



STRIKE

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Brief History of the 501st, 502nd and 2nd Brigade (101st ABN DIV)

The 502nd, or “five-oh-deuce”, was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502nd parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502nd 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 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502nd in different brigades of the 101st.



The 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th 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 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry. December 1967 the 501st, 502nd and 2nd 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.



During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501st Infantry Regiment, 502nd Infantry Regiment and 2nd Brigade, 101st 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.)

- 04 – 05 March 1966 **Operation HARRISON:** At 1015H, A/2-502 IN engaged approximately 20 VC vicinity BQ995734; results: 2 BC KIA (EST). At 1015H, B/2-502 IN sighted approximately 24 VC vicinity BQ99580, artillery adjusted; results unknown. There was negative contact the rest of the day and night and A/2-502 IN platoon ambushed 3 BC vicinity CQ003766 at 0200H on 05 March 1966.
- A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN continued CHECKERBOARD operations and C/2-502 IN remained as Battalion reserve. RECONDO platoon continued joint operations with CIDG forces vicinity DONG TRE SF camp. B/2-502 IN engaged 9 VC at 0805H on 05 March vicinity BQ989696; results: 1 VC KIA (BC). At 1000 hours on 05 March, A/2-502 IN captured 3 VC's with military equipment vicinity CQ004742. The 2-502 IN BN was alerted to move by air from its present location vicinity CQ061722 to TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield and assume mission of Brigade reserve. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operations HARRISON; 1 April 1966)
- 04 March 1968 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations and conducted joint sweep with PF's vicinity An Lo Bridge. Results: 2 NVA KIA (BC). Recon made light contact had 2 Soldiers wounded.
- 04 March 1968 2-501 IN BN Companies conducted patrol and ambush operations throughout their AO. A/2-501 IN at 1145H had one-man medevac on C&C ship with leg injury from 90mm Recoilless rifle. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Log; 04 March 1968)
- 04 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 0245H, A/2-502 IN vicinity AT924926 a large explosion damaged bridge, road impassable. Engineers reconstructed and opened by 1200H on 04 March. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Operation Tacoma-Houston After Action Report; 20 March 1968)
- 04 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** The 1st CAV DIV (Airmobile) with eleven (11) infantry battalions continued search and destroy operations in QUANG TRI and the THUA THIEN Provinces with significant contact. From 1335H to 1800H, B/1-501 IN and C/1-501 IN (YD 663318) engaged and unknown sized enemy force. Air strikes were utilized in support of the contact, which resulted in 60 NVA KIA, one weapon captured; Five US KIA and 14 US WIA and evacuated. (Texas Tech. Vietnam Center and Archives; Doc #1201064111)
- 04 March 1970 D/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon trained 11 PF on joint US-PF patrols. C/1-502 IN spotted from LOH a tunnel entrance 1-meter x 1 meter with a small trough leading up to it. A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon found fresh tracks of NVA and hootch frame made with green bamboo strips.
- 04 – 13 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2-502 IN BN (STRIKE Force) returned en masse to Camp Eagle for a well-deserved period of training and stand down. The 2-502 IN BN returned to Camp Eagle for a well-deserved period of training and stand-down. Training continued at Camp Eagle throughout the 13th of March. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 04 March 1970 A/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon was attacked while they were in their NDP by a sapper squad; A/2-502 IN lost one KIA and eight WIA.
- 04 March – 09 April 1971 **Operation LAM SON 719:** During this operation, the 1-501 IN BN moved to FB Vandergrift with D/1-501 IN being OPCON to 2-502 IN BN from 04 – 11 March 1971.
- 05 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** 1st CAV DIV (Airmobile) with eleven (11) infantry battalions continued search and destroy operations in QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN provinces with moderate contact. At 1456H, B/2-501 IN (YD 673236) made contact with an unknown size enemy force. ARA helicopters provided support for the contact with terminated at 1630H. Results of the contact were six NVA KIA, one weapons captured, one US KIA and four US WIA and evacuated. (Texas Tech. Vietnam Center and Archives; Doc #1201064111)



05 March 1968

2-501 IN BN continued operation throughout their respected AO. At 0045H, A POW captured on 04 March 1968 states that a NVA BN recently passed through his village. The NVA BN CO met with the local guerrilla leader and the BN CO said that he was going to meet 2000 NVA soldiers and that they would attack HUE, the Anlow Bridge and Camp Evans. No later than 10 March 1968. Furthermore, they would attack in force to kill all US soldiers. The following coordinates are given as suspected BN size CPs. Within 4000m (YD817254), Within 2000m (YD610162), Within 500m (YD702308), Within 250m (YD620180), Within 400m (YD669188), within 300m (YD580320). The following are also suspected by size CPs to be located. YD693221, YD694217, YD691285, YD820245, YD693243, YD721311, YD725307, YD748293, YD762207. The following are suspected regimental size CPs to be located at YD877238, YD588322. At 0100H, Juliet reported artillery rounds landing within 300m of their position. A check with the artillery indicated that they had just fired and MI target in grid square 6621 and would make a check fire on that target. At 1309H, B/2-501 IN received sniper fire vicinity YD675236, artillery was called for ARA described as automatic fire. Close range. At 1319H, Recon 41 received fire from bunker vicinity 653203, est. 2-3 personnel well dug in and concealed ARA been requested. At 1428H, Recon had 1 WIA medevaced. B/2-501 IN reported at 1455 and 1535 that they had 1 WIA at each reported time. At 1707, B/2-501 IN reported summary of contact today. In the morning along tree line vicinity YD673238 point man saw individuals with weapons and engaged and shot him and got a LMG. Started to sweep the area and the left flank started receiving heavy fire coming from a bunker line, freshly dug position. Looked under construction some completed, and some weren't. ARA saw 9 of them in a trench to the front of B/2-501. End of day Results: Recon 2 WIA, 1 EVA; 2 Body Count; B/2-501 IN, 6 NVA KIA, Recon, 1 NVA KIA, B/2-501: 1 AK-47 and 1 LMG Captured. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Log; 05 March 1968)

05 March 1968

The 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations with light contact, 1 Soldier WIA from punji pit.

