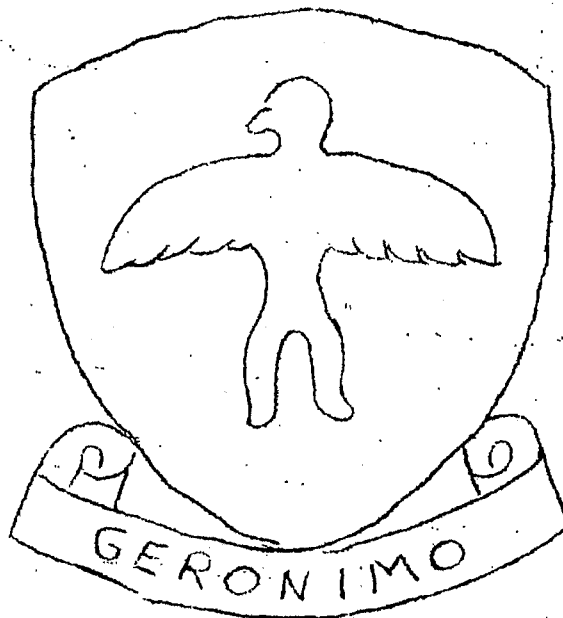


UNIT HISTORY
(1969)



"DRIVE ON"



ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT
TO THE HISTORY OF THE
2d BATTALION, 501st INF (AMBL)
101st AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96383

ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT TO HISTORY
OF THE
2d BATTALION (AIRMOBILE), 501st AIRBORNE INFANTRY

1 January 1969 - 31 December 1969

PREPARED BY

✓ MAJ JAMES T. O'CONNELL

MSG RICHARD L. QUICK

OFFICE OF THE S3

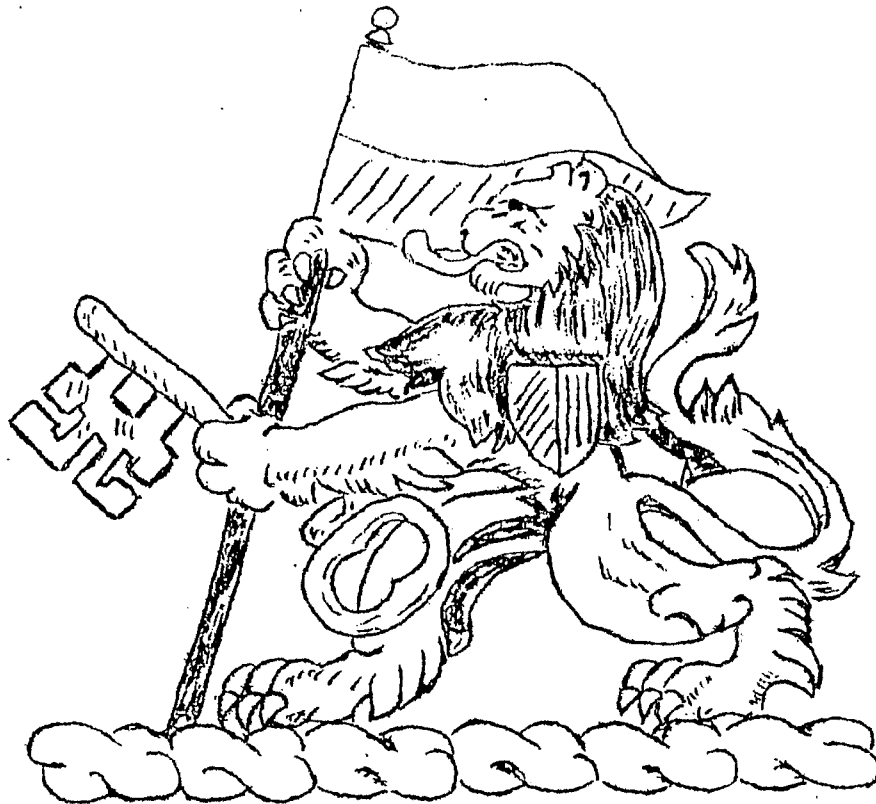
APPROVED BY

✓ BOBBY F. BRASHEARS
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, INFANTRY
COMMANDING

HEADQUARTERS
101st AIRBORNE DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY PACIFIC



CREST OF THE COAT OF ARMS, 501st INFANTRY

BLAZON

CREST:

On a wreath argent and azure a lion rampant or langued and armed gules charged on the shoulder with an escutcheon per pale of the like and of the second and holding in his right paw a staff bend sinisterwise of the third flying a standard per fess of the second and of the third, and his left paw a key bendwise of the last.

SYMBOLISM

The blue and yellow standard is the official standard of the town of Veghel, Holland. It was presented by the town to the old 501st in honor of their efforts in liberating the village from the enemy. The lion refers to the position of Bastogne as a focal point of the German counterattack.



DISTINCTIVE UNIT ISIGNIA

SHIELD: Argent an Ojibway (Chippewa) thunderbird azure garnished gules.

MOTTO: Geronimo.

The colors blue and white indicate the Infantry nature of the organization. The thunderbird is an appropriate symbol for a parachute battalion. The motto has its origin in a cry uttered in a maiden jump of the test platoon and is now tradition with the 501st Parachute Battalion.

The description given in the original approval is as shown above.

- DEDICATION -

This chapter of our history is being written during the course of a ruthless war. Being at war, we dedicate this chapter to those of our brothers-in-arms, friends and companions, who so gallantly gave their lives on the field of battle; to those who shed their blood in the paddies, jungles, mountains and rivers of Vietnam, hallowing the ground where they marched and fell; To all of those who fought so bravely, so that the ideals of our beloved Constitution, and the sacred honor of our land and people may never fade from this earth. To our beloved Stars and Stripes, which so many cherish so much.

"DRIVE ON"

PREFACE

The purpose of this annual supplement is to chronicle the activities of the 2-501st Airborne Infantry during the year 1969. It was a period when the battalion was locked in combat with a resourceful enemy - a period when the battalion responded to the many challenges it faced with a professionalism, dedication, and devotion to duty which have characterized the battalion throughout its history.

It is hoped that this supplement will pay tribute to those who made the extreme sacrifice and that their deeds will serve as standards for the rest of us who remain to carry on the mission.

"DRIVE ON"

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3. NARRATIVE

a. Combat Operations:

(Period 1-31 Jan 69)

The new year found the 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry conducting reconnaissance in Force (RIF) operations in their assigned Area of Operation (AO). In addition, the battalion continued to improve on, and provide security for Fire Support Base (FSB) Birmingham, Boyd, Panther II and the Pohl Bridge. Numerous huts and bunker complexes (from 4-15 huts) were found by all companies. The majority of these complexes were estimated to be from 2-3 weeks old and had been occupied within the last 48 hours prior to their discovery. Contact was sporadic throughout the month with all companies encountering fire from the enemy in estimated groups of 2-10 personnel carrying AK-47s and RPGs. The most significant find during the month was made by Alpha Company in the vicinity of IC798928 consisting of 15 bunkers, 16 graves. Each grave contained one NVA. Wounds indicated the NVAs died either of Aerial Rocket Artillery (AAA) and/or small arms fire. Enemy equipment captured included individual weapons, mortar rounds and small arms ammunitions.

(Period 1-28 Feb 69)

The 2d Battalion, 501st (AMBL) continued RIF operations and security missions of the FSB's within the assigned AO during February. Numerous huts and bunkers were located by each company (average per company 15 huts/bunkers). Most of the bunkers located were about 4'x5' and had one to two feet of overhead cover. Sporadic type contact was made throughout the month by all companies of the battalion. All contacts made were usually of short duration and involved an estimated 1-5 man enemy size force. One contact made by A company resulted in three enemy KIA and two enemy WIA. The majority of enemy equipment captured this month consisted of 60mm mortar and 82mm mortar ammunition.

(Period 1-31 Mar 69)

Operation Massachusetts Striker commenced on 1 Mar 69. The 2d Bn, 501st (AMBL) moved from an AO surrounding FSB's Birmingham and Boyd to a new AO adjacent to and overlooking the A Shau Valley. The Bn command post (CP) was established on FSB Whip, along with the 2d Bde CP. Numerous huts and bunker complexes were located by D Co consisting of seventy plus (70+) huts which included a classroom and a dispensary. Numerous sporadic type contact was made with enemy forces varying in size from one or two men enemy force to squad size enemy elements. Most contacts were of short duration with the enemy breaking contact (hit and run). An estimated enemy platoon size force attempted to break D Co night defensive positions. The enemy failed in its mission and were repelled. Three enemy were killed by actual body count (BC) in the encounter. Enemy equipment captured this month consisted of individual weapons. Many huts and bunkers were destroyed.

(Period 1-30 Apr 69)

The 2d Bn 501st Inf continued RIF operations and FSB Security missions within the assigned AO during April. Numerous hut and bunker complexes were located and destroyed. The largest complex consisted of a sapper training area which included mockup of wire fences, concertina wire and US type bunkers. Sporadic contacts were made with enemy forces varying from one or two individuals to squad size elements. Contacts lasted usually only a short while with the enemy breaking contact. Contact was made by A Co on 4 different occasions on the same day with one lasting 55 minutes. The enemy equipment captured consisted mainly of 60mm and 82mm

Period 1-31 May 69)

The month of May brought many changes for the 2/501 with the "DRIVE ON" Bn's participation in Massachusetts Striker came to a close and the beginning of Apache Snow while OPCON to the 3d Bde. On the morning of 8 May, a change of Command ceremony was held for the departing CO, LTC Joseph C Wilson and LTC Robert L German assumed command of the 2/501. Headquarters and AO's were changed twice from FSB Whip to FSB Airborne and then on to FSB Eagles Nest the present location of the Tactical Operations Center. Contacts with the enemy were frequent ranging from squad size to multiple company size. On the 13th FB Airborne came under a heavy mortar and RPG fire and a ground assault by approximately 2 NVA Co's. A Co who at the time secured FSB Airborne, repelled the attack which came from the NE and NW lasting 2 hours. A significant amount of enemy equipment was captured consisting of numerous 60 and 82mm mortar rounds, 82mm mortar tube, light machine guns, AK-47's, SRS's and numerous small arms ammo.

