



# STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



March 24<sup>th</sup> – March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

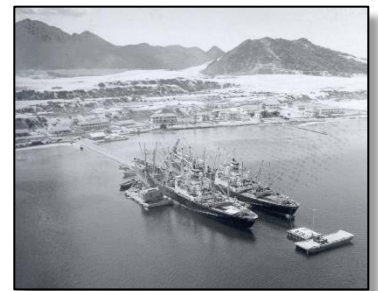
Issue: 146

## 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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24 March 1968

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

24 March 1968

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

24 March 1969

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

24 - 26 March 1969



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

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

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

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

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

24 March 1970

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



25 March 1966

**Operation FILLMORE:** 1BDE of the 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV and the 47<sup>th</sup> ARVN DIV, with the support of the 117<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company, succeeded in protecting the rice harvest throughout the TUY HOA Valley, marking the first time in more than ten (10) years that rice was not imported into this area to support the local population. In addition to assuring an ample food supply for our allies and denying the enemy of his source of supply, these units, spirited by the veteran 117<sup>th</sup>, blunted the attack of a North Vietnamese Army Regiment and routed them so as to cause the complete dispersion of all their units. In order to exploit this dispersion, the 2-502 IN BN, with the support of the 117<sup>th</sup>, developed special Recondo teams to pursue the fleeing Viet Cong. These tactics proved successful and continued until the close of Operation Fillmore.

25 – 26 March 1966

**Operation FILLMORE:** A/2-502 IN moved from present location CQ145245 to CQ144267. B/2-502 IN moved from its present location, CQ167303 to 2-502 IN BN CP vicinity CQ125298. C/2-502 IN moved from present location, CQ108288 to CQ095245. RECONDO platoon moved from present location, CQ141210 to CQ168230 and 2-502 IN BN CP remained in present location CQ125298.

2-502 IN BN continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations in the area GRANITE. A/2-502 IN secured LX for the night of 25 March and moved at 0600 hours on 26 March to CQ144267 with no enemy contact.

B/2-502 IN closed into CQ1673030 and remained there the night of 25 March and on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> they started moving toward the 2-502 IN BN CP. At 0945H contact was made with an estimated Viet Cong squad at vicinity CQ165307 resulting in 7 Viet Cong KIA, 1 bolt action rifle and 13 hand grenades captured. At 1300 hours at CQ163314, B/2-502 IN engaged 2 more Viet Cong resulting in 2 Viet Cong KIA (BC) and one submachine gun captured.

C/2-502 IN remained at CQ108228 on the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> and moved to CQ092258 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. C3, in a blocking position, engaged 2 Viet Cong at 1545 hours resulting in 1 Viet Cong WIA, at 1610 hours in the vicinity CQ148309, they found a squad size camp resulting in 3 Viet Cong KIA (BC) and 1 US WIA

RECONDO platoon moved from CQ141210 to CQ1688230 commencing at 2100 hours and remained in that location. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report; Operation FILLMORE; 18 May 1966)