05 March 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: C/2-502 IN was relieved in place by a unit of the 1/5 Marine at 1550 hours and deployed by motor convoy to Gia Le Base. At 1945H, A/2-502 IN vicinity AT923926 engaged 2 or 3 VC with small arms. Sweep at first light revealed 1 ChiCom Claymore and 300 feet of copper wire. At 2300H they received a single sniper round, result 1 US WHA. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Operation Tacoma-Houston After Action Report; 20 March 1968)



05 March 1970

1-502 IN, Recon platoon received S/A fire from 3 to 4 NVA/VC. One US was wounded in action and a medivac and ARA was called in. The ARA spotted 2 NVA/VC and engaged. The ARA also engaged bunker, tunnel and bunker complex, all with unknown results. Recon found blood trail running to the southeast. These incidents took place in the area of 795988 and 799988 respectively.

05 March 1971

1-501 IN BN moved to FB Vandergrift. C/1-502 IN remained OPCON to 2-502 IN BN at LZ Anne.

06 March 1966

Operation HARRISON: At 0800H, the 2-502 IN BN was helilifted from present positions to the vicinity of CQ061722 to Battalion Trains located TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield. A/2-502 IN was lifted from LZ vicinity CQ004745, B/2-502 IN from LZ vicinity of BQ994684, C/2-502 IN and 2-502 BN (-) from LZ vicinity CQ004745 and RECONDO platoon from DONG TRE SF camp. The 2-502 IN BN closed at TUY HOA SOUTH vicinity CQ207428 at 1405H. There were 103 sorties of UH1D helicopters utilized. At this time the 2-502 IN BN assumed mission as the Brigade reserve with 1 Company on 1-hour alert and 2-502 IN BN (-) on 6-hour alert for possible deployment in support of the Brigades operations. Only local security was established, and maximum effort was placed on maintenance of weapons and equipment and personal hygiene. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation HARRISON; 1 April 1966)

06 March 1968

D/1-502 IN made heavy contact at 1313H in the vicinity of YD698304 (W-Shaped village); D/1-502 IN broke contact at 1612H and was extracted from hot LZ after using all available fire support on village. Estimated 2 reinforced companies in the village. Results: Friendly: 5-KIA, 25-WIA, 2-MIA; Enemy 58-KIA (BC) Confirmed by aerial observation.

06 March 1968

Operation JEB STUART: The 1st CAV DIV (Airmobile) with eleven (11) infantry battalions continued search and destroy operations in QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN Provinces with moderate contact. At 1345H, D/1-502 IN and E/1-502 IN engaged an estimated enemy battalion in fortified positions (YD 693302). ARA Helicopters and Artillery Fires were directed on the enemy positions with undetermined enemy casualties. During the contact two US were KIA and 24 US were WIA and evacuated. (Texas Tech. Vietnam Center and Archives; Doc #1201064111; FMFPAC SITREP #1074, Period 06 March 1968)



06 March 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: At 1000H, 2-502 IN BN was relieved of TAOR by the 1/5 Marines and began movement to close GIA LE Base. Result of operation was an extensive Search and Destroy and saturation ambushing was conducted with only sporadic contact with local force units. Contact was negative with main force VC/NVA units. Casualties as follows:



	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>NBD</u>
US	0	11	9
	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>DETAINEE</u>	<u>WPS CAPTURED</u>
ENEMY	5	1	3 AK-47's 1 SKS 1 60mm Mortar 1 RPG

The Battalion personnel strength at the end of Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON was as follows (MTOE II – 60):

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	657
Present for Duty:	589
Not Present for Duty:	68

The assigned strength was 84% of the authorized strength. The present for duty strength was 90% of the assigned strength.

Casualties for Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON were as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>INRHA</u>	<u>NONE BATTLE DEATH</u>
HHC	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
A Co	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
B Co	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
C Co	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	6	0	2	1

(HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Operation Tacoma-Houston After Action Report; 20 March 1968)

06 March 1970

1-502 IN, Recon platoon while making a sweep of some dense foliage found 1 VN letter, 2 empty fish cans, and 1 RPG round. Recon team one at approximately location 795989 found 100 or more bunkers ranging from 5"x6' to 8'x10' with overhead cover of 3" to 9" of logs and dirt. Bunkers area estimated to be 3 to 9 months old and the area is honeycombed with well used trails. Recon also located rocket launching site used in last 30 days. C/1-502 IN spotted 2 VC/NVA in the vicinity of 782021 running north. They engaged with negative results.

06 March 1971

1-501 IN BN assumed the responsibilities of FB Vandergrift and its area of operation.

07 March 1968

1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations and made 3 Company size C/A's resulting in moderate contact. B/1-502 IN recovered the bodies of the 2 MIA from D/1-502 IN. Results: Friendly: 1-KIA, 1-WIA, 2- MIA to KIA; Enemy 30 KIA (BC)

07 March 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: Operation Began (2-502 IN BN); Locations: Hoa Province, RVN; Task Organization: A/2-502 IN, B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, Recondo/2-502, 3 (-)/A/326 ENG, 6/2-320 ARTY (105), Mortar Platoon IPW, 181 MI Detachment. The following changes were made in the task organization during the operations:

- (1) 1st Cav assumed OPCON 2-502 IN BN effective 070001March & released OPCON 181800 March.
- (2) 2-502 IN BN assumed OPCON C/1-327 IN effective 091415H March & released OPCON 111635 March.
- (3) 2-502 IN BN assumed OPCON LRRP Team from Div effective 161300 March & released 280800 March.
- (4) 2-237 IN BN assumed OPCON A/2-502 IN effective 231025 March & released 280800 March.
- (5) 2-327 IN BN assumed OPCON B/2-502 IN effective 271025 March & released 280800 April.
- (6) 2-502 IN BN assumed OPCON A/3-5 CAV, 1st platoon effective 280800 March & released 160001 April.
- (7) 2-502 IN BN assumed OPCON B/1-502 IN effective 151510 April & retained control over it at the end of operation.
- (8) 2-502 IN BN assumed OPCON A/2-327 IN effective 1515H April and released OPCON effective 160001 April.

