



# STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



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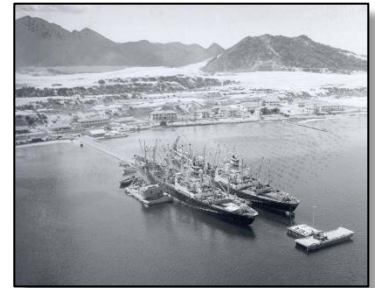
Issue: 143

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

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



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



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



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

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- 03 March 1966      **Operation HARRISON:** Enroute to Battalion base, C/2-502 IN engaged 3 VC vicinity CQ050715 at 0830H; results: 1 VC WIA (EST), 1 US carbine captured. C/2-502 IN closed Battalion base at 1100H. A/2-502 IN was relieved as Battalion reserve at 1200H and initiated CHECKERBOARD operations to the west from A/2-502 IN base vicinity CQ062723. B/2-502 IN sighted 15 VC with weapons vicinity CQ017708 at 1255H; artillery adjusted results unknown. RECOND platoon deployed to DONG TRE SF camp commencing 1300H to conduct joint squad and platoon size operations with CIDG forces. At 1350H, B/2-502 IN patrol received automatic weapons fire from vicinity CQ008492, returned fire and adjusted artillery fire; results unknown. Another B/2-502 IN patrol engaged unknown number of VC vicinity CQ0026722 at 1945H; results unknown. CHECKERBOARD operations continued through the night with negative enemy contact. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operations HARRISON; 1 April 1966)
- 03 – 06 March 1967      **Operation FARRAGUT:** At 0730H, the 1-327 IN BN and 2-502 IN BN conducted airmobile assaults into LZ's north of SONG MAO and began search and destroy operations to the south and north respectively. No significant enemy contact was made and on 06 March was extracted to SONG MAO. (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation FARRAGUT)
- 03 – 06 March 1967      **Operation FARRAGUT IV:** The third phase of this Operation began, taking place to the northwest of SONG MAO in BINH THUAN Province. Several minor contacts resulted in 4 VC KHA and 5 weapons captured. In addition, one, large tiger was shot just before extraction to SONG MAO on 6 March. This ended FARRAGUT IV, a rather unrelated series of operations involving no major engagements. While at SONG MAO, the S-5 section of the 2-502 IN BN held number of sick-calls for indigenous civilians and assisted in movement of refugees to SONG MAO refugee center. Food-stuffs, clothing, and weapons were distributed, including rice and grain that had been captured from the enemy in the field. A vigorous leaflet and poster campaign were conducted in near-by hamlets, and 50 detainees were taken to PHAN RANG for questioning. Of these, 18 were confirmed as VC, 21 as VC suspects, and 4 as draft-dodgers.