Combat Operations: (cont)

(Period 1-30 Jun 69)

On 9 Jun 69 the 2/501 assumed control of FSB Birmingham and our new operation (Kentucky Jumper) and A Co leaving the operations control of the 3d Bde and under the control of the 2d Bde once again. Contact with the enemy was very light this past month with only one significant contact involving D Co at 0945 on 1 June. D Co received approximately ten rounds of 60mm mortar fire in the Night Defensive Position (NDP) in the vicinity of YD333001. FSB Birmingham on 10 June received 10-15 60mm rounds from the vicinity YD709060, all the rounds fell short and on the far side of the river. The only bunker complex found during the month was by A Co on the 7th of June in the vicinity of YD333025 consisting of eight bunkers 4'x6' and with 3' of overhead cover each.

(Period 1-31 Jul 69)

The Bn continued with the mission of securing FSB's and conducting RIF operations in the assigned AO. Numerous contacts were made throughout the month affecting B and D Co's. On the 10th at 1145, B Co was in contact with a squad size force, receiving small arms and RPG fire resulting in 2 NVA KIA and 1 POW. On the 24th, Delta Co was in contact with 3 or 4 NVA at YD581110 resulting in 3 NVA KIA and capturing 3 AK-47s. A Co on the 26th while on RIF operations in the vic of YD354025 found 7 NVA KIA by small arms and shrapnel approximately 1 day old. Numerous hut and bunker complexes were found by both A and D Co's. The largest was found by D Co in the vic of YD582120 to 584123, containing 15-20 hooches - 8 of which were 15'x20', and six were 30'x50' with at least two tunnel entrances.

(Period 1-31 Aug)

The Bn with the mission of securing fire bases and conducting RIF operations in the assigned AO. Numerous light contacts were made by all units in the AO. On the 5th, B Co was in contact with NVA squad in the vic of YD522119 resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 AK-47 captured. On the 16th, D Co made contact with an NVA squad in the vicinity of 577134 resulting in 1 US KIA and 1 AK-47 captured. Recon ambushed 8 NVA on the 27th in the vic of 592068 and reported four NVA KIA. A sweep of the area at first light revealed 1 NVA KIA, 1 AK-47 and signs of 3 additional bodies that were dragged off. Numerous hut and bunker complexes were found by all units in the AO. These bunkers averaged 12'x12' and approximately 1-6 months old but showed sign of recent use. A VC/NVA base camp was found in the vic of YD597054 consisting of bunkers 4'x5' with 3' of overhead cover and numerous small foxholes placed around the perimeter.

(Period 1-30 Sep 69)

During the period 1-3 Sep the Bn continued to secure FSB Birmingham, Arsenal and Pohl Bridge, conducting saturation and ambush operations. On 4 Sep the 2/501 closed on LZ Sally and began an intensive 7 day refresher training for all personnel. The 11th of Sep marked the end of the training program, and the Bn resumed saturation patrolling and night ambushes within the AO. On 22 Sep Co B 2/501 and 326th Eng moved to FSB Bastogne to reopen and prepare defensive positions. A cordon operation was conducted during the period of 27-29 Sep by Bn (-) in the vic of YD6925 to YD7020. D/1/501 was OPCON for operations. Upon completion of the cordon Co's A and C became OPCON to 1/501 with D and C Co's preparing defenses at FSB Bastogne. Contact in the AO was non-existent for the period. On 19 and 20 Sep ambushes were sprung. Daylight sweeps of the kill zone on the following morning yielded negative results.

(Period 1-31 Oct 69)

The 2/501 continued saturation patrolling and night ambushes within assigned AO during Oct. Several hut and bunker complexes were located and destroyed. The largest (being located by Co A) consisted of 21 bunkers 5x12 with 1 foot of overhead cover. Light contacts were made with enemy forces varying from one to three individuals. Enemy equipment captured consisted of 60mm and 82mm mortar rds and small arms rds, also seven SKS rifles, three AK-47s, two 9mm pistols, and 2 small small machine guns.

Combat Operations (cont)

(Period 1-30 Nov)

During the month of Nov the 2-501 conducted many varied types of missions. One artillery raid was conducted to FSB Zon with B Co providing security. Many radar raids were conducted by E Co. Numerous bunkers and huts were destroyed by each company. A Co had 1 NVA KIA in the AO vic FSB Bastogne. On 11 Nov the Bn moved back to LZ Sally to conduct Refresher Training. On 13 Nov the Bn was alerted to move north and go OPCON to 1-5 (M) Div. All companies made a Combat assault vic YD603635. While in this new AO each company made contact; made at least 1 combat assault a day and had LZ. The Bn was complimented on the outstanding job it did while operating with the 1-5th Div (M). The entire operation was a demonstration of the Airmobile Concept. On 19 Nov the Bn resumed refresher training at LZ Sally. On 28 Nov the Bn moved back to FSB Bastogne to continue saturation patrolling and night ambushes.

Period 1-31 Dec 69)

All companies conducted saturation patrolling and squad or platoon size ambushes in the 2-501 AO. C & D Companies completed a total of ten LZ's for possible future use. Several recently used sleeping positions were found and 23 bunkers were found and destroyed. Recon platoon began a combined patrolling operation with the Recon platoon of the 2-3 ARVN. On 2 Dec the mortar platoon set up a road block on Hwy 547 to prevent woodcutters from entering 2-501 AO. All units with the exception of C Co secured and improved the defenses of FSB Bastogne on a round robin basis. A Co conducted RIF operations SW of Bastogne and constructed two 1 ship LZ's at YD649086 and YD 620116. They conducted 6 squad sized ambushes at night. At YD642115 they found 7 graves approx 8 months old and checked out a suspect B-40 Launch site at YD612125 with neg results. On 14 Dec at 1140 hrs they became OPCON to 2d Bde, 3d ARVN Regt. B Co also conducted RIF operations SW of Bastogne and on 14 Dec were extracted to YD580000 to secure D Co 27th Eng who were improving Hwy 547. Co C constructed a total of 6 one ship LZ's (YD560063, 560058, 605061, 562075, 618853, 5806038) and ambushed in platoon sized elements at night. On 14 Dec they were extracted to Bastogne in CH-47's to Eagle Beach. C Co returned to Bastogne on the 16th and continues to secure the base. D Co secured Bastogne during this week. They found one bunker 4x2x3' at YD612095 and constructed a 1 ship LZ at YD633083. A one day saturation patrol mission vic YD6006 produced negative results. Recon platoon conducted saturation patrolling with the Recon plt 2d Bn, 3d ARVN Regt until 10 Dec when they returned to 2-501 control and CA into YD6198. On 13 Dec they were extracted to Bastogne and inserted into YD624965 on 14 Dec. They conducted RIF operations in the area around the LZ and were extracted to Bastogne at 1630. They are now on standby due to bad weather. The mortar platoon established a roadblock at YD624965 to prevent woodcutters from entering the 2-501 AO. On 11 Dec the roadblock was move to YD650994 where they searched all non-military vehicles and personnel entering AO. A squad of the mortar plt and a radio relay team were inserted into YD654028 on 15 Dec. In addition to our units we received the 1st Co, 2d Bn, 3d ARVN Regt OPCON on 14 Dec at YD591004. This company has been conducting RIF operations and ambushes in vic YD7502. A Co became OPCON to 2d Bn, 3d Bde ARVN on 19 Dec. They conducted RIF operations N of Bastogne and cut three 1 ship LZ's. On 21 Dec A Co secured Bastogne while their 1st plt secured the LCU ramp in Hue. A Co is continuing this mission at this time. C Co secured D Co 27th Eng vic of FSB Blaze. They had a 2 day stand-down at Eagle Beach and they were combat assaulted SW of FSB Bastogne to cut LZ's west and NW of Bastogne. They are continuing this mission at this time. D Co moved down Hwy 547 for 6 K's and conducted saturation patrols until 26 Dec. On 26 Dec, D Co CA into vic YD657086, 660598, and 673997 at this time. Mortar plt continues its roadblock on Hwy 547 and with the commo section has manned a radio relay in vic YD654026 since 26 Dec. This unit also participated in Operation Holly on 25 Dec with sections from each element attending. A Co continues to secure FSB Bastogne. The 1st plt returned from the Hue LCU ramp on 31 Dec. A Co also provided security for Operation Lifesaver and conducted recon patrols north of Bastogne. B Co conducted recon if force operations SE of FSB Bastogne. They conducted ambushes at night vic Trail Red. C Co conducted saturation patrolling west and NW of FSB Bastogne vic Trail Red and conducted night ambushes along the trail. D Co cut 2 one ship LZ's while conducting RIF operations south of Bastogne.

ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL

COMMANDERS AND STAFF 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1969

Battalion Commander

LTC JOSEPH C. WILSON
LTC ROBERT L. GERMAN
LTC BOBBY F. BRASHEARS

1 Jan - 7 May 69
8 May - 21 Oct 69
22 Oct - 31 Dec 69

Executive Officer

MAJ WALLACE S. CRAIN
MAJ PETER F. BAHNSEN
MAJ RUSSELL T. BOYLE JR.
MAJ EDWARD P. DECHRISTOPHER

1 Jan - 2 Feb 69
3 Feb - 19 Jun 69
20 Jun - 11 Oct 69
12 Oct - 31 Dec 69

S1

1LT RONALD E. PHILLIPS
1LT JOHN E. FRICK
1LT KENNETH G. ANDREWS
CPT JOHN T. THOMPSON
CPT GORDON C. JOHNSON
CPT THOMAS J. ROWLEY

1 Jan - 3 Feb 69
4 Feb - 6 Jun 69
6 Jun - 21 Jul 69
22 Jul - 11 Aug 69
12 Aug - 3 Dec 69
4 Dec - 31 Dec 69

S2

CPT DWIGHT W. GALDA
CPT ROBERT E. GATES JR.
CPT CAMERON ELY
CPT RICHARD P. DEXTER
CPT THOMAS M. CURTIS
1LT WARREN F. BOWLAND

1 Jan - 13 May 69
14 May - 27 May 69
28 May - 12 Sep 69
13 Sep - 20 Sep 69
21 Sep - 3 Dec 69
4 Dec - 31 Dec 69

S3

MAJ LESLIE G. GIBBINGS
MAJ MARSHALL B. JOHNSON
MAJ PETER F. BAHNSEN
MAJ RUSSELL T. BOYLE JR.
MAJ JAMES T. O'CONNELL JR.

1 Jan - 14 Feb 69
15 Feb - 19 Jun 69
20 Jun - 11 Oct 69
12 Oct - 22 Nov 69
23 Nov - 31 Dec 69

S4

1LT FRANCIS A. CAHILL
1LT KENNETH G. ANDREWS
CPT ROBERT E. GATES JR.
CPT ROBERT J. MAYOR
CPT PHARES E. NOYES

1 Jan - 23 Feb 69
24 Feb - 5 Mar 69
6 Mar - 19 May 69
20 May - 22 Jul 69
23 Jul - 31 Dec 69

1LT GREGORY A. JOHNSTON	5 Sep - 12 Sep 69
CPT CHRISTOPHER C. STRAUB	13 Sep - 9 Oct 69
CPT ROBERT D. HERB	10 Oct - 31 Oct 69
CPT THOMAS M. CURTIS	1 Nov - 20 Nov 69
1LT FRANCIS A. COOCH	21 Nov - 31 Dec 69

Bn Surg

CPT WILLIAM H. JONES	1 Jan - 27 Aug 69
CPT THOMAS E. LEET	28 Aug - 21 Dec 69

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

CPT GORDON C. JOHNSON	1 Jan - 24 Apr 69
1LT T'ODDEN C. LESHIKAR	25 Apr - 8 Jul 69
CPT JOHN S. ELLISON	7 Jun - 19 Sep 69
CPT JOHN W. BRAUER	20 Sep - 31 Dec 69

A Company

CPT ROBERT G. MAYOR	1 Jan - 27 Apr 69
CPT GORDON C. JOHNSON	28 Apr - 8 Jul 69
CPT ROBERT J. SHEPPS	9 Jul - 27 Nov 69
CPT CLARENCE E. DONALDSON	28 Nov - 31 Dec 69

B Company

CPT PIERCE T. GRANFY	1 Jan - 5 May 69
CPT ROBERT A. BROWN	6 May - 10 May 69
CPT KURT W. FRANZINGER JR.	11 May - 11 Jun 69
1LT JAMES D. JULIEN	12 Jun - 14 Jun 69
CPT LAWRENCE M. JACKSON II	15 Jun - 4 Nov 69
CPT RICHARD P. DEXTER	5 Nov - 31 Dec 69

C Company

CPT JOHN J. PRZYBYLSKI	1 Jan - 22 Jan 69
1LT ROBERT H. WOOLLEY	23 Jan - 2 Feb 69
CPT JOHN J. PRZYBYLSKI	3 Feb - 15 Jun 69
1LT DAVID F. KORNEGAY	16 Jun - 2 Sep 69
1LT EARLE J. COOPER	3 Sep - 14 Sep 69
1LT DAVID F. KORNEGAY	15 Sep - 19 Sep 69
CPT JOHN S. ELLISON	20 Sep - 31 Dec 69

D Company

CPT ROBERT E. GATES JR.	1 Jan - 5 Mar 69
CPT DOUGLAS TERREL	6 May - 2 Jul 69
CPT JOHN E. KELLY JR.	3 Jul - 24 Jul 69
CPT THOMAS M. CURTIS	25 Jul - 20 Sep 69
CPT JOHN T. THOMPSON	21 Sep - 31 Dec 69

Roster of Key Personnel, 2d Bn 501st Abn Inf as of 1 January 1969

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

WILSON, Joseph C.	LTC	CO
CRAIN, Wallace S.	MAJ	XO
GIBBINGS, Leslie G.	MAJ	S3
PHILLIPS, Ronald E.	LLT	Adj
JONES, William H.	CPT	Bn Surgeon
CAHILL, Francis A.	LLT	S4
GALDA, Dwight D.	CPT	S2
TRABERT, Thomas W.	LLT	LNO
BARBEE, Steve G.	CPT	Commo
BROWN, Robert A.	CPT	S3 Air
ANDREWS, Kenneth G.	LLT	PBO
DANIEL, Lewis C.	CSM	CSM
EHLIN, Morton L.	SFC	PSNCO
WILLIAMS, Otis	MSG	S2 Sgt
QUICK, Richard L.	MSG	S3 Sgt
GARNER, William H.	CW2	Mnt Officer

HHC

JOHNSON, Gordon C.	CPT
EMBREY, Edward E.	E-8

Company A

MAYOR, Robert G.	CPT
BRANDER, Frederick	E-8

Company B

GRANEY, Pierce T.	CPT
CROLEY, Jessie B.	E-8

Company C

PRZYBYLSKI, John J.	CPT
REYNOLDS, Anthony	E-8

Company D

GATES, Robert E. Jr.	CPT
WRIGHT, Jerrell F.	E-8

Company E

HOGENAUER, Edward L.	LLT
BAGINY, Joseph A.	E-8

Roster of Key Personnel, 2d Bn 501st Abn Inf as of 6 May

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

GERMAN, Robert L.	LTC	CO
BAHNSEN, Peter F.	MAJ	XO
JOHNSON, Marshall B.	MAJ	S3
FRICK, John E.	LLT	Adj
JONES, William H.	CPT	Bn Surgeon
GATES, Robert E. Jr.	CPT	S4
GALDA, Dwight D.	CPT	S2
SULLIVAN, Leo B.	LLT	LNO
BARBER, Steve G.	CPT	Commo
GRANEY, Pierce T.	CPT	S3 Air
SCHNEIDER, James E.	CW2	PRO
MARZINECK, Maurice J.	CW2	Mnt Officer
DANIEL, Lewis C.	CSM	CSM
EDLIN, Morton L.	SFC	PSNCO
WILLIAMS, Otis	MSG	S2 Sgt
QUICK, Richard L.	MSG	S3 Sgt

HHC

MESHKAR, T'Oden C. Jr.	LLT
MARTINEZ, Ernest G.	E-8

Company C

PRZYBYLSKI, John J.	CPT
JONES, Mack	E-8

Company A

JOHNSON, Gordon C.	CPT
SILVERNAIL, David	E-8

Company D

TERREL, Douglas	CPT
WRIGHT, Jerrell F.	E-8

Company B

BROWN, Robert A.	CPT
SCHORR, George	E-8

Company E

DENTON, Warren G.	CPT
BAGINY, Joseph A.	E-8

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

BRASHEARS, Bobby F.	LTC	CO
DECHRISTOPHER, Edward P.	MAJ	XO
BOYLE, Russell T. Jr.	MAJ	S3
JOHNSON, Gordon C.	CPT	Adj
LEET, Thomas E.	CPT	Bn Surgeon
NOYES, Phares E.	CPT	S4
CURTIS, Thomas M.	CPT	S2
APPELMAN, Gary K.	LLT	LNO
BOWLAND, Warren F.	LLT	LNO
BARGUIL, Raymond C.	LLT	Commo
STRAUB, Christopher C.	CPT	S3 Air
SCHNEIDER, James E.	CW2	PBO
MARZINECK, Maurice J.	CW2	Mnt Officer
DANIEL, Lewis C.	CSM	CSM
EDLIN, Morton L.	SFC	PSNCO
WILLIAMS, Otis	MSG	S2 Sgt
QUICK, Richard L.	MSG	S3 Sgt
HERB, Robert D.	CPT	S5