25 March 1968

At 0330H, B/2-501 IN reported RPG rounds incoming and had one earlier in the morning. At 0602H, B/2-501 IN had one Soldier wounded from shrapnel of prep fire. Received end of mission in that area. At 0640H, D/2-501 IN had one individual turned himself in along with his AK-47 and 2 Magazines. At 1135H, C/2-501 IN observed six (6) personnel crossing stream and could not determine equipment and unable to observe at this time due to the weather. At 1220H, B/2-501 received one sniper fire vicinity 640187 with negative casualties. At 1305H, B/2-501 IN received automatic weapons fire from further southwest location. At 1308H, B/2-501 IN had 1 WIA from automatic weapons fire – medevaced. At 1415H, B/2-501 IN recon by fire, received some incoming small arms fire. Preparing LZ for medevac. Has two (2) slightly flesh wounds, not medevac. At 1535H, OPS SGT reported at 1320H on of the battalion 2 1/2T trucks driving from 2BDE mail outside of CAMP EAGLE was hit by RPG with 1 KIA and 2 WIA; unknown which unit they belonged to. At 2000H, C46 element has spotted movement at 649205 heading toward 653203. Also, all units reported hearing a call of the 'Bob White' possible call or signal for enemy elements. At 2010H, C/2-501 IN LP heard movement 15 to 20 meters to its front. C/2-501 IN reports that they have been hearing these noises for some time. Late at night and early in the morning as well as during the day. C/2-501 IN fired 81mm illumination on grid 647197. At 2033H, K6 reported to A6 that a trip flare went off and 3 people were spotted. At 2105H, C/2-501 IN reported incoming grenade N.W. of its 46 elements. Fired a claymore with negative results and no further movement. At 2110H, A/2-501 IN fired 90mm at two people grid 647197, radar then picked up one person dragging something. Another person was fired on closer to A/2-501 IN position with M-79. All movement stopped. At 2145H, A/2-501 IN reports unknown amount of people south at the base of the hill, vicinity 683196, fired on with indirect fire. At 2150H, C/2-501 IN reports 2-persons low crawling toward their position, will observe and take action if needed. At 2152H, A/2-501 IN reports four (4) more persons fired on with indirect vicinity 683196. At 2200H, C/2-501 IN LP reports six (6) persons crawling towards their location 50-75 meters. 100% alert will engage with M-79, vicinity 656202. At 2255H, A/2-501 IN firing on 2 more persons with Red Leg Artillery vicinity 683196. End of Day summary US KIA: HQ – 1, B CO – 3; 1 POW from D/2-501 and 1 AK-47 captured by D/2-501 IN. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Log; 25 March 1968)

25 March 1969

**Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** A/1-502 IN conducted patrols vicinity of DONG A TAY and discovered 2 NVA KIA and a quantity of equipment. B/1-502 IN continued to RIF east and at 1320H vicinity YC503971. B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon made contact with an estimated NVA squad. Contact lasted for 5 hours resulting in 7 US KIA, 3 US WIA. C/1-502 IN remained at FSB VEGHEL and D/1-502 IN conducted RIF to the northwest.

25 March 1970

D/1-502 IN (-) observed a very old bomb at 724067 and requested an EOD team. Recon team #3 found a camp site. The approximate age was 3 -5 days old. D/1-502 IN at location 765039 found several hootches and bunkers, about 1 year old.

26 March 1966

Personal Account of Friendly Fire Incident TUY HOA, Vietnam; by George R Basset (E-4) Fire Team Leader & Point Man-2<sup>nd</sup> Squad, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Co B, 2/502 Abn. Inf., 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. I will relate my participation in an event that took Place at TUY HOA, Viet Nam on March 26, 1966:

We were operating as a company sized unit high in the mountains of TUY HOA, PHU YEN Province, in search of the 95<sup>th</sup> NVA Regiment with orders to engage and destroy them. On March 24, one of the men in my fire team, PFC James Campbell, slipped and sustained injuries to his back and claimed that he could not walk. He was unable to urinate, and the medic suspected a ruptured bladder. Due to the terrain and the proximity to the enemy there was no way to get a helicopter in to extract him. We were instructed to construct a litter and carry him, which we did. Our goal was to gain the rice paddies that were 5000-6000 meters away, where our company would be extracted by helicopter. We were traveling in a company sized unit, with a recon squad on point, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, then us, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, with 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon bringing up the rear. PFC James Campbell was a member of our squad and it became our responsibility to carry him. We were



