



STRIKE

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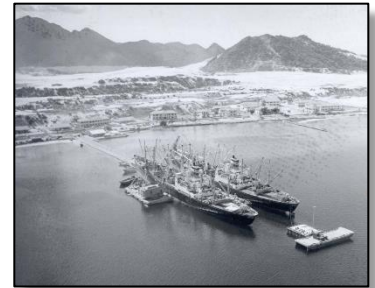
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Brief History of the 501st, 502nd and 2nd Brigade (101st ABN DIV)

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.)

- 18 March 1968 1-502 IN BN conducted full operations but made little contact until D/1-502 IN spotted 10 VC around a fire at 2130H, vicinity 575287. With PF's, the D/1-502 IN element surrounded and opened fire on the VC. Results: Enemy: 6-KIA (BC), 1-KIA (EST), 3 WIA/POW.
- 18 March 1968 C/2-501 IN, Charlie reports at 0020H that his Tiger element did make contact with the observed force. Tiger 3 element threw a grenade and fired small arms the force of 3 ran. C/2-501 IN cannot say if the enemy force had casualties. 2-501 IN BN, Recon element reported four (4) incoming mortar rounds at their location. The rounds seemed to be coming from the west, also looked like 82mm type rounds, no friendly casualties. D/2-501 IN reported at 0845H that they are receiving incoming mortar fire from vicinity 675243. B/2-501 IN reported at 0943H that they received some fire from edge of bridge at 500 meters on 190-degree azimuth. D/1-501 IN reported at 0945H, that NVA crossed river vicinity 675288. B/2-501 IN reported at 1015H that they have found 2 booby traps 82mm mortars rounds on eastern approach to bridge vicinity 688289. They will destroy in place; pressure type or wire pull type. C/2-501 IN reported at 1025H that first element departed FSB Pinky. B/2-501 IN reported at 1105H that they have found one (1) additional booby trap 81mm mortar round with pull type device. Will destroy in place vicinity 688289. 2-501 IN BN reported at 1125H that A/2-501 IN would devote all available personnel to FSB Geronimo on 19 March 1968; they will have to conduct mine sweep prior to work. B/2-501 IN reported at 1132H that they have found an 82mm mortar booby trap vicinity 688289 with pull device; will destroy in place. C/2-501 IN reported at 1150H that they had a detainee, male military age, No ID, Khaki shorts, white shirt, hat and on buffalo vicinity 683280; released detainee, found ID Card. A/2-501 IN, OP at Bridge reported a trip flare go off; they engaged with hand grenade and a few small arms round. Could not tell what it was and could have been an animal; no comms with them and will let battalion know detail later. D/2-501 IN reported at 2027H that a possibility of 11 men patrol was ambushed by believed nine (9) VC were supposedly cut up patrol out approximately 800 meters. D/2-501 IN reported at 2050H that 2 of the personnel have returned to CP. The report the element had 2 radios, 1 has returned. The other is believed to be in the vicinity of contact the two elements were led by 2 Staff Sergeants (E6). They were moving together and were supposedly hit before they broke up, the were enroute to the same vicinity approximately 300 meters apart at ambush site. Believe 16 personnel are not accounted for. Believed there were 3 or 4 VC. D/2-501 IN reported at 2100H that elements of 6 of 8 of one squad has returned, one squad had 6 of 8 with radio at his location. Instructed to remain where they were at for the night; 4 personnel not accounted for. D/2-501 IN reported at 2115H that they believe there were 2 VC; still have 1 man missing. The squads stopped when heard noises. The squad deployed with M60 in center. The 1 squad came back minus 1 man. The other went to ambush approximately 200 meters from site. D/2-501 IN reported at 2130H all personnel accounted for. D/2-501 IN reported at 2152H that there were at least 2 VC along the path; they said, "Hey You!"; M60 gunner yelled "Get down" didn't fire because he wasn't sure where personnel were at. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 18 March 1968)
- 18 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** 1-502 IN BN continued RIF and security operations. At 1320H, A/1-502 IN vicinity YD512992 engaged one (1) enemy and received return fire. Results: 1 US WIA. At 1409H, A/1-502 IN vicinity YC500986 engaged two (2) enemy with negative assessment. B/1-502 IN discovered a recently used NVA base area and a quantity of ammunition. At 1110H, vicinity YD500009 B/1-502 IN discovered one (1) NVA KBA 36 hours old. C/1-502 IN secured FSB Veghel and destroyed enemy bunkers in local vicinity. At 1640H at FSB Veghel, C/1-502 IN sustained three (3) US WIA from 60mm mortar round BBT.
- 18 March 1970 D/1-502 IN (-) found a bunker complex in a completely subterranean cave. There were 2 entrances with several rooms. Much miscellaneous equipment was located in the bunkers including beds, medical supplies and cooking utensils. The location is 771033. D/1-502 IN boat patrol found a radio and transmitter at YD732102.
- 18 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** B/2-502 IN was engaged by trail watchers on two separate occasions. One (1) US Soldier was killed during the day. Although a heavy blood trail and AK-47 were found at the enemy location, the body had been dragged away by his comrades. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 19 March 1968 A/1-502 IN, B/1-502 IN, and D/1-502 IN remained at Sally. C/1-502 IN moved to (615235) and began preparing FSB STRIKE. No contact.
- 19 March 1968 C/2-501 IN reported at 0145H ambush vicinity 68290 hearing what appears to be mortar or artillery going off approximately 700 meters to north. C/2-501 IN reported that they had destroyed approximately 125 bunkers vicinity 685288, east and west of river. D/2-501 IN reported at 2135H in ambush location observed 46 personnel in steel helmets no packs, weapons carried, squirrel hunting style, moving NE up trail toward D/2-501, Recon position; if they continue they have set up a hasty ambush and will engage. C/2-501 IN reported at 2215H vicinity 680253 believe the firing to their west drove enemy approximately 13-16 personnel to their location they approached rear of ambush and were engaged; believe they have gotten 3 or 4 and heard one crying. The ambush will remain in place. C/2-501 IN informed from battalion to have their 16-element search the killing area, if they have any problems will come up on 2-501 IN BN command net. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 19 March 1968)



19 March 1969

On this morning American Commanders called in Air Force fire power to blast NVA troops out of their labyrinth of bunkers on DONG A TAY. 1LT Ed Donaldson, who commanded 2nd Plt, A Co., recalls an Air Force jet dropping a 10,000 pound "daisy cutter" bomb (used to clear landing zones) on the hilltop. Immediately thereafter, 2nd and 3rd Platoon 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry led the attack. "We were running into delaying contacts as we moved toward the hill," "Every so often we would get contact from two or three NVA. But we kept getting pressured by division to get to the top, so we didn't chase them." Lt. John Sorge, who commanded 3rd Platoon, recalled that his unit suffered the first casualties. "My platoon sergeant Sandy Muhlengraft was the first one wounded and my RTO Lawrence Olive was the first KIA," Lt John Sorge said. Lt. Donaldson says his platoon saw "bunker everywhere" as they moved forward. Upon reaching the top of Dong A Tay, "we noticed commo wire and there were clothes and other debris up in the trees," that he surmised was caused by the huge daisy cutter explosion. "Just then a couple of NVA went running down a ridge, and my guys, who were real aggressive, went after them," Lt. Donaldson said. "I yelled at them to return but it was too late." An NVA ambush lay in wait. "The whole jungle erupted," Lt Donaldson recalls. "We got pinned down on a little saddle on a very narrow ridge."

Lt. Donaldson called in artillery fire, estimating that 1,700 rounds – some landing only 25 yards' from 2nd Platoon's positions – blasted the hilltop for the next three hours. "They laid down a wall of steel," he said. "We would've been in a lot worse shape if not for the artillerymen."

Freddy Baker, a rifleman with A Company who was awaiting a helicopter for a planned R&R leave, says he was ordered back to his platoon when the shooting started. "The noise was ungodly," Baker said. "Arty, machine guns, rifle fire, RPG's, as well as gunships and jets. I remember the Phantoms releasing their ordnance and you could see it tumbling right toward you." SP4 Dave Nesbitt serving with 1st Platoon say he and another Soldier were digging foxholes when they heard small-arms fire erupt down the ridge from them. "He (the other Soldier) jumped up, grabbed his M-16 with only one magazine and ran down toward the firing," Nesbitt said. "It was a very bad mistake. I helped retrieve his body the next day." SP4 Nesbitt was wounded the following day on March 20th, when "a big ball of fire from a mortar or command-detonated artillery round" exploded as he manned an M-60 machine gun behind a tree. He remembers a couple of his fellow troopers pulling him up the hill and out of firing range where A Company's 1st Platoon medic, James "Doc" Feliciano, could apply first aid. "I had a hole in my knee big enough to put in a grapefruit," said Nesbitt, who later had his knee fused together instead of amputating his leg. Feliciano recalls Nesbitt as the last casualty he treated that day.

