



STRIKE

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

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



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



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



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

- 22 April 1966 **Operation AUSTIN II:** At 0947H, A/2-502 IN reported finding a 62 Ford truck and 50 feet of electric cable vicinity BN074267. The truck was in bad shape with many parts missing. The truck was destroyed. At 1800H, A/2-502 IN sustained 1 US wounded from enemy sniper fire. A CH-47 with hoist was called at 1820H for Medevac and completed at 1905H. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN II; 18 May 1966)
- 22 April 1966 **Operation Austin II:** B/2-502 IN (-) was conducting "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vicinity BN0525 when element of B/2-502 IN located VC vicinity BN047393 sighted 30-40 Viet Cong there. B/2-502 IN was helilifted to LZ vicinity BN065394 to pursue the enemy. The lift was completed at 1700H, with negative enemy contact. B/2-502 IN sent out extensive "RECONDO" patrols and could not establish contact; at 2215H, they began moving South on order of BN Commander. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN II; 18 May 1966)
- 22 April 1967 **Operation SUMMERALL:** Three light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulting in 3 US KIA, 3 US WIA, 3 VC KIA (BC) and 1 enemy individual weapon and 3 grenades captured. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation SUMMERALL; 21 May 1967)
- 22 April 1968 **Operation DELAWARE:** TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation DELAWARE to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases, and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light to include the village complex cordoned by the 2-501 IN BN, where sporadic fire was received throughout the night. Today's statistics: Friendly losses – 5 US WIA (5 medevac); Enemy assessment – 32 NVA KIA (BC), 1 NVA POW, 3 AK-47's, 3 SKS, 1 7.62 AK Soviet Assault Rifle, 1 RPG-7 launcher.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied NDP vicinity YD695271 with ambushes vicinity YD686274 and YD694274. During the day conducted maintenance and local patrols vicinity NDP. Established NDP vicinity YD688268 with local ambushes.

B/1-501 IN occupied NDP vicinity YD613254 with ambushes vicinity YD616251, YD612259, YD609255 and YD609291. During the day conducted maintenance and local patrols vicinity NDP. Established NDP vicinity YD608265 with local ambushes.

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV; provided security for AN LO Bridge. Conducted platoon size RIF operation NE to vicinity YD629309 and returned. At 1520H, 1 squad moved to vicinity YD618317 to secure and L-19 of the 1st ACD that was down due to mechanical trouble. Squad returned at 1656H when aircraft was extracted.

D/1-501 IN occupied NDP vicinity YD652256 with ambushes vicinity YD646252, YD653250, YD662247 and YD651258. Conducted RIF operation from NDP SW to vicinity YD627244.

Recon platoon provided minesweep security N and S from LZ SALLY. Returned LZ SALLY, assumed mission as LZ SALLY perimeter reaction force.

2-501 IN BN

Throughout the night a cordon was maintained around the village complex along the NW and SE side of stream from vicinity YD758305 and YD755313. Blocking positions were maintained by A/2-501 IN, C/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN, B/2-501 IN 2nd platoon, 1 RF company and 1 ARVN company. Throughout the reporting period sporadic SA, AW fire and occasional RPG-2 and 82mm rounds were received with negative casualties. Partial sweeps were made of the objective area with the exception of hamlet located vicinity YD747305. At the close of the reporting period A/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN and the RF company remained in the objective area with a cordon established by ambushes around the hamlet vicinity YD747305. The ARVN company was airlifted from the objective area from 1502H to 1604H. At 1611H, B/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon was airlifted to LZ vicinity YD688318, closed at 1620H. During the reporting period three were no friendly casualties in the vicinity of the cordoned village. Enemy assessment – 32 NVA KIA (BC), 1 NVA POW, 3 AK-47's, 3 SKS, 1 7.62 AK Soviet Assault Rifle, 1 RPG-7 launcher.

B/2-501 IN conducted RIF operation vicinity YD685316 to vicinity YD684306 to vicinity YD688302. At 1645H vicinity YD687304 received SA and AW fire from and estimated company resulting in 2 US WIA (medevac). Artillery and an air strike were placed on the enemy positions and negative assessment. Established NDP vicinity YD691312 with local ambushes. Friendly casualties – 2 US WIA (medevac); Negative enemy assessment.

Recon platoon provided security for B/1-321 ARTY vicinity YD688339. Conducted RIF operation OPCON to B/2-501 IN. Returned to vicinity YD688339, closed 1643H.



At 1400H vicinity YD615293, a vehicle being washed was fired on by an estimated enemy squad resulting in 3 US WIA (medevac). At 1415H a helicopter engaged the enemy position with negative assessment.

(Commanders Situation Report; 222001H April – 232000H April 1968; CPT William M. Sartor Jr., Kayo 3)

- 22 April 1968 At first light, the multi-company paratrooper force poured suppressing automatic weapons fire on the enemy location while calling for more artillery and air strikes. At the close of the night's action the Screaming Eagles were credited with 47 NVA kills and seven weapons captured. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 2); July 1968)
- 22 April 1968 **Operation DELAWARE:** At 1520H, B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon vicinity YD556020 engaged an enemy engineer recon party of approximately 8 personnel with organic weapons. Results: 1 US WHA, 4 NVA KIA, 1 NVA CIA, 3 AK-47's, and 1 SKS CIA.
- 22 April 1968 2-502 IN BN came into heavy contact vicinity YD5602. A PW captured in this action identified his unit as the 10th Co., 3rd BN, 308th Engineers. This unit is nicknamed Cutthroats. It is possible that this large an engineer's unit has been responsible for the recent upgrading of 547A and the depot complex in A SHAU – A LOUI Valley. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, HQ, 101st Air Cavalry Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968)
- 22 – 25 April 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** 1-502 IN BN continued RIF and detailed search operations. The equipment from the cache discovered by C/1-502 IN was evacuated by air to the 101st ABN DIV at Camp EAGLE, HUE at 1310H. C/1-502 moved by CH47 from YC706661 to Eagle Beach and became OPCON to 3BDE.
- 22 April 1970 C/1-502 IN found in area of 50 to 100 meters in diameter 10 sleeping positions which would hold 3 – 4 persons each. It is estimated 20 – 30 people used area 5 – 20 days ago. Trails lead in and out from all directions. The location of this complex was 751021. HOUNG THUY reported the KIA of TRAN VAN MYHIA a vital lead in the communist party for our area. He was the most wanted VC on the list.
- 22 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** FSB STRIKE Closed. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 22 April 1971 1-501 IN BN ambush vicinity YD891109 had movement. Engaged with small arms and claymores. Enemy returned fire and fled. Firefly used and observed tunnel at vicinity YD883115. FLC had negative results.
- 22 – 29 April 1971 **Operation LAM SON 720:** A/2-502 IN took the initiative with a night combat patrol north of A LOUIS Airfield and south of the Razorback. E/2-502 IN followed with a reconnaissance assault and mortar raid on Eagle Nest where they established a patrol based for A/2-502 IN raid on the Valley floor. These operations were conducted professionally and reflected the extensive training conducted in the staging area. The result that the company created was the illusion that the entire STRIKE Force was employed in the A SHAU VALLEY, thus delaying and restricting the enemy's use of the area. B/2-502 IN was directed to assist the 17th CAV in an aircraft rescue mission in the southern portion of the A SHAU VALLEY. In typical STRIKE Force fashion, B/2-502 IN (-) one platoon, with one platoon of C/2-502 IN attached combat assaulted into the valley late one evening and moved to secure the high ground. The next morning, they attacked south against heavy resistance and secured the downed helicopters. B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon then returned to FB JACK. Due to unflyable weather over the planned area of operation, the Battalion spent four days at FB JACK receiving additional training.
- 23 April 1966 **Operations AUSTIN II:** A/2-502 IN (-) moved in Recondo Checkerboard position to the South at 1715H. B/2-502 IN moved down axis Red, white and Blue at 1715H. B/2-502 IN was located at BN048325; B2a at BN065314, B2b at BN060335, B3a at BN039322, B3b at BN025325, B4a at BN070328 and B4b at BN079330. At 1925H, B4a engaged 3 Viet Cong at BN064334 killing 1 Viet Cong (BC). C/2-502 IN continued "Recondo Checkerboard" operations vicinity BN0628. Recondo platoon continued "Recondo Checkerboard" operations vicinity BN1028 with no enemy contact. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN II; 18 May 1966)
- 23 April 1968 In the 1BDE area of operations, airborne infantry of the 1-327 IN BN continued their clearing operations at LZ Veghel, six miles east of the A Shau Valley. Scattered resistance was met as the paratroopers prepared the LZ for the insertion of heavy engineer equipment and artillery pieces. The cordon of Thon Kim Doi was completed as the 2-501 IN BN scored 27 more kills and took four more weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 2); July 1968)
- 23 April 1970 1-502 IN BN, MP teams continued training the PF units in our area. Snipers were withdrawn to Phu Bai to receive additionally training.
- 23 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** At 0345H at YD362165, A/2-501 IN received RPG Fire and satchel charges in their NDP. The attackers were quickly silenced, but resumed the attack at 0610H with RPG, small arms and 60mm mortar fire. Artillery was employed on suspected enemy locations and escape routes. At first light search revealed seven NVA KIA, two RPG launchers, one SKS and five AK-47's. One US Soldier was killed in action and eleven wounded.
- 24 April 1966 **Operations AUSTIN II:** A/2-502 IN BN continued "Recondo Checkerboard" operations vicinity BN1017 and at 0800H, started extractions from BN109174 to the battalion base area near Phan Thiet Airfield. The extraction was completed at 0855H, and A/2-502 IN became the brigade reserve on a 30-minute standby for the Phan Thiet area. B/2-502 IN continued "Recondo Checkerboard" operations in vicinity of BN 0432. C/2-502 IN continued "Recondo Checkerboard" operations vicinity BN 0623 with no enemy contact. Recondo platoon continued "Recondo Checkerboard" operations vicinity BN1075. At 1000H, Recondo platoon was helilifted from BN107253 to LOUNG SON CIDG camp vicinity BN127384; they were assigned an area reserve mission. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN II; 18 May 1966)



24 – 25 April 1968

Operation DELAWARE: TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation DELAWARE to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases, and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light with a total of 7 contacts. Today's statistics: Friendly losses – 2 US MIA, 9 US WIA (8 medevac)); Enemy assessment – 6 NVA KIA (BC), 7 VC KIA (BC), 1 RPG-2 launcher and 1 German Mauser rifle (both had been destroyed by artillery), 1500 rounds SA, 9 60mm mortar rounds (destroyed), 2 82mm mortar rounds (destroyed).

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied NDP vicinity YD678273 with ambushes vicinity YD683276, YD680275, YD674373 and YD685274. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD683291 and established NDP with local ambushes. At 1410H vicinity YD684286 engaged 5 NVA. Artillery supported. Results: 2 NVA KIA (BC).

B/1-501 IN occupied NDP vicinity YD618274 with ambushes vicinity YD616268, YD615279, YD613273 and YD609267. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD625241 and established NDP with local ambushes.

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV. Provided security at AN LO Bridge. Established ambush vicinity YD630295. 1 platoon with 3 squads RF conducted RIF to vicinity YD6029. At 1440H vicinity YD612291 discovered 6 60mm mortar fuses vicinity of enemy minefield. Established a daylight ambush with negative results.

D/1-501 IN Occupied NDP vicinity YD618274 with ambushes vicinity YD658239, YD652252 and YD661248. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD671239 and established NDP with local ambushes.

Recon platoon ambushed vicinity YD634259, returned to LZ SALLY at 0630H. AT 1630H departed LZ SALLY with 1 platoon PF and 1 platoon RF. Moved west to vicinity YD609269 and established NDP with ambushes along E bank of SONG BO River.

E/1-501 IN (-) provided minesweep security N and S from LZ SALLY. At 0955H vicinity YD643293 minesweep team received 3 rounds sniper fire. Negative casualties.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN conducted RIF operation from NDP vicinity YD712312 SW to vicinity YD699303. At 1310H an artillery prep was fired vicinity YD700302. At 1330H received sporadic SA/AW fire vicinity YD699301. Continued to move towards village at YD699303. At 1430H, the contact developed, and the enemy forces was estimated to be a reinforced NVA platoon or company which employed SA, AW and RPG fire. Friendly casualties were 2 MIA and 3 WIA (including 2 WIA from BBT grenade that was detonated during contact). Friendly forces pulled back and employed artillery, light fire team (LFT) and TAC AIR. Contact broke at 1645H. BDA of 3 air strikes placed on the enemy location between 1705H and 1812H was 4 NVA KIA (BC). Established NDP vicinity YD710305. Results: 2 US MIA, 3 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment – 4 NVA KIA (BC)

B/2-501 IN conducted RIF operation from NDP vicinity YD668311 to vicinity YD692323 and established NDP and local ambush. At 1115H received SA fire from vicinity YD675314. Returned fire and artillery supported. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment.

C/2-501 IN conducted RIF operation from NDP vicinity YD724324 to vicinity YD709335 and established NDP and local ambushes. At 1910H vicinity YD707335 received SA and AW fire from the N. Engaged with artillery. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment.

D/2-501 IN conducted RIF operation from NDP vicinity YD738302 to vicinity YD712313 and established NDP and local ambushes. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment.

Recon platoon provided security for B/1-321 ARTY vicinity YD688339.