short of men, having lost several not long before, including our Squad Leader, Estevan "Chico" Alvarado, who had been shot 4 times on 6 Feb. and evacuated to the U.S. We had 4 men on the litter, myself and PFC James Hudspeth on the front with PFC Ben Chavez and another trooper on the other end. We were high in the mountains and descending down a saddle, following a small game trail with a steep rocky mountain face to our immediate left. We had been carrying Campbell for 1 1/2 days at that point and could see our goal, the paddies, from our high vantage point about a mile to our front. Gunfire to our front suddenly erupted to be shortly followed by more gunfire from about 100 meters above us from the side of a rock-strewn mountain to our left. We all went to the ground in place and returned fire despite not knowing from exactly where we were being shot at from among the rocks. We had an artillery Forward Observer traveling with us (I shall not name him) and he immediately called for the artillery to fire a white phosphorus air burst to adjust their fire from. After the air burst, he made his calculations and told them to fire for effect. The artillery battery, consisting of 5 105-millimeter artillery pieces then fired for effect. The FO shouted, "shot out" and we all hugged the ground as closely as we could. Very shortly thereafter, I heard an indescribably sound that I had never heard before or since in my life. The closest way that I can describe it would be like laying between a set of railroad tracks and have a high-speed locomotive pass over you. Suddenly there was a tremendous explosion, branches, debris, dust, smoke and shrapnel were flying among us and newly wounded men were screaming. My ears were ringing, and I sat up immediately and the first thing that I noted was that one of the nearby troopers was examining his rifle as it had a piece of smoking shrapnel the size of the palm of your hand wedged in the flash suppressor. Troopers were hollering but I couldn't hear them clearly. Lt. Cousins RTO was on the radio trying to get the CP to tell the FO to "Check fire". He could not transmit as the speaker cord has been severed by the shrapnel. The RTO had been wounded and gave up trying to use the radio. I saw PFC Campbell get up off the stretcher and run like hell??? My hearing started to improve, and Lt Cousins ran by me and told me to "Help that Man". I looked for Hudspeth that had been lying next to me and couldn't find him. I heard a voice screaming from a nearby ravine "Get it off me, get it off me" I descended into the ravine and could hear where the screaming was coming from but could not see the person as the ravine where the screaming was coming from was filled with purple smoke. PFC Wayne Linville accompanied me into the raving despite having a shrapnel wound to the leg. I went into the smoke and saw a trooper, PFC Hudspeth, and grabbed him by his LBE and pulled him from the smoke and noted that his face and head were severely burned. Most of the damage coming from a purple smoke grenade that he wore on his LBE right suspender. The smoke grenade had burned the side of his face to the bone. The device was still burning when I ripped it off. It was with great difficulty that I dragged him up onto the trail, Linville was not able to assist due to his wounds. After gaining the trail with Hudspeth, I noted that his leg had been cutoff between the ankle and the knee but was not bleeding, just a white bone stub sticking out of the amputated limb. I rolled him over to check for other wounds and found that one of his buttocks had been blown off. Linville made a spontaneous cry of surprise that Hudspeth's leg had been cut off and it was at this point that Hudspeth knew that he was in bad shape. I stayed with him while a medic worked over him, but I believe that he knew that he was dying, and he asked me to make sure that his mother got his camera. (not long before, he had received a letter from his wife letting him know that she had filed for divorce and it really galled us to know that she would be getting his military insurance) A1E Sky raiders showed up on the scene and silenced any further fire from the mountain side with napalm. I believe that 11 men were wounded, and several killed as a result of one arty round hitting a tree directly above us. It took several hours to patch up the wounded, make stretchers and collect all the gear. The decent was now even slower than it had been before, and it took quite a while to reach the paddies. I was amazed to see one of the seriously wounded NCOs (Archuletta) helping to carry one of the stretchers. He had a severe gunshot wound to the jaw and his head had been wrapped with so many bandages that the only visible part of his face that you could see was his eyes. I can't remember what became of Campbell after he bolted off the stretcher and ran. Medivac choppers were circling the paddies below waiting for our arrival. Due to the number of casualties and the seriousness of their wounds they had several surgeons on board. Hudspeth died from loss of blood on the chopper in route to the medical facility. From that day on whenever an artillery fire mission was called in and word was shouted "Shot out" I trembled as did others that were there that day. From this time forward, I recall very little. My tour was up in early June 1966, and I returned to Ft. Campbell and shortly after my arrival, I was assigned as an enlisted orderly to Maj General Ben Sternberg, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division. The duty was "push" with many perks that came with the assignment. Within two months I became bored and applied to return to Viet Nam as a door gunner on a huey chopper. The paperwork took months and by the time it was approved, I had only two months remaining on my enlistment in the army. I extended my enlistments for another 10 months in order to be able to complete a full year tour as a door gunner. Upon arriving in Viet Nam for my second tour, I was assigned to the 170th Assault helicopter Co. in Pleiku, 26 miles from the Cambodian. Part of our duties was to clandestinely insert and extract SOG recon teams into and out of Cambodia.