"Wally Morrow gave me cover fire as I worked on Dave," said Feliciano "Besides an ambush in Tam Ky in July 1969, this operation was the worst for me. We were making contact daily and it was pretty hectic." (VFW Article (March 2008)

19 March 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: A/1-502 IN continued to the southwest and at 1210H vicinity YC490978 engaged an estimated NVA platoon (-) with 1 US WIA, 3 NVA KIA, 3IWC. At 1423H, vicinity YD491978, A/1-502 IN made contact with an estimated NVA company in bunkers. Results:9 NVA KIA, 6 US WIA, 2 US KIA. B/1-502 IN continued RIF to the southwest and discovered a recently used NVA base area consisting of bamboo huts and bunkers with overhead cover. C/1-502 IN secured FSB Veghel and 2nd platoon conducted a RIF to the southeast to assist Recon platoon. D/1-502 IN (-) became OPCON to 1-506 IN BN and 3rd platoon move by CH47 from FSB Bastogne to FSB Veghel and became OPCON to C/1-502 IN. Recon platoon vicinity YD549008 engaged 2 NVA bunkers resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 IWC. In the vicinity YD553013 Recon platoon made contact with an estimated NVA platoon. Results: 3 US WIA, 2 US KIA, 1 NVA KIA, 2 NVA KBAA, 1 IWC and a quantity of ammunition captured.

19 March 1970

D/1-502 IN, 1st platoon found one M26A1 fragmentation grenade and several blocks of TNT rigged into a booby trap about two days old. B/1-502 IN at PZ818097 found a potato masher type grenade with a pull fuse. A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon found 1 hootch with 20 60mm mortar rounds inside at location 7230051. B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon spotted movement and performed a recon by fire with negative results.

19 March 1971

B/1-501 IN received small arms fire vicinity XD927523. Results 3 US WIA. B/1-501 IN returned fire with negative results.

20 – 21 March 1966

Operation HARRISON: On 200825H March, A/2-502 IN started moving on axis RED, according to FRAGO 28-66. At 1345H in the vicinity CQ157267 B/2-502 IN saw 15 VC, they were engaged resulting in 2 VC KIA (BC) and 2 VC WIA (EST). A/2-502 IN captured 19 VCS at 1030H vicinity CQ096285. A/2-502 IN RECONDO patrol found 2 large sheds of rice, regional forces plus 30 refugees are being used to bag and move the rice to an LZ. At 1425H, C/2-502 IN made contact with an estimated VC squad. An element sent to flank the VC. C/2-502 IN had difficulty moving, TAC Air and Armed helicopters were called in. Chemical mission was put on standby. By 1700H the casualties were 2 KIA and 8 WIA. B/2-502 IN moved behind C/2-502 IN and A/2-502 IN was moved to try and get above the VC. As of 2130H, the friendly casualties were: 4 KIA and 12 WIA. B/2-502 IN was moved behind C/2-502 IN and A/2-502 IN was moved to try and get above the VC. As of 2130H, the friendly casualties were: 3 KIA and 12 WIA. On 21 March at 0650H, the 2-502 IN BN crossed the LD in pursuit of enemy forces. A/2-327 IN closed with 2-502 IN BN to replace committed reserve. The locations of the companies at 1032H were: A/2-502 IN vicinity CQ125264; B/2-502 IN vicinity CQ134268; C/2-502 IN vicinity CQ132278. C/2-502 IN been helilifted forward to try and establish contact with the retreating enemy. A camp site was found by A/2-502 IN vicinity CQ125264, capable of handling 25-30 personnel. Vicinity CQ126267 A/2-502 IN, RECONDO engaged 2 VC, captured 3 AR pistol belts, 30 magazines, 30 caliber ammunition and 3 packs. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation HARRISON; 1 April 1966)

20 March 1968

1-502 IN BN had conducted limited search and destroy operations around Sally. Fortifications of FSB STRIKE continued.



20 March 1968 C/2-501 IN reported at 0035H that their 36-element vicinity 678287 engaged 1 enemy person, 1 BC will check body when determined no others area round area. Individual killed had 1 AK-47, web gear, ruck sack, short shorts, T-Shirt. No other personnel observed; engaged with small arms fire. D/2-501 IN reported at 2137H ambush vicinity 679220; engaged at least 20 VC – 8 BC possibly 2-4 more engaged them with small arms fire. They enemy returned with small arms fire and numerous WP grenades. D/2-501 IN ambush had 2 slightly WIA believed from grenades wounds from fragments. Will request evac in morning. 2-501 IN BN was informed by 2BDE at 2150H that 2-501 IN BN will be responsible for present AO until relieved by the 2-17 CAV tomorrow which is believed to be approximately 1200H. D/2-501 IN reported at 2255H summary of ambush. All personnel are back. They have two (2) slightly WIA and will require medevac in morning. There were 20-25 personnel in the enemy force and they came from the south moving north down a trail at vicinity 674226, they came down the most eastern trail. When 10-12 of the enemy in line with 2 claymores they were detonated killing at least 5; 3 or 4 gathered around the killed and were killed by smalls arms fire and hand grenades. Confirmed 8 BC. They were dressed in brown kaki uniforms with long sleeves, wearing packs (some full, other not). They returned fire with what appeared to be Ak-47 or semi-automatic weapons and grenades both WP & fragments. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 20 March 1968)

20 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** At 1130H, C/2-502 IN engaged an estimated squad sized force with 2 platoons, maneuvered elements and then engaged an estimated platoon size force in bunkers. Line of bunkers extended from YD683122 – 682132 – 677125. Results: 7 US WHA, 1 NVA KIA, 1 RPD Captured. B/2-502 IN patrolled in vicinity YD668130 sighted 4-5 NVA additionally, B/2-502 IN maneuvered to contact point vicinity YD671126 where it ran into a complex and came under intense AW & SA fire, company received approximately 30 82mm mortar rounds plus RPG and rifle grenades. B/2-502 IN continued to maneuver on enemy but had to break contact at 1615H for preparation of night defense position. Results: 1 US KHA, 15 US WHA, 11 VC KIA. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation JEB STRUAT/CARENTAN; 25 April 1968)

20 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN established LZ and company control bases on DONG A TAY and conducted local patrols. Vicinity YC491978 A/1-502 IN made contact with an estimated NVA company in bunkers resulting in 5 US WIA and negative enemy assessment. At 1525H, A/1-502, 2nd platoon engaged an estimated NVA platoon at YC497975. Results were 2 US WIA, 4 NVA KIA, 1 IWC and 1 CSWC. At 1000H, B/1-502 IN, vicinity YC491978 engaged an estimated NVA platoon (-) and suffered 5 US WIA. At 1800H elements of B/1-502 IN engaged an enemy sniper with organic weapons, resulting in 1 US KIA, 1 NVA KIA, and 1 IWC. C/1-502 IN (-) conducted a C/A from FSB Veghel to YD548027 and moved to reinforce Recon platoon and C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon. D/1-502 IN (-) moved by CH47 from FSB Bastogne to FSB Veghel and assumed security. Recon became OPCON C/1-502 IN.

20 March 1970 D/1-502 IN while on VR observed at location 76048 a freshly dug cave entrance and at location 737037 two spider holes, both camouflaged. C/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon, 3rd squad found a B40 rocket and booster in the middle of an LZ. They blew it in place. B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon found a trail at 773057 freshly cut within the last 48 hours. C/1-502 IN found an AK-47 magazine. Bunker 5 on FSB Birmingham spotted movement and performed a recon by fire with negative results.

20 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** Enemy showed the first offensive action since 2-502 IN BN (STRIKE Force) moved into the area. At first light, B/2-502 IN began receiving enemy 60mm mortar rounds in their position. No friendly casualties were incurred during the mortar attack. A brigade white team was employed to scout out the suspected enemy mortar site. At YC789954 the low bird began receiving hostile small arms fire. B/2-502 IN, 1st platoon moved to search the area. The platoon engages three enemy killing one and wounding the others. That night just after dark, a reinforced sapper squad attacked the night defensive position of B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon. One Soldier was killed before the enemy was driven off. At 0200H on the 21st, the night defensive position of A/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon was hit by an enemy sapper unit. Employing the same tactics as those employed against B/2-502 IN the previous day, the enemy killed another STRIKE Force trooper. A Sweep of the area revealed tow AK-47's and several blood trails, but once again all enemy bodies had been dragged away. During this period the 2-502 IN BN's air mobility was put to the ultimate test. No firebase was to be occupied for a period longer than ten days. Frequent move required close coordination among all units. The Strike Force proved itself equal to the task. All moves were made efficiently and on time. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

20 March 1970 B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon & CP between 1915H to 2015H had an estimated size enemy element approached night location and fired RPG, 2 magazines AK47, and machine gun fire. Enemy approached from southeast along ridge line. Friendly's returned fire with small arms; enemy fled southeast, element swept area under illumination. Negative Results. A/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon reported hearing moans from what sounded like a wounded enemy, 300 meters to the north, B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon has returned to night location. Artillery was employed by A/2-502 IN & B/2-502 IN; ARA called but was restricted because of weather. Friendly losses were one US KIA and One US WHA. (Spot Report & messages from the Journal of 20 March 1970)

20 March 1971 A/1-501 IN, 4th platoon spotted 5-8 enemy vicinity XD963485 wearing green uniforms and steel pots. Engaged with 81mm as a blocking force and swept area with negative results.