- 03 March 1968      1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations from AN LO Bridge to vicinity YD671311, AP DUC TRONG. B/1-502 IN and C/1-502 IN made heavy contact from village and called for all available fire support and pulled back. After heavy contact for 4 hours, B&C were withdrawn by air. During extraction battalion commanders C&C received heavy fire wounding battalion CO, his RTO, Battalion S-2, and command pilot. Battalion S-2 DOA at Evans. Results: Friendly: 17 WIA, 4 KIA; Enemy: 1 WIA/POW, 13 KIA (BC), 48 KIA (Estimated)
- 03 March 1968      AT 0500H, 2BDE reported that the BDE AO changed. D/2-501 IN and E/2-501 IN AO changed as/at shore line YD770358 to YD752344 to south of stream YD754338 and south along stream to stream junction YD737291 east along stream to junction with SONG HUONG RIVER YD752288 south along SOUN HUONG YD755255 west along stream to YD737255, SW to road junction YD731218, west along SONG SAU RIVER to YD702199 south to road junction YD 701197 where it joins with present boundary. This boundary is southern boundary of 1<sup>st</sup> AIR CAV, this is also the 1<sup>st</sup> AIR CAV TA of interest boundary. This boundary is effective 0001H. 2-501 IN BN continued daily ambush patrols in AO with minimal engagements with negative results. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 03 March 1968)
- 03 March 1970      A group of Popular Force graduated from the training given by the 1-502 IN BN personnel today. They will assume an active role defending their hamlets and villages. B/1-502 IN (-) found a grave approximately 2-3 months old. At the same time and location, they spotted 1 NVA and engaged him at a distance of 25 meters. Results: 1 NVA KIA. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon at location 733026 engaged NVA with negative results. A/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found 1 NVA hand grenade along a stream bank.
- 04 – 05 March 1966      **Operation HARRISON:** At 1015H, A/2-502 IN engaged approximately 20 VC vicinity BQ995734; results: 2 BC KIA (EST). At 1015H, B/2-502 IN sighted approximately 24 VC vicinity BQ99580, artillery adjusted; results unknown. There was negative contact the rest of the day and night and A/2-502 IN platoon ambushed 3 BC vicinity CQ003766 at 0200H on 05 March 1966.
- A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN continued CHECKERBOARD operations and C/2-502 IN remained as Battalion reserve. RECONDO platoon continued joint operations with CIDG forces vicinity DONG TRE SF camp. B/2-502 IN engaged 9 VC at 0805H on 05 March vicinity BQ989696; results: 1 VC KIA (BC). At 1000 hours on 05 March, A/2-502 IN captured 3 VC's with military equipment vicinity CQ004742. The 2-502 IN BN was alerted to move by air from its present location vicinity CQ061722 to TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield and assume mission of Brigade reserve. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operations HARRISON; 1 April 1966)
- 04 March 1968      1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations and conducted joint sweep with PF's vicinity AN LO Bridge. Results: 2 NVA KIA (BC). Recon made light contact had 2 Soldiers wounded.