HHC

BRAUER, John W.	CPT
JONES, Mack	E-8

Company A

SHEPPS, Robert J.	CPT
LUGO, Jose A.	E-7

Company B

JACKSON, Lawrence M. II	CPT
SCHORR, George	E-8

Company C

ELLISON, John S.	CPT
REUTER, Gerald M.	E-8

Company D

THOMPSON, John T.	CPT
JONES, Frank N.	E-7

Company E

HERB, Robert D.	CPT
BAGINY, Joseph A.	E-8

PERSONNEL RECEIVING AWARDS 1969

SILVER STAR

1. ARIENDARIZ, Patrick M.	E4	30 Mar 1969
2. BAGGS, William F.	E4	23 Mar 1969
3. BARSKI, Roger	E5	13 Feb 1969
4. BARSKI, Roger	E5	13 May 1969
5. BROWN, Lewis A.	E7	23 Mar 1969
6. BURNETTE, Vick L.	E3	13 May 1969
7. CHERRY, Corbin L.	O3	23 Mar 1969
8. COOPER, Earle J.	O2	22 Mar 1969
9. COOPER, Earle J.	O2	19 Jun 1969
10. CUSHING, Patrick J.	O2	8 Apr 1969
11. DANIEL, Lewis J.	E9	23 Mar 1969
12. GERMAN, Robert L.	O5	30 May 1969
13. GIEGEL, Patrick	E4	25 Mar 1969
14. GRANNEY, Pierce T.	O2	20 Jan 1969
15. HALE, Michael J.	E6	25 Mar 1969
16. HUNTLEY, Benson	E5	26 Jan 1969
17. JOHNSON, Louis	E4	30 May 1969
18. JOHNSON, Marshall B.	O4	13 May 1969
19. JONES, Mack	E8	10 Apr 1969
20. KELLY, John E. Jr.	O3	25 Jul 1969
21. KING, Bruce T.	O2	9 Apr 1969
22. KING, Horace H.	E7	9 Apr 1969
23. KORNEGAY, David F.	O2	23 Mar 1969
24. LOVELL, Jimmy W.	E3	23 Mar 1969
25. MANN, Michael J.	O2	27 Aug 1969
26. MARQUEZ, Clom	E6	23 May 1969
27. MAYOR, Robert G.	O3	18 Jan 1969
28. MC HENRY, William L.	E4	13 May 1969
29. MOORE, Van H. II	O2	23 May 1969
30. NICHOLS, Edward E.	E5	23 May 1969
31. PALCIOS, Tony	E4	3 Apr 1969
32. PARKER, George W.	E7	13 May 1969
33. PECK, Ernest B.	O4	13 May 1969
34. PEELE, Robert A.	O2	24 Mar 1969
35. PITT, Howard	O2	13 May 1969
36. POOLE, William D. Jr.	E3	13 May 1969
37. ROEHN, Thomas L.	E5	13 May 1969
38. SCHMIDT, James	E4	8 Apr 1969
39. TERREL, Douglas	O3	23 May 1969
40. TROFF, Steven L.	E3	13 May 1969
41. VAN HOOSE, Claude M.	E3	23 Mar 1969
42. VEIS, Roger A.	E3	13 May 1969
43. WILLIAMS, Brian S.	E3	20 Jan 1969
44. WILSON Joseph C.	O5	23 Mar 1969

PERSONNEL RECEIVING AWARDS 1969

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

1. BRASH-BARS, Bobby F.	05	15 Nov 1969
2. BROOKE, Charles W.	E6	4 May 1969
3. BROWN, Robert A.	03	2 Feb 1969
4. DANIEL, Lewis C.	E9	23 Jan 1969
5. JOHNSON, Marshall B.	04	6 Apr 1969
6. WILSON, Joseph C.	05	23 Jan 1969

BRONZE STAR with ^{35V}

1. ARBOGAST, Carl F. Jr.	E4	13 May 1969
2. ALBRECHT, Denver D.	02	10 Jul 1969
3. AVELINO, Jose T.	E7	23 May 1969
4. BEASLEY, Odell D.	E3	13 May 1969
5. BECKER, Michael J.	E3	7 Apr 1969
6. BENAULDEZ, Rinaldo	E4	5 Apr 1969
7. BEVIS, Stanford J. D.	02	13 May 1969
8. BEVIS, Stanford J. D.	02	23 May 1969
9. BINGMAN, Gerald D.	E5	23 Mar 1969
10. BIVENS, Larry A.	E4	6 Apr 1969
11. BOUMAN, Walter P.	E5	30 May 1969
12. BOWLAND, Warren	02	25 Oct 1969
13. BOYDSTON, Oscar	E5	13 May 1969
14. BOYLE, Stephen D.	E5	5 Apr 1969
15. BRANCO, Anthony J.	E5	13 May 1969
16. BRANNEN, Bobby R.	E4	23 May 1969
17. BRAMSON, Samuel	E4	13 May 1969
18. BROWNE, Fredrick	E4	30 May 1969
19. BRUCE, James E.	E4	23 Mar 1969
20. BULLINGER, Kenneth	E5	3 Apr 1969
21. BURKETT, Elijah W.	E4	10 Jul 1969
22. BURNAM, Willie J.	E6	16 May 1969
23. BURNAM, Willie J.	E6	23 May 1969
24. BUSSELL, Richard A.	E4	23 May 1969
25. CAROLAN, Michael O.	E3	19 Apr 1969
26. CARRARA, Wayne R.	E6	22 Mar 1969
27. CHRISTENSEN, Michael F.	E5	27 Jan 1969
28. CHUNN, Donald L.	E3	7 Apr 1969
29. COBURN, Gerald W.	E3	4 Apr 1969
30. COGHIAN, Charles G.	E3	13 May 1969
31. COLNA, John J.	E4	10 Apr 1969
32. CONA HAY, London	E3	3 Apr 1969
33. COPELAND, Jerry D.	E4	25 Oct 1969
34. CORBETT, Donald	E4	13 May 1969
35. COUNTS, Kenneth	E5	13 May 1969
36. COURTNEY, Jimmy D.	E3	25 Jul 1969

PERSONNEL RECEIVING AWARDS 1969

BRONZE STAR with "V" (Continued)

127. MILLER, Bernard	E4	20 Jul 1969
128. MONTEVERDE, Miguel E.	E3	13 May 1969
129. MOORE, Melvin E.	E3	27 Aug 1969
130. MORGAN, Dennis H.	E3	23 Mar 1969
131. MURPHY, Roger	01	12 Mar 1969
132. MURRAY, Patrick W.	E4	26 Mar 1969
133. MUSEWICZ, John J.	E3	25 Jul 1969
134. NISSEN, Gerald L.	E3	23 May 1969
135. O'LEARY, Patrick	E4	22 Mar 1969
136. OLLIE, Earle	E4	13 May 1969
137. OLSON, Ingvald J.	E4	25 Mar 1969
138. OLSON, Ronald L.	E4	26 Jan 1969
139. OUTVATER, Michael	E5	13 May 1969
140. PALACIOS, Tony	E4	8 Apr 1969
141. PALOZZOLO, Joe A.	E5	13 May 1969
142. PARKER, Franklin	E7	13 Feb 1969
143. PARKS, Norman R.	E3	7 Apr 1969
144. PARLIER, Kenneth A.	E4	23 May 1969
145. PAWLAK, Paul	E4	22 Apr 1969
146. PENA, Frank	E4	1 Apr 1969
147. PITISCI, Louis	E4	13 May 1969
148. PITTMAN, Arthur L.	E3	13 May 1969
149. POWELL, Richard A.	E4	13 May 1969
150. PRZYBELSKI, John J.	03	23 Mar 1969
151. PUE, Arthur J.	02	30 Jan 1969
152. PUE, Arthur J.	02	22 Mar 1969
153. RECTOR, Roger G.	E4	23 Mar 1969
154. RECTOR, John M. Jr.	02	20 Jul 1969
155. REGELSKI, Eddie M.	E4	23 Mar 1969
156. ROBINSON, Edward G.	E3	7 Apr 1969
157. ROBINSON, Edward G.	E3	19 Jun 1969
158. ROBINSON, Richard W.	E3	19 Jun 1969
159. ROBERGE, Kenneth M.	E3	19 Jun 1969
160. ROBERSHAW, William F.	E3	13 May 1969
161. ROBERTS, John K.	E4	23 Mar 1969
162. RODRIGUEZ, Tommy L.	E3	13 May 1969
163. ROEHM, Thomas L.	E5	13 Feb 1969
164. RUSTON, Bruce E.	E3	13 May 1969
165. RUTHERFORD, John R.	E3	16 Apr 1969
166. SAPP, Michael A.	02	21 Mar 1969
167. SALCICCTA, Paul A.	E5	13 May 1969
168. SAUNDERS, Bruce T.	01	20 Apr 1969
169. SCHORR, George E.	E8	30 May 1969
170. SCUILLA, Vincent S.	E3	7 Apr 1969
171. SCUILLA, Vincent S.	E3	19 Jun 1969

PERSONNEL RECEIVING AWARDS 1969

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL with "V"

