



# STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



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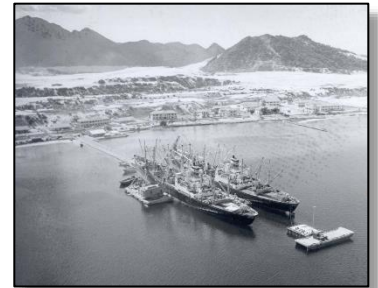
Issue: 78

## Brief History of the 501<sup>st</sup>, 502<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade (101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV)

The 502<sup>nd</sup>, or "five-oh-deuce", was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502<sup>nd</sup> parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502<sup>nd</sup> entered combat in World War II on June 6, 1944, by jumping into Normandy, with allied forces landing on D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Between 1945 and 1964. A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Battle Group, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502<sup>nd</sup> in different brigades of the 101<sup>st</sup>.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade with 1-327<sup>th</sup> and 2-327<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam and arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on 29 July 1965, they were commanded by the most notable commander LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson.



The new 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2d Battalions, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. December 1967 the 501<sup>st</sup>, 502<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft and arrived at Bien Hoa Airbase on 13 December 1967. Over the next five years, Soldiers of the "Ready to Go" Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling of a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April 1972.



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**During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division deployed in support of the Vietnam War the following are from After Action Reports, Staff Duty Logs, and Personal Accounts. (\* All items have been reproduced from the Unclassified / Declassified Holdings of the National Archives.)**

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- 10 December 1965      **Operation CHECKERBOARD:** At 0500H, vicinity coordinates 713322, one man of A/2-502 IN was killed and four other were wounded by a booby trap. A medical evacuation helicopter extracted all casualties at 0557H. A minefield extending 250 meters north and south of the area was discovered.
- Young male inhabitants of a village, located vicinity XT710315, were conscripted and detailed to each company. These indigenous personnel were plantation workers and it was concluded that they would be aware of the location of VC minefields. Therefore, two such personnel were caused to precede each unit to reduce the possibility of walking into an enemy minefield. As a consequence, no additional casualties from booby traps were sustained.
- At 0840H, A/2-502 IN "Hatchet Team" reported it was being attacked by 30 VC at coordinate XT674334. The battalion at this time had almost completed the sweep of its assigned sector. Upon learning of the engagement, the battalion commander requested that the battalion be allowed to cross PL Elm and sweep north. Permission was granted and the battalion crossed PL Elm at 0905H, with three companies on line, C/2-502 IN on the left, A/2-502 IN in the center and B/2-502 IN on the right. TF Baker and the TAC CP followed behind A/2-502 IN. (After Action Report, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade; 07 December 1965)
- 10 December 1967      **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** Beginning 100830DEC1967, 2-502 IN BN air assaulted into multiple LZ's and conducted operations to search for and destroy enemy installations and forces, initially in the SW portion of the assigned AO. Emphasis was placed on careful search of all likely sites, particularly draws. Initial air assaults were preceded only by TAC Air and gunship preps. The TAC CP locations was changed after initial CP elements were on the ground because of unsuitability of terrain for Arty. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation KLAMATH FALLS, Combat After Action Report; 11 January 1968)
- 10 December 1968      On this day we lost the "Street" section of our AO to the 3-5 CAV, for an 8-day operation. Recon and C/1-502 IN, 26 elements, went OPCON to 3-5 CAV. For 4 days (10-13). D/1-502 IN was the only company that had contact when they engaged 3 VC, vicinity YD6124, with negative results.
- 10 December 1969      A 2BDE aircraft fired at southwest of Sandy, returned fire and an infantry sweep revealed two enemy killed and two AK-47's. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1969)
- 10 December 1969      **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** A/1-502 IN provided security for Pohl Bridge and FSB Arsenal. B/1-502 IN provided security at FSB Birmingham. The rest of the 1-502 IN BN continued to patrol and conduct night ambushes. At 1155H at YD779065, C/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found 2 hooches and 1 new pair of Vietnamese sneakers. There were no signs of recent use or trails.
- 10 December 1970      **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad at grid YD792046 found on dud 155mm round and don't have any explosive to blow it. It was along a trail running south to north. They also found a Bandelier of M-16 ammo in the same vicinity. B/2-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad observed smoke coming from a densely covered ravine at grid YD786068. No friendlies were in the area and it was fired up with fifty 105mm HE rounds. Sweep of the area will be made in the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 10 December 1971      A/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon had MA detonated resulting in 2 VC/NVA KIA, 1 VC/NVA WIA vicinity YD822085. The WIA Charcoal colored, shorts and brown shirt. The KIA's wore black shorts, one had charcoal colored shirt the other a blue shirt. 1 AK-47 with folding stock was observed 3-4" away from the bodies. All bodies were on trail, all lying close together, probably heading north. One KIA was lying perpendicular to another KIA. AK-47 was destroyed by miniguns. No blood trail was observed by Night Hawk. Battalion Commander saw 2 blood trails headed in NE direction when he picked up WIA POW. (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airmobile), 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry; Annual Supplement to the History; 1 January 1971 – 31 December 1971)
- 11 December 1967      **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** A/2-502 IN returned to BN's control in the morning and the afternoon was again released to 1-327 IN BN OPCON. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation KLAMATH FALLS; 11 January 1968)