21 March 1968

At 0400H, elements of the 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV at LZ Pinky while supporting another FSB were attacked by SA, AW, rocket and RPG fire. Under the cover of 23 B-40 rounds enemy sapper breached the defensive wire with Bangalore torpedoes and penetrated the perimeter. Documents taken off of dead NVA soldiers at first light revealed LBN's of the 7th and 9th BN's, 90th NVA Regiment. Except for harassing attacks by fire, this was the only enemy offensive move during the period 18 March.

Prior to the initiation of Operation Carentan II elements of the 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV moved south in an attempt to penetrate into New Base Area 114. The enemy platoon and company size contacts were believed to have been with elements of the 90th NVA Regiment.

At the same time, elements of the 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to contact elements of the 2-803 NVA Regiment in the vicinity of the "W" in the SONG BO vicinity YD6928. All during the period of 18 March to 18 April, elements of the 101st ABN DIV continued to engage elements of the 1-803 NVA and 3-803 NVA Regiment from the vicinity of the "W" in the SONG BO, east along the banks of the SONG BO and along the banks of the Perfume River to the vicinity of YD763313. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, HQ, 101st Air Cavalry Division, Period Ending 301 April 1968)

21 March 1968

At 0400H, 2-501 IN BN reported start of ground attack. At 0403H, Engineers reported seeing enemy with star light in wood line. Requested illumination from India. Artillery fired direct fire. Engineers reported seeing muzzle flashes from RPG. At 0415H, B/2-501 IN takes big explosion; Artillery has casualties; India Shot out; B/2-501 IN, 6-element reported still receiving smalls arms fire & RPG. At 0429H, Engineers reports some RPG flashes from NE of 2-501 IN BN location. Artillery reported having 7 WIA. At 0455H, C/2-501 IN checked area 678247 believed fire coming from that location. B/2-501 IN 6-element receiving fire from 690245. At 0505H, B/2-501 IN just had rear hit by Bee Hive; 2 KIA's, 2 WIA's total wounded for B/2-501 IN: 2 KIA's and 3 WIA's. At 0526H, B/2-501 IN reported having 3 KIA's, 4 WIA's; RPG killed 1, Bee Hive 2 wounded, RPG 2. Requested Medevac. At 0555H, reported enemy size estimated platoon size. At 0600H, COL Tallman called by COL Cushman and game in report. At 0622H, Artillery has one KIA; at 0622H, Artillery reported 2 KIA's. At 0641H, Artillery reported having 2 MIA's. At 0650H, medevac for B/2-501 IN completed for WIA's. At 0651H, Artillery reported 3 KIA's. At 0655H, B/2-501 IN has a total of 3 KIA's, 4 WIA's medevaced, one WIA with light scratch and on ear not evacuated. At 0656H, Artillery reported 4 KIA's. At 0700H, D/2-501 IN moved out. At 0706H, A/2-501 IN mine sweep team is moving out. At 0746H, Artillery reported having 4 KIA's, 3 light WIA's and 4 WIA's. At 0740H, reported a total of 7 KIA's; 3 from B/2-501 IN and 4 from Bravo Battery (Artillery). Evacuated to 22nd Surgical Hospital, PHU BAI. At 0822H, B/2-501 IN, 26-element reported 3 BC and there 2-6 element has 1 BC. At 0830H, D/2-501 IN reported from ambush found blood. At 0848H, B/2-501 IN killed five (5) more VC/NVA. At 0930H, B/2-501 IN has one more shot WIA evacuated to 32nd Med. At 1055H, B/1-501 IN is leaving LZ Sally going south to set up a blocking force at 675266, will be on our push when moving down the highway. At 1358H, D/2-501 IN receiving fire from vicinity XO652202, having an element moving up now. At 1550H, D/2-501 IN reported spotting another bunker at 640200. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 21 March 1968)

21 March 1968

In THUA THIEN Province, an estimated enemy battalion (probably an element of the 90th NVA RET) attacked the night defensive position of the 2-501 IN BN. Friendly losses were seven KIA and 15 WIA. Enemy losses included 22 KIA, three detained, two crew-served weapons, 26 rounds of 60mm mortar and seven blocks of TNT. (USMACV; Command History 1968, Volume I; 30 April 1969)

21 March 1968

1-502 IN BN continued limited search and destroy operations. A/1-502 IN ambushed 10 VC and later found a small tunnel complex. Results: 5 VC KIA (BC), 2 VC WIA/POW.

21 March 1968

Late in the evening, the North Vietnamese made a daring attack on the night defensive perimeter of the 2-501 IN BN, using B-40 rockets as covering fire. Using small arms, automatic weapons and direct artillery fire the paratroopers drove the enemy force off, killing 22. (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)

21 March 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN occupied the LZ at DONG A TAY and searched the surrounding area. A/1-502 IN captured 1 IW and B/1-502 IN discovered a bunker and tunnel complex vicinity YC500977. The base area appeared large enough to accommodate a Battalion (-) and contained a quantity of documents identifying the 816 Bn, 5th NVA Regt. At 1230H, the security element of B/1-502 IN at the LZ engaged and killed 1 NVA sniper. At 1310H, vicinity YC502975 B/1-502 IN encountered an estimated NVA Company in bunkers on a narrow, thickly vegetated ridge. Contact continued until 1810H and resulted in 4 US KIA, 9 US WIA. C/1-502 IN and Recon conducted RIF to FSB Veghel and assisted D/1-502 IN in security.



21 – 22 March 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: It was particularly bad for B/1-502 IN during these two days when it lost seven KIAs. On March 21st, 1LT William Dent, who commanded 3rd Platoon, was wounded in an ambush and later died.

"I put him on a chopper alive," said B/1-502 IN, 1SG Royce Burkett, "He had three bullet holes in him. I guess he must have lost too much blood. I remember him asking me to secure his Ranger Knife." 1SG Burkett, also a Korean War Veteran, was wounded on March 22nd when fragments from the RPG hit him in the head, leg, and arm. "It knocked me back into a bomb crater, 1SG said. "I had blood sloshing around in my boots, but I didn't think my condition was bad enough to be evacuated then. I spent that night on the hill and was medevac'd out the next day. I spent 45 days in the hospital with an infection."

Casualties were taking such a heavy toll on B/1-502 IN platoons that SP4 Dean Smith, an RTO with the 1st platoon, remembers a fellow RTO, SP4 Robert E. McAferty, walking point for a squad because all other pointman had been wounded. "He walked past me and down a trail," said Smith "All of a sudden I heard him screaming, "They're all around us," and then hell broke loose. It sounded horrible." SP4 Smith says his unit later found McAferty's lifeless body tied to a tree.

1LT Donaldson says A/1-502 IN secured the hilltop on March 24th. He was then ordered to take command of Recon platoon. "It was the most intense time of my year in Vietnam," said Donaldson. "It also was the best thing I ever did in my life." The next day, B/1-502 IN would make the final push to move the NVA off DONG A TAY. (VFW Article (March 2008))

21 March 1970

D/1-502 IN Commanding Officer on a VR today located 3 hootches at 768033. Cheese 27, the Pink team, located a trail with human waste on it done in the last 10-15 minutes. A recon by fire produced no results. B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon, 1st squad found an I-shape cave. It had ashes inside and out and a sleeping position inside appeared very old. The same unit B/1-502 IN, found a 122mm rocket 6 feet long and new. It was OD in color and found by a bunker.

21 March 1971

Operation LAM SON 719: 1-501 IN BN moved, this time to FB T-Bird III and was secured by the 1-501 IN BN. While participating in LAM SON 719, the battalion had the mission of screening QL-9. This was done in an outstanding manner. The enemy was completely unable to affect any significant restriction of the friendly use of QL-9. 23 NVA were killed during his operation, with eleven individual weapons and three crew served weapons being captured.

