

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 AIR CAVALRY TROOP, 11th ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
 APO San Francisco 96257

AVIC-WC

14 January 1972

SUBJECT: Unit History for December 1971

The ARVN drive into Cambodia continued in December. Starting at Krek the drive aimed for Dambe and the Chup Rubber Platation, along a major stronghold for NVA forces in Cambodia. The Air Cavalry Troop was taken from its direct support role with the 25th ARVN Division and assigned to ARVN III Corps. Working out of Tay Ninh West and Thien Ngon the troop ran missions from Krek west and northwest to Dambe and the Chup.

As usual the basic mission of the troop was to run visual reconnaissance missions of selected areas to provide intelligence information for higher headquarters. Often times these missions included analysis of heavy airstrikes to determine effectiveness or acquire targets or locations for further airstrikes. The mission was similiar to that they accomplished on the previous years drive into the same area.

The troop also came to the assistance of both air and ground elements involved in the operation providing gun cover for troops in contact or downed aircraft. Regretably this turned out to be one of our own which was shot down with the loss of its crew, WO1 Thomas Skiles and 1LT Peter Forame, while conducting a visual reconnaissance mission. Ground to air fire was particularly heavy in this area and heavy airstrikes and tactical airstrikes were called in repeatedly.

At this stage of the operation ARVN units were withdrawing from the exposed positions and the troop primarily concerned itself with screening this operation and the assessment of bomb strikes damage. The troop continued to provide this assistance until the ARVN forces had regained their jumping off points.

Second Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was still conducting patrolling and reconnaissance in face operations in and out around the Koi Tai Woods, which had settled down to a very quiet area due to previous operations. The Air Cavalry Troop continued to support these operations with pink teams for first and last light of the area of operations and on call recon and fire support. The Aerial Rifle Platoon saw further use on patrols both recon and ambush.

The troop again recognized the accomplishments of its individuals at an awards and decoration ceremony at which LTC Stokes, Squadron Commander presented awards for valor and achievement to the officers and men.

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