11 December 1968  
– 04 January 1969

**Operation PHU VANG IV:** Was initiated to interdict the regrouping of the Viet Cong infrastructure and local forces following Operation PHU VANG II and III in Phu Vang, Huong Thuy and Phu Thu Districts of Thua Thien Province. Elements participating were the 1-501 IN BN, 54<sup>th</sup> ARVN Regiment, Regional and District Forces and US Naval Forces. As the Operation PHU VANG II and II, the area of operation was cordoned, swept and intensively searched, with emphasis placed on rapid exploitation of intelligence gained from detainees processed through the Combined Intelligence Center Combines Allied Forces, as in the previous operations, made imposing strides in rooting out the enemy forces, even though the latter had made tremendous progress in recruiting and reorganization in the area. Enemy personnel losses throughout the operation were high – 75 Killed and 99 prisoners of war, 35 of whom were confirmed members of the Viet Cong infrastructure. In addition, 60 individual weapons were captured, and numerous bunker complexes were destroyed. Combined friendly losses were low – 2 Killed and 12 wounded. (DA-Senior Officer Debriefing Report, MG Melvin Zais, CQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Period 19 July 1968 – 25 May 1969)

11 December 1968

**Operation PHU VANG IV** begins. It is the continuation of the PHU VANG series where the 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV returned the 1-501 IN BN to team with the 54<sup>th</sup> ARVN Regiment to conduct further cordon and search operations aimed at preventing the main force and local VC units from regrouping in the area east and southeast of Hue. Casualties: US 2 KIA, 12 WIA; enemy 75 KIA, 99 POW.

11 - 12 December 1968

A/1-502 IN secured T-Bone. B/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations, vicinity YD6118. They engaged 5 VC while operating in this area, but the VC fled with negative assessment. C/1-502 IN (-) is OPCON to 1-501 IN BN. C/1-502 IN, 26 elements, is OPCON to 3-5 CAV. C/1-502 IN secured An Lo Bridge. Recon is OPCON to 3-5 CAV.

11 December 1968

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** PF's took control of Bridge 3 from B/2-502 IN, two squads of E/2-502 IN were air lifted into FSB Quick as security for an Arty raid by C/2-320 Arty from 0750-1410h.

11 December 1968

Two combined forces cordon operations were established. With air and amphibious assaults, 1-501 IN BN with ARVN troops, the Hue River Security Group and National Police cordoned the northern part of Vinh Loc Island, where an earlier cordon was so successful that it served as a model for cordons all over Vietnam. On the first day, 500 persons were screened, with five classified as VC. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

11 December 1969

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** A/1-502 IN continued providing security at FSB Arsenal and Pohl Bridge. B/1-502 IN provided security at FSB Birmingham. C/1-502 IN conducted patrols and ambushes. D/1-502 IN conducted similar operations and Recon platoon conducted patrols and night ambushes. All results were negative.