- 04 March 1968 2-501 IN BN Companies conducted patrol and ambush operations throughout their AO. A/2-501 IN at 1145H had one-man medevac on C&C ship with leg injury from 90mm Recoilless rifle. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Log; 04 March 1968)
- 04 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 0245H, A/2-502 IN vicinity AT924926 a large explosion damaged bridge, road impassable. Engineers reconstructed and opened by 1200H on 04 March. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Operation Tacoma-Houston After Action Report; 20 March 1968)
- 04 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** The 1<sup>st</sup> CAV DIV (Airmobile) with eleven (11) infantry battalions continued search and destroy operations in QUANG TRI and the THUA THIEN Provinces with significant contact. From 1335H to 1800H, B/1-501 IN and C/1-501 IN (YD 663318) engaged and unknown sized enemy force. Air strikes were utilized in support of the contact, which resulted in 60 NVA KIA, one weapon captured; Five US KIA and 14 US WIA and evacuated. (Texas Tech. Vietnam Center and Archives; Doc #1201064111)
- 04 March 1970 D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon trained 11 PF on joint US-PF patrols. C/1-502 IN spotted from LOH a tunnel entrance 1-meter x 1 meter with a small trough leading up to it. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found fresh tracks of NVA and hootch frame made with green bamboo strips.
- 04 – 13 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2-502 IN BN (STRIKE Force) returned en masse to CAMP EAGLE for a well-deserved period of training and stand down. The 2-502 IN BN returned to CAMP EAGLE for a well-deserved period of training and stand-down. Training continued at CAMP EAGLE throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 04 March 1970 A/2-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon was attacked while they were in their NDP by a sapper squad; A/2-502 IN lost one KIA and eight WIA.
- 04 March – 09 April 1971 **Operation LAM SON 719:** During this operation, the 1-501 IN BN moved to FB VANDERGRIFT with D/1-501 IN being OPCON to 2-502 IN BN from 04 – 11 March 1971.
- 05 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** 1<sup>st</sup> CAV DIV (Airmobile) with eleven (11) infantry battalions continued search and destroy operations in QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN provinces with moderate contact. At 1456H, B/2-501 IN (YD 673236) made contact with an unknown size enemy force. ARA helicopters provided support for the contact with terminated at 1630H. Results of the contact were six NVA KIA, one weapons captured, one US KIA and four US WIA and evacuated. (Texas Tech. Vietnam Center and Archives; Doc #1201064111)
- 05 March 1968 2-501 IN BN continued operation throughout their respected AO. At 0045H, A POW captured on 04 March 1968 states that a NVA BN recently passed through his village. The NVA BN CO met with the local guerrilla leader and the BN CO said that he was going to meet 2000 NVA soldiers and that they would attack HUE, the AN LO Bridge and CAMP EVANS. No later than 10 March 1968. Furthermore, they would attack in force to kill all US soldiers. The following coordinates are given as suspected BN size CPs. Within 4000m (YD817254), Within 2000m (YD610162), Within 500m (YD702308), Within 250m (YD620180), Within 400m (YD669188), within 300m (YD580320). The following are also suspected by size CPs to be located. YD693221, YD694217, YD691285, YD820245, YD693243, YD721311, YD725307, YD748293, YD762207. The following are suspected regimental size CPs to be located at YD877238, YD588322. At 0100H, Juliet reported artillery rounds landing within 300m of their position. A check with the artillery indicated that they had just fired and MI target in grid square 6621 and would make a check fire on that target. At 1309H, B/2-501 IN received sniper fire vicinity YD675236, artillery was called for ARA described as automatic fire. Close range. At 1319H, Recon 41 received fire from bunker vicinity 653203, est. 2-3 personnel well dug in and concealed ARA been requested. At 1428H, Recon had 1 WIA medevaced. B/2-501 IN reported at 1455 and 1535 that they had 1 WIA at each reported time. At 1707, B/2-501 IN reported summary of contact today. In the morning along tree line vicinity YD673238 point man saw individuals with weapons and engaged and shot him and got a LMG. Started to sweep the area and the left flank started receiving heavy fire coming from a bunker line, freshly dug position. Looked under construction some completed, and some weren't. ARA saw 9 of them in a trench to the front of B/2-501. End of day Results: Recon 2 WIA, 1 EVA; 2 Body Count; B/2-501 IN, 6 NVA KIA, Recon, 1 NVA KIA, B/2-501: 1 AK-47 and 1 LMG Captured. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Log; 05 March 1968)
- 05 March 1968 The 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations with light contact, 1 Soldier WIA from punji pit.
- 05 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** C/2-502 IN was relieved in place by a unit of the 1/5 Marine at 1550 hours and deployed by motor convoy to GIA LE Base. At 1945H, A/2-502 IN vicinity AT923926 engaged 2 or 3 VC with small arms. Sweep at first light revealed 1 ChiCom Claymore and 300 feet of copper wire. At 2300H they received a single sniper round, result 1 US WHA. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Operation Tacoma-Houston After Action Report; 20 March 1968)