22 March 1966

Operation HARRISON: Elements of the 2-502 IN BN were located: A/2-502 IN vicinity CQ128268; B/2-502 IN vicinity CQ148283; C/2-502 IN vicinity CQ140285; provisional company location CQ115255 and A/2-327 IN located at CQ123296. By 0930H the first element of C/2-502 IN landed at CQ108228 with negative contact and also the RECONDO platoon was lifted into the LZ. By 1015H, B/2-502 IN found 10 fresh graves vicinity CQ137292, all over 20 years of age, killed by shrapnel and gunshot wounds. Between 1600-1700 hours, 2-327 IN BN had received 2 KIA and 6 WIA from mines vicinity CQ125282. They are relieved of mission to extract wounded. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation HARRISON; 1 April 1966)

22 – 23 March 1967

Operation FARRAGUT: Elements of the 2-502 IN BN conducted an airmobile raid against the deserted hamlet of VINH HOA resulting in the capture of 2 ARVN deserters and 4 detainees. On 23 March the 2-502 IN BN terminated operations in the FARRAGUT AO and conducted an airmobile and overland move to the Brigade base camp at PHAN RANG. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation FARRAGUT)

22 March 1968

C/2-501 IN, 26-element reported at 0530H receiving smalls arms fire, ineffective, did not return fire, unable to determine the firing location. At 0545H, C/2-501 IN, 26-element leader has been hit, do not think he will make it. RTO has also been hit. They were unable to report where the firing was coming from. Do not believe that he can do anything until it gets light. One (1) element moving to high ground. At 0615H, C/2-501 IN reported 1 man from 26-element returned, believed slightly WIA. Has fireteam leader saying a grenade went off thinks possibly 5 or 6 WIA. At 0630H, C/2-501 IN reported 1 squad leader had taken over C26 platoon and trying to organize platoon. Believe 2 KIA and 8 WIA. Will move back to unit, will send element to meet and help. At 0640H, C/2-501 IN requested medevac. At 0652H, C/2-501 IN reported having 6 KIA at this time. At 0725H, C/2-501 IN reported having 5 KIA, 11 WIA. C/2-501 IN reported 2 BC and 2 AK-47; reported one of the WIA is KIA. At 0920H, D/2-501 IN located vicinity 654203; still receiving fire from highland point of the middle trench. At 0925H, D/2-501 IN, FAC spots a few people in a bunker on its other side of the knoll, requested another airstrike. At 0930H, D/2-501 IN reported having heavy fire. At 1000H, D/2-501 IN requested medevac for 2 WIA. At 1015H, FAC has spotted more bunker on the other side of the hill, he will conduct airstrike there. At 1020H, D/2-501 IN has 2 BC crawling out of bunkers. D/2-501 IN has 1 BC with M79. At 1200H, D/2-501 IN received small arms fire. At 1201H, C/2-501 IN receiving small arms fire from 648207. At 1213H, D/2-501 IN reported having 2 WIA, 1 litter and 1 ambulatory. At 1240H, D/2-501 IN reported 5 NVA BC, 4 AK-47 and 1 LMG. At 1315H, D/2-501 IN receiving mortar fire from 648193 on hill vicinity 653202. At 1332H, D/2-501 IN found 2 NVA BC vicinity 653202. At 1445H, B/2-501 IN received 1 round of mortar fire from vicinity 678193. At 1450H, C/2-501 IN, Recon point man WIA believed from semi-automatic fire. At 1621H, D/2-501 IN received 8-10 mortar round, has 1 WIA; requested medevac. At 1629H, D/2-501 IN reported that they didn't need medevac; soldier now KIA at this time. At 1825H, D/2-501 IN has 2 more WIA. At 1920H, C/2-501 IN request medevac for WIA from mortar rounds (20-25 rounds). At 1942H, C/2-501 IN under ground attack – needs illumination. At 2155H, A/2-501 IN elements report that thought a couple of AK-47 rounds incoming, nothing at this time. Trip flares went off, returned fire. At 2325H, C/2-501 IN and Recon attack from tonight's mortar attack: 19 WIA and 4 KIA. At 2400H, A/2-501 IN reported that 8 to 10 men crossing creek, will engage with M-19's. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 22 March 1968)

22 March 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN remained on DONG A TAY. A/1-502 IN had 1 US WIA as a result of contact with a sniper at the LZ. B/1-502 IN conducted RIF to YC504973 and found 2 NVA KIA. At 1454H, B/1-502 IN, vicinity YC504973 established contact with an estimated reinforced NVA Company. Contact continued for 2 1/2 hours and resulted in 3 US KIA, 5 US WIA and 6 NVA KIA. C/1-502 IN and Recon remained at FSB Veghel and at 1655H, D/1-502 IN conducted a C/A from Veghel to YC539983 and conducted a RIF to the southwest.



- 22 March 1970 B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon found two old sleeping positions. One of them had overhead cover. They showed no signs of recent use.
- 22 March 1971 A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity XD958526 found bunkers with 10 82mm rounds. Recent activity 1 month.
- 23 March 1966 **Operation HARRISON:** On the 23rd and 24th all companies continued RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations in the area with negative enemy contact except for an A/2-502 IN contact at 241400H, when they engaged 4VC at CQ147241, resulting in the captured of 4 hand grenades, 4 packs and miscellaneous LBE. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation HARRISON; 1 April 1966)
- 23 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT V:** A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN closed on the TAC CP and moved by tactical meter march to PHAN RANG, while C/2-502 IN and Recondo made air-mobile extraction. 2-502 IN BN prepared for future operations.
- 23 March 1967 **Phan Rang to Khanh Duong:** For 5 days, the 2-502 IN BN trained in small-arms and tactics and took a well-earned holiday and picnic on PHAN RANG Beach. Ceremonies were held to honor the dead and to decorate the living.
- 23 March 1968 C/2-501 IN reported at 0007H that to 8 people in valley to the north. E/2-501 IN reported at 0012H that have one Soldiers wounded from their mortar platoon from blast will check and secure if they need medevac. At 0018H, A/2-501 IN engaged 8 to 10 people with M-79's, the people; individual separated in all direction seem to be more people then 8 or 10, looks like at this time that they are regrouping and coming back again. May call if they need light. A/2-501 IN reported at 0031H that they have one man wounded in the leg from fire. Believed to have same round small arms, will check to se if they need medevac. A/2-501 IN radar picked up the individuals out in the valley and crawling to SW. A/2-501 IN reported casualty has a sucking chest wound besides the leg injury. A/2-501 casualty will need to be medevaced, vicinity 686206. A/2-501 IN reported at 0055H that they received another incoming round from South to South East. A/2-501 IN reported at 0108H that their radar picked up 2 squads moving S to SE by creek. A/2-501 IN reported at 0112H that 2 squads picked up by radar at vicinity 692197, 200 meters out will get 81mm for illumination and wants confirmation. C/2-501 IN reported at 0345H that they are receiving incoming mortar rounds, only one round; no casualties reported. D2-501 IN reported at 0505H that they are under mortar fire, seems to be fire for effect. No idea where it is coming from, rounds are hitting all around their position. D.2-501 IN reported at 0513H that they need illumination, under ground attack from north side, grenades and RPG rounds. D/2-501 IN reported at 0531H that no incoming rounds for the last five minutes, last incoming was grenades and RPG rounds. D/2-501 IN reported at 0537H that ground attack stopped, 26-element has three (3) bodies to its front that were stopped by small arms, D/2-501 IN has no casualties to report. D/2-501 IN reported at 0550H that they are under small arms fire, has illumination from indirect. 2-501 IN BN requested at 0555H for another battery of Red Legs to fire HE in support of D/2-501 IN, concealed request for flare ship. At 0620H, D/2-501 IN not under contact at this time; has no casualties. At 6040H, D/2-501 IN took two AK-47 and one RPG off the three people that his 26-element killed. The numbers on the AK-47's are 3102069 & 10053031; also has a diary that gives names, places and times. They will send the diary in with the back haul, after the attack the element seems to head south-west. Delta 6 thinks they were hit by a re-enforced squad. Number on RPG 309705. C/2-501 IN reported at 1005H that they are receiving incoming small arms fire north of triple crown. They are getting small arms from approximate vicinity 646206. At 1018H, C/2-501 IN having incoming small arms approximate grid 646206. At 1740H, 1-502 IN BN reported locations of units: A/1-502 IN at LZ Sally, B/1-502 IN at grid 621196, C/1-502 IN at Strike, D/1-502 IN at 619199 and Recon at 613209. At 2330H, D/2-501 IN and B/2-501 IN reported receiving incoming rounds; 60mm or RPG's. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 23 March 1968)
- 23 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** A/2-502 IN came under OPCON of the 2-327 IN BN.
- 23 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN remained in the vicinity of the LZ with no contact. A/1-502 IN prepared for a night attack. C/1-502 IN secured FSB Veghel, D/1-502 IN continued to RIF to the southwest and Recon conducted patrols around FSB Veghel.
- 23 March 1970 D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon heard movement at 733044 and made a recon by fire. They had negative findings. The 101st Division commander inspected FSB Birmingham today.
- 23 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** FSB Pistol was closed and the 2-502 IN BN CP was relocated on FSB Brick (Pictured) (YC834996). The 2-502 IN BN continued to operate north of FSB Pistol, with all units sweeping the north. While carrying out one of these sweeps, A/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon engages an unknown enemy force in bunkers. Although the enemy put up a heavy volume of fire, they were driven from their defensive position. Left behind were three enemy bodies, one AK-47, one submachine gun and one RPD machine gun. The 2-502 IN BN began preparations for operations east of the SONG TA TRAC River and north of FSB Rifle. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