39. KELLY, Daniel L.	E4	16 Apr 1969
40. KEYSER, Frank E.	E4	10 Jul 1969
41. KOPYSTANSKY, Bohdan	O2	5 Aug 1969
42. KUGLER, Daryl S.	E3	16 Apr 1969
43. LAMPKIN, Herbert D.	E5	9 Jul 1969
44. LESSIG, Richard L.	E4	16 Apr 1969
45. LUCERO, Joseph A.	E4	13 May 1969
46. MC CARTHY, Joseph	E4	13 May 1969
47. MC INTYRE, Barry J.	E3	13 May 1969
48. MILLER, Donnie J.	E4	13 May 1969
49. MONTES, Daniel G.	E4	9 Apr 1969
50. MOON, Ray E.	E3	13 May 1969
51. MOSS, Connie R.	E3	13 May 1969
52. MULLANEY, John P.	E4	20 Jan 1969
53. MULLANEY, John P.	E4	9 Jul 1969
54. NEUMAN, Randall	E4	16 Apr 1969
55. NEVIL, Randall C.	E3	13 May 1969
56. PATTISON, Jack E.	E5	13 May 1969
57. PIETRASZEWSKI, John J.	E4	13 May 1969
58. REGELSKI, Eddie M.	E4	16 Apr 1969
59. REITH, Richard W.	E4	20 Jan 1969
60. ROBERGE, Kenneth M.	E3	25 Mar 1969
61. ROYAL, Milton L.	E3	27 May 1969
62. ROYAL, Milton L.	E3	9 Jul 1969
63. SANDERSON, Jimmy R.	E3	16 May 1969
64. SCHEFFEL, Eldie D.	E3	25 Mar 1969
65. SHAVER, Larry W.	E5	20 Jan 1969
66. SILVERMAIL, David H.	E8	22 Apr 1969
67. SINGLETON, Bill D.	E3	5 Aug 1969
68. SKOLNIK, Stirling	E5	10 Jul 1969
69. SMOTHERMAN, Lowell C.	E5	22 Apr 1969
70. SPICER, Michael J.	E3	16 Jul 1969
71. STALL, Robert A.	E4	5 Apr 1969
72. STARKS, Grady L.	E5	20 Jan 1969
73. STEWART, Charles E.	E4	13 Feb 1969
74. SUGGS, Robert D.	E5	5 Aug 1969
75. SUTPHIN, Richard L.	E4	25 Mar 1969
76. TRAINOTTI, Donald M.	O2	23 Mar 1969
77. TRAINOTTI, Donald M.	O2	16 Apr 1969
78. WALKER, James N.	E3	5 Aug 1969
79. WILLIAMS, Sterling	E3	29 Apr 1969
80. WILSON, Joseph C.	O5	19 Jan 1969
81. WITHERS, Vernon J.	E4	20 Jan 1969
82. VSAIS, Joe	E5	22 Jan 1969

WIA

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>FOUND</u>
Carara, Wayne R.	SGT	B	22. Apr	FW
Withers, Vernon J.	Sp4	B	23 Apr	GSW
Kraushied, David H.	SGT	B	23 Apr	GSW
Johnson, Steve W.	SGT	B	23 Apr	SGW
Reinheimer, David M.	Sp4	B	23 Apr	GSW
Christensen, William	PFC	B	23 Apr	GSW
Kaufman, William	Sp4	B	23 Apr	GSW
Gump, Steve	PFC	HHC	26 Apr	FW
McMahon; John D.	PFC	B	28 Apr	GSW
Winsted, Robert C.	Sp4	A	2 May	OI
Jordan, Dennis	PFC	A	2 May	OI
Vega, Nelson E.	PFC	C	10 May	OI
Murray; Patrick W.	Sp4	HHC	10 May	OI
Salyer; Larry S.	Sp4	C	10 May	OI
Murray; Patrick W.	SGT	C	10 May	SW
Teague, Paul S. Jr.	PFC	E	13 May	FW
Kitchens, Alonzo Jr.	PFC	E	13 May	FW
Krieger, Donald L.	Sp4	HHC	13 May	MPW
Powell; Richard A.	Sp4	E	13 May	MPW
Weston, Mark L.	PFC	E	13 May	MPW
Palazzolo, Joeseeph	SGT	E	13 May	MPW
Ollie, Earl	Sp4	A	13 May	MPW
Rodrigues; Tommy L.	PFC	A	13 May	MPW
Bullinger, Ken	SGT	A	13 May	MPW
Oliver, Leroy	SFC	A	13 May	MPW
Cushing, Patrick	1LT	A	13 May	MPW
Veis; Roger A.	PFC	E	13 May	B
Kuhn, Joeseeph R.	Sp4	E	13 May	MPW
Schmidt, James	Sp4	HHC	13 May	MPW
Kent, Carlos G.	Sp4	E	13 May	MPW
Keister; Arthur N.	PFC	A	13 May	MPW
Steiner, James V.	PFC	A	13 May	OI
Queen, John W.	SGT	A	13 May	FW
Erickson, Richard	Sp4	A	13 May	FW
Robersshaw, William F.	PFC	A	13 May	OI
Burnette, Vick L.	PFC	E	13 May	MPW
Barham, William H.	PFC	E	13 May	MPW
Gutierrez, Ernesto	PFC	A	13 May	MPW
Hegler, Roberto M.	PFC	A	13 May	MPW
McHenry, William L.	Sp4	HHC	13 May	OI
Gaykin; Roger	PFC	A	13 May	FW
Dilger, Darryl	SGT	A	13 May	FW
Salciaccia, Paul A.	SGT	A	13 May	MPW
Poor, David	Sp4	A	13 May	FW
Thurman; James T.	Sp4	D	13 May	SW
Estevez, Jose R.	PFC	D	13 May	SW
Conlon; James R.	Sp4	E	13 May	SW
Parker, George W. Jr.	SFC	E	13 May	SW
Crowder, Joseph R.	PFC	E	13 May	SW

WIA

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WOUNDS</u>
Banta; Malcom J.	Sp4	E	13 May	SW
Kasid, Michael J.	SGT	E	13 May	SW
Lozano; Jose R.	Sp4	E	13 May	SW
Sereta, Henry	PFC	E	13 May	B
Cavello, Richard J.	PFC	E	13 May	SW
Harrington, Willie C.	Sp4	E	13 May	OI
Branco, Anthony J.	SGT	E	13 May	CW
Wicks; Edward C.	SGT	E	13 May	OI
Outwater, Michael	SGT	HHC	13 May	SW
Hardy, Melton H.	Sp4	E	13 May	SW
Lugo; Jose A.	SFC	A	13 May	SW
Moon, Ray E.	PFC	A	13 May	SW
Johnson, Thomas	Sp4	A	13 May	OI
Counts, Kenneth	SGT	A	13 May	ST
Coghian; Charles	PFC	A	13 May	OI
Johnson; Gordon C.	CPT	A	13 May	BC
Goodman, Robert F.	PFC	C	14 May	SW
Ervin, Lyle S.	PFC	C	15 May	SW
Stribling, William P.	Sp4	C	15 May	SW
Olsen, Ingvald	Sp4	C	15 May	SW
Neuman; Randall	Sp4	C	15 May	SW
Miller; Bee	Sp4	C	15 May	SW
Waters, George R.	PFC	C	15 May	SW
West, Richard D.	PFC	C	15 May	SW
Simeone, Craig	PFC	B	15 May	SW
Smith; Richard T.	SGT	C	15 May	SW
Brown; Lewis A.	SFC	C	15 May	SW
Acconcia, Anthony A.	PFC	C	15 May	SW
Kugler; Daryl S.	PFC	C	15 May	SW
O'Harra, James P.	Sp4	HHC	18 May	SW
Reeder; Harold E.	Sp4	A	19 May	GSW
Larson, Michael J.	SGT	D	23 May	SW
Grant, Sylvester	Sp4	D	23 May	CW
Nichols; Edward E.	SGT	D	23 May	SW
Thacher, Frank B.	PFC	E	23 May	SW
Des Jardin, William	PFC	D	23 May	GSW
Mitchell, James Jr.	PFC	D	23 May	SW
Nissen, Gerald L.	PFC	D	23 May	GSW
Foytich, Richard	SGT	D	23 May	SW
Sharp, Herman	PFC	D	23 May	SW
Miller; Bernard F.	Sp4	D	23 May	B
Gagnon; Raymond	PFC	D	23 May	B
Miller; Bernard F.	Sp4	D	23 May	SW
Lovell, Larry	SGT	D	23 May	ST
Hyche; Alton	Sp4	D	23 May	SW
White; Thomas L.	PFC	D	23 May	SW
Dykes, Richard R.	Sp4	D	23 May	SI
Masunaga, Clifford M.	PFC	D	23 May	SW
Martin, Robert R.	PFC	D	23 May	SW
Grebinge, Charles	SGT	D	23 May	SW