(Commanders Situation Report; 242001H April – 252000H April 1968; CPT William M. Sartor Jr., Kayo 3)

24 April 1968

Operation DELAWARE: At 0640H, C/2-502 IN vicinity YD542029 engaged an unknown size enemy force in the killing zone of its ambush. When C/2-502 IN went to check results, the enemy counterattacked. Results: 1 US KHA, 1 US WHA, 2 NVA KIA, 1 AK-47, 1 SKS CIA. At 1125H, vicinity YD542029 our C&C/utility helicopter received AK-47 and HMG fire from suspected coordinate YD542033 after departing C/2-502 IN LZ on a resupply mission. The utility ship from 1-327 IN BN, acting as escort ship, observed our helicopter spinning and smoking and finally bursting into flames as it went down. The 1-327 IN BN helicopter was also hit by enemy fire but was able to make a forced landing on LZ Veghel, where it was secured by Recon platoon. Attempts to locate the other helicopter had negative results: Results: 1 US WHA, 5 US MIA (1 from 2-502)

24 April 1970

Unauthorized people were cutting bamboo in a danger area. They were removed. An agent report indicates we will reach a high point in enemy activity about 25 April. The Brigade Commander has directed additional patrols be sent out to prevent assaults on installations. Recon found 1 bunker complex approximately 1-year-old. (1-502 IN Annual Supplement; Approved by LTC Richard N. Lang, Commander)

24 April 1971

B/1-501 IN vicinity ZC058981 found two bunkers 15x8' along a stream. Estimated 6 months old. No recent activity.



25 April 1966

Operation AUSTIN II: A/2-502 IN located in battalion base area as brigade reserve, sent one platoon on a road security mission to the Northwest along Highway 1. They left at 053H having no enemy contact. The remainder of A/2-502 IN conducted maintenance of equipment and personal hygiene. B/2-502 IN continued "Recondo Checkerboard" operations vicinity BN0423 until 0600H and then moved to an LZ vicinity BN025348 to be extracted to the base area. The extraction was completed by 0853H. The remainder of the day they conducted personal hygiene and maintenance of equipment. C/2-502 IN continued "Recondo Checkerboard" operations vicinity BN0623 until 0800H with no enemy contact. They were extracted to the battalion base area closing at 1345H. Recondo platoon was the battalion reserve located at LOUNG SON CIDG camp, vicinity 127348 and were extracted to the battalion base area at 0915H, closing at 1030H. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN II; 18 May 1966)

25 – 26 April 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases, and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light with the exception of B/2-501 IN and C/2-501 IN. Today's statistics: Friendly losses – 5 US KIA, 5 US MIA, 24 US WIA (24 medevac); Enemy assessment – 14 NVA KIA (BC), 4 VC KIA (BC), 1 RPG-2 launcher and 1 RPG-7 launcher, 2 60mm mortar rounds (destroyed), 1 82mm mortar round (destroyed), 1 AP mine (destroyed), 1 BBT (destroyed).

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied NDP vicinity YD683293 with ambushes vicinity YD683295, YD676288, YD687924 and YD683286. At 2003H ambush vicinity YD683295 received SA fire. Fire returned, artillery supported. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment. At 2250H, NDP received approximately 60mm mortar rounds. Returned 60mm mortar and artillery fire on suspected enemy positions. Results: 1 US WHA; Negative enemy assessment.

B/1-501 IN occupied NDP vicinity YD625241 with ambushes vicinity YD616240, YD620242 and YD632242. Conducted RIF operation from NDP to vicinity YD627237 and YD618248. Established NDP vicinity YD621252 with local ambushes. Negative contact.

C/1-501 IN OPCON to 2-17 CAV. Provided security for AN LO Bridge. Ambushed vicinity YD621295. Conducted platoon size RIF operation S on east side of river to vicinity YD614210. Crossed to W side of SONG BO River and returned to AN LO Bridge. Negative contact.

D/1-501 IN occupied NDP vicinity YD671239 with ambush vicinity YD661241, YD669236, and YD674241. Conducted RIF operation from NDP to vicinity YD637246. At 1332H 1 PF platoon was attached. Established NDP vicinity YD656253 with local ambushes. Negative contact.

Recon platoon conducted operations in conjunction with 1 PF platoon and 1 RF platoon. Occupied NDP vicinity YD612272 with ambush vicinity YD610267. Negative contact.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN conducted RIF operation from NDP vicinity YD710305 to vicinity YD703296, YD698297, YD695300 and YD716300. At 0752H vicinity YD705298, 1 US WIA from BBT grenade. At 1025H vicinity YD697297, found 7 graves containing 7 NVA KIA (BC). At 1205H vicinity YD696301 found 7 more graves containing 7 NVA KIA (BC). At 1616H vicinity YD699301 recovered 2 MIA from 24 April action, now 2 KIA, and captured 1 RPG-2 launcher and 1 RPG-7 launcher. At 1820H conducted a combat assault from PZ vicinity YD708300 to LZ vicinity YD729319. Closed LZ 1846H, LZ GREEN. A/2-501 IN established ambushes to interdict and block enemy movement towards HUE from the NW. Results: 2 US KIA (previously listed as 2 US MIA), 1 US WIA; Enemy assessment – 14 NVA KIA (BC), 1 RPG-2 launcher, 1 RPG-7 launcher.

B/2-501 IN conducted RIF operation from NDP vicinity YD693324 to YD677316 and YD687304. At 1253H vicinity YD687304 made contact with an estimated reinforced well dug in platoon which employed SA, AW, and RPG fire. Fire was returned and artillery support. Contact was broken at 1500H. Moved to an NDP vicinity YD693324 and established local ambushes. Results: Friendly casualties – 2 US KIA, 5 US WIA; Negative enemy assessment.

C/2-501 IN conducted RIF operation from NDP vicinity YD702320 to vicinity YD704312, YD702312, and then to NDP vicinity YD702320. At 0708H engaged 1 VC vicinity YD698327. Results: 1 VC KIA (BC). At 0605H, vicinity YD729333 ambush engaged 6 VC. Results: 3 VC KIA (BC). At 1230H, vicinity YD703307 made contact with an estimated reinforced platoon in well dug in positions with overhead cover. Enemy employed SA, AW and RPG. LFT supported C/2-501 IN as they pulled back their wounded. Artillery and TAC AIR (4 air strikes) supported as contact broke at 1440H. Friendly casualties: 5 US MIA, 6 US WIA; Negative enemy assessment. Totals: 5 US MIA, 16 US WIA; Enemy assessment – 4 VC KIA (BC)

D/2-501 IN remained vicinity of NDP YD712313 throughout the day. At 1725H conducted combat assault from PZ vicinity YD714314 to LZ vicinity YD719342. Closed LZ 1740H, LZ GREEN. At 1733H vicinity PZ received sporadic SA fire. Negative casualties. D/2-501 IN moved to a position vicinity YD722343 to interdict and block enemy movement towards HUE. At 1812H vicinity YD722342, a BBT mine was detonated resulting in 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA. Totals: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA; Negative enemy assessment.

Recon platoon provided for B/1-321 ARTY. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD663308 and returned. Negative contact.

1-502 IN BN



A/1-502 IN at 0730H conducted heliborne movement from FSB BASTOGNE to LZ SALLY. OPCON to 2-501 IN BN upon closing at LZ SALLY. Approximately, 0900H conducted combat assault to LZ vicinity YD721325 and conduct RIF operation from E to W along S side of stream through hamlet vicinity YD7144330, in conjunction with D/2-501 IN.

(Commanders Situation Report; 252001H April – 262000H April 1968; CPT William M. Sartor Jr., Kayo 3)

25 April – 15 May 1969

Operation BRISTOL BOOTS: Intelligence gained prior to the initiation of Operation BRISTOL PAIN indicated that the 4th and 5th NVA Regiments were using the RUONG RUONG Valley and surrounding areas as supply lines and food producing areas for enemy units to the east of Quang Nam Province and to the north in Thua Thien Province's Phu Loc District. The mission assigned to the maneuver elements was to construct fire support bases and to conduct multiple reconnaissance in force operations in their assigned area of operation to locate and destroy enemy forces, installations, equipment and supplies.

On 25 April elements of the 2-327 IN BN began its assaults into the RUONG RUONG Valley followed by elements of 3-5 Cavalry which began road clearing operations south along QL-545 toward the RUONG RUONG Valley on 26 April. Aggressive reconnaissance in force operations were conducted by the maneuver elements throughout the operations, but only minimal enemy contact-trail watchers and snipers – was experienced. Road clearing operations were curtailed on 2 May when 3-5 Cavalry (-) became OPCON to the 101st Airborne Division for future operations in the A Shau Valley. On 8 May a series of OPCON shifts took place: 1-327 IN BN and 2-502 IN BN became OPCON to the 2BDE while 1-502 IN BN and 1-501 IN BN became OPCON to the 1BDE. In addition, the area operation was expanded to include a reconnaissance zone along the Laotian Border and Base Are 607. As the maneuver elements of the 1BDE moved into this area the enemy withdrew to the west into Laos.

Operation BRISTOL BOOTS were terminated prematurely on 15 May as the 1BDE, with 1-501 IN BN and 1-502 IN BN was redeployed to Tam Ky where it became OPCON to the Americal Division in Operation LAMAR PLAIN. Throughout the twenty-one-day operation contact was light and sporadic. It was determined that no large concentrations of enemy forces or installations were in the Ruong Ruon Valley. Results of the operation were: 7 NVA KIA, 1 POW, and 16 individual weapons captured. Friendly Losses were 5 KIA and 34 WIA. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile); Operational Report – Lesson Learned, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) for period ending 31 July 1969; 09 December 1969)

25 April 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: The Strike Force Battalion moved into the new AO west of the SONG BO River on 25 April with a combat assault of the Reconnaissance Platoon on Hill 714 (YD508082). The lift birds began taking fire upon insertion, approximately 300 meters south of the LZ along the ridge line. Cobra gunships coving the CA were employed along with tube artillery with unknown results. Upon completion of their mission that day, the Reconnaissance Platoon was extracted. Again, the lift ship received fire from approximately the same area. (2-502 IN Unit History of the Strike Force, Vietnam 70; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

25 April 1970

There was a flame drop today at YD691119. VR went out as usual and all finding were negative. (1-502 IN Annual Supplement; Approved by LTC Richard N. Lang, Commander)

25 April 1971

B/1-501 IN, 1st platoon vicinity ZC0053938 detonated on BBT. Was 81mm or 82mm round. Resulted in 1 US WIA and 1 KCS WIA.

26 April 1966

Operation AUSTIN II: The 2-502 IN BN prepared for movement to the next operational area. The advance party departed at 0900H to NHON CO. Three "Recondo" patrols, one from each company were helilifted to the following areas to set up an ambush: A/2-502 IN, Recon platoon vicinity AN764009, B/2-502 IN, Recon platoon vicinity AN759027 and C/2-502 IN, Recon platoon vicinity AN772023. B/2-502 IN, Recon platoon reported sniper fire at 1910H, vicinity AN755038. Negative results. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN II; 18 May 1966)

26 April 1967

Operation SUMMERALL: Three contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 3 VC KIA (BC), 1 BC KIA (EST) and 4 individual weapons captured. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation SUMMERALL; 21 May 1967)

26 – 27 April 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases, and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light with the exception the exception of a contact by elements of 2-17 CAV. Today's statistics: Friendly losses – 6 US KIA (previously reported as 5 MIA), 9 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment – 44 NVA KIA (BC), 6 VC KIA (BC), 3 returnees, 2 7.62mm HMG, 2 SKS, 1 AK-47, 1 M-16, 1 M1, 1 SKS (destroyed), 1000lbs rice, 1 BBT (destroyed), 8 sampans sunk.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD682271 with ambushes vicinity YD675275 and YD687271. Conducted patrols during the day reconnoitering for night ambush sites.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD621252 with ambushes vicinity YD615257, YD616250, YD619247, YD625247 and YD631248. Conducted patrols during the day reconnoitering for night ambush sites.

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV



D/1-501 IN (1 PF platoon attached). Occupied night position vicinity YD656253 with ambushes vicinity YD643251, YD649255, YD565253, YD663245 and YD667241. Conducted patrols during the day reconnoitering for night ambush sites.

Recon platoon (1 PF platoon and 1 RF platoon attached) Occupied night position vicinity YD608266 with ambushes vicinity YD612265 and YD609263. At 2050H observed an unknown number of sampans being loaded by flashlight vicinity YD607268. Artillery was fired resulting in 1 secondary explosion. Approximately, 2000H the night position received sporadic sniper fire with negative casualties. At 0625H, 10 sampans were sighted vicinity YD607268. Artillery and 4.2" mortars were fired resulting in one secondary explosion. A reconnaissance was made of the area at 0730H. Results: Enemy assessment – 4 VC KIA (BC), 1 SKS (destroyed), 6 sampans sunk.

E/1-501 IN (-) conducted minesweep security N and S from LZ SALLY.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD728318 with ambushes vicinity YD727315 and YD732309. Conducted RIF operation through hamlet vicinity YD732326. At 1000H engaged 10 enemy vicinity YD729317 with artillery and 4.2" mortar fire. Negative enemy assessment. Established high position vicinity YD727337 with local ambush.

B/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD693324 with ambushes vicinity YD692328 and YD689318. 2 platoons provided security for rice harvest vicinity YD645305 and YD645317. B/2-501 IN (-) provided security for bridge repair vicinity YD669324. Established night position vicinity YD657318.

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD543334. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD705314 following an artillery prep. At 1450H recovered the 5 US MIA from previous days contact, now carried as 5 US KIA. At 1506H vicinity YD705314 detonated BBT resulted in 2 US WIA (medevac). At 1525H found 1 BBT CHICOM grenade (destroyed). Established a night position vicinity YD705314. At 1832H received SA, AW and 2 RPG-2 rounds into night position resulting in 1 US WIA (medevac). Fire was returned and artillery support with negative enemy assessment. Totals: 5 US KIA (previously listed as MIA), 3 US MIA (medevac); Enemy assessment – 1 BBT (destroyed).