11 December 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad made a sweep of the area fired up on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> and found a VC.NVA campsite at the location YD786068. The camp had been occupied when the artillery was fired. All indications point to a hasty flight from the area by the enemy. They fled north and in a number of six to eight men. The unit found in the area eight RPG rounds, eight 60mm mortar rounds, a cooking pot with five pounds of cooked rice in it, on US map sheet number 6442, a pistol belt with on M-26 grenade, two AK-47 magazines with ammo, some clothes, two cans of non-electric blasting caps, and assorted other items such as bags and cans. All of the items were laying around in the open, supporting the belief the enemy fled the artillery fire. B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad observed two men at grid YD778056 and called in artillery with unknown results. B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon at 1915H saw a light at grid YD778056 and called in artillery fire which resulted in four secondary explosions. At 1955H they heard loud noises and movement at YD786046 and again called in the artillery. They will sweep the area in the morning. B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon at 2330H received mortar fire from the west hitting NW of their NDP. They are adjusting artillery fire from their DT's. B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon heard were the rounds hit about 300 meters away coming from the SE. In all, ten to twelve rounds were counted. Prior to the mortar rounds, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon heard small arms fire from the approximate impact area of the mortar rounds.

11 December 1971

D/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon vicinity YD798063 found a tunnel with 3 entrances, too small to allow US pax to enter. Tunnel is in a valley, entrances are camouflaged by trees & bushes. Camp fire located outside one entrance. Last used within 24hrs by 3 pax. Entrance support by wood & bamboo. Platoon will enlarge entrance on 12 December and investigate. Investigation of tunnel was delayed due to resupply. (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airmobile), 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry; Annual Supplement to the History; 1 January 1971 – 31 December 1971)

12 December 1965

HATCHET MEN, Ben Cat Vietnam: Personal Account by George R. Bassett (E4), Point Man 2<sup>nd</sup> squad, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, Co B, 2/502 Abn. Inf., 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. I will relate my participation in an event that took place at Ben Cat, Viet Nam, Dec.

My company, B, 2/502, was conducting combat operations in the Michelin Rubber Plantation at Ben Cat, V.N. in Dec 1965. The plantation stretched for miles and had been neglected, waist high brush had grown threw out the plantation. This area was known to be a VC haven and they were there in large numbers. Shortly before being deployed to the plantation, our battalion Cmdr. Col. Hank "GUNFIGHTER" Emerson, had ordered, out of his own pocket, hatchets from the United States. When they arrived at our battalion, Col. Emerson let us know that we were all going to have to pay him \$3.00 for a hatchet and that we had no choice in the matter. He also informed us that the first trooper's squad to kill a VC with a hatchet would be rewarded with a case of liquor. We were now to be known as the "Hatchet Men" and our patrols would be known as "Hatchet Teams" and our company sign was changed to show two crossed hatchets. We didn't want the hatchets, as we had no use for them and we had enough to carry on our backs without another three pounds, but we had no choice in the matter. When the hatchets arrived, and were passed out to us, the handles were white, and we were instructed to paint them black, so they would not stand out in the bush. I was in charge of the detail for my platoon to paint the handles black and have supplied a photo showing them drying after being painted. With our new hatchets, we were deployed to the Michelin rubber plantation. Our three company platoons were traveling in file on a narrow plantation road,



3rd platoon on point, 1st platoon following and 2nd platoon last. Suddenly gunfire erupted from in front of us, 3rd platoon on point, had been ambushed. Word was quickly passed to us, 1st platoon to go forward and engage the enemy and assist 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon which we did. The gunfight lasted about an hour with the VC withdrawing, leaving behind some dead and wounded. We were dispersed in the brush along the road side and one of the 3rd platoon troopers, who I shall not name, came across a wounded VC and with the assistance of some others managed to hold him down and he then proceeded to whack his head off with his new hatchet. The trooper proceeded to the road, very proud of his trophy and held it above his head as proof that he had killed the first VC with a hatchet and that his squad would claim the case of liquor that "GUNFIGHTER" Emerson had promised. A reporter from Life magazine was attached to us at the time and he took a picture of the trooper displaying the head, I believe that his name was Malcolm Brown. Shortly thereafter the picture appeared on the cover of the Dec. 65 issue of Life Magazine in the U.S. Word very quickly came down to get rid of the hatchets and anyone caught with one would be brought up on charges of "Brutality" Needless to say, "Gunfighter" did not refund us our three dollars each for the hatchets that he had forced us to buy from him. The trooper that had taken the head was later KIA. Our Co. commander was Cpt. Thomas Taylor, son of Gen. Maxwell Taylor. Pictures are enclosed.

