

4 Days of Jungle Fighting

Que Son Battle Rages On

SAIGON (UPI)—Hundreds of U.S. infantrymen, fighting 120-degree heat and an enemy they couldn't see, battled a Communist division Friday for control of a northern jungle valley, military authorities said.

The battles raged at the northern and southern tips of Que Son valley, a 10-mile basin wedged between the rugged mountain ridgelines near Tam Ky, 340 miles northeast of Saigon.

Although supported by scores of air strikes and thousands of artillery rounds, the GIs were unable to penetrate the Commu-

nist-infested jungles to determine how many of their enemy had been killed.

But spokesmen said the intense fighting around "Million Dollar Hill" had claimed more than 400 Communist dead this week, including at least 122 Thursday.

Initial reports said at least five Americans were killed and seven wounded Friday. The four-day battle has cost the Americal Div. more than 35 dead and 75 wounded, spokesmen said.

Intelligence sources said it was believed the entire 2nd North Vietnamese Div. with up

to 5,000 seasoned troops was operating in the valley, about 25 miles inland from the South China Sea.

The division includes support units and 15 antiaircraft companies armed with about 30 powerful .51-cal. machine guns, sources said.

The fighting around Tam Ky began Tuesday when Red gunners shot down a UH1 Huey helicopter.

But after four days of fighting, U.S. infantrymen still had not reached the crash site in the southern tip of Que Son valley by nightfall Friday.

Examination of the
Horn