, the ground forces were able to enlarge a bomb crater large enough for one LOH to land at a time.

Five more LOH's were rounded-up and one at a time, they descended through the 200-foot-thick jungle foliage.

Speedy Extraction

The LOH's could only extract two Ivy-men at a time, but the speed and accuracy with which they worked proved to be enough aid.

"The tall trees and heavy loads complicated things," said Specialist 4 Clifford R. Toye of Camden, N.J., a LOH crew chief, "but the pilots did a beautiful job."

For their actions, Lieutenant Colonel R.D. Renick, battalion commander, and 11 other members of Delta Troop received the Army Commendation Medal from Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division commander, at a special impact awards ceremony.

Other Ivy-men honored were Captains Augustine Vendetti, Robert D. King, First Lieutenants Thomas P. Smith, Ronald E. Squires, Masters Robert F. Freese, Paul L. Harp, Specialist 5 Gordon D. Haines, Jr., Specialists 4 Mike Huwe, Edmond D. Nugent, Allan R. Struss and Clifford R. Yoye.