- 26 March 1968                    2BDE begins 100 days of cordon operations in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.
- 26 – 28 March 1968            1-501 IN BN cordons THON THUA HOA, resulting in 31 NVA KIA, 18 VC KIA, and 5400 lbs. of rice captured.
- 26 March 1968                    1-502 IN BN, CPT Greg Mills established a small 4.2 mortar site at FSB LYON. C/1-502 IN was flown into guard FSB LYON and B/1-502 IN was in the valley to the West of FSB LYON 629223 (hill 285) in heavy contact with the enemy. An error in adjustment of the 4.2 mortar fire resulted in heavy casualties. Retired LTG Cushman, 2BDE Commander at the time, recalled this as the worst memory of his military career. (HQ, 1-502 IN BN; Annual Historical Supplement 1968)
- 26 March 1968                    B/1-502 IN operating along a trail in the hills six miles south of LZ SALLY, made contact with an estimated enemy platoon. As First Strike's mortar platoon was firing 4.2-inch rounds into the jungle ahead of the column, a fire direction miscalculation placed several rounds directly on the company commander's command group near the head of the column. I was in the air at the time and took my Huey C&C ship into a tiny cleared area by vertical descent and ascent. Along with dust-off helicopters we were able to get the dead and wounded out. To the great grief of all concerned, B/1-502 IN lost 11 KIA and 19 WIA. (2D BRIGADE/101ST TASK FORCE IN VIETNAM; FORTY YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK (March 23-29, 1968); By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)



26 March 1968

2BDE was planning to move its command post to CAMP EVANS where we would take charge of areas of operations of brigades of the 1<sup>st</sup> CAV DIV which were to move northward to a major operation west of QUANG TRI, relieving the besieged US Marines at KHE SAHN. We would be joined in our new AO by the 3BDE, 2-327 IN BN, but would leave behind the 1-501 IN BN, attached to the 3BDE, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV, just arrived from Fort Bragg. The 3BDE/82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV would take over LZ SALLY.

With the loss of too many fine troopers to sapper's just days before, and even more to the 1-502 IN BN's mortar accident, and with little to show from our air assault and search and destroy operations, recent days had been discouraging. But on March 27, the 1-501 IN BN launched an operation that would begin a new phase for the 2d Brigade. It was to be our first "cordon," or "encirclement." (2D BRIGADE/101ST TASK FORCE IN VIETNAM; FORTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (March 23-29, 1968); By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)