12 December 1965

A U.S. paratrooper of the "hatchet team" of B/2-502 IN, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, holds the severed head of a Viet Cong guerrilla who was killed in hand-to-hand jungle fighting 12 miles northwest of Ben Cat during the Vietnam War, Dec. 12, 1965. The company had chased a squad of Viet Cong guerrillas, one of whom dropped a grenade that wounded several soldiers. Soldiers jumped the guerrilla and beheaded him by hatchet. His head was buried in the jungle.



12 – 17 December 1967

2BDE main body began departing Fort Campbell in a continuous airstream and closed in-country 17 December 1967. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968)

12 December 1969

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN continued their security missions. C/1-502 IN conducted patrols vicinity YD785040. C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found at YD705074, 1 NVA/VC explosive device and 1 ChiCom field phone on a trail. The trail showed no signs of recent use. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon found at YD823054 a Ho Chi Minh type sandal print 3 to 5 days old, 1 piece of a Vietnamese poncho, and possible sleeping positions for 3 to 5 persons.

12 December 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon at grid YD784065 found seven M-16 magazines all loaded. B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon sweep the area of the area where the secondary explosions were heard had negative results. C/1-502 IN returned OPCON to the 1-502 IN BN at 1530H.

13 December 1965

**Operation CHECKERBOARD:** At 0805H, the 2-502 IN BN swept north towards objective Juliet and Kilo with A/2-502 IN moving on the left, B/2-502 IN in the center, and C/2-502 IN on the right. During the search and clear operations on 13 December, numerous base camps and hospital facilities were discovered. At 1630H, A/2-502 IN closed on objective Kilo. By 1730H, a battalion perimeter was established around Objective Juliet and Kilo. Five "Hatchet Teams" were infiltrated into the area where the battalion had passed through 13 December. The teams departed prior to 2000H and moved to positions at XT602392, XT627410, XT626425, XT635401 and XT622385. The teams returned by 140600DEC65. (After Action Report, Operation CHECKERBOARD; 07 December 1965)

13 December 1967

**Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** The 2-502 IN BN was air assaulted into the new AO to the NE. Four LZ's were used. Recondos received several rounds of automatic weapons fire on their initial insertion but no casualties were taken, and no subsequent contact was made. A/2-502 IN began working from the high ground west into the valley area. B/2-502 IN moved east towards the valley and Charlie company maintained the initial LZ with patrols working out from a base. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation KLAMATH FALLS; 11 January 1968)

13 December 1967

2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV deploys to the Republic of Vietnam from Campbell Army Airfield.

13 December 1968

In the day's heaviest fighting, near Leech Island. Rangers engaged seven enemy and killed four. The 2BDE CO's C&C aircraft killed two enemy just southeast of Hue. Elsewhere, two other enemy were killed by Screaming Eagles, with one prisoner and two weapons taken. One year ago, this day, the Division's 2BDE and 3BDE officially reported for combat in Vietnam. And, it was reported, almost 2000 Screaming Eagles, mostly in infantry battalions, extended their Vietnam tours by six months. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

13 December 1968

A/1-502 IN secured T-Bone with platoon RIF, vicinity YD6222. This RIF utilized 2 scout dog teams. A "hook" was utilized to move one 4.2 and one 81mm mortar and crew to Apache for practice firing and was then lifted via "hook" to T-Bone. B/1-502 IN RIF operations with day and night ambushes, vicinity YD6218. C/1-502 IN (-) is OPCON to 1-501 IN BN. D/1-502 IN secured An Lo Bridge. Recon is OPCON to 3-5 CAV.

13 December 1969

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** A/1-502 IN provided security at FSB Arsenal and Pohl Bridge. B/1-502 IN secured FSB Birmingham. C/1-502 IN conducted patrols vicinity YD785040. C/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found a tunnel complex at YD794070. C/1-502 IN completed a LZ at YD783078. D/1-502 IN conducted patrols vicinity YD752116 and YD779108 in conjunction with the 221<sup>st</sup> RF platoon.