24 March 1968

D/2-501 IN reported at 0412H that they are taking 6 to 8 mortar rounds; definitely mortar, reports seeing the flashes to the south of them in the valley. D/2-501 IN update at 0430H in reference to last attach received 10 to 12 rounds coming in 4 to 5 at a time; seems to be from tubes from vicinity 646195, negative casualties; 105 and 155 coming in on them now. D/2-501 IN reported update for 0001H attack. Received 6 to 8 60mm rounds probably coming from same tube at vicinity 646195; muzzle flashes not observed pattern of fire, same. Also, 5 or 5 rounds PRG also 30 to 40 rounds of AK-47 rounds, seem to be 5 or 6 probing just to see how close they can get; also 2 or 3 trip flares were engaged by M-79's hand grenades and 2 M-60; assessment believed negative will check at first light. At 0455H, B/2-501 IN reported receiving 3 to 4 rounds in last ten minutes. At 0731H, C/2-501 IN received a few rounds of semi-automatic fire. At 0755H, C/2-501 IN reported having two (2) men wounded and will have to be medevaced; shot in leg vicinity 642204. At 0806H, C/2-501 IN reported seeing VC/NVA at vicinity 634206, tucked back in the bushes, dressed in kaki uniform. At 0850H, B/2-501 IN reported having 1 WIA from sniper fire vicinity 648193 request medevac. At 1001H, C/2-501 IN observed 3 enemy personnel in valley to south. At 1035H, C/2-501 IN has sighted 2 enemy personnel vicinity 635205 and 636206. At 1112H, B/2-501 IN reported 1-man KIA from sniper fire vicinity 648191. B/2-501 IN believes sniper vicinity 648189. At 1120H, B/2-501 IN believe mortar are being fire from vicinity 632206, receiving sniper fire. At 1130H, C/2-501 IN receiving sniper fire. At 1150H, 1-502 IN BN would like to move AO boundary to East 64 on 20 grid line south 18 grid line. 1-502 IN BN detected mortar personnel vicinity 630202 and encountered possible base camp. At 1232H, C/2-501 IN has 3 WIA and 1 Non-Battle CAS to be evacuated. At 1245H, C/2-501 IN reported having two (2) KIA's vicinity 641207. At 1410H, C/2-501 IN started receiving incoming small arms fire; captured 1 AK-47; in contact with undetermined number of enemy vicinity 643201, auto and semi-automatic weapons fire. Too close for artillery, maneuvering. At 1420H, C/2-501 IN point man has observed enemy personnel in bunkers throwing grenades. At 1620H, C/2-501 summary of casualties: 2 KIA and 2 WIA. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 24 March 1968)

24 March 1968

1-502 IN BN made only light contact except for D/1-502 IN which received heavy fire from village at (YD618198) 14km West of HUE Citadel. All available fire support was utilized. Results: Friendly 3 KIA, 8 WIA, 1 MIA; Enemy 3 KIA (BC), 10 WIA/POW. (HQ, 1-502 IN BN; Annual Historical Supplement; 1LT Earl C. Jackson Jr.; 1-502 IN BN Adjutant)

24 March 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: At 0550H, A/1-502 IN seized an enemy bunker complex vicinity YC504976 with negative enemy contact. Search of the area of B/1-502 IN previous contact revealed 6 NVA KIA, large quantities of NVA clothing and equipment. A/1-502 IN moved back to the LZ. B/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to the southeast. C/1-502 IN secured FSB Veghel, D/1-502 IN continued to RIF southwest and Recon moved by air to DONG A TAY and became OPCON A/1-502 IN.

24 - 26 March 1969



Around 1035H, B/1-502 IN BN, 2nd platoon discovered a deserted NVA hospital bunker complex that 1LT Eastham (Pictured) said contained Communist propaganda leaf-lets depicting U.S. POWs and "Jane Fonda stuff", like blankets and towels sent by sympathetic Americans.

According to the book Hamburger Hill by Samuel Zaffiri, Soldiers found a list 'of medicines that had been shipped to the hospital, followed by the words: "Donated by your friends at the University of California at Berkeley."

At 1100H, 1st platoon Soldiers discovered a small bunker complex, and three were killed "instantly" upon entering it. It is unclear how they died, but 1SG Burkett believes the bunker was booby-trapped. The other four Soldiers who died that day from both 1st and 2nd platoon was killed by sniper fire. Firefights continued throughout the afternoon as 2nd platoon moved to reinforce 1st platoon. By 1830H, the enemy had broken contact with B/1-502 IN.

All Seven Americans killed were from B/1-502 IN, 1st and 2nd platoons. Overall from March 19-25, 1-502 IN BN official death toll shows 20 U.S. KIA. According to the daily after-action reports, 1-502 IN BN members had 39 WIA while killing 56 NVA troops. "It was most certainly the worst day of my Vietnam Tour," said 1LT Eastham, "I think about it every day."

B/1-502 IN was airlifted off DONG A TAY on March 26. But more bloody battles awaited U.S. troops in the A SHAU VALLEY, 1-502 IN BN had merely fulfilled the first objective in a campaign that would last throughout the summer of 1969. (VFW Article (2008))

24 March 1970

A man was medevaced from PHOL Bridge with an apparent appendicitis attack. C/1-502 IN, 1st platoon found 1 dead NVA in grave at 847034. The grave was about 15 days old.



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.

2 x Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Posthumously)
10 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Distinguished Flying Cross
8 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)
18 x Bronze Star Medal (18 x Posthumously)
57 x Purple Heart Medal (47 x Posthumously)
43 x Air Medal (4 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
1 x Good Conduct Medal (1 x Posthumously)
2 x Died of Wound
2 x Died of Non-Hostile wounds or Injuries

18 March 1967



SGT Elijah H. Smith (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received while setting up base camp when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operations in the Ninh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 March 1970



SGT Mc Arthur Johnson (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 while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered. in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 March 1969

SP4 Jesus Encarnacion-Betencourt (HHC/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 from multiple fragmentation wounds in a bunker complex 2km S of LZ Veghel, 18 KM W-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 March 1969



PFC Glenn L. Sparks (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 from multiple fragmentation wounds in a bunker complex 2km S of LZ Veghel, 18 KM W-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 March 1969



SP4 Mervin R. Richter (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in a bunker complex 9k SW of FSB Veghel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 March 1969



PFC Donald L. Olive (A/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 from multiple fragmentation wounds in a bunker complex 9k SW of FSB Veghel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



20 March 1966



SSG Hubert R. Smith (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to shoulder received in hostile ground action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

20 March 1966



SSG Clifford A. McKennan (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 gunshot wound to the back received in hostile ground action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

20 March 1966



SGT David Flores (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the back of the neck received in hostile ground action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

20 March 1966

PFC Tommie L. McFarland (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the head received in hostile ground action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

20 March 1968



CPL Dennis R. Cantler (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received while on combat operation when encountered hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

20 March 1968



CPL David A. Maddux (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operations when unit engaged hostile force in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

20 March 1968



CPL Craig P. Averill (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from metal fragment wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile booby trap. He was admitted to a military hospital in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

20 March 1969



CPL Max A. Johnson (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal and Air Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on combat operation when engaged a hostile force on Dong A Tay Mountain 9km Southwest of FSB Veghel (11km east of A Loui Village) in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam

20 March 1970

SP4 Edward Vogel (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (Spot Report & messages from the Journal of 20 March 1970)



20 March 1970



CPL Philip G. Knieper Jr. (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 while at a night defensive position when hostile force was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1966



PFC Bobby G. Gadie (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the left flank received in hostile ground action on 20 March 1966 in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1968



SP4 Daniel F. Bettencourt Jr. (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wounds received when he was hit by fragments from hostile mortar rounds while at base camp in their NDP 5km west of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1968



CPL Raymond L. Mason (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wounds received when he was hit by fragments from hostile mortar rounds while at base camp in their NDP 5km west of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1968



PFC Joseph E. Robinson (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wounds received when he was hit by fragments from hostile mortar rounds while at base camp in their NDP 5km west of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1968



PFC Ronald F. Sadler (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while at base camp in their NDP 5km west of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Sadler died from wounds on 24 March 1968.

21 March 1969

SSG Mark W. Dugger (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (Purple Heart Medal Citations; 12 April 1969)

21 March 1969



PFC Walter T. Bryant (B/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 from gunshot wounds while on combat operations when a hostile force was encountered while in bunkers SW of LZ Veghel, 12km E of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1969



1LT William L. Dent (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal and Air Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operations when a hostile force was encountered while in bunkers SW of LZ Veghel, 12km E of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



21 March 1969



SP4 Johnny L. Edwards (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal and Air Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operations when a hostile force was encountered while in bunkers SW of LZ Veghel, 12km E of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1969



CPL Ronnie R. White (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal and Air Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operations when a hostile force was encountered while in bunkers SW of LZ Veghel, 12km E of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1969

SP4 Miguel A. Rivera (HHC/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 from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1970



SGT Stephen A. Golsh (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 while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force during a probe of their NDP 19 miles E-NE of A Chau, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1970



SGT Louis J. Barbaria (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes while at an artillery firing position when a grenade which he was handling accidentally detonated in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1970



SGT John T. Gutekunst (A/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Tien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 March 1971

1LT Hardy L. Mall (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during hostile actions in the Republic of Vietnam. (DA, HQ, 85th EVAC; General Orders Number 56; 21 March 1971)

21 March 1971

Randy Sevy (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during hostile actions in the Republic of Vietnam. (DA, HQ, 85th EVAC; General Orders Number 56; 21 March 1971)

21 March 1971

PFC Mark Morrison (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during hostile actions in the Republic of Vietnam. (DA, HQ, 85th EVAC; General Orders Number 56; 21 March 1971)