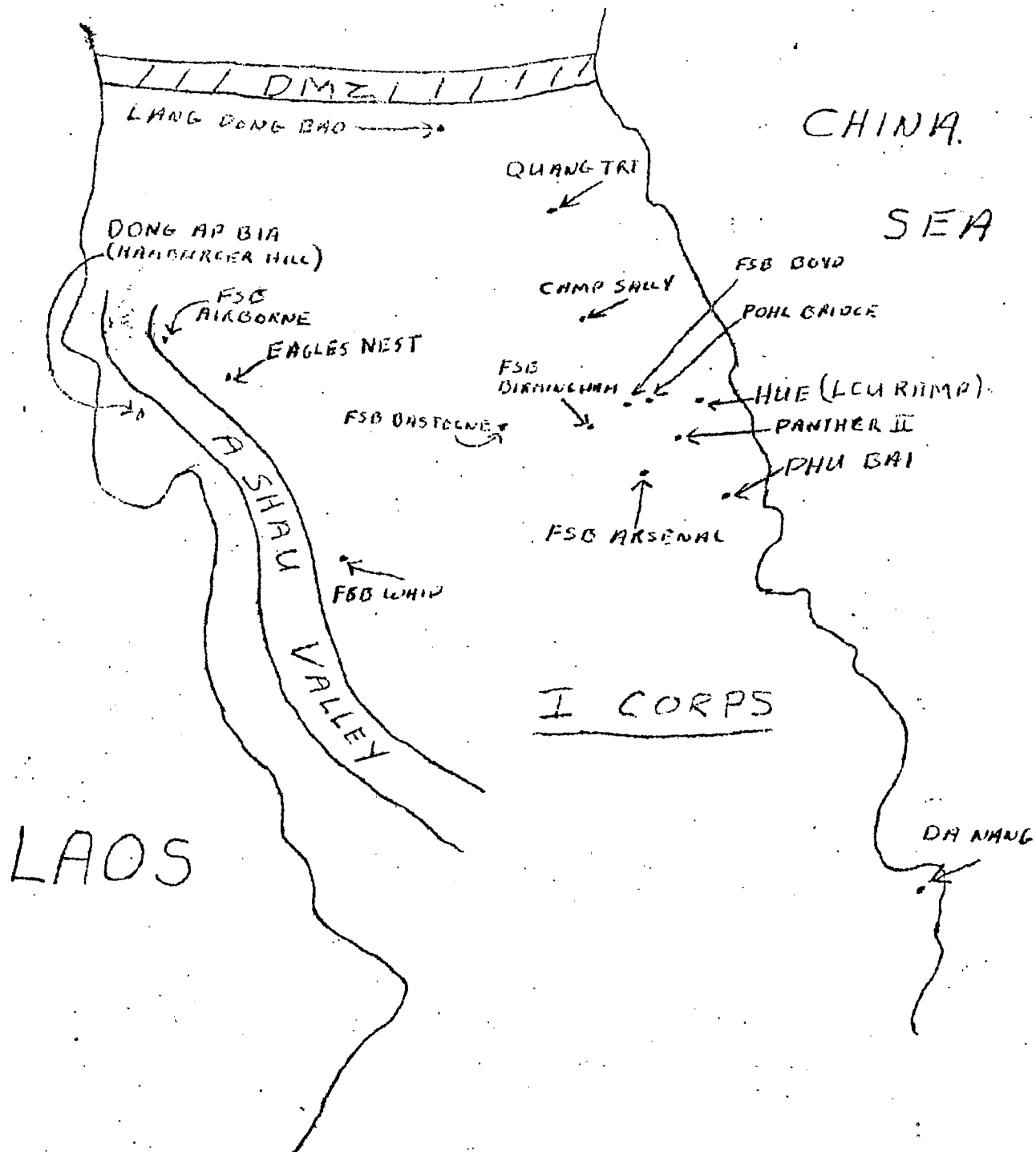
WIA

NAME	RANK	CO	DATE	WOUND
Kline, Manuel	PFC	C	19 Jun	OI
Becker; Michael	PFC	C	19 Jun	MPW
Waters, George	Sp4	C	4 Jul	SW
White, Dennis M.	PFC	C	4 Jul	SW
Thompson, Bobbie	SGT	B	10 Jul	GSW
Kahler; John R.	PFC	B	10 Jul	SW
Miller, Leo J.	PFC	B	10 Jul	SW
Grotzke, Allen F.	PFC	B	10 Jul	SW
Royal; Milton L.	PFC	B	10 Jul	SW
Clark, Robert A.	PFC	B	10 Jul	SW
Daniel, Michael D.	SGT	E	16 Jul	SW
Banks, Larry	Sp4	D	20 Jul	SW
Mercado, Jose E.	PFC	D	25 Jul	GSW
Courtney, Jimmy D.	PFC	D	25 Jul	GSW
Engleworth, William J.	PFC	D	25 Jul	GSW
Hoof, Arnest	PFC	D	25 Jul	SW
Landis; Millard W.	LLT	A	3 Aug	SW
Conley, Buford	PFC	B	5 Aug	GSW
Singleton, Billd.	PFC	B	5 Aug	GSW
Green, George L.	SGT	D	19 Aug	GSW
Hankins, John L.	Sp4	A	30 Aug	SW
Carpender, Leonard	SFC	B	4 Sep	SW
Connell; Michael E.	PVT	A	4 Sep	SW
Goodell, Albert N.	PFC	A	4 Sep	SW
McConnel, Larry J.	SGT	A	4 Sep	SW
Steward, Charles	Sp4	A	4 Sep	SW
Zaragosa, Victor	Sp4	A	4 Sep	SW
Bryant, John R.	PFC	A	14 Nov	uk
Goodell, Albert N.	PFC	A	14 Nov	uk
Griffin; M. J.	PFC	A	14 Nov	uk
Honstad; Timothy	PFC	A	14 Nov	uk
Hendren, Michael D.	SSG	A	14 Nov	FW
Jones, Prince	PFC	A	14 Nov	uk
Bryant, Juan A.	PFC	A	14 Nov	uk
Mastromarino, Fred	Sp4	A	14 Nov	uk
Pruitt, William	PFC	A	14 Nov	FW
Rome; Peter R.	PFC	A	14 Nov	uk
Raff, Rex C.	PFC	A	14 Nov	uk
Troll, Eugene A.	PFC	A	14 Nov	uk
Muller, Larry W.	SGT	B	15 Nov	GSW
Paradis, Edmund A.	PFC	B	15 Nov	GSW
Pazona, Jeffrey P.	PFC	E	16 Nov	SW

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

SW	Shrapnel Wound	BT	Booby Trap Wound
MSW	Multiple Shrapnel Wounds	PW	Punji Wound
FW	Frag Wound	OI	Other Injury--Hostile Action/Misc.
MPW	Multiple Frag Wounds	uk	Unknown Cause of Injury
B	Burn	GSW	Gun Shot Wound

(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)



2-501st

Areas Of Combat Operations With Index

1. NEVADA EAGLE/17 May 68-28 Feb 69
2. MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER/1 Mar 69- 8 May 69
3. APACHE SNOW
(OPCON 3d Brigade)/10 May 69-9 Jun 69
4. CAMPBELL STREAMER/11 July 69-15 Aug 69
5. CLAIBORNE CHUTES/15 Aug 69-28 Sep 69
6. REPUBLIC SQUARE/28 Sep 69-6 Dec 69
7. RANDOLPH GLEN/7 Dec 69- Present

(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)

AFTER ACTION REPORT
SAPPER ATTACK ON FSB AIRBORNE

13 May 1969

AFTER ACTION REPORT
SAPPER ATTACK ON FSB AIRBORNE

13 May 1969

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 2d Battalion (AM), 501st Abn Infantry
2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
APO San Francisco 96383
"DRIVE ON"

AVDG-X

2 July 1969

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Sapper Attack on FSB Airborne

Commanding Officer
2d Brigade
101st Airborne Division
APO San Francisco 96383

1. Narrative description. (Annex A contains detailed narrative by Division Historian.)
2. Lessons learned.
 - a. Detection of infiltrating sappers requires new or different tactics and possibly the use of more sophisticated and sensitive flares and intrusion devices.
 - b. Constant emphasis must be given to insure that platoon leaders and platoon sergeants do not locate themselves in the same position during a night defense.
 - c. Present bunkers offer little or no protection against direct fire rockets and in fact tend to increase the casualties by offering an attractive target.
 - d. There is a definite need to reemphasize the need to wear steel pots and flak vest during practice and other alerts. Aside from the protection afforded they serve to identify US from naked and half naked NVA. Artillery men customarily work around their howitzers stripped to the waist. During the sapper attack many of the artillery men were difficult to distinguish from sappers in the half light and as a result riflemen held their fire until they could positively identify friend and foe. Fire base rules should require the wearing of shirts after 1800 hours to include the requirement to wear the shirt while sleeping.
 - e. Poor terrain selection of fire bases invites attack and any poor location selected due to temporary tactical considerations should certainly be relocated as soon as this tactical necessity is removed.
 - f. The employment of internal wire in fire base construction should

3. Recommendations:

a. That development of a more effective type of trip flare be considered.

b. That immediate action be taken to obtain the AN/GSS-9 intrusion device. This device is a simple inexpensive wire type device which properly used would make sapper entry extremely difficult. These devices have been on order by this battalion for more than a month.

c. That strong consideration be given to providing perimeter lighting for all fire bases. It would appear that the expense of portable generators and lights would be less than the cost of illumination projectiles and more effective for detecting penetration. In any situation where the fire base is on location for more than a few days, lighting would offer very little if any assistance to the VC.

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AVDG-BC-X

2 July 1969

SUBJECT: After Report, Sapper Attack on FSB Airborne

Darkness and the surprise gained under its cover is the indispensable element of a successful sapper attack. Lighting would take away that cover and would appear to offer assistance in detecting and therefore defeating a sapper attack.

s/Robert L German
ROBERT L. GERMAN
LTC, Infantry
Commanding.

53

Early in April a Forward Air Controller working for the 101st Air borne Division in the A Shau Valley spotted some huts and bunkers located along a ridge at YD 3507 (see map Tab C). Airstrikes were placed on these targets resulting in several secondary explosions clearing away the foliage so more huts and bunkers could be seen. On the 23d of April, a B52 airstrike was employed in the area and an aerial rifle platoon from the 2-17 Cavalry was sent in as a Bomb Damage Assessment Team. The enemy though, had been well protected and as the helicopter hovered, rappelling troops into a bomb crater, it was hit by ground fire and crashed.

The Cavalry immediately employed reinforcements, and they met stiff resistance. The Cavalry uncovered numerous large caches in bunkers in there. The 3d Bde, 101st Abn Div committed A/3-187 to search the area and to begin construction of a fire base on the original rappelling site.

As construction progressed RPG, mortar and small arms fire became a daily occurrence. As the searching forces continued to work out from FB Airborne it was evident that the fire base was constructed in the center of a NVA warehouse area.

Enemy bunkers and caches, one cache of 1,000 RPG rounds, were located within 200 meters of the fire base. A/2-501st Infantry was brought into the area on 8 May and assumed responsibility for the security of FB Airborne.