13 December 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> squad at grid YD786068 found on Russian 7.62mm pistol with eight rounds in the magazine, one AK-47 with two full magazines, 27 loose pistol rounds in a plastic bag, 58 AK-47 rounds in a sand bag, one NVA ruck sack, one NVA poncho, tow ½ lbs. explosive blocks with pull type fuses, six ½ lbs. explosive blocks without fuses, three RPG boosters, two 60mm mortar rounds, and one flashlight. The cache was above ground and in good condition. B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad found a trail 1 ½ feet wide running north south at grid YD7859044 about fifty feet from a stream. There were three sets of shoe prints made in the last 48 hours. B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad found on M79 HE round and a piece of black shirt in a cave in manmade cave one to two months old at grid YD788063. There were no signs of recent activity. D/1-502 IN made and combat assault form FSB Arsenal to three LZ's at grids YD7889006, 772018, and 798118. C/1-502 IN took over security of FSB Arsenal. D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad check out and cleared areas around their LZ's at grid YD798119 where bunkers had been reported. The open area looked like an old rice paddy and the platoon's KOS said there were three men in the area up to three hours before because of sandal prints on the trail. The trail ran north-south and the prints went north.



13 December 1971

A/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found a 12inch wide trail vicinity YD840093. They followed the trail East and ran into N/S intermittent stream where the trail was lost.

14 December 1965

**Operation CHECKERBOARD:** At 0840H, two platoons from A/2-502 IN departed the battalion perimeter and moved to the VC base camp vicinity coordinates XT610386, which had been seen the day before. At 0840H, platoon sized forces from both B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN, departed the battalion perimeter and returned to destroy VC base camps discovered the previous day. (After Action Report, Operation CHECKERBOARD; 07 December 1965)

14 December 1968

A/1-502 IN secured T-Bone with 1 platoon on local RIF operations. The unit concentrated on rebuilding and improving fortifications of T-Bone and unit training. Unit training is being stressed in all units as the turbulence of personnel has been a point of concern for the Battalion Commander. B/1-502 IN conducted RIF, vicinity YD6188. They found a bunker complex (negative signs of recent use), vicinity YD6117 and destroyed it. C/1-502 IN (-) released from 3-5 CAV and returned via "hook" to LZ Sally. D/1-502 IN secured An Lo Bridge. Recon released from OPCON to 3-5 CAV, and returned to LZ Sally, via "hook" to be RRF.

14 December 1969

Two 101<sup>st</sup> AHB gunship teamed up with ARVN troops to kill 13 NVA in Phu Vang District near the South China Sea. Nearby, in the second phase of the Vinh Loc cordon, Alpha and Charlie Company, 1-501 IN captured seven prisoners and four weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1969)

14 December 1969

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN continued with their mission of providing security. A/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found 2 sleeping positions with fresh leaves on them at YD752145. They also found 2 fighting positions in the same area that showed no signs of recent use. They searched the area with negative results. C/1-502 IN, D/1-502 IN and Recon platoon conducted patrols and night ambushes with negative results.

14 December 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** B/1-502 IN BN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found a trail one and half feet wide. NVA/VC type trail, at YD784044. The trail runs NW-SE and lead into a ravine. There are definite signs of activity only hours old.

15 December 1967

2BDE's colors arrive at Cu Chi base camp, Republic of Vietnam.

15 December 1968

A/1-502 IN secured FSB T-Bone and conducted local patrols and ambushes. C/1-502 IN, 26 elements were OPCON to A/1-502 IN. They conducted RIF operation from LZ Sally to vicinity YD6020, while concluding RIF they heard a SA shot. On investigation, they found freshly cooked rice alongside the trail, vicinity YD6121 and later 3 VC. The VC fired on B/1-502 IN (negative casualties), fire was returned, and the VC fled, and gunships were called in on suspected locations. Upon searching the area, negative bodies were found, but they did find 3 hooches which contained various gear, ammo, propaganda material and personal effects. Two blood trails were also found. B/1-502 IN followed the blood trails with negative results. C/1-502 IN is OPCON to 1-501 IN BN. D/1-502 IN secured An Lo Bridge. D/1-502 IN, 16 elements, CA'd to vicinity YD6019 and became OPCON to B/1-502 IN. Recon moved by vehicle from LZ Sally to An Lo where they utilized a super contact team.