05 March 1970 1-502 IN, Recon platoon received S/A fire from 3 to 4 NVA/VC. One US was wounded in action and a medivac and ARA was called in. The ARA spotted 2 NVA/VC and engaged. The ARA also engaged bunker, tunnel and bunker complex, all with unknown results. Recon found blood trail running to the southeast. These incidents took place in the area of 795988 and 799988 respectively.

05 March 1971 1-501 IN BN moved to FB VANDERGRIFT. C/1-502 IN remained OPCON to 2-502 IN BN at LZ ANNE.


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

06 March 1968 D/1-502 IN made heavy contact at 1313H in the vicinity of YD698304 (W-Shaped village); D/1-502 IN broke contact at 1612H and was extracted from hot LZ after using all available fire support on village. Estimated 2 reinforced companies in the village. Results: Friendly: 5-KIA, 25-WIA, 2-MIA; Enemy 58-KIA (BC) Confirmed by aerial observation.

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

06 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 1000H, 2-502 IN BN was relieved of TAOR by the 1/5 Marines and began movement to close GIA LE Base. Result of operation was an extensive Search and Destroy and saturation ambushing was conducted with only sporadic contact with local force units. Contact was negative with main force VC/NVA units. Casualties as follows:

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



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

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

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

Casualties for Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON were as follows:

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

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

06 March 1970 1-502 IN, Recon platoon while making a sweep of some dense foliage found 1 VN letter, 2 empty fish cans, and 1 RPG round. Recon team one at approximately location 795989 found 100 or more bunkers ranging from 5'x6' to 8'x10' with overhead cover of 3" to 9" of logs and dirt. Bunkers area estimated to be 3 to 9 months old and the area is honeycombed with well used trails. Recon also located rocket launching site used in last 30 days. C/1-502 IN spotted 2 VC/NVA in the vicinity of 782021 running north. They engaged with negative results.

06 March 1971 1-501 IN BN assumed the responsibilities of FB VANDERGRIFT and its area of operation.





07 March 1968 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations and made 3 Company size C/A's resulting in moderate contact. B/1-502 IN recovered the bodies of the 2 MIA from D/1-502 IN. Results: Friendly: 1-KIA, 1-WIA, 2- MIA to KIA; Enemy 30 KIA (BC)

07 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:**  
Operation Began (2-502 IN BN)  
Locations: HOA Province, RVN  
Task Organization: A/2-502 IN, B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, Recondo/2-502, 3 (-)/A/326 ENG, 6/2-320 ARTY (105), Mortar Platoon IPW, 181 MI Detachment

The following changes were made in the task organization during the operations:

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

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

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

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

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

07 – 28 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** Phase I: During this phase the 2-502 IN BN maintained security of the rock crusher site/TAC-CP by rotating the companies into the TAC-CP. On 10 March the first significant contact was made involving A/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN and Recon. From this time to the end of phase I significant contacts were made by B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN on combat operations against enemy in bunker positions. Artillery DT's and H&I were used extensively; however, gunships were seldom used due to scarcity of the Division. The terrain was mountainous with thick jungle and tall canopy on the western portion of the AO. In the north, there were high barren mountain ridges. On 23 March, A/2-502 IN came under OPCON 2-327 IN BN. B/2-502 IN was also put under OPCON to 2-327 IN BN on 27 March. Phase I ended on 28 March when the 2-502 IN BN minus A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN were heliborne into FSB BASTOGNE and A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN were returned to 2-502 IN BN control.

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

07 March 1970 1-502 IN BN, Recon team #1 received S/A AK-47 fire and RPG's at a distance of 40 meters resulting in 2 US WIA. Action occurred at YC787985. The wounds were minor and were treated in the field. C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found 3 spider holes and one bunker. Estimated age was 6 months.

07 March 1971 A/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found one bunker at XD953519. A trail-oriented north to south, additionally the platoon found 50-60 51 caliber rounds.

07 March 1971 D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon vicinity CS179549 found 13 bunkers. They received sniper fire with no casualties. They found a rucksack, E-Too, rice (20-30 lbs.), 3 lbs. of salt and various cooking utensils. The bunkers were 1-2 months old and 75m from water source.

08 March – 23 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT IV:**  
**Location:** SON HAI, VINH HAO, Secret Base 7, Secret Base 35, Route 1, Route 407, NINH THUAN and BINH THUAN Provinces.

**Type:** search and destroy.

**Controlling headquarters:** 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV

**Task organization:** 1-327 IN BN, 2-327 IN BN, 2-502 IN BN, 2-320 ART BN, B/1-30 ART BTRY, A/2-17 CAV, A/326 EGN, 2/44 ARVN BN, 4th Troop, 8th ARVN ACS.