FB Airborne (YD355072) is located on the eastern lip of the A Shau Valley on the north end of a long ridge running parallel to the Valley (see map). A small knoll about 50 to 75 feet higher than the fire base is located to the east and is incorporated into the defense plan. The west and northwest sides of the fire base fall away at a very steep rate making an approach from this direction extremely difficult. The northeast, east and south approaches are gradual slopes and offer the best avenues of approach into the fire base. The fire base itself is very small. The approximate dimensions are 25 meters wide and 200 meters long; the mortar position on top of the knoll is circular with a 50 meter diameter. The vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the fire base was destroyed, but the rain forest is only two to three meters from the wire, partially thinned due to air strikes and artillery, but still very thick. The fire base is laid out in the shape of a shoe sole with a detached mortar position on the small knoll to the east (see sketch Tab D). Three strands of concertina wire encircle the fire base with trip flare interspersed irregularly in the wire.

Located on Airborne on the night of 12 May 1969 were Company A, 2-501 commanded by CPT Gordon C. Johnson, Company E (-), 2-501 commanded by CPT Alan J. Spoor, Battery C, 2-319 Artillery (four tubes of 105mm) commanded by CPT William W. Beverly, and a combined battery of 4 tubes, C/319 FDC. Each of these forces had areas of responsibility in the overall defensive plan shown in the sketch. Routine harassing and interdiction fires and an occasional illumination round were fired by the artillery units until about 0300 hours.

At 130330 May 1969, VC/NVA forces commenced an all out attack on Fire Support Base Airborne. The attack was conducted with stealth until the attacking force on the north had cut through the three strands of concertina on the perimeter. Then a burst of AK-47 fire signaled the attack. The perimeter on the NW, NE and east side of the Fire Support Base erupted with heavy concentrated RPG and mortar fire. The mortar rounds were walked across the perimeter and then back and forth across the FB in the pattern shown in the sketch. The sapper force was already inside the 1st Platoon of A Company and the artillery battery on the northern portion of the fire base. The platoon 6P and the two bunkers on either side of the CP were immediately destroyed by satchel charges. Communications with the Company CP were destroyed. Charlie Battery (4 tubes 105mm howitzer) received the brunt of the attack; the CP destroyed, the FDC was destroyed and all four tubes were put out of action. The battery was hit so rapidly that there was no time to react. Satchel charges demoralized, disrupted and destroyed the command and control element. The battery was unable to get off a single round in its defense. Sergeants Barski and Counts, the 2d and 1st squad leaders of the 1st Platoon, had pulled back, reorganized and reestablished the line shown in the sketch. The action limited the penetration of the sapper force. The platoon leader, Cushing, who had been wounded in the initial wave of satchel charges, had recovered

enough to realize that his communications with the Company CP had been destroyed, and moved to the Company CP to report his situation. He arrived back at CP at 0345 and was placed under a medic's care. Captain Johnson then contacted SGT Barski, whose squad was still under RPG, mortar and AK-47 fire, but was holding its ground, and reestablished control.

The 2d Platoon, under LT Pitts and located on the eastern edge of the fire base, had been alerted by the exploding satchel charges in the 1st Platoon area, also had a trip flare ignited in front of their position. Immediately, RPG rounds from 20 to 30 meters away made direct hits on three of the bunkers. However, this attacking force of NVA had been delayed in coming up the hill probably by the thick underbrush or tree blow downs, and were exposed cutting through the last strand of concertina. The 1st Platoon immediately engaged the enemy with small arms fire and by rolling grenades down the slope. Twelve NVA were left hanging on the wire one with wire cutters still grasped in his hand, and another with a 9mm pistol and flare gun. This ended the attack on the 2d Platoon except for the continuous mortar and RPG fire.

E Company (-), a mortar platoon, and the 2d and 3d Squads from the 3d Platoon, A/2-501, all which held the small knoll on the east side of the fire base, received a two prong attack from the NE and NW. The 81mm mortar platoon continued to fire illumination and HE fires throughout the conflict. The VC/NVA force penetrated into the perimeter far enough to capture an M60 machine gun and then were repulsed. It was the actions of individuals of this element in braving heavy enemy fire and delivering continuous illumination and HE rounds which helped considerably to hold back the attack. Had the NVA force gained control of this knoll and set up a base of fire into the Airborne proper, they would have been firing down the throats of the men defending the fire base.

The southwest and other artillery batteries were not hit by the ground fire, however, they were in the mortar pattern which delivered fire throughout the attack. The 155mm battery, C/2-11 (4 tubes), had one tube disabled due to a direct hit by 82mm mortar fire during the barrage, but continued to fire direct fire and illumination with the remaining three tubes during the contact. The sappers did manage to ignite the powder bags of the 155mm battery and by 0430 the northern portion of the perimeter was bathed in a brilliant glow. The composite battery of C Battery, 2-319 (2 tubes) and B Battery, 2-319 Artillery received mortar rounds, and one sapper wearing a white cloth around his forehead ran from the north side of the perimeter through the 155 howitzers, by the Company CP, into the composite battery, flung two satchel charges, and turned around and ran the entire distance back. Several men including CPT Johnson saw him, but were unable to bring him down with small arms.

By 0500 a flare ship (Spooky) and other gunships were on station to lend their fire support to the action. The nearby fire bases were also lending their tubes to the fire and the incoming mortars were silenced. LT Pitts, who had decimated and stopped the NVA attack in his area, took seven men to reinforce SGT Barski's squad. The enemy attack, though, had run out of steam, and the combined force of Pitts and Barski was able to push to the outer perimeter. At 0530 the battle was over. The enemy left 39 bodies and 2 POW's (one died later of wounds), 17 individual weapons and 1 crew-served weapon on the battlefield. The US force suffered 22 KIA, 61 WIA, 1 M60 machinegun captured, and 5 artillery pieces damaged.

elements from

The enemy force was later identified to be composed of elements from two separate battalions. These battalions were identified by the two POW's as the 806th Battalion and the K12 Sapper Battalion (see POW interrogation report). The attacking force strength was reported to be: 27 men from C3, 806th Bn, 6th Regt, and 46 men from K12 Sapper Bn (see POW interrogation report). The force directly involved in the attack probably consisted of 113 men with additional elements of the 2 battalions providing support. At least two mortar locations were identified (see map). The enemy had planned the attack for 4 days and had conducted an excellent reconnaissance of the area. They knew exactly where the points were that they desired to destroy and how to get there. The attacking force moved into their attacking positions at East light on the 12th of May. The attack was scheduled for 0100 hrs, but probably due to slow movement it did not commence until 0330.

The enemy launched his attack on three primary axis (shown on sketch). It was reported that a diversionary attack had commenced at the same time from the south, but no real evidence in this area could be located. The 90mm RR at the south end of the Perimeter fired continuous suppressive fire with the Fleshet round which could have acted as a deterrent.

The attack was conceived, planned and executed in the typical thorough fashion of a well trained sapper unit. A stealthy approach, a violent execution lasting approximately 90 minutes, and then a hasty withdrawal leaving a covering force in contact. Most of the trip flares in the wire had been neutralized by trying down the striker with a bamboo strip. The enemy dead were well equipped with satchel charges, dressed in loin cloths or shorts, though several were completely naked. They also wore the head band to prevent sweat from getting in their eyes. They were well built, well fed husky men with fresh haircuts. The weapons captured were AK47's with folding stocks, M2 submachineguns (US), a B41 rocket launcher, a 9mm pistol and a flare gun.

The VC/NVA force was very systematic in their attempts to completely destroy the one battery. A satchel charge would be thrown into a bunker and if any of the wounded men would moan or make noises a second and third charge would follow until all sound had ceased. The Fire Direction Center of C Battery, 2-319, an exposed Conex container, was hit by an RPG round and the men inside began screaming and moaning. One NVA stood on the south side of the container and fired thirty to forty rounds into the Conex. CPT Freeman, the battery CO and battery 1st Sergeant were killed in this action. This NVA soldier was later killed by a member of the 2d Squad, 1st Platoon, A/2-501.

Lessons are being learned and relearned in Vietnam theater, and the one lesson that seems to crop up time and time again is the increased need for security. Security must be active in the form of patrols and ambushes, and passive in the form of wire, claymores, listening posts and increased alertness during the hours of darkness. This area was known as an NVA warehouse. In two separate caches found within a two kilometer radius, one contained 1,000 RPG rounds and another, 12,800 lbs of bagged, polished rice. All evidence pointed toward the fact that the NVA would attempt to defend the area. Therefore the need for security was even greater than in a normal exposed fire base. The enemy suffered heavily in his attack, had he been detected prior to entering the perimeter, his losses may not have increased but our losses would have been less severe.

PAGE THREE UUMSJEAD 074 C O N F I D E N T I A L
AMMO FOR RIFLES AND TWO CHICOM HAND GRENADES A PIECE

PERSONALITIES: CO C3, NGUYEN TRI CHUC, 1ST LT
XO C3, NGUYEN VAN THANH, RANK UNK
PO C3, NGUYEN VAN KINH, 2D LT
RIFLEMAN, 2D SQD/3D PLT/C3, NGUYEN VAN HUAN, PFC
RIFLEMAN, 2D SQD/3D/C3, LE NGO QUY, SSG

SUBJECT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF AKA'S OR LBN'S FOR HIS UNIT.