Mission: Phase I: H-hour D day 2-502 IN BN deploys by vehicle to assigned AO conduct combat operations in zone, be prepared for further employment west on order. Phase II: 2-502 IN BN established and secured FSB Bastogne in the vicinity of YD 6109 to accommodate one Btry each light, medium, and heavy artillery.

The Battalion personnel strength at the beginning of Operation was as follows:

Authorized:	773
Assigned:	692
Present for Duty:	630
Not present for duty:	64

During Phase I extensive combat operations were conducted by all the maneuver elements, with only several major contacts.



07 – 28 March 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: Phase I: During this phase the 2-502 IN BN maintained security of the rock crusher site/TAC-CP by rotating the companies into the TAC-CP. On 10 March the first significant contact was made involving A/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN and Recon. From this time to the end of phase I significant contacts were made by B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN on combat operations against enemy in bunker positions. Artillery DT's and H&I were used extensively; however, gunships were seldom used due to scarcity of the Division. The terrain was mountainous with thick jungle and tall canopy on the western portion of the AO. In the north, there were high barren mountain ridges. On 23 March, A/2-502 IN came under OPCON 2-327 IN BN. B/2-502 IN was also put under OPCON to 2-327 IN BN on 27 March. Phase I ended on 28 March when the 2-502 IN BN minus A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN were heliborne into FSB Bastogne and A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN were returned to 2-502 IN BN control.

During phase I extensive combat operations were conducted by all the maneuver elements, with only several major contacts. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN; 25 April 1968)

07 March 1970

1-502 IN BN, Recon team #1 received S/A AK-47 fire and RPG's at a distance of 40 meters resulting in 2 US WIA. Action occurred at YC787985. The wounds were minor and were treated in the field. C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found 3 spider holes and one bunker. Estimated age was 6 months.

07 March 1971

A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon found one bunker at XD953519. A trail oriented north to south, additionally the platoon found 50-60 51 caliber rounds.

07 March 1971

D/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon vicinity CS179549 found 13 bunkers. They received sniper fire with no casualties. They found a rucksack, E-Too, rice (20-30 lbs.), 3 lbs. of salt and various cooking utensils. The bunkers were 1-2 months old and 75m from water source.

08 March – 23 March 1967

Operation FARRAGUT IV: Location: Son Hai, Vinh Hao, Secret Base 7, Secret Base 35, Route 1, Route 407, Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan Provinces. **Type:** search and destroy. **Controlling headquarters:** 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div. **Task organization:** 1-327 Inf, 2-327 Inf, 2-502 Inf, 2-320 Art, B/1-30 Art, A/2-17 Cav, A/326 Eng, 2/44 ARVN Bn, 4th Troop, 8th ARVN ACS. **Execution:** The fourth phase of Operation FARRAGUT was directed into Secret Base 35 south of Phan Rang and west of Route 1. on 8 Mar, LRRP teams were inserted into the AO to conduct ambush and surveillance patrols, followed the next day by 2-502 Inf executing an airmobile raid to cordon and search the hamlet of Son Hai on the coast. At the same time, 2-327 Inf was combat assaulted into the northern part of the secret base while 1-327 Inf moved overland from Tuy Phong. Contact was light and infrequent. On 10 Mar, the brigade CP was relocated from Song Mao to the brigade main base camp at Phan Rang. On 13 Mar, 2-327 Inf with one battery of artillery terminated its participation in FARRAGUT and was moved overland to Tuy Hoa to reinforce Task Force IVY. On 15 Mar, 2-502 Inf conducted an overland and airmobile movement just to the south of Secret Base 7 but made minimal contact. On 22 Mar, 1-327 Inf returned to Phan Rang while 2-502 Inf conducted a one-day airmobile raid on the deserted hamlet of Vinh Hao in Binh Thuan Province, capturing only 2 ARVN deserters. The following day, Operation FARRAGUT was terminated, and all the brigade elements closed Phan Rang. **Results:** (all four phases) 115 enemy killed, 20 captured, 119 detained, 1 returnee, 15 US KIA, 114 US WIA, 5 ARVN WIA. (Vietnam Combat Operations – 1967; A chronology of Allied combat operations in Vietnam; Stephane Moutin-Luyat)

08 March – 17 May 1968

Operation Carentan II consisted of the 2BDE conducting RIF operations north and northwest of HUE to destroy enemy forces, base camps and installations, while the 3BDE, 82d ABN DIV provided external security for HUE and conducted RIF operations east and south of Hue. (Operational Report of 101st Air Cavalry Division for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))

08 March – 17 May 1968

Operation Carentan I – II

Locations: I Corps; Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces; Song Bo River; Col Co Beach; Hue; Phuoc yen; Van Xa Lang; Xom Dong; FSB Hardcore; LZs Devil, Detroit, Geronimo, Pinky.

Type/Objective: Carentan I – II Combines Search and Destroy, Cordon and Search and Reconnaissance in Force operations into the lowlands of Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces. Note: Carentan I (8-30 March) and Carentan II (1 April – 17 May).

Units: US – 23rd ID (Americal), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (2-1st Infantry), 3BDE, 82nd ABN DIV (1-505th ABN, 2-505th ABN, 1-508th ABN), 101st ABN DIV: 1st BDE (2-327th ABN, 2-17th CAV) 2BDE (1-501st IN, 2-501st IN, 1-502nd IN); VNAF – 1st ARVN Division; NVA/VC - 324-B NVA Division (90th, 803d and 812th NVA regiments), 4th NVA Regiment.