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD722343. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD714330. At 1035H vicinity YD716329 found 500lbs of rice. At 1155H vicinity YD715332 received SA fire. Returned fire resulting in 1 VC KIA (bC0 and three individual surrendering almost immediately. Results: Negative casualties; Enemy assessment -VC KIA (BC), 3 returnees, 1 SKS, 1 M1, 1 M-16, 50 rounds SA ammo, 500lbs rice. Established a night position vicinity YD666336.

(Commanders Situation Report; 262001H April – 272000H April 1968; CPT William M. Sartor Jr., Kayo 3)

26 - 28 April 1968

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: 1-502 IN BN continued RIF operations on 27 April. B/1-502 IN assumed security of FSB LASH and D/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to the northwest. Recon conducted extraction from YC673692 to FSB LASH and aided in the security. On 28 April, A/1-502 IN assumed security of FSB LASH and B/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to the northwest.



26 April 1968

Operation DELAWARE: At 1235H, B/2-502 IN vicinity YD540028 along Route 547, engaged an enemy platoon in bunkers employing RPD's, RPG's, and AK-47's near newly constructed FSB VEGHEL. At 1335H, the unit began to receive 82mm mortar fire. The terrain was thick and uphill to the bunkers, precluding a flanking movement by C/2-502 IN coming to reinforce. With the support of a platoon of C/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN began to sweep the contact area and overrun the bunkers. Contact was broken at 1500H. Results: 4 US KIA, 27 US WHA, 16 NVA KIA, 1 Mosin-Nagant, 4 AK-47's, 2 RPG's, 1 RPD, 3 SKS, 4 M-16, 7 B-40 Rockers, 3 Rifle grenades CIA.



- 26 April 1968 The day was marked with major contacts along Route 547 in the Delaware AO near the newly constructed FSB VEGHEL at the edge of the A SHAU Valley. Early in the afternoon, paratroopers from B/2-502 IN were patrolling in the southern ridges along the highway. They quickly engaged and NVA company occupying well-fortified bunkers positions. The B/2-502 IN riflemen reacted with heavy volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire while C/2-502 IN moved in from the north. The two companies lined up and overran the enemy positions, killing 16 and capturing 12 weapons. Later that afternoon, airborne infantrymen from B/2-327 IN BN assaulted an enemy anti-aircraft position that was harassing Division helicopters heading to FSB BASTOGNE from FSB VEGHEL. The paratrooper's unit took the enemy soldiers by surprise, killing 10 and capturing two Soviet 12.7 heavy machineguns mounted on wheels. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 2); July 1968)
- 26 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** Based on enemy activities on 25 April, the Reconnaissance platoon was again inserted on Hill 714 and received fire upon landing on the LZ. A platoon of B/2-502 IN, who had been preciously alerted as a reaction force for the Reconnaissance platoon, was inserted in support of the Recon platoon. A white team from the 1BDE Aviation platoon was employed as the Recon platoon began a sweep along the ridge line to the south. The low bird received fire from an estimated enemy platoon, damaging the craft and forcing the aircraft to land. While sweeping the area, the Recon platoon located five bunkers, reinforced with two feet of overhead cover. Two enemy engaged the Recon platoon as they searched the bunkers. The enemy quickly broke contact and fled the area. The Recon platoon followed a blood trail but was unable to locate the body. (2-502 IN Unit History of the Strike Force, Vietnam 70; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 26 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** A/1-502 IN found a dud 105mm round and blew it in place. The Battalion continued Operation TEXAS STAR with negative results. (1-502 IN Annual Supplement; Approved by LTC Richard N. Lang, Commander)
- 26 April 1970 In the vicinity of YD368154 – 5km SE of RIPCORD; D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon engaged 5 NVA with small arms fire 40mm from their position. The enemy did not return fire but withdrew in an unknown direction. Artillery blocking fires were employed, and a sweep of the area revealed 4 NVA KIA, 2 AK-47s and one rucksack of rice. Personal note: We were taking a break along the river when Ryan Harper spotted 4 NVA on the other side of the stream, beginning to walk into an opening, a bomb crater. When all 4 were in the crater I gave the order to fire. 3 NVA fell dead on the first volley of fire. However, one got behind a large fallen tree, and had overhead cover from a rock ledge. This NVA did return fire, but only one shot, as a M-16 round had lodged in the bolt, preventing the shell casing from being extracted. Attempts to get him to surrender failed, and 3rd squad lead by Platoon Sgt Hembree assaulted the position, killing the final NVA. I never saw a fifth NVA, as reported. (Account used by permission from Gary Goeckel)
- 27 April 1966 **Operation AUSTIN II:** 2-502 IN BN continued to prepare for movement to NHON CO. The three "Recondo" ambush patrols were extracted to the battalion base area at 1030H. Two Recondo patrols departed the battalion area at 1800H to set up an ambush at AN768052 and AN785051. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN II; 18 May 1966)
- 27 – 30 April 1966 **Operation AUSTIN III:** 1-327 IN BN and 2-502 IN BN of the 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV begin Operation AUSTIN III, a search & Destroy operation in the LA NGA Valley of BINH TUY Province, III CTZ.
- 27 April 1967 **Operation SUMMERALL:** In a test of area saturation capability, the battalion had the Brigade Chemical section drop 692 CS grenades from a helicopter on the north slope of HON BA, covering an area of 6 grid squares believed to contain the enemy base camp and hidden remnants of the 18-B Regiment. Two platoons of A/2-502 IN were deployed in the area with protective masks, but apparently the CS was not effective in driving the enemy into the open as only two contacts were reported.
- 27 April 1967 **Operation SUMMERALL:** 2-502 IN BN conducted airmobile assaults into the southeast corner of SUMMERALL AO and commenced search and destroy operations to the west. Two contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 1 US WIA, 3 VC KIA (BC), 2 NVA KIA (BC) and 1 individual weapon captured. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation SUMMERALL; 21 May 1967)
- 27 – 28 April 1968 **Operation CARENTAN II:** TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases, and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was moderate with a total of 14 contacts. Today's statistics: 10 US KIA; 19 US WIA (13 medevac); 1 ARVN KIA, 2 ARVN WIA (medevac), 3 PF WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment – 32 NVA KIA (BC), 2 SKS, 1 AK-47, 1 M-16.
- 1-501 IN BN**
- Throughout the night under continuous illumination, continued the containment of an estimated NVA BN (estimate made by 1st ARVN DIV "Black Panther" Company) in the hamlets of THOR DUONG SON vicinity YD687283 and THON PHUOC YAN vicinity YD690277. The 1st ARVN DIV "Black Panther" Company will attack to the S, remained of the elements remained in blocking positions.
- A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD688269 with ambushes vicinity YD695274, YD685274, YD683277 and YD690273.
- B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD622253 with ambushes vicinity YD615256, YD614251, YD619249, YD625248 and YD631249. Moved to vicinity YD630262 and conducted patrols reconnoitering for night ambush sites.
- C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV. Provided security at AN LO Bridge. At 1400H moved to assist A/2-17 CAV. At 1612H made contact vicinity YD640310 with VC in spider holes. Received SA, AW and RPG fire. Supported by 2 air strikes and artillery. Contact broke at 1805H. Results: 3 US KIA, 2 US WIA; Negative enemy assessment.



D/1-501 IN, 1 platoon PF attached. Occupied night position vicinity YD659254 with ambushes vicinity YD643253, YD652256, YD667247, YD662247. At 0025H ambush vicinity YD667247 called artillery on 15-20 NVA who set off trip flare. Negative enemy assessment. Conducted patrols during the day reconnoitering for night ambush sites. At 1944H vicinity YD648244 ambush engaged 3 enemy. Results: 3 NVA KIA (BC), 1 SKS, 1 AK-47.

A/1-502 IN OPCON to 1-501 IN BN effective 1700H. At 1723H conducted a combat assault from LZ SALLY to PZ vicinity YD697290. Closed LZ 1803H, LZ GREEN. At 1813H vicinity YD695290 received SA fire from approximately 4 enemy resulting in 1 US KIA and 1 US WIA. Returned fire with SA, AW, Artillery and LFT support. Negative enemy assessment. Occupied a blocking position vicinity YD698287 to YD692287. Results: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA; Negative enemy assessment.

B/2-501 IN OPCON to 1-501 IN BN effective 1810H. At 1810H conducted a combat assault from PZ vicinity YD655317 to LZ vicinity YD697273. Closed 1847H, LZ GREEN. Occupied a blocking position vicinity YD695276 to YD686274. Recon platoon, 1 platoon PF and 1 platoon RF attached. Occupied night position vicinity YD606253 with ambushes vicinity YD608253 and YD611253. Conducted local patrols from vicinity YD622271 throughout the day.

E/1-501 IN (-) provided minesweep security N and S from LZ SALLY.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD727337 with ambush vicinity YD725339. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD715328. At 1030H vicinity YD715327 found grave containing 1 NVA KIA (BC). At 1206H vicinity YD715325 found graves containing 3 NVA KIA (BC). At 1255H vicinity YD715325 received AW fire from approximately 2 enemy. Returned fire. Artillery and TAC AIR supported. Negative enemy assessment. At 1715H vicinity YD715320 a detonated land mine resulted in 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA (medevac).

B/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD657318 with ambush vicinity YD647315. Provided security for rice harvest with 1 platoon at YD655317, B/2-501 IN (-) at YD645305 and 1 platoon providing bridge security vicinity YD669324. Effective 1810H OPCON to 1-501 IN BN.

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD703312. Conducted RIF operation to village vicinity YD703302. At 1110H vicinity YD703307 found 3 graves containing 3 NVA KIA (BC). At 1222H vicinity YD703307 found 1 M-16. Occupied night position vicinity YD703307.

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD663336. Conducted RIF operation vicinity YD645370 then SE to vicinity YD652368. At 1503H a FAC observed approximately 25-30 NVA vicinity YD653366. D/2-501 IN withdrew and artillery and naval guns fire on the enemy position. The preparation was complete at 1540H. After the preparation, 2 platoons conducted RIF operation through the village, D/2-501 IN (-) moved SE along the road. At 1615H vicinity YD653366 the 2-point men received grenades and AK-47 fire from an estimated NVA squad, dispersed through the village. Fire was returned, and contact broke at 1716H. D/2-501 IN moved to night position vicinity YD648381. Results: 2 US KIA; Negative enemy assessment.

Recon platoon provided security for B/1-321 ARTY vicinity YD688339.

(Commanders Situation Report; 272001H April – 282000H April 1968; JAMES WALDECK, MAJ, INF; KAYO 3)

27 April – 03 May 1968

2D BRIGADE/101ST TASK FORCE IN VIETNAM: With an encirclement featuring brigade actions in each of the two previous weeks, the 2BDE was getting a reputation. On 28 April, the QUANG DIEN district chief remarked at a ceremony that, according to a recently captured NVA prisoner, his local enemy commander had told his unit that when they get in heavy contact with airborne troops they must make every effort to stop the advance of the airborne during the day and get out of the area during the night because the paratroopers will fight through the night and defeat them. And a message found on an NVA soldier killed in an ambush had said something like "if you make contact with the airborne, get out fast; they will surround you and kill you." It was also at about this time that I passed by the interrogation of a captured enemy soldier whom I saw pointing at the Screaming Eagle patch on a nearby trooper. I asked the interpreter what the enemy soldier was saying. The reply was, "He is saying that that little bird is really mean." So, we built an archway over the steps leading down into our TOC and placed on it a sign, "That Little Bird Is Real Mean."

April 28 began the 2BDE classic cordon at PHUOC YEN. The 1st ARVN Division's Black Panther Company, working with the 1-501 IN BN, had received intense fire from an enemy force, possibly a battalion, at the north, or open, end of the "stocking" formed by the SONG BO river around that village. Brigade told the 1-501 IN BN to take advantage of the river to build a cordon around the trapped enemy, ordering that A/1-502 IN be inserted alongside the Black Panther Company to close the gap between its left flank and the SONG BO. 1-501 IN BN moved A/1-501 IN overland to the SONG BO's banks to the west of the village and brigade helilifted B/2-501 IN into a position from which the 1-501 IN BN could place that company on the river's bank south of the village. To cover the east bank of the SONG BO, brigade arranged for three PF platoons from HUONG TRA district plus a platoon of Catholic militia from a nearby hamlet. An encirclement was in place. Night-long illumination was called.

Before dawn on 29 April the enemy attempted three times to break through the A/1-502 IN left flank, which was on the river bank. A/1-502 IN stood firm and drove the enemy back. At 0800H that morning A/1-502 IN attacked into the village but was itself driven back and the cordon continued that day and night. On 30 April B/1-501 IN replaced the Black Panther Company and that evening D/2-501 IN reinforced the cordon with one platoon alongside the hamlet militia at the river on the northeast corner of the encirclement and the rest of D/2-501 IN reinforced A/1-502 IN and B/1-501 IN at the top of the



cordon. That night the cordon was again sealed that under continuous illumination while the enemy was pounded with 105mm, 155mm, and 8-inch artillery fire. Again, the enemy tried without success to find a gap in the troops' line. In the early hours of 01 May, during a short break in the illumination, the enemy made an all-out attempt to break out in A/1-502 IN zone, only to be driven back once more at a cost of 35 enemy killed; A/1-502 IN suffered 3 KIA and 12 WIA in this action. A/1-502 IN lost 8 men killed and 33 wounded at PHUOC YEN. That afternoon B/2-501 IN took the place of A/1-502 IN in the cordon, A/1-502 IN was helilifted to LZ SALLY, and the enemy was encircled one more night.