26 March 1968

At 0045, SITREP B/2-501 IN, C/2-501 IN & Recon negative information to report; A/2-501 IN has persons, unknown amount coming toward their location, Red Leg Artillery has been called in. At 0135H, A6 reports that radar has picked up 1 person, illumination from indirect. Subject is armed with M-79, fired two rounds with negative results. A/2-501 IN has individual pinned down will give more information later. At 0145H, A/2-501 IN has man with M-79 still pinned down, radar picked up others, A-6 is taking them under contact vicinity 683196. At 0210H, A/2-501 IN reports radar picking up as much as a platoon, taking them under contact with indirect and M-79 fire. At 0220H, A-6 reports that radar has picked up as much as 60 personnel, indirect fire is in use both illumination and HE. No one had been on or near the wire. At 0230H, B/2-501 IN FO reported hearing mortar rounds going down tubes. At 0259H, A/2-501 IN reported most of the enemy troops moving out, still firing indirect in general location. At 0300H, 2-501 IN BN reported they will be firing indirect on grid 638182 because of B/2-501 IN suspected mortar location. At 0325H, A/2-501 IN radar shows most of the enemy personnel leaving the area, will pursue with fire and continue indirect support. At 0330H, C42 element see's movement at the bottom of the hill, will engage with M-79. At 0405H, A/2-501 IN reported that a small group was trying to dig in; indirect fire will be fired all night until first light. A few of the individuals could be seen with the naked eye. At 0623H, D/2-501 IN received 4-5 rounds from AK-47 from the prob in the valley to their immediate south. At 1127H, D/2-501 IN in contact vicinity 635192 with automatic weapons fire and 2 grenades. D/2-501 IN has individuals pinpointed will move eliminated. At 1140H, D/2-501 IN in heavy contact with enemy, currently have at least 1 WIA vicinity 637192, 638193. Will call in artillery. D/2-501 IN believes 4 or 5 bunkers heavily defended, large volume of fire, 1 body at this time. At 1200H, D/2-501 IN broke contact and back on hill location vicinity 637194; have 2 WIA no serious "leg wound". At 1450H, B/2-501 IN rear element has made contact believes its 1 enemy personnel. At 1500H, B/2-501 IN has 3 WIA from the rear element; D/2-501 IN found well used trails vicinity of previous contact – negative contact at this time. At 1530H, B/2-501 IN reported that they have 2 KIA & 1 WIA. At 1633H, B/2-501 IN receiving fire from 2 sides, requested ARA; believes force platoon size. At 1640H, B/2-501 IN has 1 more body count, firing among from South to Southeast. At 1725H, B/2-501 IN reported that they have 2 more WIA; Totals for the day were 2 KIA, 1 WIA Evac, 2 Non-Evac. At 1810H, B/2-501 IN reported one more WIA from smalls arms fire. At 1836H, B/2-501 IN reported 1 more lightly WIA. At 1837H, B/2-501 IN reported body count total today is 5. At 1841H, B/2-501 IN reported WIA total of six (6) with two (2) KIA's. At 1905H, B/2-501 IN reputed another man hit. At 2055H, 2-501 IN reported to 2BDE with summary of B/2-501 IN: 2 – KIA, 7 – WIA, and 6 NVA (BC). D/2-501 IN: 2 WIA and 4 NVA (BC). (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Log; 26 March 1968)

26 – 27 March 1968

1-501 IN BN learned that part of the 810 VC local force battalion had just moved to the vicinity of a hamlet, THUAN HOA, on the west bank of the PERFUME RIVER. US Navy patrol boats, with whom the 1-501 IN BN were in contact, made a similar report. LTC Wayne J. Prokup, battalion commander, had already laid on a two-company combat assault, supported by the 188th Assault Helicopter Co. Redirecting its objectives, he launched in the early morning.

By noon A/1-501 IN, having moved again by helicopter, was approaching THUAN HOA from the west. D/1-501 IN BN then air assaulted to a hot LZ to the hamlet's south; the 1-501 IN BN, Recon platoon was lifted into position to the north. Artillery, gunships, and three airstrikes had supported the 1-501 IN BN. Wayne Prokup and I could see that, with Navy patrol boats in the Perfume River, we had the enemy encircled. But night was coming on, and the surrounded enemy might slip away. So, we called on USAF C-47's to drop flares so that the encircling troopers could see. During the night escaping enemy were killed or driven back, after bringing up Psyops loudspeakers to broadcast surrender appeals without result, the 1-501 IN BN with artillery and air support took the hamlet. Results: 2 US KIA, 19 US WIA; 31 NVA KIA, 3 NVA POW, 22 VC KIA. This action would be followed by similar 2BDE encirclements.

Meanwhile in the mountains fifteen miles to the southwest of LZ SALLY, the 2-501 IN BN, supported by artillery and tactical air strikes, had been in heavy contact with the 9th Battalion, 90th NVA Regiment. The brigade journal reported: "Enemy assessment 7 NVA KIA, Friendly losses: 1 KIA, 10 WIA." (2D BRIGADE/101ST TASK FORCE IN VIETNAM; FORTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (March 23-29, 1968); By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)

26 March 1969

**Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** A/1-502 IN with Recon OPCON continued to patrol the area of DONG A TAY and found 2 NVA KIA, and a quantity of equipment. B/1-502 IN moved by air to FSB VEGHEL and exchanged missions with C/1-502 IN which moved to DONG A TAY and conducted a RIF to the southeast. D/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to the northwest and discovered a large quantity of NVA ammunition and equipment in an abandoned base area.