- Events: 10 April – "Battle of Thon Phuoc Dien". Companies A/2-501 IN, B/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN (101st ABN DIV) encounter an estimated six battalions from the 812th NVA Regiment near the small village of Thon Phuoc Dien, 12 miles southeast of Quang Tri City. Losses: U.S. – 7 KIA, 35 WIA in the firefight. Enemy losses are reported at 66 KIA.
- Events: 28 April – 4 May – While conducting a Cordon and Search of the villages of Thon Duong Son and Phuoc Yen, several elements of the 101st ABN DIV clash with strong enemy forces four miles northwest of Hue. Involved in the action are B/2-501 IN and D/2-501 IN, 1-502 IN BN, 2-1 IN, 2-17 CAV, and the 2-327 IN BN versus the 8-90th NVA Regiment. Losses: U.S. - 6 KIA, 43 WIA; NVA/VC – 314 KIA, 107 POWs
- Events: 1 May – the 2-17 CAV battles a reinforced company of NVA Soldiers 13 miles northwest of Hue. Losses: U.S. – 2 KIA, 26 WIA; NVA/VC – 82 KIA



- Events: 5 – 6 May _ “Battle of La Chu”. While conducting a Cordon and Search of La Chu, three miles northwest of Hue, A/1-501 IN and D 1-501 IN, A/2-501 IN & C 2-501 IN, 2-17 CAV and C/2-34 AR engage an NVA force of unknown size.
Losses: U.S. – 1 KIA, 18 WIA; NVA/VC – 55 KIA.

Total Casualties for Carentan I –II: U.S. – 193 KIA, 1,190 WIA, 11 MIA; NVA/VC – 1,892 KIA, 69 POWs.

- 08 March 1968 1-502 IN BN continued operations and A/1-502 IN made heavy contact near AN DONG LAM (YD 680318). After 3 hours of heavy fighting A/1-502 IN was ordered to pull back leaving 3 KIA bodies because of intense fire. Results: Enemy: 3 KIA, 17 WIA, 2 MIA; Enemy: 25 KIA (BC), 4 WIA/POW, 50 KIA (Estimated)
- 08 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** The 1st CAV DIV (Airmobile), with twelve (12) Infantry battalions, continued search and destroy operations in QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN Province with significant contact. A/1-502 IN made contact with an estimated two companies of NVA in prepared positions (YD 680317). Contact remained throughout the day, resulting in 26 NVA KIA, three weapons captured, and 12 US WIA and evacuated.
- At 1316H, C/1-502 IN (YD 683313) engaged in unknown size enemy force, resulting in 17 enemy KIA, one weapon captured and seven US WIA and evacuated. At 1830H, A/1-501 IN (YD 629224) found nine enemy bodies, one weapon, one M-60 MG Barrel, 3,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 13 rounds of 60mm mortar ammunition, eight B-40 rockets, and 14 grenades. In twelve (12) additional incidents 20 enemy were KIA, two weapons were captured, one US KIA, and eleven (11) US were WIA and evacuated. (Texas Tech. Vietnam Center and Archives; Doc #1201064111)
- 08 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** C/1-502 IN discovered 1 VC KIA in a grave 7 days old in the vicinity YD639209.
- 08 March 1970 C/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon at approximately location 782010 found 14 fighting positions and four large bunkers. There was double apron barb wire fence used for sapper training. Complex was about 1 year old. The C/C bird sighted 2 NVA/VC in open at 792988 and called in artillery with negative results. C/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon found a trail by 1-2 persons in last 12 hours.
- 08 March 1971 B/1-501 IN vicinity CS924458 had MA detonated. Resulting in tow NVA KIA and one AK-4 captured.
- 08 March 1971 D/1-501 IN engaged four enemy Soldiers in the rolling hills north of QUANG TRI, killing all four and capturing three weapons. The Screaming Eagle element was operating just south of the DMZ in support of Operation Lam Son 719. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 4); Winter-Spring 1970-1971)
- 08 March 1971 1-501 IN BN, Recon Team 2 vicinity XD880554 found a banana leaf on trail with the following message written in Vietnamese: We will stay in this area and fight from our bunkers and will not leave.
- 09 – 12 March 1966 **Operation HARRISON:** A/2-502 IN with AT platoon attached conducted motor movement effective 0700H to vicinity CQ13525 and relieved A/TRP, 17th Cavalry of the mission of securing artillery. Relay was completed at 0800H and A/2-502 IN dispatched two RECONDO patrols at 1915H; one (squad size) to vicinity BQ099525, the second vicinity CQ100515. The RECONDOS remained in designated positions. A third squad size RECONDO patrol infiltrated along a route to vicinity CQ152546 and returned to the company base at 100515H March. Commending 100840H March, A/2-502 IN (-) consisting of two rifle platoons conducted a search and destroy operation in the vicinity of TAN AN (1), CQ1563. A/2-502 IN (-) received sniper fire from an unknown number of VC at 1022H vicinity CQ145622; results two US WIA. At 1427H, A/2-520 IN (-) found a bloody pistol belt with three hand grenades at CQ152643; results 1 VC KIA (EST). There were no further contacts and A/2-502 IN closed into Company base approximately 1730H. Also, on 10 March, B/2-502 IN provided one platoon as security for Engineers working on Route 7 with negative enemy contact. On 10 March, A/2-502 IN infiltrated two-night RECONDO patrols to vicinity BQ093534 and BQ094519 plus an additional moving patrol which screened to the Northeast and returned to the company base at daybreak. All patrols had negative contact. A/2-502 IN conducted 3 RECONDO patrols vicinity area COBRA. Two patrols infiltrated from positions at BQ090535 and BQ094525 to the company base at CQ135525. At 111950H March one RECONDO patrol engaged 4 VC at CQ108533 killing 2 VC, wounding one VC and capturing one SMG. One RECONDO patrol infiltrated from the company base vicinity CQ540546 and returned on 120630H with negative contact. A/2-502 IN relieved of Artillery security mission by A/TRP 12th Cavalry at 1200H and returned to battalion base at 121435H. At Platoon reverted to battalion control at 1435H. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation HARRISON; 1 April 1966)
- 09 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT:** At 0700H, the Brigade initiated search and destroy operations against Secret Base 35. The 2-502 IN BN executed an early morning airmobile raid with one company and the reconnaissance platoon to cordon and search the hamlet of SONG HAI (BN8262). National Police assisted in the search, segregation and screening of inhabitants upon completion of the cordon. The 2-502 IN BN minus conducted an airmobile assault into the southeast portion of Secret Base 35 and began search and destroy operations to the west.
- At 1200H, elements of the 2-502 IN BN were relieved of their mission at SONG HAI by elements of the 2-44 ARVN REGT which moved overland on Provincial Route 407. These elements rejoined the battalion minus in the AO and by 1305H the airmobile move was completed. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation FARRAGUT)
- 09 – 23 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT V:** This operation beginning in the VC Secret Base 35 area southeast of PHAN RANG, and the morning slightly northwest to the same AO used by the 2-502 IN BN in FATTAGUT III. The mission was to fix and destroy a VC Company reportedly operating in the area. This whole region is in Ninh Thuan Province