**Execution:** The fourth phase of Operation FARRAGUT was directed into Secret Base 35 south of PHAN RANG and west of Route 1. on 8 March, LRRP teams were inserted into the AO to conduct ambush and surveillance patrols, followed the next day by 2-502 IN BN executing an airmobile raid to cordon and search the hamlet of SON HAI on the coast. At the same time, 2-327 IN BN was combat assaulted into the northern part of the secret base while 1-327 IN BN moved overland from TUY PHONG. Contact was light and infrequent. On 10 March, the brigade CP was relocated from SONG MAO to the brigade main base camp at PHAN RANG. On 13 Mar, 2-327 Inf with one battery of artillery terminated its participation in FARRAGUT and was moved overland to TUY HOA to reinforce Task Force IVY. On 15 March, 2-502 IN



BN conducted an overland and airmobile movement just to the south of Secret Base 7 but made minimal contact. On 22 March, 1-327 IN BN returned to PHAN RANG while 2-502 IN BN conducted a one-day airmobile raid on the deserted hamlet of VINH HAO in BINH THUAN Province, capturing only 2 ARVN deserters. The following day, Operation FARRAGUT was terminated, and all the brigade elements closed PHAN RANG. **Results:** (all four phases) 115 enemy killed, 20 captured, 119 detained, 1 returnee, 15 US KIA, 114 US WIA, 5 ARVN WIA. (Vietnam Combat Operations – 1967; A chronology of Allied combat operations in Vietnam; Stephane Moutin-Luyat)

08 March – 17 May 1968

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

08 March – 17 May 1968

**Operation CARENTAN I – II**

Locations: I Corps; QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN Provinces; SONG BO River; COCO Beach; HUE; PHUOC YEN; VAN XA LANG; XOM DONG; FSB HARDCORE; LZ's DEVIL, DETROIT, GERONIMO, PINKY.

Type/Objective: CARENTAN I – II Combines Search and Destroy, Cordon and Search and Reconnaissance in Force operations into the lowlands of QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN Provinces. Note: CARENTAN I (8-30 March) and CARENTAN II (1 April – 17 May).

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

- Events: 10 April – “Battle of THON PHUOC DIEN”. Companies A/2-501 IN, B/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN (101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV) encounter an estimated six battalions from the 812<sup>th</sup> NVA Regiment near the small village of THON PHUOC DIEN, 12 miles southeast of QUANG TRI City.  
Losses: U.S. – 7 KIA, 35 WIA in the firefight. Enemy losses are reported at 66 KIA.
- Events: 28 April – 4 May – While conducting a Cordon and Search of the villages of THON DUONG SON and PHUOC YEN, several elements of the 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV clash with strong enemy forces four miles northwest of HUE. Involved in the action are B/2-501 IN and D/2-501 IN, 1-502 IN BN, 2-1 IN, 2-17 CAV, and the 2-327 IN BN versus the 8-90<sup>th</sup> NVA Regiment.  
Losses: U.S. - 6 KIA, 43 WIA; NVA/VC – 314 KIA, 107 POWs
- Events: 1 May – the 2-17 CAV battles a reinforced company of NVA Soldiers 13 miles northwest of HUE.  
Losses: U.S. – 2 KIA, 26 WIA; NVA/VC – 82 KIA
- Events: 5 – 6 May \_ “Battle of LA CHU”. While conducting a Cordon and Search of LA CHU, three miles northwest of HUE, A/1-501 IN and D 1-501 IN, A/2-501 IN & C 2-501 IN, 2-17 CAV and C/2-34 AR engage an NVA force of unknown size.  
Losses: U.S. – 1 KIA, 18 WIA; NVA/VC – 55 KIA.