Shifts were made May 02 in the encircling line's makeup. Finally, loudspeaker appeals to surrender, tear gas dropped from helicopters, continuous pounding by air strikes and artillery (including one "time on target," the simultaneous delivery of massed fires of many battalions) had their effect. On May 03, after defeating a last enemy attempt to escape, the encircling troops (A/1-501 IN, B/1-501 IN, A/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN) cleaned out PHUOC YEN. Enemy losses: 429 KIA, 107 POW, 117 weapons, and a battalion's full radio suite, plus its SOI. US losses: 8 KIA, 44 WIA. ARVN losses: 3 KIA, 12 WIA. (LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)

27 April 1968

Operation DELAWARE: C/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity YD536027 engaged an unknown sized enemy force bunker. The maneuvered elements on the enemy and requested gunship support. The gunships could not fly due to the weather/ C/2-502 IN pulled back and called in artillery. The following day at 1500H, after receiving the additional fire power of two 50 cal. MG's and a 106 RR, C/2-502 IN again initiated the attack into the previous day's contact area, securing the area at 1640H. The area contained 15 bunkers with overhead coverage. Results: 1 US KHA, 7 US WHA, 1 M-16, 1 M-16 LIA, 10 RPG rounds, and 300 rounds of AK-47 ammunition CIA.

27 April 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 2-502 IN BN, Recon platoon continued sweeping south, reinforced by the remainder of B/2-502 IN. At 0715H, they were engaged by an estimated enemy squad in reinforced bunkers. The enemy employed small arms against the platoon, killing one and wounding four before disengaging. A sweep of the area produced one enemy killed and an AK-47 captured, along with 100 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition and assorted medical supplies. At 1430H the Recon platoon and B/2-502 IN encountered a large enemy bunker complex. The contact lasted for two hours. The enemy, fighting from reinforced bunkers, employed automatic weapons, RPG's and small arms against the friendly forces. With the help of ARA and artillery, the friendly forces were able to overrun the complex while losing only one man. The enemy fled the area leaving behind 1 NVA body, 3 AK-47 rifles and 1 RPD machine gun. The bunker complex consisted of 55 mutually supported bunkers with thick overhead cover. Security was set up for the night in order to allow for an extensive search of the area the next day.

One the same day C/2-502 IN was designated to conduct a combat assault south of B/2-502 IN and sweep north. The initial lift bird into the LZ (YD519056) received fire and was forced down on the LZ, thus preventing the landing of additional aircraft. The initial mission was aborted and C/2-502 IN was inserted north of B/2-502 IN as reinforcements. D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon was air assaulted onto the location of the down aircraft to secure it until it could be extracted the following day. (2-502 IN Unit History of the Strike Force, Vietnam 70; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

27 April 1970

A downed helicopter was secured by elements of B/2-502 IN at vicinity 745119. The bird was extracted by a UH-1H. Recon teams 1 & 2 found 19 bunkers and 1 NVA latrine. In the bunker, they found a variety of NVA equipment. All items are about 1 ½ years old with no signs of recent activity. (1-502 IN Annual Supplement; Approved by LTC Richard N. Lang, Commander)

27 April 1970

At 1540H in the vicinity of YD366155 – 4km SE of RIPCORD; D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon engaged one enemy at 75m across a stream with M-60 fire. The enemy hid behind a rock and the platoon re-engaged him with M-79 fire and advanced on his position. Resulting in one POW, and one captured AK-47. At 1545H (YD 365165-4KM SE of Ripcord) D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon engaged 1-enemy with small arms fire across a stream 150 meters south of their position. The enemy did not return fire but fell down a steep incline into the stream bed. The sweep by the platoon was hindered due to rugged terrain. But one NVA KIA is assumed.

Personal note; actually, these actions occurred in reverse order; 2nd platoon shot at and hit the above NVA. However, he was carrying an OD Green sandbag over his back filled with U.S. C-rations. The round hit the sandbag, knocking him over the steep incline, but not wounding the NVA in any way. He was knocked into the path of the 1st platoon which was walking the stream. 2nd platoon was walking the middle of the hillside, and 3rd platoon was walking the ridge line. From our advantage point 2nd platoon was able to observe the entire action described by 1st platoon. (Account used by permission from Gary Goeckel)

28 April - 17 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI - The 117th Assault Helicopter Company provided support for the 2-502 IN BN in its effort to halt the Viet Cong infiltration along the "HO CHI MINH" trail in the rugged central highlands near GIA NGHIA, approximately eight miles east of NHON CO, Republic of Vietnam, from 28 April – 17 May 1966, during the conduct of Operation AUSTIN VI. Some of the more important lessons learned during this period were the techniques required for flying at high density altitudes, maximum gross weights, and under severe weather conditions in the early morning and late afternoons caused by the rapidly approaching monsoon season for this area. In order to best accomplish its mission, the 117th placed volunteer crews and helicopters in the forward infantry command post. These crews, actually living with the infantry units were available to the supported units much earlier each day since they did not have to wait for the weather between GIA NHIA and the field locations to clear up enough to fly. In addition, the armed helicopter support was immediately available at all times and proved invaluable to the continuous combat operations. Midway through AUSTIN VI, the tactical emphasis shifted to the area of BU GIA Map. From this small landing strip, Infantry, Artillery, Army Aviation, and Air Force activities increased to a high peak. Close fire support by the 117th "Sidewinders" armed helicopter platoon was commonplace, requiring the addition of an ammunition and POL resupply point to be located at BU GIA Map. The rough jungle terrain between the Cambodian border and the forward command post was literally impossible to land in. Time after time, 101st Airborne Division Recondo teams attempted to blast areas in order to provide sufficient clearings for the helicopters, but the task was fruitless. Therefore, the assault helicopter pilots of the 117th were forced to hover more than 60 feet in the air



above the tree tops in order to accomplish the wide variety of missions, including resupply of ammunition, food, and high explosives and occasionally the extraction of critically wounded personnel. Operation AUSTIN VI was the most aggressive battle action for the 2-502 IN BN, 101st Airborne Division since its arrival in Vietnam. The data on enemy casualties is as follows: Killed in Action (by body count) 95, Killed in action (estimated) 85, Wounded (estimated) 17, Captured 15. An extract of the After-Action Report of 2-502 IN for Operation AUSTIN VI reveals that: "The assignment of the 117th Assault Helicopter Company command and control aircraft in direct support of the Infantry was invaluable to the success of the operation. A command and control helicopter were used for liaison, communication with subordinate units, assisting units to pin point their own locations, guiding units to terrain objectives, and the location of potential landing zones. This flexibility facilitated routine unit supply and airdrops and expedited emergency airdrops of chainsaws, demolitions, food and ammunition. Stationing the helicopters forward at BU GIA Map provided much greater utilization." (History of the 117th Assault Helicopter Company (UH-1))

- 28 April 1967 **Operation SUMMERALL:** One platoon of A/2-502 IN conducted stay-behind operations while other elements moved west. Two VC, searching for food in GI trash, were killed by the stay-behind force.
- 28 April – 02 May 1968 **Operation CARENTAN II:** The 2BDE helilifted four companies to the PHUOC YEN village 7km northwest of HUE (YD6928) in response to intelligence reports which indicated that an enemy battalion was in the village. Upon landing near the village, the companies immediately made contact with a sizeable enemy force. Throughout the period of 28 April – 2 May, numerous air strikes and heavy volumes of artillery fires were directed into the village. (Operational Report of 101st Air Cavalry Division for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))
- 28 April – 04 May 1968 **Operation CARENTAN II:** 1-501 IN BN cordons Thon PHUOC YEN resulting in 429 NVA KIA, 107 NVA PWs, 117 individual and crew-served weapons, and BN radios with SOI.
- 28 April 1968 **Operation CARENTAN II:** Captured NVA POW QUANG THE HAU remarked during interrogation that his VC commander's guidance was "if you make contact with the airborne, get out fast; they will surround you and kill you."
- 28 April 1968 **Operation CARENTAN II:** Battle of PHUOC YEN, as part of Operation CARENTAN II, element from the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 2/17 Cav encountered a strong enemy force from the 8th Battalion, 90th PAVN Regiment during cordon and search operations four miles northwest of HUE. Casualties: U.S. 6 KIA and 43 WIA; enemy 314 KIA and 107 POW.
- 28 – 29 April 1968 **Operation CARENTAN II:** TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases, and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light with the exception of the 1-501 IN BN operation. Today's statistics - 3 US KIA, 1 ARVN KIA, 6 US WIA, 5 ARVN WIA, 2 PF WIA; Enemy assessment – 170 NVA KIA (BC), 9 VC KIA (BC), 1 PR 46 HMG, 2 LMG, 1 .30 cal. MG, 2 SKS, 2 AK-47, 1 M-16, 2 RPG-2 launchers, 50 B-40 rounds, 2 M-79 grenade launchers (destroyed), 15 US hand grenades, 13 CHICOM grenades, 11 82mm mortar rounds, 1760 SA rounds, 300lbs rice, 2 RPG-2 launcher (destroyed), 3 40mm rounds, 9 60mm mortar rounds.

1-501 IN BN

1-501 IN BN continued the containment of enemy force in the hamlets of THON DUONG SON vicinity YD687273 and then PHUOC YEN vicinity YD690277 throughout the night under continuous illumination. Blocking positions were occupied by A/1-501 IN, B/2-501 IN, A/1-502 IN, 1st ARVN DIV "Black Panther" Company and 3 PF platoons. At 0100H A/1-501 observed approximately 3 enemy swimming across the river. Engaged with SA, results 1 NVA KIA (BC). During the night B/2-501 IN conducted recon by fire and at first light revealed vicinity YD690273, 1 NVA KIA (BC). A/1-502 IN also conducted recon by fire during the night and at first light check revealed vicinity YD689289, 1 NVA KIA (BC) and 1 AK-47. At 0825H vicinity YD697287 made contact with estimated enemy platoon as SA and AW fire was received. Fire was returned and LFT and artillery supported. Results: 1 US WIA, 1 US KIA; Negative enemy assessment. At 1222H the "Black Panther" company received SA and RPG fire vicinity YD685286. Sporadic sniper fire continued throughout the day. At 1605H, B/2-501 IN engaged 4 NVA. Results – 4 NVA KIA (BC). At 1650H, A/1-502 IN reported contact vicinity YD695289, receiving SA fire and hand grenades, resulting in 2 US WIA. At 1710H engaged 7 NVA resulting in 7 NVA (BC) and 1 SKS. Totals for the reporting period indicated the following: A/1-502 IN – 1 US KIA, 3 US WIA; Enemy assessment 8 NVA KIA (BC), 1 SKS; B/2-501 IN – 5 NVA KIA (BC); A/1-501 IN – 1 NVA KIA (BC). 1st ARVN DIV "Black Panther" company 1 ARVN KIA, 5 ARVN WIA. Enemy assessment – 102 NVA (BC), 2 LMG, 1 .30cal MG, 1 SKS, 1 AK-47, 1 M-16, 2 RPG-2 launchers, 50 B-40 rounds (destroyed), 2 M-79 launchers (destroyed), 15 US hand grenades, 5 CHICOM grenades, 140 rounds SA. In addition, a LFT firing in support of the 1-501 IN BN operation vicinity YD688280 had 51 NVA KIA (BC) by army aviation.

At the close of the reporting period blocking forces continued to contain the enemy.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD616243 with ambushes vicinity YD611241, YD611237 and YD618329. During the day conducted patrols reconnoitering for night ambush sites. Established night position vicinity YD616243 with local ambushes.

C/1-501 IN OPCON to 2-17 CAV. Occupied night position vicinity YD647307 with ambushes vicinity YD644304 and YD648307. Conducted RIF operation vicinity YD644304, YD637318, and YD6513017. AT 1045H vicinity YD639311 found a small cache containing 1 RP 46 HMG, 3 40mm rounds (destroyed) 7 82mm mortar rounds (destroyed), 9 60mm mortar rounds (destroyed), 8 grenades (destroyed) and 1700 rounds SA ammo. At 1150H vicinity YD641314 found 200lbs or rice. At 1730H, vicinity YD651315 a BBT was detonated, resulting in 2 US KIA, 2 US WIA (medevac). Established night position vicinity YD653306 with local ambushes. Results: 2 US KIA, 2 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment – 1 RP 46



HMG, 3 40mm rounds (destroyed), 7 82mm mortar rounds (destroyed), 9 60mm mortar rounds (destroyed), 8 CHICOM grenades (destroyed) and 1700 rounds SA ammo.

D/1-501 IN, 1 platoon PF attached. Occupied night position vicinity YD648244 with ambushes vicinity YD643514, YD656243 and YD611241. Moved to vicinity YD656245 and conducted patrols reconnoitering for night ambush sites. At 0835H vicinity YD649233 found 4 B-40 rounds (destroyed) and 200 rounds SA ammo. Established night position vicinity YD656245 with local ambushes. Enemy assessment: 4 B-40 rounds (destroyed) and 200 rounds SA ammo.

Recon platoon with 1 platoon PF and 1 platoon RF attached. Occupied night position vicinity YD648244 with ambushes vicinity YD643514 and YD618239. At 2035H the night position began receiving sporadic sniper fire, resulting in 2 PF WIA. Artillery was requested and fired in support vicinity YD610276. Results: 5 VC KIA (BC) and 18 secondary explosions. Ineffective sniper fire was received sporadically throughout the night. M-79 fire was returned resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC). Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD606255 and established night position and ambushes. Results: 2 PF WIA, 6 VC KIA (BC).