- 09 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT V:** This operation started with an air assault to SON HOI, a VC controlled hamlet, by elements of the STRIKE FORCE. Landing near the ocean, B/2-502 IN and the Recondo Force conducted a "cordon and search" of SON HOI, collecting 30 detainees and 1 VC POW with weapon. Then A/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN made a combat air assault to the south of SON HOI, and all elements began search and destroy operations to the west. A/2-502 IN received fire on the LZ, and called in gunships, resulting in 1 VC KHA with weapon. Units continued to sweep west, finding small number of old campsites but making no enemy contact.
- 09 March 1968 Screaming Eagles of the 2BDE rejoined the Division after completing their phase of Operation Jeb Stuart near QUANG TRI City with the 1st AIR CAV DIV. They killed 1,011 enemies during their phase of the Operation. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 2); July 1968)
- 09 March 1968 1-502 IN BN conducted a joint 3 Company assault on village complex center of mass YD6731. A/1-502 IN, B/1-502 IN, and C/1-502 IN remained in heavy contact from 0900H to 1445H. Air Strikes, artillery, naval gunfire, and organic weapons used against suspected 2 Battalions of NVA in the village. Results: Friendly: 3-KIA, 17-WIA, and 2-MIA; Enemy: 35-KIA (BC) and 20-KIA (Est.).
- 09 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** At 0902H, A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN engaged an unknown size enemy force (YD 682317). Artillery, Armed helicopters and fixed wing air strikes supported the contact which continued until 1645H and resulted in 35 enemy KIA, five weapons captured, three US KIA and 18 US WIA and evacuated. (Texas Tech. Vietnam Center and Archives; Doc #1201064111)
- 09 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** C/1-502 IN discovered a small, abandoned enemy base area vicinity YD633205. At 1813H vicinity YD618205, C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon was engaged by an estimated enemy squad, resulting in 1 US WIA.
- 09 March 1970 A/1-502 IN, 3d platoon spotted 3 NVA/VC moving 50 meters away along a trail. Engaged with S/A. Recon located 1 booby trap made with grenade and three 81mm fuses. A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon at YD746806 found 4 to 6 elephant prints. Estimated to be 1-2 weeks old. At YD743005 they found an old ChiCom grenade along a stream bed.
- 09 March 1971 A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity XD955520 found one hootch. Recent activity within last 24 hours. Also found 7 B-40 rockets, 10 60mm rounds and 1 82mm round.
- 09 March 1971 A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity XD957522 found ten bunkers. 7 – 60mm rounds with fuses. A trail oriented north to south.
- 09 March 1971 In continued operations north of QUANG TRI, A/1-501 IN and D/1-501 IN uncovered two enemy caches totaling 329 60mm mortar rounds, and one 82mm mortar round, seven RPG rounds and 500 rounds of .30 caliber small arms ammunition. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 4); Winter-Spring 1970-1971)
- 10 March 1967 US planes bomb the Thai Nguyen iron and steel complex 38 miles north of HANOI in the first bombing raid on major industrial installations in North Vietnam.
- 10 March 1968 A large weapons cache was discovered by A/1-501 IN. It included 16 rockets or 122mm, 321mm, 321 rounds of 60mm mortars, 170 rounds of 82mm mortars, 107 RPG-7 rounds, 228 RPG-2 rounds, 24,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 2,800 blasting caps and 28 cases of TNT. Paratroopers of C/2-501 IN killed 25 enemies during a contact with an NVA company. Meanwhile, Screaming Eagles of A/1-501 IN captured a weapons cache containing 16 assault rifles, 10 rounds of 60mm mortars and 15 rounds of 82mm mortars after a bitter battle resulting in seven NVA killed. During the same period, other Division forces captured 22,700 pounds of rice along the banks of the Song Bo. It was found mostly in caves. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 2); July 1968)
- 10 – 11 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** The first significant contact was made involving A/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, and Recon. From this time to the end of Phase I significant contacts were made by B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN on combat operations against enemy bunker positions. The terrain was mountainous with thick jungle and tall canopy in the western portion of the AO. In the north, there were high barren mountain ridges.
- On 10 March at 1444H, Recondos in the vicinity of YD741272 saw 2 VC running from a hooch, fired them up with negative results. At 1515H, Recondos in the vicinity of YD735175 received machine gun and small arms fire from an estimated company sized force. Recondos maneuvered and began to receive mortar and suspected .50cal fires. They called in 4 gunships strikes and artillery. At 1625H, A/2-502 IN began to move to relieve Recondos and received machine gun, mortar, SA, and grenades in the vicinity of YD734173 from estimated company size elements dug in. At 1800H, C/2-502 IN was air assaulted from AO to the vicinity of YD735172 to assist A/2-502 IN and Recondos. An effective link-up with A/2-502 IN and Recondos was made at 1850H. All units' contact broken at 1945H. On 11 March, A/2-502 IN, Recondos and C/2-502 IN swept area of previous days' contacts. Results: 4 US KHA, 32 US WHA, 6 NVA KIA, 1 Detainee CIA, 1 RPD, 1 RPG, 2 AK-47, 2 AK-47, 2 SKS CIA. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation JEB STUARTT/CARENTAN; 25 April 1968)
- 10 March 1968 1-502 IN BN companies were in heavy contact vicinity YD6731. A/1-502 IN and C/1-502 IN recovered 5 MIA (KIA). A/1-502 IN reported finding 38 more bodies from the battle on the 9th and killed 10 more. Results: Enemy: 46 NVA KIA (BC) Artillery, 3 WIA/POW.
- 10 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** At 1200H, control of 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV was passed from the 1st CAV DIV to the 101st ABN DIV and the Brigade departed the operation. The 2-502 IN BN engaged an estimated enemy battalion (YD735171). Contact was broken at 1935H and resulted in three enemy KIA, three weapons captured, four US KIA and 36 WIA.