27 March 1966

**Operation FILLMORE:** A/2-502 IN continued search and destroy operations in vicinity of a Viet Cong hospital at CQ145265. They found 10 Viet Cong KIA (BC) and 2 Viet Cong WIA, at 0555H vicinity CQ144264. They continued to search caves and suspected enemy positions in the area.

B/2-502 IN closed into the battalion base, vicinity CQ128298 and remained in battalion reserve. C/2-502 IN remained in position vicinity CQ092252 ready to exploit B-52 strike. 2-502 IN BN, Recon platoon moved to vicinity CQ149230 to exploit B-52 strike in area QUEBEC and prepared LZ vicinity CQ168232 for future operations.

Commencing on 27 March 1966, A/2-502 IN reported 6 VCC, 3 male WIA, 1 female WIA, and 2 other women at CQ144215. The VCC were extracted to the battalion CP for interrogation. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report; Operation FILLMORE; 18 May 1966)

27 March 1968

At 0144H, D/2-501 IN reported three (3) mortar rounds from STRIKE within 50 meters of his location. STRIKE was called and put in a check fire. At 0512H, B/2-501 IN reported that they had one incoming grenade; 2 slight WIA, request illumination for the next few minutes. At 0530H, a request for gunships for first light for B/2-501 IN to be on 2-501 IN BN command frequency. B/2-501 IN will not be able to move until WIA are evacuated. At 0700H, B/2-501 IN reported that they had 10 WIA and 1 KIA at this time. At 0738H, B/2-501 IN reported that all WIA will be evacuated a total of 10 WIA and 1 KIA. At 0850H, B/2-501 IN in contact at this time. At 0855H, B/2-501 IN reported that they believe in they are in contact with and estimated six (6) personnel. At 0915H, B/2-501 IN reported that they may have 1 or 2 WIA do not know at this time. At 0950H, B/2-501 IN reported that they have four (4) light WIA and do not wish to be evacuated at this time. At 1030H, B/2-501 IN reported that they have a total of twelve (12) WIA, seven (7) to be evacuated from RPG, hand grenades and small arms wounds. At 1150H, B/2-501 IN medevac completed with seven (7) WIA evacuated. At 1215H, D/2-501 IN lead elements started to receive from hill; a lot of trenches, bunkers and trails in vicinity. ARA was requested. At 1306H, D/2-501 IN reported that they had 2 WIA's. At 1527H, D/2-501 IN reported that they had a total of 1 KIA, seven (7) WIA. At 1743H, B/2-501 IN reported in contact with small force running from air strike. 2-501 IN BN Total count for the day; B/2-501 IN – 18 WIA evacuated, D/2-501 IN – 8 WIA evacuated, 1 self-inflicted; B/2-501 IN – 5 WIA not evacuated, D/2-501 IN – 2 not evacuated; B/2-501 IN – 3 KIA, D/2-501 IN – 1 KIA; Body Count B/2-501 IN – 3 KIA, D/2-501 IN – 1 KIA. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 27 March 1968)

27 March 1968

**Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** B/2-502 IN came under OPCODE to 2-327 IN BN.

27 March 1968

D/2-501 IN (Delta Raiders) engaged an estimated NVA company size force, well dug in within a bunker complex, later confirmed to be the HQ of the 9<sup>th</sup> BN 90<sup>th</sup> NVA Regt. Heavy volumes of small arms and automatic weapons fire was employed by the enemy. Results - 1 US KIA, 7 US wounded in action - George Parker, Nick Saxionnes, David W. Martin, Robert B. Washington, Robert Brockman, 2LT. William D. Loftin, Richard Buzzini. 14 NVA killed in action.

27 March 1969

**Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** A/1-502 IN and Recon continued to search DONG A TAY and B/1-502 IN secured FSB VEGHEL. C/1-502 IN conducted a search vicinity YC500965. At 1105H, C/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon made contact with an estimated NVA squad, vicinity YC494972, resulting in 5 US WIA, 1 US KIA, 1 WC. At 1605H, C/1-502 IN vicinity YC501969 discovered a hospital complex containing a quantity of medical supplies. D/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to unoccupied FSB ZON and sustained 2 US WIA from an unknown type BBT at that location.