11. INFILTRATION DATA: SUBJECT STATED HE INFILTRATED TO SVN THROUGH LAOS WITH 200 OTHER MEN, ARRIVING IN SVN ON 13 DEC 68. HE ALSO STATES THE ENTIRE INFILTRATION GROUP WAS TAKEN TO DOI THONG (MOUNTAIN) TO JOIN THE K6 BN. SUBJECT STATED IT WAS A FIVE DAY WALK FROM THE LAOTIAN BORDER TO DOI THONG (MT).
12. LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF UNIT AND DATE: SUBJECT STATED THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF HIS UNIT WAS NEAR DOI THONG (MT) (POSS VICYL334064) ON 22 MAY 69.
13. MISSION OF UNIT: SUBJECT STATED HIS UNIT'S MISSION WAS TO ATTACK US UNIT IN MOUNTAIN WHERE FSB AIRBORNE IS LOCATED. SUBJECT ALSO STATES THAT ALL OF K6 PLUS 2ST AND 2D COMPANIES OF K12 PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTACK ON FSB AIRBORNE. B40 RL WERE INITIALLY EMPLOYED THEN

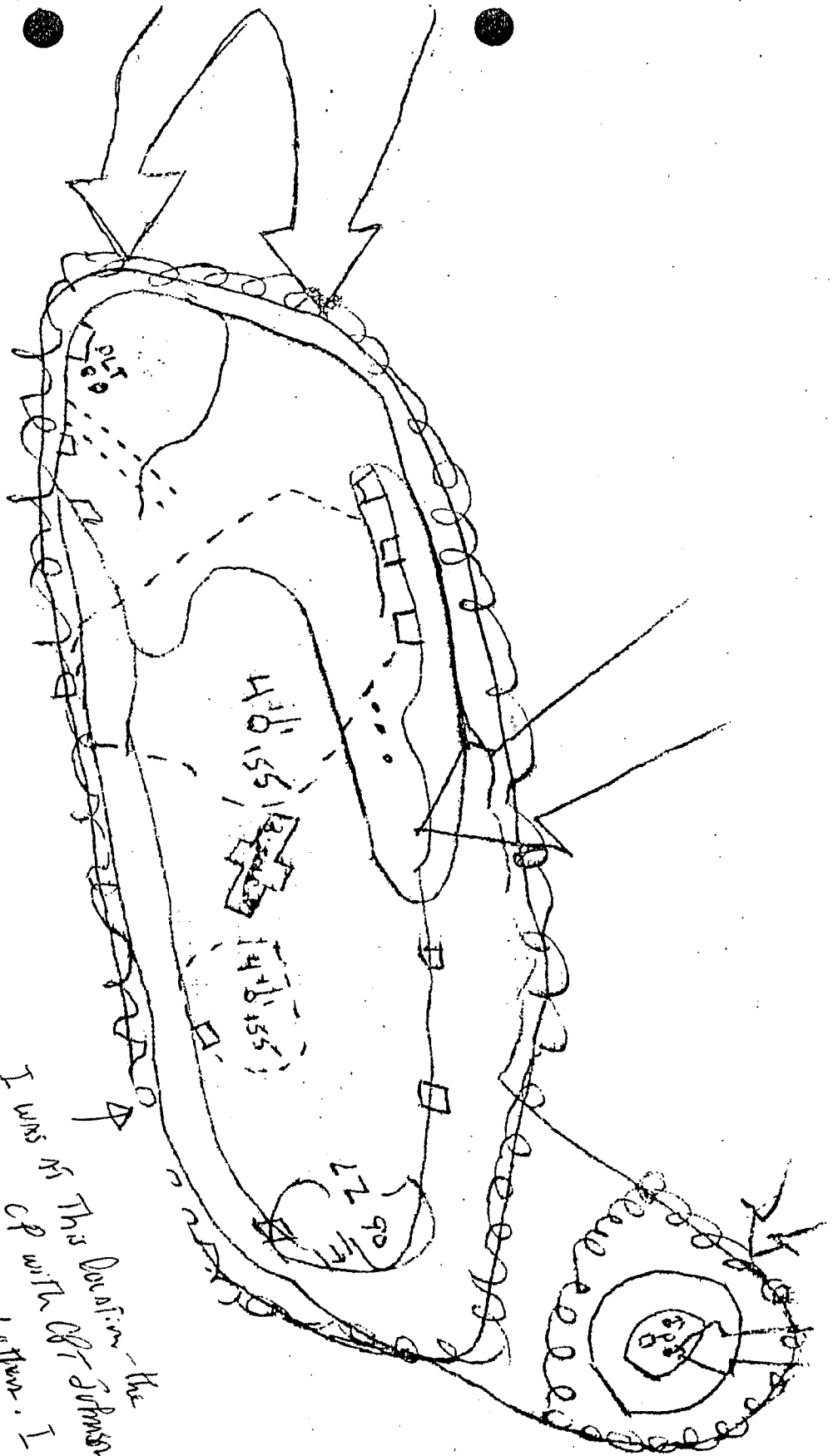
PAGE FOUR UUMSJEAD OUR C O N F I D E N T I A L

THEY USED AK 47, SKS AND LMG. AFTER THE ATTACK HIS UNIT WAS TO FALL BACK TO BASE AREA IN DOI THON (MT). SUBJECT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE THE TWO COMPANIES OF K12 WERE TO REFORM AFTER THE ATTACK. SUBJECT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE THE TWO COMPANIES OF K12 WERE TO REFORM AFTER THE ATTACK. SUBJECT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF FUTURE PLANS OF HIS UNIT

14. OTHER INFORMATION OF IMMEDIATE TACTICAL VALUE: NONE
15. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: SUBJECT STATED HIS BASE AREA IN DOI THON (MT) CONTAINED EIGHT HUGE BUNKERS IN WHICH HIS UNIT LIVED DAY AND NIGHT. HE STATES TWO MEN AT A TIME PULL GUARD TO WATCH FOR AMERICAN AIRCRAFT. IN THE AREA. THE REST OF THE MEN STAYED IN THE BUNKERS. THE MEN CAMP OUT OF THE BUNKERS ONLY BETWEEN 0700 AND 0800 HRS EACH DAY FOR PERSONAL HYGIENE. THIS AREA WAS HIT BY AIRSTRIKE APPROX ONE MONTH AGO WOUNDING THREE MEN. THE BASE AREA WAS NEVER HIT BY ARTILLERY. SUBJECT CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF HOW SUPPLIES WERE PROCURED. HE ONLY KNEW THAT FOOD WAS BROUGHT IN TWICE PER MONTH BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS WHO WERE FORCED TO WORK FOR AN UNIDENTIFIED VC UNIT.
16. INTERROGATOR'S NAME, RANK AND UNIT: BUCCINI, SP4 101ST MID
18. PRESENT LOCATION AND FUTURE DISPOSITION: SUBJECT IS PRESENTLY AT 18TH SURGICAL HOSPITAL RECOVERING FROM WOUNDS IN BUTTOCKS AND THIGHS. FUTURE DISPOSITION IS NOT YET DETERMINED

GP-4

BT



I was in this position - the
 Company CP with Lt Johnson,
 Company Archer and other. I
 like Archer's backwater from
 however getting the 155 going
 The command of 13 May.
 River

NE

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation Apache Snow

- a. Phase I - Establishment of FSB Airborne and marshalling of units at FSB Blaze prior to airmobile assault.
- b. Phase II - Combat assault of 2-501 (-) into LZ Green at coordinates YD296017. Then locates and destroy enemy forces, caches, and LOC's. Elements of 2-501 Inf provide security for FSB Airborne and FSB Eagles Nest.
- c. Phase III (on order) - Prepare to conduct RIF operations to the north & east in the Ale Ninh (YD323013) and the Ale Ninh (1) area YD344003.

11. Execution:

- a. Method of Operation: Standard doctrine of 101st Abn Div.
- b. Operations Narrative: Operation Apache Snow commenced on 8 May 1969. The 2d Bn 501 Inf moved from an AO surrounding fire support base Whip to a new AO adjacent to and overlooking the northern A Shau Valley. The Battalion CP was located on FSB Airborne. After the initial combat assault of the Bn (-) into LZ Green at YD296017 on 10 May 1969, each of the three assaulting companies moved out to assigned objectives.
- c. Subsequent RIF operations saw the three maneuvering companies close to objectives in the vicinity of YD284031 and then conducting a battalion size RIF operation toward the northwest. When all elements were clear of their objectives, each company continued to conduct RIF and search and destroy operations within the assigned AO.
- d. As the AO assigned to the 2-501 expanded, each company was assigned an area to search. The preponderance of contacts during the entire operation was with small local security forces of 4-5 personnel or with trail watchers. Only two contacts involved larger than squad size elements. The first contact occurred the morning of the 13th of May at FSB Airborne in the vicinity of YD 355070. At 0330 hours FSB Airborne came under very heavy mortar fire of 82mm, 60mm, and RPG fire. Approximately two reinforced infantry and sapper companies assaulted the perimeter from the north-east and north west. A Co repelled the attack which lasted two hours. Conventional artillery direct fire was employed along with "Spooky" and 81mm mortar fire resulting in 32 NVA KIA (BC) US casualties were 13 US KIA and 16 US WIA.
- e. On the morning of 23 May in the vicinity of YC 320983, Delta Company was conducting a RIF operation in its assigned AO. As the lead element began to move to high ground in the vicinity of the coordinates above, they encountered a heavy volume of small arms, RPG, satchel charges, and grenade fire. Gunships from a cavalry team and artillery were immediately employed area indicated a dug-in platoon size position with 3 NVA KIA (BC). Friendly casualties were 1 US KIA and 8 US WIA. Terrain was typical of the entire AO, the low ground had heavy underbrush with patches of trees and small streams running throughout the area. The high ground was covered with double and triple jungle canopy.
- f. In both contacts mentioned above, the reaction time for artillery was about 5 minutes, "Spooky" was on station within 60 minutes of the time requested and the Cav team and ARA arrived on station about 15 minutes after their request.

12. Results:

a. All units accomplished their assigned missions.

b. Enemy losses, categorized as follows:

(1) KLA (BC)	64
(2) KBA (BC)	0
(3) KBA	0
(4) Captured	2