10 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** At 0915H vicinity YD619200 C/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon was engaged by an estimated NVA squad. The platoon returned fire with organic weapons and artillery resulting in 2 NVA KIA, 1 NVA and 2 IWC.

10 March 1970 B/1-502 IN had VN at trash dump that did not have necessary papers, and both were taken to NAM HOA by MP's.

10 March 1971 D/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon spotted three enemy at XD832567. Employed small arms fire. Resulting in one enemy KIA.

10 March 1972 The 101st Airborne Division is withdrawn from Vietnam.



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

1 x Distinguished Service Cross
 8 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
 16 x Bronze Star Medal (16 x Posthumously)
 60 x Purple Heart Medal (44 x Posthumously)
 63 x Combat Infantry Badge
 2 x Died of Wounds
 2 x Died from Non-hostile injuries or illness

04 March 1968



SGT Anthony E. Reed (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 when accidentally shot in the vicinity of DaNang as a ground casualty in the Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 March 1970



SFC Rudolfo R. Alura (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

05 March 1968



SP4 Robert R. Criswell (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

05 March 1968



SP4 James D. Guffey (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted from metal fragment wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile grenade in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 James D. Guffey later died from wounds on 06 March 1968.

05 March 1968

The following Soldiers from A/1-502 IN:

PFC William B. Alford	SSG James W. Allen	SSG Ramon M Angulo	SP4 Antonio Arrellano
SP4 Rodolfo Avelar	SP4 Robert W. Barrett	SSG Helmut W. Brinsa	PFC Donald A Brogdon
SP4 Amos C. Brown	PFC Thomas N. Cassick	PFC Aultor W. Chavis	PFC Charles E. Douglas
PFC Samuel A. Flake	SP5 Juan Flores	SP5 Jon C. Fuller	SP4 Jesse L. George
PFC Leonard E. Hannon	PFC Charles R. Hedrick	PFC Willie J. Hill	SP4 Carey J. Hobson
SGT James A. Holmes	SP4 Alvin B. Johnson	PFC Benjamin A. Jones	SP4 James J. King
SP4 David M. Kirk	PFC Andrew V. Kirkman	PFC Dennis J. Kromrey	SFC Wesley W. Petrouske
PFC Hereman McGee	SGT Mack G. McKinley	PVT Darnell Malloy	PVT John A. Martinez
SP5 George R. Meluch	SP4 Michael S. Morrow	PFC John A. Murray	PFC Joe M. Neill
PFC Ronald Purvis	PFC Lloyd R. Rutledge	SP4 Robert C. Schulz	PFC Mike J Sellers
PFC Robert Shepard	PFC Michael A. Shramko	CPT Terence Spiegelberg	SP4 Johnny B. Teasley
PVT Joseph W. Tice	PFC Alvin Tison	PFC Alexander C. Vigil	PFC James A. Web
PFC Roy L. White	PFC Billy V. Whitesville		

Was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. (DA, HQ 101st ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 65; 05 March 1968)



05 March 1968

The following Soldiers from B/1-502 IN:

PFC David B. Askins	2LT Philip G. Benn	SP4 Ralph J Camus	SP5 James M. Ernst
SP4 John C Hayden Jr.	PFC Donald G. Hays	SSG Herbert Hill	PFC Leonard J. Hill
PFC Frank L. Hoge	PFC Welton McCarty	PFC Arthur L. Mack	PFC James C. Rollinson
1LT James D. Walsh			

Was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. (DA, HQ 101st ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 65; 05 March 1968)

05 March 1971



PFC Larry D. Loden (C/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 while on a military mission when a booby trap detonated 4km NE of Ba Long Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

05 March 1971

PFC Gilbert Dowell (A/1-502 IN) died of Non-Hostile causes (Homicide) as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 March 1968



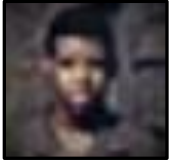
SP4 James D. Guffey (B/2-501 IN) died from wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile grenade in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 March 1968



SP4 Clinton R. Carpenter (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in W-Shape Village 9km NW of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 March 1968



PFC Alvin Carr (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in W-Shape Village 9km NW of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 March 1968



SP4 David J. Latraille (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in W-Shape Village 9km NW of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 March 1968



PFC Stephen F. Palazzola (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in W-Shape Village 9km NW of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 March 1968



SGT Phillip W. Pigford (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in W-Shape Village 9km NW of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



06 March 1968



CPL Gregory R. Shambaugh (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in W-Shape Village 9km NW of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 March 1968



PFC Stanley A. Stys (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in W-Shape Village 9km NW of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 March 1968

SP4 Robert G. Endara (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 420; 18 April 1968)

06 March 1968

SP4 Edward A. Roney Jr. (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 420; 18 April 1968)

06 March 1968

PFC Jim S. Anglemeyer (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 420; 18 April 1968)

06 March 1968

The following Soldier from D/1-502 IN:

SGT Donald R. Dennis	SP4 Gordon J. Beattie	SP4 William C. Rast Jr.	SP4 Thomas W. Sheridan
PFC William D. Evans	PFC Larry L. Delaunay	SGT Richard F. Hoffman	2LT Arthur O'Neil
SGT Tony M. Wallace	SGT Fred T. Jordon Jr.	SGT Jeffrey R. Lighton	

Was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 420; 18 April 1968)

06 March 1970



PFC Robert L. Webster (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hostile fire was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 March 1970

SP4 Walter L. Beckwith Jr. (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 March 1968



SGT Warren G. Tedrick (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragments received while his unit engaged a hostile force in a firefight while on combat operations in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968

SP4 Jacob D. Phillips (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during combat operations. (Purple Heart Medal Citation)

08 March 1968



SP4 William J Bowers (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his unit was engaged by hostile force in a firefight while on combat operations in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Bowers was admitted to a Naval Hospital where he expired shortly thereafter.



