

OCTOBER 1965

Many of our experienced aviators went home this month and we have many new replacements. Our aircraft supported missions north of Saigon this month. The company flew in the area around the "Iron Triangle." The "Warriors" also supported Australian troops who are rough and ready soldiers and are excellent guerilla fighters.

NOVEMBER 1965

On 22 November 1965 at approximately 0135 hours, 75mm Recoilless Rifle rounds fell on Soc Trang Airfield. An estimated 33 shells exploded damaging buildings, hangars, and the runway. Fourteen American troops were wounded, and one died as a result of the injuries he received. Several aircraft had to be grounded as the result of the action.

The Viet Cong had placed their weapons approximately 6000 yards South Southeast of the runway. Many of the enemy were killed and wounded when the "T-Birds" retaliated with rocket and machine gun fire.

Captain Robin Miller, platoon leader of the gun ships received wounds in the stomach and forehead from mortar shrapnel as he readied his aircraft for flight.

November gave birth to a new weapon. Known as "Swatter", this 50 Cal. machine gun mounted on a helicopter was the idea of the company commander Major Donald J. Elmore. It created panic among the enemy when they found themselves at the business end of the "Swatter." As the troops that fly the "Swatter" said, "To see the tracers is like watching red baseballs being thrown and every one of them is a strike."