D/2-501 IN OPCON to 1-501 IN effective 1816H; conducted company minus combat assault to YD695293, one platoon to YD698280. Closed at 1850H. Reinforced elements in containing the enemy by establishing blocking position.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD721318. A/2-501 IN (-) conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD723312, 1 platoon to YD714327. At 1600H vicinity YD714327 platoon received 2 bursts of AW fire and sporadic sniper fire. Returned fire. A/2-501 IN (-) moved to reinforce and arrived approximately 1650H. Sporadic sniper fire and RPG rounds were received. Fire was returned with SA, AW and LFT supported. Contact was estimated to be a VC platoon in bunkers. At 1815H, A/2-501 IN withdrew to bring artillery fire on enemy positions. Results: 2 US KIA. Enemy assessment – 3 VC KIA (BC).

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD703307. C/2-501 IN (-) conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD695303, 1 platoon to YD686304. At 1527H platoon received burst of AW fire. Returned fire with SA and AW fire. At 1600H contact was broken as platoon withdrew to be supported by artillery. Established night position vicinity YD693312. Results: 1 US WIA (medevac). Negative enemy assessment.

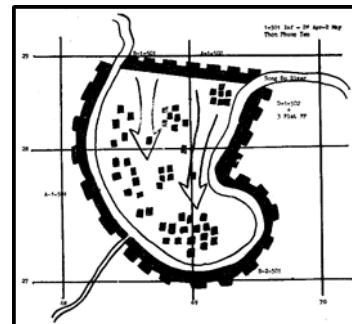
D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD651377. Moved to a blocking position vicinity YD643373. Remained in blocking position until 1532H while RF/PF forces conducted RIF operation NW towards D/2-501 IN blocking position. At 1545H vicinity YD653362 found 4 82mm mortar rounds (destroyed), 60 rounds SA ammo, and 300lbs rice. Moved to a PZ vicinity YD660345. At 1816H reverted to OPCON of 1-501 IN BN. Negative casualties. Enemy assessment – 4 82mm mortar rounds (destroyed), 60 rounds SA and 300lbs or rice.

Recon platoon continued to provide security for B/1-321 ARTY.

(Commanders Situation Report; 282001H April – 292000H April 1968; JAMES WALDECK, MAJ, INF; KAYO 3)

28 April – 02 May 1968

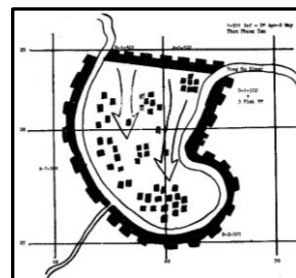
Operation CARENTAN I & II: Approximately 1400H the 1st ARVN Division Recon Company, while operating in close coordination with Division forces along the SONG BO River vicinity YD6929 reported a significant enemy force located vicinity YD6828. Reacting in response to this report, 1-501 IN BN with 4 rifle companies and 3 platoons of popular force troops moved overland and by helicopter to establish a cordon around the area. The rapid response caught the enemy by surprise. During the remainder of the afternoon and throughout the night, the enemy attempted to escape the cordon. Each attempt was repulsed utilizing tremendous amount of heavy artillery, helicopter gunships and continuous artificial illumination during the night. The following morning (29 April), the friendly forces in the northern “neck” of the cordon began to push into the village. Immediately they met stiff resistance from enemy forces with SA/AW/RPG in fortified bunkers. The battle raged throughout the day with allied forces making little progress. B/1-501 IN was inserted into the cordon to bolster the northern position. M106 recoilless rifles and 81mm mortars were air lifted in to add additional fire power as TAC Air and artillery continued to pound the fortified enemy. E8 (CS) dispersers were also inserted and integrated into the cordon as plans were made to attack the following morning. The actions on 29 April accounted for 64 enemy dead. Throughout the night, the enemy continued his violent, yet unsuccessful attempts to escape. The enemy estimated at battalion size massed AW/RPG and mortar fire while trying to rush a platoon size force through the cordon vicinity YD694284. Recoilless rifles and claymore mines were an effective deterrent to the would-be escapees. The artificial illumination and heavy artillery continued throughout the night. The enemy resistance was beginning to fade although savage fighting continued all day on 30 April. Contact continued during the night of 30 April – 1 May. Twice during the night, enemy forces tried to escape the cordon but were driven back. A HOI CHANH who rallied during the contact and several PW's identified the enemy unit as the 8th BN, 90th NVA Regiment. Early in the morning, a psywar appeal was made by loudspeaker to the trapped enemy. The psywar operation was made in conjunction with the TAC Air Strikes on the village. After several air strikes had been made, the Hoi Chanh made an appeal to the trapped enemy to surrender.



After a pause, the forward air controller would direct a long, low, screaming pass over the village, then the loudspeaker made another appeal for surrender telling the trapped soldiers that the next pass would be for real. Sufficient time was given for believers to react then the aircraft were directed in "live" to further convince any doubters. This technique directly influenced the 95 NVA/PW's who surrendered during the day. The Psyops mission was followed by a CS drop and more tactical air strikes. The enemy had weakened considerably as substantial advance were made into the village and the cordon was further consolidated. The day's action resulted in an additional 141 NVA KIA, and 75 weapons captured. Continuous posture was maintained throughout the night of 1-2 May. Enemy attempts to escape decreased and his fire power was considerably reduced as artillery and TAC Air had eliminated his indirect weapons. PW's indicated heavy casualties had been sustained and the remainder had been without food for several days. On 2 May the sweep of the village was completed. For several more days friendly elements remained in the area to completely search the area for weapons and other items of intelligence value. The total results of this highly successful operation netted 314 NVA KIA, 107 NVA/PW's and 103 weapons captured. Friendly casualties were 4 KIA, 21 WIA (17 EVAC). Investigation after the action confirmed that the enemy unit was the 8th BN, 90th NVA Regiment and that during the action the Battalion Commander, Executive Officer and 3 Company Commanders had been killed. The five-day operation had rendered the enemy battalion virtually ineffective for considerable period of time. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, HQ, 101st Air Cavalry Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968)

28 April – 02 May 1968

The cordon operation around PHUOC YEN Village vicinity YD6827 began on 28 April when four rifle company's form 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV (A/1-502 IN, A/1-501 IN, B/2-501 IN and D/2-501 IN) responded to intelligence information and encircled the hamlet where an NVA battalion later identified as the 8th BN, 90th NVA Regiment, was reportedly entrenched. During the night and early morning of the 29th, the enemy made three concerted efforts to break the encirclement which were successfully beaten back. On 29 April, heavy artillery, TAC Air, gunships and recoilless rifle fire together with intensive machine gun and rifle fire from the paratroopers continued to batter the enemy. Gunships from the 308th AVN BN and 101st AVN BN killed 51 enemy. An additional 13 NVA were killed by the paratroopers and 4 weapons were captured. On 30 April, the enemy continued to deliver heavy volumes of SA/AS/RPG fire from the village. Friendly artillery and 15 TAC airstrikes continued throughout the day to soften up the objective area, as another paratrooper company (B/1-501 IN) was heli-lifted into augment the seal. Thirteen NVA were killed during the day's action by TAC air and ground forces. Between 0400H and 0500H 1 May, the trapped NVA attempted twice to break through the ring of paratroopers but were driven back by savage fighting. At 1345H on 1 May a CS drop was conducted using fabricated grenade racks. This followed by an artillery and 4.2 mortar preparation. In the course of 20 minutes, 150 rounds of 4.2 CS were intermingled with the artillery HE, VT Fuse. This maintained the agent cloud and suppressed enemy fire while the paratroopers made their assault on the position. The results for 1 May were 141 NVA KIA, 95 NVA PW, 63 IWC and 12 CSWC. Division total for the first 4 days in the cordon operations was 218 KIA, 95 PWS and 79 weapons. The 101st ABN DIV combat methods of maintaining contact, rapid reinforcement, maximum use of fire support to include the use of CS produced results that leave little doubt about their effectiveness in this type of ground operations.



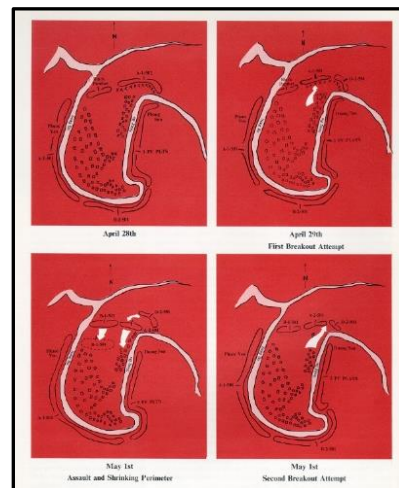
The battalion commanders concurred in the opinion that the preparation with CS significantly reduced the number of casualties and contributed greatly to the overall success of this Screaming Eagles operation. *Pictures are of D/2-501 IN personnel during operation. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, HQ, 101st Air Cavalry Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968)

28 April – 6 May 1968

Battle of PHUOC YEN: The stench of death hung in the air the paratroopers of B/1-502 IN continued their search at the scene of a five-day cordon operation which marked the largest single victory since the arrival of the Screaming Eagles in Vietnam. The 8th Battalion, 90th North Vietnamese Regiment fought for survival for nearly four days trying to break through and impregnable airborne encirclement. Determined paratroopers from the 2nd Brigade repulsed every enemy escape attempt, inflicting heavy casualties on the NVA Soldiers.

The battle of PHUOC YEN began with intelligence reports of the presence of the 8th Battalion, 90th Regiment operating in the "stocking" area of the SONG BO River, 3 miles northwest of HUE. Two allied rifle companies, A/1-502 IN from the 2BDE and the Black Panther Company from the 1st ARVN Division were deployed on the afternoon of April 28th to investigate.

The first contact of the ensuing battle was made under the hot afternoon sun amidst the humid green rice paddies just north of DUONG SON Village, situated at the opening of the "stocking." The allied fighting force pushed the enemy southward through the rice and into the natural barrier formed by the SONG BO.



COL John H. Cushman, Lexington, Mass., 2nd Brigade Commander, immediately dispatched his forces to seal any potential escape routes to the trapped enemy forces. Spreading through the rice in the late afternoon, the Black Panthers and A/1-502 IN paratroopers formed a curving arc of men to seal off the mouth of the "stocking." D/2-501 IN, was heli-lifted into a reinforcing position east of A/1-502 IN.



While Vietnamese Skyraiders dropped 250-pound bombs on enemy positions, sending jagged steel fragments whirling through the trees, A/1-501 IN, and B/2-501 IN maneuvered around the bend of the river on the west and south. By nightfall, the paratroopers, with three Popular Forces (PF) platoon on the east side of the "stocking," completed the cordon. They sealed the enemy in what was described by an observer as "a field commander's tactical dream." All forces were in position by 7 p.m. with reinforcing units moving to close on the enemy, should an attempted break take place.

Throughout the night, the paratroopers surveyed their fields of fire by the ghostly light of flares dropped from C-47's. The thump and crack of artillery pounding the trapped enemy battalion provided background sounds to the shifting flare shadows as the allied troops held the trap shut. At 0100H, A/1-501 IN tensed as they observed three NVA trying to swim out of the cordon. Their figures immediately came into view against the dark water under the flares. They made good targets as the troopers fired on them, forestalling the potential escape.



2nd Brigade paratroopers storm Vietnamese village following numerous artillery missions and tactical air strikes.

The first significant attempt to break the tight encirclement was made on the morning of April 29, when A/1-502 IN engaged an enemy platoon. Ducking shrapnel from bursting 60mm mortar rounds, the paratroopers held their position against heavy volumes of small arms and automatic weapons fire. A/1-502 IN paratroopers returned fire as gunships and heavy artillery tore the enemy force apart. Unable to breach the shrinking airborne snare, the NVA force retreated back to their doomed stronghold in Duong Son Village.

Sporadic fire continued throughout the day with artillery and air strikes battering the enemy fortifications. Late that afternoon, a second desperate enemy attempt to break the airborne stranglehold began as an unknown size enemy force attacked the northern blocking position with hand grenades and small arms fire. The airborne troopers of A/1-502 IN nestled behind a natural hedgerow, sprayed the NVA with deadly grazing fire. By twilight, the decimated enemy force was driven back into their sanctuary, leaving seven bodies sprawled before A/1-502 IN hedgerow.

The sights and sounds of the first night were repeated as artillery and illumination again made the night miserable for the trapped NVA. On the morning of the 30th, the ARVN Black Panther Company began an assault into the northern section of PHUOC YEN but withdrew because of intense enemy fire. Members of A/1-502 IN also launched an attack on DUONG SON Village but withdrew after meeting stiff enemy resistance. Fourteen air strikes pounded the enemy forces and artillery fires bridged the gaps between the sorties. "When the air strikes were called in, our artillery shells would stop just as the jets swooped down," said CPT Jimmie J. Smith, South Lyon, Mich., an artillery fire direction officer. "By coordinating with all factions involved, the intense pressure on the enemy never faltered." During the course of the five-day battle, "Redlegs" of the 1-321 ARTY BN lobbed more than 13,500 rounds of 105mm, 155mm, and 8-inch howitzer shells on the enemy. Like the airborne infantrymen holding the line at the cordon, the artillerymen toiled day and night, endlessly uncrating, fusing, and firing the high explosives and illumination rounds which steadily blew the enemy forces apart.

Late in the afternoon of the 30th, the Black Panthers returned to their parent unit and were replaced by B/1-501 IN who air assaulted into position at the north-western edge of the cordon.



NVA platoon sergeant tells his men to give themselves up.





Rifleman from the 502nd Infantry fires M-16 at enemy bunker position.

All units on the cordon received intermittent rifle, machine gun, RPG, and mortar fire during the night as remnants of the frustrated enemy battalion again probed the confining perimeter for weakness. At 0440H on May 1, A/1-502 IN was struck by a ground attack toward the northwestern corner of the cordon. Supported by concentrated 60mm mortar fire lobbed from a mortar position outside the cordoned area, the NVA charged across the dewy rice toward the hedgerow positions held by the paratroopers. Holding their positions, the airborne infantrymen matched the NVA round for round for two hours before the enemy broke contact. During the lapse in the illumination, an enemy platoon broke through the cordon. At daybreak, 23 enemy bodies were strewn across the battlefield, cut down by the combined paratrooper force. Another 10 were killed attempting to swim north in the SONG BO.

