

JULY 1965

Still more experience was gained during this month. More missions were flown and again on the 4th of July near Soc Trang, the company participated in another operation.

An estimated Viet Cong battalion was suspected of being deployed South of the airfield, along a canal line six miles away. The "slicks" loaded with troops landed literally on top of the enemy and a total of 157 Viet Cong dead were counted at the end of the operation. WO Edwin B. O'Quinn received the Purple Heart for a wound on the upper left arm as a result of enemy fire during the lift.

Duty continued, training directives and memos were received and complied with. Some pertained to pilot training, some pertained to types of formations, some pertained to the behavior of the troops and the rest end recreation programs.

On 9 July, the first casualty of the company was officially listed in the daily log. The man, IFC James A. Hall, was killed in action while participating on an operation Northeast of Soc Trang near the town of Go Cong. The soldier was a crew chief on one of the company's aircraft.