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

08 March 1968

1-502 IN BN continued operations and A/1-502 IN made heavy contact near AN DONG LAM (YD 680318). After 3 hours of heavy fighting A/1-502 IN was ordered to pull back leaving 3 KIA bodies because of intense fire. Results: Enemy: 3 KIA, 17 WIA, 2 MIA; Enemy: 25 KIA (BC), 4 WIA/POW, 50 KIA (Estimated)

08 March 1968

**Operation JEB STUART:** The 1<sup>st</sup> CAV DIV (Airmobile), with twelve (12) Infantry battalions, continued search and destroy operations in QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN Province with significant contact. A/1-502 IN made contact with an estimated two companies of NVA in prepared positions (YD 680317). Contact remained throughout the day, resulting in 26 NVA KIA, three weapons captured, and 12 US WIA and evacuated.

At 1316H, C/1-502 IN (YD 683313) engaged in unknown size enemy force, resulting in 17 enemy KIA, one weapon captured and seven US WIA and evacuated. At 1830H, A/1-501 IN (YD 629224) found nine enemy bodies, one weapon, one M-60 MG Barrel, 3,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 13 rounds of 60mm mortar ammunition, eight B-40 rockets, and 14 grenades. In twelve (12) additional incidents 20 enemy were KIA, two weapons were captured, one US KIA, and eleven (11) US were WIA and evacuated. (Texas Tech. Vietnam Center and Archives; Doc #1201064111)

08 March 1969

**Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** C/1-502 IN discovered 1 VC KIA in a grave 7 days old in the vicinity YD639209.

08 March 1970

C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon at approximately location 782010 found 14 fighting positions and four large bunkers. There was double apron barb wire fence used for sapper training. Complex was about 1 year old. The C/C bird sighted 2 NVA/VC in open at 792988 and called in artillery with negative results. C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found a trail by 1-2 persons in last 12 hours.

08 March 1971

B/1-501 IN vicinity CS924458 had MA detonated. Resulting in tow NVA KIA and one AK-4 captured.

08 March 1971

D/1-501 IN engaged four enemy Soldiers in the rolling hills north of QUANG TRI, killing all four and capturing three weapons. The Screaming Eagle element was operating just south of the DMZ in support of Operation LAM SON 719. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 4); Winter-Spring 1970-1971)



08 March 1971 1-501 IN BN, Recon Team 2 vicinity XD880554 found a banana leaf on trail with the following message written in Vietnamese: We will stay in this area and fight from our bunkers and will not leave.

09 – 12 March 1966 **Operation HARRISON:** A/2-502 IN with AT platoon attached conducted motor movement effective 0700H to vicinity CQ13525 and relieved A/TRP, 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry of the mission of securing artillery. Relay was completed at 0800H and A/2-502 IN dispatched two RECONDO patrols at 1915H; one (squad size) to vicinity BQ099525, the second vicinity CQ100515. The RECONDOS remained in designated positions. A third squad size RECONDO patrol infiltrated along a route to vicinity CQ152546 and returned to the company base at 100515H March. Commencing 100840H March, A/2-502 IN (-) consisting of two rifle platoons conducted a search and destroy operation in the vicinity of TAN AN (1), CQ1563. A/2-502 IN (-) received sniper fire from an unknown number of VC at 1022H vicinity CQ145622; results two US WIA. At 1427H, A/2-520 IN (-) found a bloody pistol belt with three hand grenades at CQ152643; results 1 VC KIA (EST). There were no further contacts and A/2-502 IN closed into Company base approximately 1730H. Also, on 10 March, B/2-502 IN provided one platoon as security for Engineers working on Route 7 with negative enemy contact. On 10 March, A/2-502 IN infiltrated two-night RECONDO patrols to vicinity BQ093534 and BQ094519 plus an additional moving patrol which screened to the Northeast and returned to the company base at daybreak. All patrols had negative contact. A/2-502 IN conducted 3 RECONDO patrols vicinity area COBRA. Two patrols infiltrated from positions at BQ090535 and BQ094525 to the company base at CQ135525. At 111950H March one RECONDO patrol engaged 4 VC at CQ108533 killing 2 VC, wounding one VC and capturing one SMG. One RECONDO patrol infiltrated from the company base vicinity CQ540546 and returned on 120630H with negative contact. A/2-502 IN relieved of Artillery security mission by A/TRP 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry at 1200H and returned to battalion base at 121435H. At Platoon reverted to battalion control at 1435H. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation HARRISON; 1 April 1966)