Artillery continued to pound the enemy-held villages as a Division Psychological Operations team began broadcasting an appeal for the hopelessly trapped enemy to surrender and avoid further punishment. At 1100H, a one-hour lull in the shelling was announced to allow the enemy to safely give up. The team, led by CPT Larry Cochran, Thomaston, GA, appealed to the enemy through a loudspeaker carried to different positions on the cordon. "We wanted to save as many lives as we could," CPT Cochran said. "An interpreter spoke to the NVA telling them their situation was hopeless."

An NVA staff sergeant was first, to surrender and after receiving medical treatment and food, he volunteered to urge his comrades to follow the same course of action. Going back to the enemy hamlet, the sergeant went into one of the fortified bunkers and persuaded six NVA Soldiers to surrender. Soon a slow trickle of NVA filtered to the perimeter with their hands in the air and then a deluge of beaten enemy Soldiers began surrendering. Some had to be pulled out of the bunkers, the wounded carried, and many were uncovered by a systematic search of the river bank and pulled out of the water. Medevac helicopters quickly came in to extract the seriously wounded.

Elsewhere in the cordoned area, four air strikes struck the area around PHUOC YEN, where several NVA Soldiers were observed trying to sneak past the ring of airborne companies. At 1345H, A/1-502 IN began a southward sweep of Duong Son. Little enemy resistance prevailed as the paratroopers searched the rubble for the battered survivors.

During the sweep, B/1-501 IN and D/2-501 IN tightened the cordon around the remaining buildings in PHUOC YEN. Along the southern bend of the river, B/2-501 IN boarded helicopters to move to another area of operation, while A/1-501 IN and the local popular force platoon extended their lines to plug the hole in the cordon. At the end of May 1st, the most decisive day of the operation, the combined airborne fighting force killed 121 NVA, and captured 95 prisoners with 59 enemy weapons.

During the night, the few surviving NVA Soldiers continued to probe for a weak spot in the dense shrinking perimeter. Short, sharp firefights followed, resulting only in swelling body count of NVA for the paratroopers holding the perimeter. On May 2nd, a final sweep of the cordon was made with little enemy resistance.

Between May 3rd and the 6th, B/1-501 IN combed the rubble, picking up weapons and equipment, while uncovering additional bodies to bring the final enemy body count to 429 NVA killed and 107 captured against American losses of five killed and 31 wounded. Interrogation of prisoners revealed their battalion commander, executive officer, and three company commanders died in the vicious five-day battle. So successful was the paratrooper's combat cordon in pinning down an elusive enemy that LTG Henry W. Buse Jr., commander of the Pacific Marine Force, said recently that I Corps Marine Forces have adopted the tactic and have started to employ it near the DMZ. (By LT Jon McAtee; Rendezvous with Destiny Vol. 1, No 2 July 1968)

28 April – 06 May 1968

The Classic Cordon Operation of the Vietnam War PHUOC YEN: A/1-502 IN, 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV. A/1-502 IN was deployed to Vietnam in December 1967. I was sent to A/1-502 IN in February 1968 with twenty-four other replacements. It didn't even bring the company back up to full strength.

They had been in some fierce fighting and lost a good many men. I spent my first night in the I Corp area at Phu Bai in a tent. The battle for HUE was going on a few miles away. We had a rocket attack that night and there were no bunkers to get in and no one had told me to dig a foxhole, so I watched out the tent and saw the rockets blowing up a couple hundred yards away. I thought it was kind of scary, but exciting.

The next morning, we were taken to the airfield and we walked by all these shot up and messed up helicopters and planes on our way to the helicopter that was taking us to LZ Jane where the 2nd Brigade was based. We flew to LZ Jane and



they landed outside the wire and let us off. LZ Jane looked like mud city with tents and barbed wire. We went into the camp and made our way to A/1-502 IN area of tents and mud.

We met a tough First Sergeant who told us to get what we needed out of this pile of bloody and muddy gear that probably belonged to some of the men we were replacing. They gave us some new bolts for our M-16s because the old ones didn't work too well. We were then put on a deuce and a half and sent to join our company. A/1-502 IN was a few miles away at a bridge with an ARVN compound beside it. The company was here for a night of rest. I got to spend my first night in the field at the compound with a roof over my head and no guard duty, because the ARVNs were guarding us.

My first meeting with 1st platoon was kind of shocking to me as these were some of the roughest looking soldiers I had ever encountered. I had never seen any in the movies or anywhere that compared with these guys. I found out they were the best and if I had to fight again, I hope it could be with them. I also found out the 101st Airborne Division is a very aggressive and hard fighting outfit.

They sent us out to look for the enemy day and night. We didn't go back to some basecamp every night as I have read some of the other outfits in Vietnam got to do. We were out running patrols, sweeps, search and destroy, combat air assaults, and ambush's for up to thirty days without coming in to basecamp during these first six or seven months of 1968.

Bath and clean clothes were things you just didn't think about anymore. You wore your clothes until they started to rot off of you and then they would send you some more. If we got a little down time beside a river, we made good use of it and got clean for a little while.

Life in the field in a war can be rough, but the next four days I am going to tell you about were four of the roughest.

A/1-502 IN had been moved to An Lo Bridge on April 28th, 1968. I assume we were being held in reserve until we were needed for a mission. We didn't have to wait long. We had been there a few hours when we were alerted late in the evening for a combat air assault. We didn't know at the time where we were going, but it was a village two miles northwest of HUE called Phouc Yen.



1st platoon came in the first load. It was a hot LZ and our pilot wouldn't get lower than six or eight feet off the ground. He told us if we were getting off, we had better go, because he was leaving. We jumped out into the paddy under fire and started moving toward the enemy. It was pretty open ground where we were with not much cover.



We were moving pretty fast in our assault toward the village and a line of trees. Captain Speigleberg was yelling he had to have that line of trees. We took the line of trees, which were only forty to hundred yards from the enemy positions and the village. We could hear the enemy talking, ringing this eerie bell, and yelling obscenities at us.



US Soldier

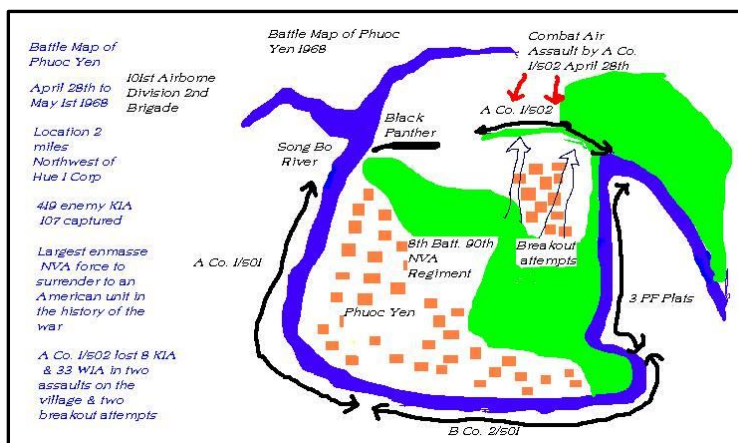
It was dark by this time.

This line of trees extended down to the SONG BO River, probably three hundred yards to the left from where we assaulted them and out into the field where they just ended. We were put into two-man positions behind this line of trees for the night. Our supporting artillery started firing flares off and on during the night to help us see the enemy in case they tried a counterattack.

We had attacked the 8th Battalion 90th NVA Regiment. There were 600 enemies in this village. We didn't know this at the time.

We were spread thin behind this line of trees with maybe a hundred thirty men in A Co. If they had hit us hard with a well-planned attack in these first few hours, they may have overrun our thin line and escaped this trap we had them in.

They were surrounded on three sides by the SONG BO River in this stocking shaped village. We were covering the only land route out of the village with the Black Panthers on our right flank. A/1-501 IN, B/2-501 IN and 3 PF platoons had moved in across the river around the other sides of the village and were covering them from crossing the river and escaping.



I do not know to this day why 1st platoon was split up during this battle, but we were. I was in 2nd squad and we were positioned on the far right of our line nearest the enemy village. First and third squad of 1st platoon was sent down toward the river to secure the positions down there. Second and third platoons were between us. There was not much sleep to be had this first night as the enemy was in talking distance from us.

From all the equipment I saw during our assaults on the village abandoned in the enemy foxholes nearest to our positions, I believe they moved out of here when we assaulted the tree line. These positions were only about forty yards from our nearest positions to the village. The enemy positions around a hundred yards from us were occupied for the next three days. We had two hours on guard and two hours' sleep in this order for most of the three nights we spent here. As near as I can remember, the enemy tried a breakout attempt early the next morning but were unsuccessful.





There were over 14,000 rounds of artillery fired into this village and 14 airstrikes on it by jets, helicopter gunships, and prop planes. It was quite a show.

My memory fails me on the exact time we assaulted the village, but I believe it was later in the day on the 29th of April. We moved into the village with three points until contact was made.



We then took out some of the enemy positions with some of 1st squad earning Silver Stars doing it. One man from 1st squad, a new guy was missing after this assault. His body was later found on May 1st. We were withdrawn from the village after this fight and more artillery and airstrikes were brought in.



We sniped at each other off and on from these front-line positions. At night the artillery would stop, but they would keep the flares going off and on to keep the enemy from sneaking out the village or overrunning us in the dark. On the 30th of April, a lot of the same things were going on. The Black Panthers assaulted the village from their positions and had to withdraw after running into heavy resistance.

We assaulted the village again in the same area we had been on the first assault.





NVA Firing A RPG

We went in on three points again and ran into heavy resistance after going about seventy-five to hundred yards into the village.



NVA Firing A RPG

One of our men on the point for second squad was killed by a RPG and our machine gunner was wounded. I had to take over as assistant machine gunner for Joe who took over as machine gunner. We were moved to the front of the assault and plenty of ammunition was given to us. Joe was firing cover for someone to get our fallen comrade's body back. He couldn't place effective fire on the enemy lying on the ground, so he stood up and fired from the hip until the barrel on the M-60 was burnt up. I had to stand up with him to feed the machine gun. Our friend's body was recovered, and we withdrew from the village to our line of trees.

The third night was different. They started flying a helicopter around with a PA system blaring out an eagle caw at them and then telling them in Vietnamese that they were brave and courageous soldiers, but their position was hopeless. They also broadcasted it in American, so we could understand. They tried to get them to give up and save their lives, but it was not to be yet.

In the early morning hours of May 1st, A/1-502 IN was hit with a sixty-round mortar attack with another breakout attempt. I believe 30 or 40 of the enemy was killed outright in this attack. We lost the Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant of second platoon in this breakout attempt. Some of the guys from 2nd platoon, & 3rd platoon, and 1st & 2nd squads of 1st platoon could tell you more about this action, as I was on the far right side, and the enemy was firing at us from their positions in the village, but did not come out and try to come through us as they did more on the left side of our line.

The machine gunner was called down to the left side of the line to help with the wounded and left me alone with the machine gun. I could pick out fire coming from three positions in front of me and when they would slack up, I would pop up and spray them and duck back down. If I killed any of them, I don't know, but I sent plenty of lead in their direction. Helicopters were landing thirty to forty yards behind our line in sight of the enemy taking out our wounded and dead. We had some brave pilots and crews over there that would try to do anything to help us. My hat is off to them and they have my greatest respect. There was also a heavy gun crew that was brought in and put right on the line with us. I don't know what unit they came from, but they did a great job. The enemy did not break out in this attempt and we all settled back in to lick our wounds.

One of our guys from 2nd squad was hit in the back later in the day. He had a hole the size of a baseball in his back. He walked to the helicopter with some of us helping him. He later wrote us and told us it had barely missed his heart, but he had survived. My squad leader had already been wounded twice but would not leave the battlefield.

Later this day, they pulled us back from our positions about a 1/4 mile and brought in the jets with some heavy stuff. It is really something to watch these guys work out from this distance. I will never forget it. We had to duck the casings from some of their fire. You could hear the enemy shooting at them as they pulled out of their attack run and headed for safety. In his last run he dropped a bomb so big it shook the ground we were standing on. After this, a few old prop planes came in and did their thing.



We were moving back into our positions behind the tree line when we heard a B-40 rocket or a RPG being fired from the enemy position in front of ours that we hoped had been knocked out. I was second in the line of march back to our positions out near where the trees ended in the field. I looked around and saw the rocket hit maybe twenty yards behind the rest of second squad. Five of second squad went down from this one rocket. One man was killed, and the rest had to be evacuated. My squad leader had been hit the third time and it was bad enough he had to be evacuated this time. There were now only three of us left out of second squad from the eleven we had when this battle started. I was the only one out of these that hadn't been wounded.

They brought the helicopter back out and started broadcasting to the enemy again.



Finally, an NVA sergeant came out and gave up. He was allowed to go back in and bring some more enemy soldiers out.

We were sent in to mop up the diehards.



PFC Robert Geirley

This is when I noticed all the enemy equipment that had been left in some of their positions. I was on right flank as we were sweeping down the enemy positions. We hadn't run into anything so far. We came to a place where the bushes jutted out into the field a little. There was an enemy bunker in this area. They sent me to check it out. I walked up on it from the front and saw it was connected by a trench to the next one. I had started around the side of it, when I heard three shots that sounded like they went off three feet from my head. I felt a burning in my left arm and I hit the ground and crawled out of there a lot faster than I came in. I got back to where the rest of the squad was and told them the bunker was occupied. They approached it from the back and threw a grenade in it.