15 – 16 December 1968

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A combined operation with the 13<sup>th</sup> Coastal Group, Phyu Loc District HA S2 section k, the BDE MP's, A/2-502 IN 30, C/2-502 IN 20 & 30, and BN S2 Interrogation Center. The operation was directed toward the large number of sampans moving in the Dam Cau Hai Bay recently. The enemy has been known to use this method of transporting troops and supplies. The concept of the operation was to sweep the Bay at midnight and during the early morning hours with the Coastal Group PBR's and the ARVN Junks acted as a blocking force along the N-S grid lines ZD06. All personnel and sampans were herded into collection point at Bach Thach (H) (ZD038025). Land blocking position were established to preclude anyone escaping by land at the following locations: A 30 (ZC040025); C 20 & C30 (YC987070) to (ZC0103). The operation started 152030 Dec with a sweep from NW to SE of the Bay (Negative results): a second sweep was conducted 160445Dec resulting in 11 sampans and 52 detainees; 26 Adults were classified as curfew violators. A Medcap was conducted in conjunction with the interrogation. Trained PRU's from Hue were flown in to the JIC on the morning of 16 Dec. The operation was concluded that afternoon.

On 15DEC, C/2-502 IN took responsibility of Bridge 4 and Recon was released from their OPCON, and was given the mission of securing FSB Roy (ZC057029).

15 December 1969

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 1-502 IN BN continued to conduct normal operations with negative contact.



- 15 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** The 81mm mortars section found six 60mm mortar rounds with charges and safety pins at grid YD773091. The rounds were about six months old. A/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found 15 to 20 fighting positions and a bunker at grid YD845035. The bunker had fields of fire out in front of it. The complex is at least a year old and there was no sign of recent activity. To the west is a north-south stream and to the east a trail that runs NE-SW.
- 16 December 1967 A/2-501 IN and CMD GRP at 1130H, closed into BN Area. (2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officers Log; 16 December 1967)
- 16 December 1967 B/2-501 IN and E/2-501 IN at 1200H, closed into BN Area. (2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officers Log; 16 December 1967)
- 16 December 1968 Two villagers provided Screaming Eagles information that led to the killing of one enemy and the discovery of two other enemy killed near Phu Loc. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon – The Chain Gang – engaged two-armed VC, who discarded their weapons and fled into a group of civilians. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)
- 16 December 1968 B/1-502 IN had light contact, vicinity YD6119 which they engaged 3 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA and 2 VC WIA. B/1-502 IN had 1 US slightly wounded. C/1-502 IN (-) returned to LZ Sally from OPCON to 1-501 IN BN via "hook" from FSB Sandy. Recon platoon with 2 platoons of PF departed An Lo to RIF, vicinity YD6131. C/1-502 IN, 26 elements, conducted Eagle flight from LZ Sally to vicinity YD6238. Gunship escort engaged 2 VC with negative results.
- 16 December 1969 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** A/1-502 IN continued to provide security at FSB Arsenal and Pohl Bridge. B/1-502 IN continued to provide security at FSB Birmingham. B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found 2 tunnels inside a stream bank vicinity YD807093. There were negative signs of recent use. D/1-502 IN conducted patrols vicinity YD794063 and YD810048. D/1-502 IN conducted patrols. D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon returned from a stand-down at Eagle Beach and conducted a C/A from FSB Birmingham to YD784105. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducted MAP's vicinity YD786008 and YD778998. All results were negative.
- 16 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> squad found a VC/NVA trail running N-NE at grid YD770012. They estimated about ten VC/NVA used this trail within the last four days.



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**During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division deployed in support of the Vietnam War the following awards were awarded to the service members during combat operations.**

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1 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
4 x Bronze Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)  
7 x Purple Heart Medal (7 x Posthumously)  
4 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

10 December 1965



SP4 Rudy M. Sagon (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of metal fragment wounds in the chest during a hostile ground action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

10 December 1965

SGT James H. Lewis (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds received in hostile ground action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

10 December 1965



SP4 Charles E. Boston (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds received in hostile ground action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

10 December 1965



SP4 Robert R. Bohler (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds received in hostile ground action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

11 December 1971

1LT Philip S. Gallagher III (E/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile illness or disease as a ground casualty at Phu Bai Combat Base in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 December 1968



PFC Salvatore A. Rowe (B/1-502 IN) died from other Non-hostile causes while as a passenger on a military air cushioned vehicle on a reconnaissance patrol when he left his forward position to inspect the rear of the craft and was struck by the craft's propeller in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 December 1965



SSG Pete A. Valasquez (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from cardiac arrest due to multiple fragmentation wounds in hostile ground action on 12 December 1965, in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.