21 March 1971

SP4 Charles M. Shannon (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during hostile actions in the Republic of Vietnam. (DA, HQ, 85th EVAC; General Orders Number 56; 21 March 1971)

21 March 1971

1LT Frank M. Campagne (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during hostile actions in the Republic of Vietnam. (DA, HQ, 85th EVAC; General Orders Number 56; 21 March 1971)

22 March 1968



2LT Frederick Y. Holjes (C/2-501 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 fragment wound received when he engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operations in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



22 March 1968



SP4 Thomas J. Ptak (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal and Good Conduct Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wound received when he engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operations in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1968



PFC Gary L. Barnum (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wounds received when he engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operations in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1968



SGT C W Richard Williams (C/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 fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1968



SP5 Bill W. Grant (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1968

SP4 Manfred W. Krause (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1968



SP4 Walter H. Anslow (D/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 fragment wounds received when his unit encountered hostile mortar fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1968



SP4 Charles R. Pyle (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight when ambushed in Ap Phu Luong 11km N-NW of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1968



PFC Fred C. H. Frappiea Jr. (C 2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from mortar fire while on night perimeter defense when area came under hostile mortar attack in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



22 March 1968



SP4 Benjamin A. Jones (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was hit by fragments from hostile mortar round while on night defense perimeter position in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1968



SP4 James E. Blaauw (E/2-501 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 metal fragment wounds received when area came under hostile mortar attack while on night defensive position in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1968



SP4 Donald E. Green (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wounds received when area came under hostile mortar attack while on night defensive position in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1969



CPL Ralph N. Bickford (B/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 from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation when engaged by a hostile force at a bunker complex 9km southwest of LZ Veghel, 12km east of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1969



SP4 Robert E. McAferty (B/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 from gunfire wounds while on combat operation when engaged by a hostile force at a bunker complex 9km southwest of LZ Veghel, 12km east of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 March 1969



PFC David D. Ouellette (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation when engaged by a hostile force at a bunker complex 9km southwest of LZ Veghel, 12km east of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

23 March 1967



SGT Elijah H. Smith (B/2-502 IN) died from wounds sustained on 18 March 1967 when he was setting up base camp when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the Ninh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam.

23 March 1968



SSG Eulas F. Gregory (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when engaged a hostile force in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SSG Gregory was admitted to military hospital and placed on the VSI list and later expired.



23 March 1970

The following Soldiers from E/2-502 IN:

1LT Charles S. Ciccolella	SFC Theo L James	SSG Ronald E. Hipp	SGT Jugh J. Perry
SGT Clarence F. Cogdell	SGT Ronald G. Mease	SP4 William L. Kilby	SP4 Lloyd R. Hume
SGT James P. Brinker	SP4 Herschel J. Martin	SP4 Shannon W. Hewlett	SP4 Randall L. Sherman
SP4 William C. Alfred	SP4 Jon D. Cadiere	SP4 David L. Rippeth	SP4 James C. Everette
SP4 Fenton B. Flying	SP4 Steve H. Malphrus	SP4 Robert M. Wilson	SP4 Ludie Hutchinson
SP4 Gerald M. Pinto	PFC Larry G. Dingley	SP4 Michael H. Thomas	SGT Bruce L. Allison
SGT David K. Clark	SGT Michael D. Connell	SGT Gary R. Duerr	SGT Leslie G. Gideons
SGT David L. Hitsman	SGT Jesse A. Jackson	SGT Thomas Meeks	SGT Willis R. Smith
SGT David W. Wells	SP4 Jesus F. Aguiar	SP4 Cleophis Anderson	SP4 Andrew Bonds
SP4 Alvin D. Elder	SP4 Wade E. Goolsby	SP4 Robert E. Grant Jr.	

Was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. (DA, HQ, 101st ABN DIV (Airmobile); Special Orders Number 82; 23 March 1970)

23 March 1971



SGT John D. Heinz (HHC/2-501 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 other explosive device while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated 9km W-NW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1966



SGT Thomas V. Martinez (C/2-502 IN) died from wounds sustained on 15 March 1967 from gunshot wounds to his chest and intestines received in hostile ground action the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1968



SP4 George R. Martin (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while in an NDP 5km west of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1968



SGT Kenneth M. Barker (C/2-501 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 gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1968



PFC George J. Nicholson (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds when his unit received hostile small arms fire during combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1968



SGT Terry R. White (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



24 March 1968



PFC Gary R. Wiginton (HHC/1-502 IN) while serving as a medic with D/1-502 IN was wounded by fragment wounds from a hostile grenade while on a combat operation 14km West of Hue Citadel. PFC Wiginton was evacuated to a military hospital in Vietnam.

24 March 1968



PFC Eric B. Nilsen (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in this death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight 14km west of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1968



SP4 Richard A. Friend (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1968



SGT Walter L. Gawel (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in this death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight 14km west of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1969



PFC Juan A. Covarrubias (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit. PFC Covarrubias died from non-hostile causes (Vehicle loss or crash) as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1970



SGT Joe A. Escandon (E/1-501 IN) was injured while at an artillery firing position when the round he was handling accidentally detonated in the Thuan Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SGT Escandon was admitted to a military medical facility.

24 March 1970



PFC Daniel K. Welin (E/1-501 IN) was injured while at an artillery firing position when the round he was handling accidentally detonated in the Thuan Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SGT Welin was admitted to a military medical facility.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

19 March 1969



1LT John F. Hay (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 March 1969. Lieutenant Hay distinguished himself while serving as Reconnaissance Platoon Leader of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, during a combat operation in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance mission on a mountain side, the Reconnaissance Platoon came under heavy automatic weapons, rocket propelled grenade, and small arms fire from well-fortified enemy bunkers located near the mountain top. With the lead element under heavy enemy fire, Lieutenant Hay maneuvered his two remaining squads around the flank of the enemy position, thus enabling his men to place heavy and accurate fire on the enemy bunker, destroying it. Advancing up the mountain side, the platoon came under heavy automatic weapons fire, forcing it to retreat. Lieutenant Hay directed mortar and helicopter gunship fire on the mountain top, allowing the platoon to once again maneuver up the mountain side. While advancing up the mountain for the second time, the platoon again came under heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire. Lieutenant Hay directed the platoon's fire against the enemy, enabling the platoon to advance within one hundred fifty meters of the enemy positions, only to be pinned down by the heavy enemy fire. Unprotected from the enemy fire, he directed his platoon into a hasty defensive perimeter. He then directed aerial rocket artillery and artillery fire on the entrenched enemy. The enemy returned automatic weapons and small arms fire on his positions, forcing the platoon to dig in along the side of the mountain. During the night, the entire platoon, placed on one hundred percent alert by Lieutenant Hay, watched for enemy movement. Several times during the night the enemy probed the perimeter, only to be repelled by the platoon's accurate return fire. During the early morning hours, four enemy soldiers attempted to go around the perimeter. Lieutenant Hay directed his men's fire against the insurgents, mortally wounding one and wounding two others. While still in the defensive position, the platoon came under heavy enemy mortar fire. For a third time, he directed aerial rocket artillery against the suspected enemy mortar position. A search of the hilltop revealed bunkers, trenches and a mortar pit which was to be used in the near future by the enemy against installations in the area. Lieutenant Hay'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 5920; 27 May 1969)

19 March 1969



SSG Jesse E. Seiffert (A/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 19 March 1969. Sergeant Seiffert distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, on a combat operation near the A Shau Valley, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. As platoon sergeant of the First Platoon, Sergeant Seiffert was moving his platoon down a narrow mountain ridge when two platoons of North Vietnamese Soldiers, entrenched in bunkers overlooking the Third Platoon, opened fire with machine guns, small arms, and rocket propelled grenades. Pinned down and highly vulnerable to the enemy gunners above, the Third Platoon was suffering numerous casualties and in desperate need of relief. With complete disregard for his own safety, he voluntarily made his way under fire to the Third Platoon's location across the narrow ridge. Attempts were being made to evacuate the wounded, but to no avail, as automatic weapons fire from an enemy bunker raked the position. Sergeant Seiffert moved through the direct fire to outflank and then personally assault the bunker without supporting fire. Mortally wounding two North Vietnamese Soldiers with hand grenades and rifle fire, his courageous actions allowed the expeditious evacuation of the wounded and turned the tide of the battle against the enemy. Sergeant Seiffert'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 4946; 19 May 1969)

19 March 1969



1LT John D. Sorge (A/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 19 March 1969. Lieutenant Sorge distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader on a reconnaissance in force operation near the A Shau Valley, Thua Thien Province, and Republic of Vietnam. Company A, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, was conducting a reconnaissance in force along a narrow mountain ridge when a North Vietnamese Army Force, entrenched in bunkers overlooking the company, opened fire with automatic weapons, machine guns and rocket propelled grenades. His platoon was in the lead and pinned down by a numerically superior enemy force in a well concealed bunker complex. Lieutenant Sorge immediately deployed his forces and provided a base of fire. After assessing the situation, he directed a heavy volume of fire on the key enemy bunkers and maneuvered other elements within twenty meters of the enemy positions. When he realized that his element was not strong enough to overrun the prepared positions, he directed artillery and mortar fire and called for a resupply of ammunition. Disregarding his own safety, he moved his men forward so that the wounded could be safely evacuated, and for five consecutive hours held his ground immediately outside the enemy bunkers, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy forces. Lieutenant Sorge'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 4051; 2 May 1969)