Mike Sellers



I was sent back to where they were bringing in the prisoners and evacuating the wounded. My wound was not really bad, but it went halfway through my arm at the elbow joint. I picked myself up an NVA belt with the red star on it on the way back.



In the end, 107 NVA had surrendered to us. Four hundred nineteen NVA had been killed. A Company lost 8 or 9 KIA and 33 WIA. It was the largest en masse surrender of the NVA to an American unit of the Vietnam war.

Colonel John H. Cushman was commanding the 2nd Brigade during this period. MG O. M. Barsanti was commanding the 101st Airborne Division at this time. A Co. 1/502 was attached to the 501st Battalion during this battle. The 21st Artillery was our fire support. Air Force fighter-bombers also joined this battle.



A Co. was airlifted back to LZ Sally late in the evening of May 1st. What was left of the company was given ice cream that night. I missed it as I had to go with the medivac to Da Nang to get my arm looked after. By the time I got back a day or two later, the company had been sent to another battle, which is a story one of them will have to tell. I was kept out the field for ten days from my wound.

Phouc Yen will forever be imprinted in the minds of the soldiers who were there and each one of them could tell his story. I was proud to have served with A Company, 1st Battalion 502nd Airborne Infantry and will never forget these fine men, the ones still here and the ones that didn't come back. (By Charles "Country" Cole, SP4, Rifleman with 1st Platoon, A/1-502nd Infantry)

28 April 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: At 0500H on 28 April, the night defensive position of the 2nd and 3rd platoon of B/2-502 IN was attacked by an estimated enemy Platoon. The enemy's initial assault of RPG's and satchel charges was countered with claymore mines, grenades and small arms fire. The contact persisted with the soldiers engaged in close combat until first light when the enemy fled, leaving behind twelve dead. Although several soldiers were wounded during the course of the action, only one was killed. As soon as the medevacs were completed, sweep operations began again to the south.

By 0830H the sweep began to show promising results. A bunker complex was located containing bodies of the enemy slain during contacts of the past two days. The complex, consisting of 36 bunkers and fighting positions surrounding a large command bunker, contained the bodies of 14 enemy soldiers. A second bunker complex located 200 meters to the south was also discovered. This complex also contained the bodies of enemy soldiers killed during the previous two-day engagements. A search of the 35 bunkers uncovered 20 enemy bodies, one RPD machine gun and one AK-47 rifle. The remainder of the day B/2-502 IN and the Recon platoon searched the surrounding areas and destroyed the bunkers. C/2-502 IN moved south along the ridge toward B/2-502 IN, searching out the sides of the ridge line and serving as rear security. (2-502 IN Unit History of the Strike Force, Vietnam 70; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



28 April 1970

B/2-502 IN while operating 37km southwest of the village, received an attack at 0500H, proceeded by small arms and grenade fire. B/2-502 IN with artillery support, repelled that attack killing 12 of the enemy but sustained one KIA and 20 WIA. After the contact while conducting a sweep, the unit discovered 75 bunkers and 50 enemy bodies killed three days prior by TACAIR strikes and artillery. (HQ, USMACV; Command History 1970, Volume III; 19 April 1971)

28 April 1970

Pink team performed recon by fire on grid square 7303. PF patrol found one submachinegun and other small arms. The Division Commander conferred with the Brigade and Battalion Commanders on FSB BIRMINGHAM today. FSB BIRMINGHAM conducted a practice alert. (1-502 IN Annual Supplement; Approved by LTC Richard N. Lang, Commander)

28 April 1970

In the mountains southwest of HUE near the SONG BO River south of Three Forks, B/2-502 IN makes contact with an estimated enemy platoon while in their night defensive position. The "Strike Force" troopers engage the NVA and repulse the attack. An early morning search of the area reveals the bodies of 12 NVA. The sweep continues, and three enemy bunker complexes are discovered which have been heavily damaged by Aerial Rocket Artillery, artillery and air strikes. A further search discloses 50 NVA killed and nets numerous military equipment. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 2); Summer 1970)



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

1 x Medal of Honor (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Distinguished Service Cross
10 x Silver Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)
6 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (2 x Posthumously)
10 x Bronze Star Medal (9 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
56 x Purple Heart Medal (41 x Posthumously)
64 x Air Medal
3 x Combat Medic Badge
30 x Combat Infantry Badge
1 x Died of Non-Hostile injuries or illness

22 April 1967



SSG Earl K. Easterling (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Khanh Hoa Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 April 1967

SP4 William A. Proctor (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Khanh Hoa Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 April 1967



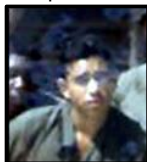
PFC Raymond R. Turner (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Khanh Hoa Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 April 1968



PFC Henry A. Heal 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 gunshot wounds while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Heal was admitted to a military hospital in Vietnam, placed on the very seriously ill list, and later expired.

22 April 1969



SP4 Nickolas G. Garcia (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received from a short friendly artillery round directed at a hostile force while on a combat operation in the vicinity of FSB Bastogne, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 April 1968



1LT John M. Walsh (B/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 multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



23 April 1968



1LT Robert H. Adams Jr. (A/2-501 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart Medal. For wounds received in action. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 9297)

23 April 1968



PVT Thomas S. Alfred (C/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 his unit encountered a hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

23 April 1970



CPL Garry L. Worley (A/2-501 IN) 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 hostile forces were encountered in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

23 April 1970



SGT Benjamin A. Nicks III (E/2-501 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 hostile forces was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 April 1968



PFC Joseph R. Bennett (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from burns and wounds received while on combat operations while unit was engaged by hostile forces in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 April 1968



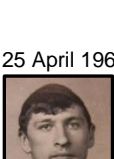
SGT Russell F. Deitchler (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile rocket in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 April 1968



SP5 Dale L. Lambert (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while a passenger on a military aircraft (UH-1D tail number 66-16490) on a combat operation when the aircraft was hit by 23mm anti-aircraft hostile fire and the aircraft crashed and burned while departing FSB Veghel. SP5 Lambert went down in a helo incident on 24 April and was not recovered until September 1968, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 April 1968



1LT Roger G. Stallard (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ; 101st ABN DIV; General Order No: 11443; 31 December 1968)

25 April 1968



PFC Dennis W. Hoff (A/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 by hostile force in a firefight in the Long Khanh Province, Republic of Vietnam.



25 April 1969



SGT Ralph L. Cutler (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



SGT Raymond J. Smith (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 wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



PFC Paul D. Boyett (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 wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



1LT Peter F. Donnell (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 wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



PFC Geoffrey D. R. Saunders (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 wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



SP4 David A. Brown (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wound received while on combat operation when came under hostile mortar fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



SP4 Thomas E. Raubolt (B/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 from gunshot wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



PFC Michael T. Evans (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 wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



26 April 1968



SGT John A. Franklin (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from burns received while on a combat operation when he was hit by a blast from a hostile anti-tank round in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



PFC Robert E. Terrell (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when he was hit by fragmentations from a hostile mine in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



CPL Gene M. Burkell (HHC/2-502 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 from small arms gunfire wounds on Route 527 vicinity FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



SP4 Terry J. Kenney (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile rocket round on Route 527 vicinity FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



PFC Milton A. Lee (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds on Route 527 vicinity FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



PFC Dennis E. Purcell (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds on Route 527 vicinity FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968



PFC Terry L. Tebbetts (C/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 on Route 527 vicinity FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1968

PFC Robert L. Mason (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st AB DIV; General Orders Number 1294; 8 June 1968)



26 April 1970



CPT Samuel E. Asher (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at an artillery firing position when the area came under mortar attack by hostile force on FSB Bastogne, 8km West of HUE SW AFLD in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1970



PFC Charles R. King (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at an artillery firing position when the area came under mortar attack by hostile force on FSB Bastogne, 8km West of HUE SW AFLD in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 April 1970



SGT James P Brinker (E 2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 6936; 19 June 1970)

27 April 1967

The following Soldiers from HHC/2-502 IN:

SP5 Dofey Jenkins PFC Gary L. Ristine Jesus Jasso

Was awarded the Combat Medial Badge. (DA, HQ 101st ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 118; 27 April 1967)

27 April 1967

SGT James E. Brooks (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. (DA, HQ 101st ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 118; 27 April 1967)

27 April 1967

The following Soldiers from A/2-502 IN:

SSG Alfred J.T. Thompson SP4 David E. Thompson PFC Victor A. Thompson PFC Stephen W. Lyons
PFC Larry R. Herd PFC Ronald R. Borboa

was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. (DA, HQ 101st ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 118; 27 April 1967)

27 April 1967

The following Soldiers B/2-502 IN:

PFC Clarence E. Kuone PFC Donald R. LaViolette SGT Ronald L. Gillette PFC Paul E. Magrath
PFC Carson L. Whaley PFC Eugene Ross SSG Ray A. Archuletta SSG Warner J. Johnson
SP4 Robert G. Roby PFC Herbert R. Evans PFC William F. Gunter Jr. PFC Arthur R. Besser
SP4 David H. Scott PFC John R. Howard Jr. PFC Robin P. Milovich PFC John W. Wilson
PFC Pellefery Jones PFC Danny R. Smith PFC Williw J. Woodard PFC Zannie Warren
PFC Gary L. Dennis Bruce J. Fisher 1LT Edward R. Throckmorton

Was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. (DA, HQ 101st ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 118; 27 April 1967)

27 April 1967



PFC Randy L. Heerd (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when he was hit by hostile small arms fire in the Khanh Hoa Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 April 1970

1LT Robert S. Hunt Jr. (B/2-502 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. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 84)

27 April 1970

SSG Thomas Farrell (B/2-502 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. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 84)



27 April 1970

SP4 Donald L. Camp (B/2-502 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. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 84)

27 April 1970

PFC David S. Tuey (E/2-502 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. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 84)

27 April 1970



SGT Delbert E. Hall (B/2-502 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 from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1966



SP4 Anthony A. Gennocro (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile illness (Malaria) as a ground casualty in the Province unknown, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1968



SSG John B. Gingery (D/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 from small arms gunfire wounds in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1968



PFC John T. Intihar (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1968



PFC Robert L. McDuffy (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1968



CPL Valentine A. Ochs (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1968



PFC Michael J. Saunders (D/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 small arms gun fire wounds in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



28 April 1968



PFC Ronnie G. Slay (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1968



SFC Robert E. Holeyfield (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operations in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SFC Holeyfield was admitted to 22d Surgical Hospital on 29 April 1968 and evacuated to a Naval Hospital and later expired.

28 April 1968

PFC Robert C. Hofer (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1528; 15 June 1968)

28 April 1968

PFC James R. D'Anthony (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1528; 15 June 1968)

28 April 1968

SP4 Harvy J. Cook (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st AB DIV; General Orders Number 1294; 8 June 1968)

28 April 1968

SP4 Harvey J. Cook (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 67th Evacuation Hospital; General Orders Number 153; 3 May 1968)

28 April 1968

The following Soldiers A/1-502 IN:

1LT Brian T. Burry	1LT Timothy B. Jeffrey	1LT Tery A. Mills	1LT Michael Norton
PSG Jimmy C. Blue	PSG Thomas C. Hall	PSG Louis E. Humble	PSG Donald C. Stafford
SSG James W. Allen Jr.	SSG Frank A. Anderson	SSG Ramon M. Angulo	SSG Juan M. Flores Jr.
SSG James A. Holmes	SSG Ronald J. Lietz	SGT Charles A. Abbot III	SGT Rodolfo Avelar
SGT Lester E. Baskin	SGT Aultor W. Chavis	SGT Terry W. Ellis	SGT Donald C. Hoard
SGT Carey J. Hobson	SGT David M. Kirk	SGT Mike J. Sellers	SP4 William B. Alford
SP4 Thomas N. Cassick	SP4 Charles R. Cole	SP4 Henri C. Colella	SP4 Louis J. Coni
SP4 Jerry L. Copeland	SP4 Thomas J. Corbett	SP4 Dennis R. Crowell	CPT Terrance N. Spiegelberg

Was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 10545; 30 November 1968)

28 April 1970

SSG Ronald S. Patterson (B/2-502 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. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

28 April 1970

SP4 Thomas R. Weber (B/2-502 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. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

28 April 1970

SP4 Eugene V. Thurm (B/2-502 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. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

28 April 1970



CPL Steven R. Sandlin (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds on Hill 882 Northwest of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1970



CPL Robert E. Backman (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force. He was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



28 April 1970



SGT Fernando Rios-Maldonado (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

22 April 1967



SSG Earl K. Easterling (HHC/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for action in combat. While moving up a steep, rocky, heavily vegetated ravine, Staff Sergeant Easterling's squad was fired upon by a dug-in North Vietnamese element. The initial burst of fire wounded two men that were near the front of the formation. With complete disregard for his own personal safety Sergeant Easterling dashed through a withering hail of enemy automatic weapons fire to the forward most position of his squad. After making an estimate of the situation, Sergeant Easterling deployed his squad on line and began to maneuver on the enemy. When the squad was in close proximity of the enemy position, Sergeant Easterling led an assault on the entrenched North Vietnamese soldiers. It was during this courageous leadership so influenced his squad that it was able to sweep over the fortified positions and route the enemy. Sergeant Easterling's actions and demonstrated gallantry in action are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army. (IFFV; General Orders Number 451; 03 June 1967)

22 April 1970



SFC Lavateres J. Hendricks (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 April 1970. Sergeant Hendricks distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While set up in a night defensive position; Sergeant Hendricks' unit came under attack from an enemy sapper force. When three friendly Soldiers were wounded by an enemy satchel charge, Sergeant Hendricks rushed through intense hostile fire to their position and defended it until medical aidman and reinforcements arrived. When personnel at an adjoining position were wounded by grenade fire, Sergeant Hendricks again braved enemy fire and defended the position until support arrived. During the contact, Sergeant Hendricks was severely wounded by enemy mortar fire. Despite his wounds, he remained at his position and refused medical aid until the attack had been repulsed. Sergeant Hendricks' 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 9303; 14 August 1970)

23 April 1970



SP4 George Banda (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 April 1970. Specialist Banda distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during combat operations near Fire Support Base Granite, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance patrol, Specialist Banda's platoon came under fire from a well-protected enemy force. When one of the men in the lead element was critically wounded by automatic weapons fire, Specialist Banda rushed to his aid. He remained in an open area for a considerable length of time administering emergency treatment despite the intensity of enemy fire. Specialist Banda'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 7878; 09 July 1970)

23 April 1970



CPT James E. Mitchell (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 April 1970. Captain Mitchell distinguished himself while serving as company commander of Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, near Fire Support Base Granite, Republic of Vietnam. While set up in night defensive positions; Captain Mitchell's unit was engaged by hostile small arms and grenade fire. Captain Mitchell immediately directed air and artillery support onto the hostile positions. Despite severe wounds, he accurately adjusted the artillery and led his men against the hostile element. As a result of his actions the enemy force was repulsed. Captain Mitchell'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 5419; 15 May 1970)

25 April 1967



1SG Frederick C. Brander (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 April 1968. First Sergeant Brander distinguished himself while serving as First Sergeant, Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a combat operation near the village, the lead platoon of Company A was taken under heavy small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire, wounding two men. With complete disregard for his own safety, First Sergeant Brander went immediately to the platoon in contact and in order to free the element leaders of the platoon for their combat mission, First Sergeant Brander assumed the responsibility for treatment and evacuation of the wounded. Before the fighting had ceased, First Sergeant Brander had evacuated four men to a secure landing zone and supervised the helicopter evacuation. First Sergeant Brander'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.