08 March 1968



PFC Samuel B. Hudson (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death as a result of fragment wounds when he was hit by fragment from a hostile grenade while on combat operations in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968



PFC Michael A. Shramko (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968



SGT Wayne M. Kidwell (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968



SP4 Rodolfo Villafranco (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968



PFC Sonnie Stephens (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968



PFC Ben H. Williams (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968



SP4 Craig A. Arndt (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968



2LT Delmar W. Probst (D/1-502 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 the result of gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



08 March 1968

SP4 Bernard Boney (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of wounds received when a hostile mine detonated while on combat operation in Ap Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968



SP4 Danny L. Smothers (A/1-501 IN) died in Japan as a result of ventriculitis, cerebral abscess and pneumonia due to wounds received when hit by fragments from friendly mortar round while in a night defensive position in Vietnam on 30 December 1967.

08 March 1969



CPL Alfred E. Alvey Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1969

CPL Robert E. Grant (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1969



SP4 Earl T. Hoag (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile rocket attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1969



CPL Roger H. Howes (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1969



PFC Matthew E. Morton Jr. (B/2-502 IN) (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1969

SP4 John L. Motley Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1969



PFC James M. Norman (B/2-502 IN) was awarded Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



08 March 1969



PFC Roger W. Smelser (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when hit by fragment from a hostile grenade when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1969



PFC David E. Theobald (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1969



SP4 Leon Tisdale (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1969



SP4 Jack E. Williams (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB Spear & O.P., 20km NE of A Shau Village, 18km S-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

09 March 1968



SGT Robert L. Clewlow (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of blast injury received when hostile mine was detonated while on combat operation in the vicinity of Ap Duc Trong 12km northwest of the Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

09 March 1968



SP4 John E. Hood (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile grenade in the vicinity of Ap Duc Trong 12km northwest of the Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

09 March 1968



SP4 Daniel L. Kinnard (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation while serving as a medic for A/1-502 IN in the vicinity of Ap Duc Trong 12km northwest of the Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

09 March 1968

SSG Leroy B. Robbins (E/1-502 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 the result of gunshot wound received when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the vicinity of Ap Duc Trong 12km northwest of the Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



09 March 1968



SP4 William Vazquez (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the vicinity of Ap Duc Trong 12km northwest of the Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

09 March 1968

SP4 Nestor Vargas-Guzman (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452; 24 April 1968)

10 March 1967

SFC Calvin P. White (HHC/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile injuries while he was in a landing zone when friendly aircraft flew overhead and accidentally fired M-79 rounds on to his position, in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

10 March 1968



SP5 Richard C. Brown (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on combat operation when unit engaged a hostile force in firefight west bank of Perfume River, 7km SW of the Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 March 1968



SGT Robert Rera (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on combat operation when unit engaged a hostile force in firefight west bank of Perfume River, 7km SW of the Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 March 1968



CPL Stephen M. Worley (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds received while on combat operation when unit engaged a hostile force in firefight west bank of Perfume River, 7km SW of the Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

06 March 1968



2LT Delmar W. Probst (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 March 1968. Second Lieutenant Probst distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. His company was moving through a rice paddy toward a village occupied by a North Vietnamese Army Battalion. As the lead elements entered a hedgerow leading into the village, the company was attacked from one flank and the rear. The enemy was firing small arms weapons, machine guns, and rocket propelled grenades. Second Lieutenant Probst immediately led his platoon in an assault on the enemy positions to the rear of the company. Disregarding his own safety, Second Lieutenant Probst carried three wounded men off the battlefield to safer positions. Still disregarding his own safety, he continuously moved through the intense hostile fire while directing and leading his platoon against the enemy. Second Lieutenant Probst's quick actions and gallant assault of the enemy positions prevented his company from being surrounded and saved many lives. His personal bravery and devotion to duty 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, 101st Air Cavalry Division; General Order Number 4470; 11 August 1968)

06 March 1968



SGT Ronald E. Long (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 March 1968. Sergeant Long distinguished himself while serving as communications Sergeant on a combat operation in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of 6 March 1968, Company D made a combat assault near the village of Ap Nho Lam in search of a suspected North Vietnamese Army Hospital. Upon entering the village, the company was engaged from three different directions by an enemy battalion with machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, and mortars. The enemy fired from fortified and well camouflaged bunkers. As casualties mounted, Sergeant Long aided in securing a landing zone for medical evacuation, and then returned to the battle. The First Platoon was engaged by hostile fire in a cemetery on the left flank and received heavy casualties from automatic weapons fire raking its positions. Evacuation of the dead and the wounded necessitated crossing open rice paddies directly in the enemy's field of fire. Fully conscious of this, Sergeant Long proceeded across the rice paddies, crawling the greater part of the one hundred and fifty meters to the cemetery. With disregard for his own safety, he dragged and carried the dead and wounded through heavy enemy fire to safety. By late afternoon, Sergeant Long had personally carried six men from the field and continued to aid others despite low ammunition. Sergeant Long's personal bravery and devotion to duty 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, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 914; 28 January 1969)

08 March 1968



SGT Thomas R. Gdovin (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 March 1968, while serving as a Squad Leader with 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in support of operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Gdovin's squad had become the company's lead element during and attack on enemy forces when they received intense automatic weapons and rocket fire. The lead Soldier in the formation was severely wounded and was unable to move in an area open to enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin placed the squad into defensive positions and suppressed the enemy fire. He then left the defensive position and with complete disregard for his own personal safety and advanced across open terrain toward the wounded Soldier, exposing himself to intense enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin then reached the wounded Soldier and under continued fire, brought him back to the safety of the squad's position, where he was further evacuated. Sergeant Gdovin's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the United States Army. (Permanent Orders 230-15; 18 August 2011)

08 March 1968

1LT William R. McKinney (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 08 March 1968. First Lieutenant McKinney distinguished himself while on a combat operation in the vicinity of Phy Bai, Republic of Vietnam. Contact was made with an enemy force in excess of a company. The enemy struck with such speed and accuracy that the lead element immediately became ineffective. First Lieutenant McKinney, platoon leader of the rear platoon, hurriedly led his platoon around the front elements and engaged the enemy. The lead element was then able to recover their wounded and reorganize. The M-60 machineguns, being the platoons main support weapons, were constantly running low on ammunition. On several occasions, and with completed disregard for his own personal safety, First Lieutenant McKinney ran through exposed terrain, braving the intense enemy automatic weapons fire to resupply his machine gunners with the critically needed ammunition. As the contact raged to full capacity of enemy automatic weapons fire, First Lieutenant McKinney simultaneously adjusted artillery from the foremost point of contact and directed his platoon's fire. In an attempt to overrun the main enemy stronghold, two friendly troops were killed within several meters of their objective. First Lieutenant McKinney organized a small element and again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, led them in an attempt to recover his dead troops. Under cover of friendly support fire, First Lieutenant McKinney crawled forward, slowly diminishing the distance between himself and the dead troopers. When almost to his objective, he was repulsed by intense enemy grenade attack. Withdrawing only the necessary distance for safety, he centralized his platoon's entire fire power on the enemy objective and was successful on his second attempt at getting the bodies. The company then joined in a swift assault and dispersed the enemy element. First Lieutenant McKinney's outstanding display of gallantry in action and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Order Number 5209; 29 August 1968)