19 March 1969

SP4 Sigifredo Ramirez (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 March 1969. Specialist Ramirez distinguished himself while serving as an automatic rifleman in Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, near the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. His Platoon was moving along a narrow ridge line when it came under intense small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket propelled grenade fire from a North Vietnamese Army force entrenched in bunkers. In the subsequent battle, many friendly casualties were sustained, and a great amount of ammunition was expended, making it necessary to distribute the ammunition to the front lines. Specialist Ramirez immediately volunteered his services in transporting ammunition to the troops. On his return from the front lines, he aided the wounded by bringing them to a place of safety. Specialist Ramirez'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 (AM), General Orders Number 6625; 11 June 1969)



19 March 1969

SGT John S. Mohlengraft (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 March 1969. Sergeant Mohlengraft distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Sergeant of the Third Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, near the A Shau Valley, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. As his platoon advanced down a narrow ridge during a reconnaissance in force, North Vietnamese Army Soldiers, entrenched in bunkers overlooking the platoon, opened fire with small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket propelled grenades. While in a fighting position, Sergeant Mohlengraft was confronted by three North Vietnamese Army Soldiers who had maneuvered to within twenty meters of his position. The Vietnamese opened fire and hit him three times. Standing his ground, he returned fire, killing two and wounding one of the enemy. Sergeant Mohlengraft'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 (AM), General Orders Number 6970; 17 June 1969)

20 March 1966

SGT Elmo A. Tacuban (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 20 March 1966 while serving as a squad leader near My Dien, Republic of Vietnam. After one squad on a reconnaissance mission became engaged in a vicious battle and sustained several casualties, Sergeant Tacuban led the remainder of the platoon through the dense jungle to relieve the beleaguered squad. As the relief force approached the battle area, they encountered a heavy volume of fire from well-entrenched Viet Cong positions. Realizing that the casualties who were in the fire swept field to his front were in need of immediate medical attention, Sergeant Tacuban initiated fire and movement maneuvers in a determined effort to reach the casualties. With complete disregard for his safety while exposed to the intense hostile fire, he led his men across the open field. After reaching the casualties, Sergeant Tacuban administered lifesaving medical treatment and supervised the evacuation of the wounded while receiving weapons and grenade fire. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the relief of the beleaguered squad and saved the lives of the wounded casualties. Sergeant Tacuban's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 2962; 18 May 1966)

20 March 1968

SP4 Harry P. Longbottom (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 March 1968. Specialist Longbottom distinguished himself while serving as an automatic rifleman in Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company D was engaged in a search and clear operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, and was positioned in a night defensive perimeter. Specialist Longbottom was a member of a twelve-man patrol that departed the company position at dusk to establish an ambush along a trail leading out of the mountains. Moments after the ambush was in place, an unknown-size enemy unit was sighted moving down the trail. The ambush was initiated by detonating claymore mines, after which Specialist Longbottom, without regard for his own safety, jumped up and began throwing hand grenades. It soon became apparent that the enemy was numerically superior as the intensity of small arms and automatic weapons fire increased. Realizing that survival hinged on keeping the enemy on the defensive, Specialist Longbottom again endangered his life by moving forward to effectively engage the enemy with a heavy concentration of rifle fire. He remained at his dangerous location until the order was given to withdraw. Specialist Longbottom's courageous actions, in the face of grave personal danger, contributed to the success of the ambush, which accounted for fifteen enemy killed. Specialist Longbottom'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 1050; 31 Jan 69)

20 March 1969



SP4 Marion D. Nesbitt (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 March 1969. Specialist Nesbitt distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner in the First Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, near the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. While still in contact with North Vietnamese Army Regulars entrenched in bunkers, and under continuous fire from small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket propelled grenades, Specialist Nesbitt continued to provide suppressive fire against the enemy positions. Even through seriously wounded, he continued to fire his machine gun until the enemy bunker was eliminated. Specialist Nesbitt'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 (AM), General Orders Number 6941; 17 June 1969)

21 March 1968



SSG Freddie E. Westerman (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 March 1968. Staff Sergeant Westerman distinguished himself while serving as an acting platoon leader during a village clearing mission in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Upon receiving a heavy volume of sniper fire, Staff Sergeant Westerman moved under the heavy enemy fire to receive a situation report from the point element. After making a quick and decisive estimation of the contact, he began to assign areas of responsibility to each of his elements by moving, with complete disregard to his personal safety, through the murderous hail of hostile fire, which continued to rake the ground, form element to element and form man to man. Staff Sergeant Westerman's movement was observed by the large enemy force in the village which immediately opened fire with automatic weapons. One man was hit as he was exposed to direct fire. Staff Sergeant Westerman dauntlessly exposed himself to the enemy fire in order to place effective fire on the enemy until the wounded man was successfully recovered from the open area. Staff Sergeant Westerman then skillfully directed two squads to lay down a base of fire while another squad maneuvered towards the village. While maneuvering towards the village, one man of the squad was hit and became pinned down in an open rice paddy. Immediately, Staff Sergeant Westerman again braved the murderous hail of enemy fire too direct and encourage his men to provide an accurate base of fire so as to permit the successful recovery of the wounded trooper. Under Staff Sergeant Westerman's astute direction, the wounded man was swiftly and safely recovered. Realizing that the enemy force was too large for his platoon to engage, Staff Sergeant Westerman regrouped his men, posted security, and directed an uninterrupted barrage of friendly artillery and air strike upon the enemy positions. Through Staff Sergeant Westerman's precise and timely directions and devastating attack was delivered upon the enemy force. Staff Sergeant Westerman's indomitable courage and extraordinarily valorous 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, 101st Air Cavalry Division; General Orders Number 4550; 11 August 1968)



21 March 1969



1LT William Lorance Dent (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously), for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). First Lieutenant Dent distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 March 1969 while conducting a reconnaissance-in-force mission near the A Chau Valley in the province of Thua Thien. As his company moved along a mountain ridge, the point element encountered hostile sniper fire. He at once set up a defensive formation, ordering two machine guns to be brought forward. Suddenly the enemy opened fire with automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenades, and small arms. Lieutenant Dent moved out under the intense fusillade to retrieve several casualties. When a machine gunner fell wounded, he manned the weapon, providing suppressive fire as he directed his men to move back. He operated the machine gun until it malfunctioned. Then he grabbed his M-16 rifle and continued to deliver lethal volleys on the enemy, until he was wounded in the head. Having supervised the withdrawal of his men to safety, he followed but was wounded again. Only after all of his men had reached a secure position, he relinquished command and later succumbed to his wounds. First Lieutenant Dent's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, 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 2284; 27 June 1969)

21 March 1969

SGT Larry E. Proper (47th IN PLT) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 March 1969. Sergeant Proper distinguished himself by valorous actions while serving as a dog handler with the 47th Infantry Platoon in support of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry. Following two days of repeated engagements with North Vietnamese Army front, Sergeant Proper was leading the Third Platoon of Company B into a suspected enemy battalion base camp when enemy gunners opened fire from concealed bunkers. The platoon immediately returned fire and maneuvered to flank the enemy, but not before suffering several casualties. Without regard for his own safety, he crawled from his protected position to aid the wounded in the direct line of the hostile fire. Meanwhile, the enemy maneuvered to prevent extraction of the wounded. Under increasingly accurate machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire, Sergeant Proper began to carry the wounded to an evacuation helicopter as North Vietnamese Soldiers approached to within seventy-five meters of the extraction point. His quick actions were largely responsible for the successful evacuation of the wounded. Sergeant Proper'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 6983; 17 June 1969)

21 March 1969



SSG Mark W. Dugger (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 March 1969. Sergeant Dugger distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Sergeant of the Third Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, on a combat operation southwest of the city of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The Third Platoon was moving up a mountain on a narrow trail when the lead element came under sniper fire. While attempting to maneuver into position to counter the enemy fire, the platoon became pinned down by automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire. Sergeant Dugger left his position in the rear of the element and moved forward under the continuous sniper fire. Once he reached the area of contact, he went immediately to the aid of an individual who had been wounded in the initial contact and who was still in an open area. Under direct enemy fire, and with complete disregard for his own safety, he moved to the wounded man's position and helped him back to safety. He then returned to the platoon since the platoon leader had been seriously wounded. While assisting his wounded platoon leader in directing the platoon, he was also wounded. He then refused medical aid until after his platoon's more seriously wounded were moved to safety and treated. Sergeant Dugger'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 5324; 24 May 1969)