25 – 26 April 1971

CPT John H. Cluett Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with and armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Captain Cluett distinguished himself on 25 and 26 April 1971 while serving as company commander during combat operations in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. After completing a forced insertion in the valley to rescue personnel from a downed helicopter, Captain Cluett led his task force as close to the downed crew members as possible before setting up a night defensive perimeter. The next day, while maneuvering his men to the stranded crew, they came under intense enemy fire. Exposing himself to the hostile fire, Captain Cluett directed a ranger element in making an assault on the downed aircraft while his element delivered intense suppressive fire. Upon reaching the downed helicopter the wounded crewmen were removed from the aircraft and Captain Cluett set up a defensive perimeter until an evacuation aircraft arrived. Captain Cluett's gallantry in action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



26 April 1968



PFC Milton A. Lee (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as radio telephone operator with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), in action against enemy aggressor forces at Phu Bai, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 26 April 1968. As lead element for the company, the 3d platoon received intense surprise hostile fire from a force of North Vietnamese Army regulars in well-concealed bunkers. With 50 percent casualties, the platoon maneuvered to a position of cover to treat their wounded and reorganize, while Private First Class Lee moved through the heavy enemy fire giving lifesaving first aid to his wounded comrades. During the subsequent assault on the enemy defensive positions, Private First Class Lee continuously kept close radio contact with the company commander, relaying precise and understandable orders to his platoon leader. While advancing with the front rank toward the objective, Private First Class Lee observed four North Vietnamese soldiers with automatic weapons and a rocket launcher lying in wait for the lead element of the platoon. As the element moved forward, unaware of the concealed danger, Private First Class Lee immediately and with utter disregard for his own personal safety, passed his radio to another soldier and charged through the murderous fire. Without hesitation he continued his assault, overrunning the enemy position, killing all occupants and capturing four automatic weapons and a rocket launcher. Private First Class Lee continued his one-man assault on the second position through a heavy barrage of enemy automatic weapons fire. Grievously wounded, he continued to press the attack, crawling forward into a firing position and delivering accurate covering fire to enable his platoon to maneuver and destroy the position. Not until the position was overrun did Private First Class Lee falter in his steady volume of fire and succumb to his wounds. Private First Class Lee's heroic actions saved the lives of the lead element and were instrumental in the destruction of the key position of the enemy defense. Private First Class Lee's gallantry at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, the 502d Infantry, and the United States Army. (General Orders No. 13, April 23, 1970)

26 April 1968



SGT Leon Peoples (B/2-502 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 B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Sergeant Peoples distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 26 April 1968 while leading a fire team on a search and destroy mission in Phu Bai Province. After long hours of exhausting and indecisive battle, Sergeant Peoples' platoon had made little progress in precisely locating the enemy's bunker fortifications in the thick, mountainous jungle. Discontented with his unit's stalemated advance, Sergeant Peoples crawled alone toward the North Vietnamese to reconnoiter their positions. When in sight of the first bunker, he was spotted and turned back by heavy fire. He then gathered his fire team and initiated a flanking maneuver on the enemy bunker. As the team advanced, the enemy opened up on them with streams of automatic weapons fire which held them fast to the ground and wounded many. Sergeant Peoples then drew the attention of the communist firepower by rushing them and dropping behind available cover as he assaulted. With grenades prepared for immediate detonation he made a final spring and dived for cover as the ejected grenades ripped through the hostile stronghold. Detecting a second bunker from which the enemy were placing suppressive fire on his team, Sergeant Peoples stole near the emplacement and unleashed on it several well-placed grenades. After dropping back for re-supplies of ammunition, he again infiltrated the enemy complex under thick fire and crawled without rifle up to a third bunker and eliminated its occupants with grenades. Picking up an enemy weapon, he then began routing the demoralized communists as they frantically retreated. Sergeant Peoples' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping and highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 3419; 07 September 1969)

26 April 1968



MAJ Leonard Williams (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor by distinguishing himself by heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force on 26 April 1968, in the vicinity of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. ON the afternoon of 25 April, two companies of the 2nd Battalion, 502d Infantry had linked up at one landing zone for extraction of their wounded. Elements of both companies were still in contact approximately six hundred (600) meters to the north. When more casualties were sustained in the contact area, Major Williams, then at the landing zone, strapped his aid bag on and buried toward the contact area. When he arrived, he learned that there were two critically wounded men laying in exposed terrain, unable to retrieve because of severe enemy automatic weapons fire concentrated in that exact area. Although enemy fire covered the entire area, Major Williams, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, braved the enemy automatic weapons fire and succeeded in pulling both men to safety. While administering medical aid to the first man, Major Williams was wounded by a B-40 rocket fired from an enemy position to his flank. With utter disregard for his own wound, Major Williams calmly continued to administer lifesaving aid to both men. This being accomplished, Major Williams still heedless of his own wound, helped carry the wounded troopers back to the landing zone for medical evacuation. Major Williams's outstanding display of heroism in action and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Order Number 5094; 25 August 1968)

26 April 1970



CPT Samuel E. Asher (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 26 April 1970. Captain Asher distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during a mortar attack against Fire Support Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. During the attack, Captain Asher moved to the base mortar positions to expedite counter-mortar fire and continuously subjected himself to incoming rounds while checking the perimeter. He moved to the most intense area of the attack to encourage each of his men individually and to insure the preparation for a possible ground attack. While moving to one of these positions, Captain Asher was mortally wounded by an incoming round. His actions were decisive in insuring the safety of the lives of the men on the firebase and contributed immeasurably to the firebase's successful defense. Captain Asher'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 6081; 30 May 1970)



27 April 1970



1LT James T. Hill (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Lieutenant Hill distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. During a search and clear operation, Lieutenant Hill's platoon was providing rear security for another company. While moving down a ridgeline, the other unit came under fire from an enemy force using automatic weapons, small arms, rocket propelled grenades, and anti-personnel mines. The forward platoon leader was wounded, and Lieutenant Hill immediately took command of the lead two platoons and deployed the men to place effective fire, he called in armed helicopter support and accurately adjusted fire to within twenty-five meters of his own position. Lieutenant Hill then personally led the two platoons in an assault on the enemy positions. Moving from bunker to bunker, he engaged the enemy with rifle fire and hand grenades until the insurgents were routed. Lieutenants Hill'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 13286; 6 November 1970)

27 April 1970



PFC Steven R. Sandlin (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Private Sandlin distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance patrol, Private Sandlin's unit made contact with a numerically superior enemy force and suffered several casualties. Private Sandlin moved among the wounded men, checking their wounds and administering first aid. When the wounded were removed to an area of safety, he provided covering fire. The platoon sergeant was also wounded, and Private Sandlin rushed to his position and gave protective fire until he could be removed to a safe area. While moving from one wounded soldier to another giving aid and encouragement, Private Sandlin was mortally wounded by hostile fire. Private Sandlin'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 7838; 8 July 1970)

27 April 1970



SFC Wallace Gainey (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Sergeant Gainey distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, on operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. During a combat patrol, Sergeant Gainey's unit was engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched enemy force. The platoon leader was wounded in the initial contact, and Sergeant Gainey took charge of the platoon. He deployed his men and subjected himself to the hostile fire as he ran from position to position distributing badly needed ammunition. Sergeant Gainey repeatedly subjected himself to the hostile fire while helping wounded men to safety. When armed helicopters arrived at the contact area, Sergeant Gainey withdrew the platoon a short distance to allow for aerial rocket artillery assaults. When the armed helicopters had finished, Sergeant Gainey led his men in a ground assault and overran the enemy positions. Sergeant Gainey'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 6574, 10 June 1970)

27 April 1970

1LT Robert S. Hunt (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Lieutenant Hunt distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a combat patrol, Lieutenant Hunt's platoon was engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched enemy force. Lieutenant Hunt quickly deployed his men but was wounded by enemy fire as he maneuvered the platoon. Although unable to walk, Lieutenant Hunt continued to command his men and direct their counterattack until relieved by his platoon sergeant and the platoon leader of another platoon. The actions of Lieutenant Hunt enabled his men to place effective suppressive fire on the insurgents and overrun the enemy positions. Lieutenant Hunt'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 614; 10 June 1970)

27 April 1970



SGT James P. Brinker (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Sergeant Brinker distinguished himself while serving as a member of the reconnaissance platoon of Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, on a search and clear mission in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While clearing an enemy bunker complex, the unit came under heavy enemy fire. With the other members of his platoon, Sergeant Brinker moved from bunker to bunker, engaging the enemy at close range until all the enemy positions were silenced. Sergeant Brinker'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 9392; 15 August 1970)



28 April 1967

CPT Arthur F. Conlon (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while under hostile fire on 28 April 1967 near Khanh Doung, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Company A, 2d Battalion, 502d (Airborne) Infantry was moving along the heavily vegetated slopes of a mountain when the lead element suddenly came under an intense volume of enemy rifle fire. Captain Conlon, very conscious of the fact that both the lead platoon leader a squad leader was new and inexperienced and that the men were hot and tired and had not had any contact for some time, he unhesitatingly rushed forward, picking up grenades from several riflemen as he moved. Upon reaching the lead squad, Captain Conlon found that they were under a tremendous volume of fire from extremely well-fortified enemy positions among some large boulders on the high ground. Realizing the squad was in a dangerous position and slow to react; Captain Conlon with complete disregard for his own personal safety exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire and began throwing grenades and placing effective fire into the enemy positions. The effectiveness of Captain Conlon's solo assault inspired his men to such a degree that they immediately began to fire and maneuver against the enemy positions. Again, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Captain Conlon moved to an area completely exposed to intense enemy fire and began directing supporting fire so as to cover the maneuver of his forward elements. Upon overrunning the enemy positions, it was apparent that several of the enemy soldiers had been wounded. Unhesitatingly, Captain Conlon quickly organized and personally led a small element in pursuit of the fleeing enemy soldiers. As a result of Captain Conlon's professionalism and undaunted actions two enemy soldiers were killed, several more wounded, and one enemy automatic weapon was captured. Captain Conlon's outstanding display of gallantry, devotion to duty, and unquestionable valor in close combat against numerically superior hostile forces are in keeping with the finest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Orders Number 123; 22 July 1967)

28 April 1968



SP4 Bill Lux (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for military merit. Alpha Company was conducting an assault on PHUOC YEN, Republic of Vietnam, and a village north of Hue. Moving through fields and hedgerows the company encountered enemy mortar, rocket propelled grenades, and machine gun fire. Suddenly the point element came under intense fire from automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade rounds. The point man, Specialist Lux, immediately began to return the enemy fire. Despite his exposed position in front of his platoon and the large amount of enemy fire, Specialist Lux remained in his forward vantage point with complete disregard for his personal safety and indicated to the platoon leader the location of enemy positions. With the remainder of the platoon had reached his location, Specialist Lux joined them in assaulting the enemy positions. Specialist Lux's personal bravery and devotion to duty were keeping in highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

28 April 1970



SGT Francis Bartush (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 28 April 1970. Sergeant Bartush distinguished himself while serving as a fire team leader in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While set up in a night defensive position; Sergeant Bartush's unit came under a concentrated enemy sapper attack. The insurgents assaulted Sergeant Bartush's position on the perimeter and he engaged them with anti-personnel mines and rifle fire. During the fighting, he pinned down one insurgent with rifle fire and successfully engaged him with a hand grenade. Although his position bore the brunt of the assault, Sergeant Bartush repulsed the attack and forced the insurgents to withdraw. During a lull in the fighting, he subjected himself to enemy fire as he carried wounded personnel to the middle of the perimeter. Later, the sappers again attempted to overrun the friendly location. Although the other men at Sergeant Bartush's position were wounded, Sergeant Bartush fought alone and again repulsed the enemy attack. Sergeant Bartush'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 7002; 20 June 1970)



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