09 March 1968



SP4 Richard J. Hagan (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 March 1968. Specialist Hagan distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner with the 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry at AB Xuan Tuy, Republic of Vietnam. Company C was conducting a combat operation when it came under intense automatic weapons fire from well-fortified enemy bunkers inside a village. In the early moments of the battle, the squad leader and the platoon sergeant for 2d Squad, 1st Platoon were both seriously wounded. Specialist Hagan's squad, being without leadership, began to lose ground and the outcome of the battle seemed inevitable. At this point, Specialist Hagan, without regard for his own safety, crawled approximately forty meters through open terrain, to a more suitable vantage point. Specialist Hagan set up a heavy volume of suppressive fire with his M60 machine gun, enabling the wounded men of his platoon to be pulled to a secure position. Specialist Hagan then turned his machinegun over to his assistant, Private First Class Miller, and began to place accurate fire on the enemy bunker with an M79 grenade launcher. After exhausting his supply of M79 ammunition, he called to the rear for M72 Light Antitank Weapons. The platoon medical aidman brought the weapons forward and gave them to Private First Class Miller, who prepared them for firing and handed them to Specialist Hagan. Specialist Hagan fired seven accurate hits with the M72's, destroying the enemy bunker. As a result of Specialist Hagan's actions the enemy was defeated and withdrew, leaving numerous casualties behind. Specialist Hagan's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force 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, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 7833; 21 October 1968)



10 March 1968

SP5 Danny Dennard (HHC/2-502) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Specialist Five Dennard distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 March 1968 as a medic with a Recon force near Hue. When contact was made, Specialist Dennard raced through the bullet-swept terrain, crossing the enemy's field of fire, to treat and evacuate two wounded comrades. Returning to the battle after taking them to the landing zone, he maneuvered to within fifty meters of the hostile trench line and evacuated to within fifty meters of the hostile trench line and evacuated four more casualties. Carrying an ammunition resupply on his way back to the contested area, he saw another wounded trooper. While attempting to get to the man, Specialist Dennard was knocked to the ground by an enemy grenade and wounded in the head. Disregarding his wound, he rushed to the man's side and treated him before tending his own injury. He then continued to the front lines to distribute the desperately needed ammunition. When another soldier was wounded during an effort to recover the bodies of two men who had been killed by enemy fire, Specialist Dennard fearlessly exposed himself to the communist' barrage to treat him and bring him to safety. A second assault was attempted, and another man was wounded. He rescued his stricken comrade and carried him three hundred meters to the evacuation site, also helping a casualty whom he discovered along the way. Specialist Dennard then joined in a third assault, which again proved futile and produced another casualty. After treating the man, he took part in a final charge which overran the enemy fortifications. Knowing that if he allowed himself to be evacuated his unit would be left without a medic, he refused to board the ambulance helicopter and remained with his comrades at their night position, going without treatment until the following morning. Specialist Five Dennard's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty 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 513; 13 February 1969)

10 March 1968



PFC Edwin E. Tubbs (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 March 1968. PFC Tubbs distinguished himself while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, in the vicinity of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. During a combat operation, Private First Class Tubbs' platoon came under intense automatic weapons and mortar fire, the platoon medical aid man was mortally wounded. Realizing the importance of this loss to the platoon, Private First Class Tubbs immediately assumed the responsibilities of the medical aid man. Private First Class Tubbs continuously exposed himself to fire as he moved from position to position administering professional first aid to the wounded. Although painfully wounded in the neck and bleeding profusely, Private First Class Tubbs, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged through an intense barrage of enemy fire, personally assaulting an enemy bunker and killing the two enemy Soldiers with rifle fire. The neutralization of this fortified position alleviated much of the pressure on the rest of his platoon. Private First Class Tubbs' outstanding display of gallantry in action and devotion to duty 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, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 4473; 11 August 1968)

10 March 1968



LTC Howard H. Danford (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force on 10 March 1968 in Province of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. Contact began when Company A of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, encountered an enemy force utilizing automatic weapons, RPG rockets, mortars, and hand grenades in fortified bunkered positions. The contact continued most of the day and ammunition was a dire necessity. Lieutenant Colonel Danford organized an immediate ammunition resupply and escorted its insertion into the engaged Company A. When over the contact area, the enemy fire power was recognized to be extremely heavy. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he gave the order to descend. Though his helicopter received heavy enemy automatic weapons fire, his determination and courage enabled the seriously needed ammunition Company A was able to fight their way into the enemy complex and route a numerically superior force, and partially disable them for immediate future aggression. Lieutenant Colonel Danford's outstanding display of gallantry in action and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 3142; 2 July 1968)



10 March 1968

SP5 Lee C. Pugh (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 March 1968. Specialist Five Pugh distinguished himself while on a combat operation in the vicinity of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. The company to which Specialist Pugh was attached as senior medic became heavily engaged with an enemy force of unknown size in fortified positions. In the initial assault on the enemy positions the company suffered a number of serious casualties, including one of the platoon medics. Specialist Pugh, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, moved up to the forward positions and on three occasions charged through a heavy barrage of enemy fire in his efforts to treat the wounded and drag them back to safety. Although sustaining several wounds from mortar fragments, Specialist Pugh again rushed through the intense hail of fire from the enemy counterattack, needless of personal consideration, persistent in his treatment of the other wounded members of his company. Specialist Pugh's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 4359; 3 August 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