09 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT:** At 0700H, the Brigade initiated search and destroy operations against Secret Base 35. The 2-502 IN BN executed an early morning airmobile raid with one company and the reconnaissance platoon to cordon and search the hamlet of SONG HAI (BN8262). National Police assisted in the search, segregation and screening of inhabitants upon completion of the cordon. The 2-502 IN BN minus conducted an airmobile assault into the southeast portion of Secret Base 35 and began search and destroy operations to the west.

At 1200H, elements of the 2-502 IN BN were relieved of their mission at SONG HAI by elements of the 2-44 ARVN REGT which moved overland on Provincial Route 407. These elements rejoined the battalion minus in the AO and by 1305H the airmobile move was completed. (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation FARRAGUT)

09 – 23 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT V:** This operation beginning in the VC Secret Base 35 area southeast of PHAN RANG, and the morning slightly northwest to the same AO used by the 2-502 IN BN in FATTAGUT III. The mission was to fix and destroy a VC Company reportedly operating in the area. This whole region is in Ninh Thuan Province

09 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT V:** This operation started with an air assault to SON HOI, a VC controlled hamlet, by elements of the STRIKE FORCE. Landing near the ocean, B/2-502 IN and the Recondo Force conducted a "cordon and search" of SON HOI, collecting 30 detainees and 1 VC POW with weapon. Then A/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN made a combat air assault to the south of SON HOI, and all elements began search and destroy operations to the west. A/2-502 IN received fire on the LZ, and called in gunships, resulting in 1 VC KHA with weapon. Units continued to sweep west, finding small number of old campsites but making no enemy contact.

09 March 1968 Screaming Eagles of the 2BDE rejoined the Division after completing their phase of Operation JEB STUART near QUANG TRI City with the 1<sup>st</sup> AIR CAV DIV. They killed 1,011 enemies during their phase of the Operation. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 2); July 1968)

09 March 1968 1-502 IN BN conducted a joint 3 Company assault on village complex center of mass YD6731. A/1-502 IN, B/1-502 IN, and C/1-502 IN remained in heavy contact from 0900H to 1445H. Air Strikes, artillery, naval gunfire, and organic weapons used against suspected 2 Battalions of NVA in the village. Results: Friendly: 3-KIA, 17-WIA, and 2-MIA; Enemy: 35-KIA (BC) and 20-KIA (Est.).

09 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** At 0902H, A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN engaged an unknown size enemy force (YD 682317). Artillery, Armed helicopters and fixed wing air strikes supported the contact which continued until 1645H and resulted in 35 enemy KIA, five weapons captured, three US KIA and 18 US WIA and evacuated. (Texas Tech. Vietnam Center and Archives; Doc #1201064111)

09 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** C/1-502 IN discovered a small, abandoned enemy base area vicinity YD633205. At 1813H vicinity YD618205, C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon was engaged by an estimated enemy squad, resulting in 1 US WIA.

09 March 1970 A/1-502 IN, 3d platoon spotted 3 NVA/VC moving 50 meters away along a trail. Engaged with S/A. Recon located 1 booby trap made with grenade and three 81mm fuses. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon at YD746806 found 4 to 6 elephant prints. Estimated to be 1-2 weeks old. At YD743005 they found an old ChiCom grenade along a stream bed.

09 March 1971 A/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon vicinity XD955520 found one hootch. Recent activity within last 24 hours. Also found 7 B-40 rockets, 10 60mm rounds and 1 82mm round.

09 March 1971 A/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon vicinity XD957522 found ten bunkers. 7 – 60mm rounds with fuses. A trail oriented north to south.