14 December 1970



PFC Richard L. Maynard Jr. (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously). PFC Maynard died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty while outside of artillery firing position when an explosive device (Claymore Mine) detonated in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 December 1970



PFC Richard J. Knickerbocker (D/2-501 IN) was wounded from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty while outside of artillery firing position when an explosive device (Claymore Mine) detonated in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Knickerbocker was admitted to a medical facility and later expired on 25 December 1970.

15 December 1965

SGT James W. Grey (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds received in hostile ground action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

16 December 1968



PFC James M. Ludwig (B/1-502) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death while on combat operation when mistaken for hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 December 1970



SGT Val C. Robinson (D/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile injury as a ground casualty from injuries received on 6 December 1970 while he was dynamiting a helicopter landing zone when crushed by a falling tree in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.





## STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

12 December 1965



SSG Pete A. Valasquez (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 12 December 1965 while serving as a squad leader in an airborne infantry battalion on a search and destroy operation in Ben Cat, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Valasquez was assigned to the lead platoon of the battalion. At approximately 0915 hours while advancing through dense jungle terrain, one squad in the platoon came under fire from an estimated Viet Cong squad. Hearing the initial burst of fire, Sergeant Valasquez quickly moved his squad to the front to assist the squad under fire. Upon reaching the area, the insurgent squad had slipped back into the jungle leaving several trails of blood. Without hesitation, Sergeant Valasquez led four of his men along the trail of blood in relentless pursuit of the insurgents. As they stopped off the small trail, six Viet Cong opened fire from concealed positions with automatic weapons and hand grenades. Sergeant Valasquez was wounded four times, but he quickly turned to his men and directed their fire on the insurgents. As the fire fight progressed, a grenade wounded him for the fifth time and he fell to the ground unconscious and shortly afterwards died from his wounds. Throughout the brief but ferocious battle, Sergeant Valasquez placed the welfare of his men and the accomplishment of the mission above his personal safety. His leadership, devotion to duty, and gallantry were an inspiration to his men. Sergeant Valasquez's gallant actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 639; 1 February 1966)

13 December 1967 –  
20 November 1968



SGT Ronald J. Ymbras (1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever-changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of this extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United State Mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service. (HQ; 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 9860; 26 November 1968)



# ACRONYMS

ACAV: Armored Cavalry  
AD: Americal Division  
AD: Airborne Division (Would be after numeric numbers)  
AO: Area of Operations  
ARA: Aerial Rocket Artillery  
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal  
ARVN: Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA))  
BDE: Brigade  
BN: Battalion  
BSM: Bronze Star Medal  
BBT: Booby Traps  
CA: Combat Assault  
CANOPY: Heavily Wooded Terrain  
CO: Company  
CP: Command Post  
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross  
DZ: Drop Zone  
FSB: Fire Support Base  
HQ: Headquarters  
IED: Improvised Explosive Device  
IFFV: I Field Force Vietnam  
IN: Infantry  
KBA: Killed by Air or Artillery  
KHA: Killed by Hostile Action  
KIA: Killed in Action  
KNHA: Killed by Non-Hostile Action  
LZ: Helicopter Landing Zone  
MI: Military Intelligence  
MOH: Medal of Honor  
MP: Military Police  
NDP: Night Defensive Position  
NVA: North Vietnamese Army  
OBJ: Objective  
OP: Observation Post  
PAVN: People Army of Vietnam  
POW: Prisoner of War  
PF: Popular Forces  
PZ: Helicopter Pick-up Zone  
Recon Platoon: Reconnaissance Platoon  
RIF: Reconnaissance in Force  
RF: Regional Force  
ROK: Republic of Korea  
SA: Situational Awareness  
SIGINT: Signal Intelligence  
SSM: Silver Star Medal  
STRIKE Force: 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SVA: South Vietnamese Army  
TF: Task Force  
TOC: Tactical Operations Center  
USARV: United States Army Vietnam  
USARPAC: United States Army Pacific  
WIA: Wounded in Action  
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action  
WNHA: Wounded by Non-Hostile Action  
"V": Valor  
VC: Viet Cong

