

# 'Whole night was just like a nightmare'

**TAM KY**—Late in the afternoon, Co. C of 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., was observing Marine jets bomb a heavily concentrated NVA position seven miles southwest of here.

After the bombing missions were completed, Co. C moved into a thickly wooded area on its approach to the destroyed NVA positions.

It began receiving intense weapons fire from the front where the airstrikes had taken place and also from a woodline on the right flank. Minutes later the rear

platoon began receiving rounds from the enemy weapons.

The company was also getting attacked by an enemy on-line ground assault.

**Within minutes** the besieged company was surrounded by two or more companies of NVA soldiers.

The Americans began receiving 82mm mortars on their position. "I could actually see the mortar rounds coming down," said Lt. Randall Clark.

"I had my men set up a hasty perimeter" said Capt. Ernie Carrier.

A helicopter with the badly needed resupply of ammunition attempted to land in the small perimeter when the enemy directed a hail of bullets at the chopper. With all the enemy's firepower aimed at the helicopter, the pilot pulled out of the area.

Pfc. Mike Karos and Hull provided complete security with their two M60 machineguns against the all-night enemy thrust at the other end of the perimeter.

**"The Spooky** aircraft had to fire his

mini-guns so close some of the rounds landed inside the perimeter," Carrier said. "The whole night was just like a nightmare, like something you'd read about in a true adventure magazine."

In the morning several ARVN units swept through the valley, killing 14 NVA and finding 11 enemy that had been killed by aircraft.

Co. C found 34 NVA lying dead outside their perimeter and captured four AK47 rifles, one RPG rocket launcher and a large amount of NVA equipment.