09 March 1971

In continued operations north of QUANG TRI, A/1-501 IN and D/1-501 IN uncovered two enemy caches totaling 329 60mm mortar rounds, and one 82mm mortar round, seven RPG rounds and 500 rounds of .30 caliber small arms ammunition. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 4); Winter-Spring 1970-1971)



Prepared by: Ryan P. Niebuhr





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

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5 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)  
17 x Bronze Star Medal (17 x Posthumously)  
1 x Army Commendation Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
1 x Air Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
60 x Purple Heart Medal (46 x Posthumously)  
63 x Combat Infantryman Badge  
3 x Died of Wounds  
1 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

03 March 1968



PFC Richard L. Borgman (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the vicinity AP HIEN LUONG 13m NW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province.

03 March 1968



CPT Frank R. Dimmitt (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a gunshot wound received while passenger of helicopter when hit by hostile small arms fire, in vicinity AP HIEN LUONG 13km NW of HUE Citadel, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 March 1968



SP4 Ernest E. Fawks (C/1-502 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 gunshot wounds received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the vicinity AP HIEN LUONG 13m NW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province.

03 March 1968



CPL Henry Norfleet Jr. (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the vicinity AP HIEN LUONG 13m NW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province.

03 March 1968



CPL James E. Williams (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the vicinity AP HIEN LUONG 13m NW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province.

03 March 1986



SP4 Paul F. Newman Jr. (C/1-501 IN) died from small arms fire wounds received during an engagement north of HUE on 06 April 1968 at Naval Hospital.



04 March 1968



SGT Anthony E. Reed (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when accidentally shot in the vicinity of DANANG as a ground casualty in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 March 1970



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

05 March 1968



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

05 March 1968



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

05 March 1968

The following Soldiers from A/1-502 IN:

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

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

05 March 1968

The following Soldiers from B/1-502 IN:

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

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

05 March 1971



PFC Larry D. Loden (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a military mission when a booby trap detonated 4km NE of BA LONG Airfield in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.



05 March 1971

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

06 March 1968



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

06 March 1968



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

06 March 1968



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

06 March 1968



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

06 March 1968



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

06 March 1968



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

06 March 1968



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

06 March 1968



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



06 March 1968

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

06 March 1968

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

06 March 1968

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

06 March 1968

The following Soldier from D/1-502 IN:

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

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

06 March 1970



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

06 March 1970



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

07 March 1968



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

08 March 1968

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

08 March 1968



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

08 March 1968

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

08 March 1968



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





08 March 1968



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

08 March 1968



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

08 March 1968



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

08 March 1968



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

08 March 1968



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

08 March 1968



2LT Delmar W. Probst (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in AP DONG LANG, 10km NW of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 March 1968



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

08 March 1968



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



08 March 1969



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

08 March 1969



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

08 March 1969



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

08 March 1969



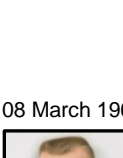
CPL Roger H. Howes (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack at FSB SPEAR & O.P., 20km NE of A SHAU Village, 18km S-SW of HUE SW Airfield in the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

08 March 1969



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

08 March 1969



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

08 March 1969



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

08 March 1969



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



08 March 1969



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

08 March 1969



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

08 March 1969



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

09 March 1968



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

09 March 1968



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

09 March 1968



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

09 March 1968



SSG Leroy B. Robbins (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the vicinity of AP DUC TRONG 12km northwest of the HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

09 March 1968



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



09 March 1968

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

09 March 1969

PFC William H. Weber (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 3237, 12 April 1969)





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

06 March 1968



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

06 March 1968



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

08 March 1968



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

08 March 1968

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



09 March 1968



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



# ACRONYMS

ACAV: Armored Cavalry  
ACD: Air Cavalry Division  
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  
CAV: Cavalry  
CO: Company  
CP: Command Post  
DIV: Division  
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross  
DZ: Drop Zone  
ENG: Engineer  
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