22 March 1968



1LT Cleo C. Hogan Jr. (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 March 1968. First Lieutenant Hogan distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st. Company D was assaulting a heavily fortified dual bunker system atop a high hill just west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The bunkers were extremely formidable, constructed with rock and natural materials, dried and hardened, and were able to support each other by direct fire. As the company closed on the enemy stronghold, First Lieutenant Hogan advanced to the front of his unit in order to determine the extent of the enemy's defenses and the overall strength of the foe's position. As soon as he came within view, a fusillade of enemy automatic weapons and machine gun fire opened up on him, churning up the earth within inches of his position. First Lieutenant Hogan immediately realized that no men could successfully storm this position without supporting fires. And so, fully exposing himself to the fierce enemy onslaught in order to be certain of the positions he was recording, First Lieutenant Hogan called in tactical air strikes and artillery fires. As these fires came raining, only a short distance from First Lieutenant Hogan's position, the officer bravely stayed at his post so that he could determine the effectiveness of the friendly firepower. Then, the artillery and air strikes having subsided, he directed one of his platoons to storm the position. However, the enemy still held their ground tenaciously as a withering hail of bullets tore into the advancing platoon's rank allowing it to go no further than First Lieutenant Hogan's forward position, although some individuals advanced to within ten meters of the enemy bunkers before being forced to withdraw. Once, again, First Lieutenant Hogan called in supporting fires from artillery units and fighter jets and this time he crawled even closer to the enemy in an effort to assure the effectiveness of this fire. As the lethal weapons pounded the bunker positions, debris showered First Lieutenant Hogan and shrapnel flew over his head, as they lifted, called for two more platoons to storm the challenging citadel. As the paratroopers rushed up the hillside, the enemy opened fire once again with terrifying accuracy, and as they swarmed past First Lieutenant Hogan's position, the officer stood bolt upright amidst the carnage about him in a gallant effort to encourage the men onward. Despite intensified enemy fire from the bunkers, further machine gun fire from the reverse slope, and enemy mortar fire, the combination of heavy artillery and air power along with the tenacity and courage of First Lieutenant Hogan's men were able to overcome all resistance. Greatly inspired by the sheer audacity and calm courage of their commander, the infantrymen overran enemy 's position, killing all the defenders. First Lieutenant Hogan'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 6440; 23 September 1968)



22 March 1968



SPC Francis J. Gentile (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 March 1968. Specialist Gentile distinguished himself while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The company had set up a night operations position on a ridgeline when it was hit by heavy hostile mortar fire. Although wounded by shrapnel during the initial bursts of mortar fire, Specialist Gentile refused to accept any medical attention. Ignoring the imminent danger of further wounds, he moved through the intense enemy fire to treat other wounded men. When the pain of his wounds forced him to discontinue moving about, he directed the wounded to be brought to him for treatment. Only after he was certain that he had given first aid to each wounded man, did Specialist Gentile consent to his own evacuation. His determined selflessness saved the lives of many of his comrades. Specialist Gentile's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 9767; 22 November 1968)

22 March 1968

2LT Gary C. Bridges (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 March 1968. Lieutenant Bridges distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Airborne Infantry, on a search and clear operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Company C was setting up a night operation position along a ridgeline when they came under an intense enemy mortar attack. Fifty mortar rounds exploded within the perimeter itself. Totally ignoring his own safety, Lieutenant Bridges moved among his men calmly reorganizing their positions, directing their fire, and aiding the wounded. When one enemy blast rendered the company communications net inoperative, Lieutenant Bridges moved quickly to the hardest hit part of the perimeter, the eastern sector, and defying the lethal shrapnel, he quickly reestablished the sector's defensive positions. Consequently, when the company sustained an enemy ground attack the charge was repulsed and Lieutenant Bridges's sector of the perimeter did not sustain a single casualty. Lieutenant Bridges's courageous actions and astute leadership 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 Airborne Division (Airmobile); General Orders Number 6441; 23 September 1968)

23 March 1967

SP4 Winston J. Georges (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for outstanding display of gallantry in combat actions. SP4 Georges shortly after moving into a security position, Specialist Four Georges was alerted by movement in some tall grass that was nearby. Specialist Georges moved to an exposed position where he could better observe the suspicious area and immediately spotter four Viet Cong soldiers with weapons approaching his position. At the same instant, the lead enemy soldier spotter Specialist Georges. Realizing that he could not deploy his squad, Specialist Georges immediately rushed forward with complete disregard for his own personal safety for a distance of 30 meters through murderous enemy fire and single-handedly assaulted the oncoming enemy. With his initial burst of fire, Specialist Georges killed one of the enemy soldiers and wounded another while causing the remainder to flee. Again, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Georges continued to pursue the enemy into the dense underbrush for approximately seventy-five meters through a tremendous volume of enemy fire that was concentrated upon him and killed a second enemy soldier and wounded another. Specialist Georges immediately brought his fire team forward along with one machine gun and conducted a thorough search of the immediate area despite enemy sniper fire. As a result of Specialist Georges' heroic actions, no friendly casualties occurred; however, two enemy soldiers were killed, two were wounded and several weapons and 400 rounds of ammunition were captured. Specialist Georges' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, IFFV; General Orders Number 571; 18 July 1967)

23 March 1969



SP4 William F. Baggs Jr. (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star (Posthumously) for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in the Republic of Vietnam, on 23 March 1969. Specialist Baggs distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner on a combat operation in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, his platoon was moving along the base of a hill when it came under intense rocket propelled grenade and automatic weapons fire from well-camouflaged and fortified positions. During the initial exchange of fire, the last man and several others were seriously wounded. Realizing the urgency of removing the men from the vicinity of the enemy positions, Specialist Baggs completely disregarding his own safety, volunteered to retrieve the fallen men. He and another man moved toward the positions, drawing heavy enemy fire. With rounds hitting all around him, he reached the wounded lead man and pulled him out of the line of hostile fire, back into the security of the platoon perimeter. Seeing another of his comrades' fall from wounds, he again crawled under the heavy enemy fire to administer first aid and bring the wounded man to a safe position. Specialist Baggs' 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 6681; 11 June 1969)

23 March 1969

SP4 Robert L. Wright (D/2-501 IN) 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 Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Specialist Wright distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 23 March 1969 while serving as the radio-telephone operator during a reconnaissance-in-force operation in the jungle region of the A Shau Valley. About three hours after sunset the night defensive perimeter came under hostile automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire. During the initial volley, a rocket grenade landed only a meter from the company command post. Even though the round had ignited and could have exploded at any moment, Specialist Wright ran through the incoming fusillade and threw his body on the round, smothering the fuse and rendering it harmless. Exposing himself to direct hostile fire, he began carrying the 81-millimeter rounds to the mortar crews, until the perimeter was threatened with penetration. He then immediately commenced firing into the enemy ranks with his weapon until the enemy withdrew. Specialist Four Wright'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 3069; 11 August 1969)



23 March 1969



MAJ Jerome A. Bruschette (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 March 1969. Major Bruschette distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while serving as Operations Officer, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry. Major Bruschette was conducting a visual reconnaissance and liaison visit to his units in the assigned area of operations near Nam Hoa District, Republic of Vietnam, when he diverted his aircraft in order to support friendly elements in contact with an enemy force. He quickly evaluated the situation and maneuvered his aircraft into a blocking position to prevent the enemy from withdrawing from the area. He continuously remained unprotected from the ground fire to direct the aircraft in low level flight, effectively blocking the enemy movement. When the ground element ran low on ammunition, he personally resupplied the element, again under direct hostile ground fire. During the entire period, he continuously demonstrated complete disregard for his own safety, directing the aircraft to the best tactical advantage, making repeated trips into the hostile zone and blocking the enemy escape. Major Bruschette's outstanding flying ability 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 4822; 19 May 1969)

24 March 1968



SGT William D. Montgomery (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (2-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 March 1968. Sergeant Montgomery distinguished himself while serving as a team leader with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry northwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The second squad of the third platoon in Company C was moving through a region with extremely heavy foliage when sniper fire opened up wounding three of the men. Simultaneously a brush fire flared up and began to eat its way toward the wounded men unable to move under their own power. Sergeant Montgomery with utter disregard for his own personal safety threw all his equipment to the ground, and braving two elements, the now heavy enemy fire and the onrushing brush fire, he along with two other men began to move toward the fallen men. When he reached the men, Sergeant Montgomery picked one of the men up and once again ignoring the deadly enemy fire carried the wounded comrade to the rear to be evacuated for medical aid. Sergeant Montgomery'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 Order Number 7153; 12 October 1968)

24 March 1968

SP5 James M. Smith (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Air Cavalry Division, in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 March 1968. Specialist Fifth Class Smith distinguished himself in the Province of Quan Houng Vang, Republic of Vietnam. During a combat operation in a mountainous area, Company D came under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched North Vietnamese force. In the initial burst of fire, a member of the company was wounded and separated from his company by a firing lane. Specialist Smith with complete disregard for his own safety crossed the firing lane to assist his comrade. Successfully crossing the firing lane Specialist Smith realized the man was already dead and, when he tried to pull the man back, he came under intense automatic weapons fire. Specialist Smith moved forward and destroyed the enemy bunker complex and again moved back to recover the dead man. As Specialist Smith attempted to drag the man to the rear he again came under intense fire and was forced to withdraw. Specialist Fifth Class Smith'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.



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