27 March 1971

C/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon received fire from a platoon force with machine gun. Results 3 US WIA.

27 March 1971

C/1-501 IN vicinity XD940590 received unnumbered 82mm rounds rocket and small arms fire. Resulting in 6 US WIA.

27 March 1971

C/1-501 IN received 5 more 82mm rounds. Resulting in 3 US WIA.

27 March 1971

C/1-501 IN receive unknown number of 82mm rounds vicinity XD943552. Results 2 US KIA and 1 US WIA.

28 March 1966

**Operation FILLMORE:** A/2-502 IN reported at 1530H 1 Viet Cong KIA (BC), 1 Viet Cong WIA and 1 VCC at CQ140268. B/2-502 IN remained as battalion reserve. C/2-502 IN remained at CQ092252, conducting "RECONDO" patrols and prepared to exploit in area TORNADO. Recon platoon moved from CQ168230 to vicinity CQ145230 screening LZ, with no enemy contact. "RECONDO" A2A at 1630H killed 1 Viet Cong (BC) and wounded another at CQ133267. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report; Operation FILLMORE; 18 May 1966)

28 March 1967

**PHAN RANG to KHANH DUONG:** The 2-502 IN BN moved by C-130 and motor convoy to KHANH DUONG, a village northwest of NINH HOA in KHANH HOA Province. The convoy carried the material needed to establish a base camp at KHANH DUONG, and 2-502 IN BN, with the mission of securing the new brigade base, began patrolling the surrounding area and planning for Operation SUMMERALL. Khanh Hoa Province is classified as Central Highlands, and most of the 2-502's operations were conducted in very mountainous terrain during the rainy season. This combination of conditions put a considerable strain on troops and equipment, especially during the campaign on Hon Ba Mountain against Regiment 18-B.



On arrival in KHANH DUONG, the 1BDE assumed the mission of road security for Route 21. This task initially fell on the 2-502 ION BN which had C/2-327 IN, under its OPCODE for this purpose. The military security along a portion of Route 21 allowed traffic to proceed from DUC MY to KHANH DUONG without paying VC road tolls and helped bring the Montagnard Villages near the highway under RVN control. (Picture of KHANH DUONG Airfield)



- 28 March 1968 Rifle companies of the 1-501 IN BN made contact with elements of the 803<sup>rd</sup> NVA Regiment. D/1-501 IN paratroopers swept an area two and one-half miles north of HUE. Stiff enemy resistance indicated a sizable force in the area. The Battalion sweep, aided by Naval gun fire, artillery and air strikes, netted 24 NVA killed, 10 AK-47's and eight SKS carbines captured. (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)
- 28 March 1968 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations and experienced several changes in command personnel. The following changes were conducted: MAJ Shachnow to BN S-3, CPT Greenhouse from D Co. to BN S2, CPT Speedy from C Co. to BN Asst. S3, 1LT Wise to C Co. as CO., and A/1-502 IN OPCON to 3d Marine Division.
- 28 March 1968 At 0725H, B/2-501 IN reported two (2) body count from last night's activities. At 0937H, A/2-501 IN reported that 36 elements fired on by PF in their location. At 1000H, B/2-501 IN reported observing three (3) individuals engaged them with unknown results at this time. At 1015H, B/2-501 IN reported 1 body count engaged by small arms fire. At 1145H, D/2-501 IN reported observing enemy person vicinity 636196 in bunker. At 1423H, B/2-501 IN observed enemy in dark colored uniform different from previously Khaki uniforms. At 1920H, A/2-501 IN security of FSB GERONIMO; mine sweep mission; local patrols from GERONIMO to CANE. B/2-501 IN had incoming grenades at 2130H and 2310H with no casualties. Confirmed body count of 2 at 0725H from previous night activity; three (3) enemy personnel withdraw from vicinity and engaged with 1 body count. D/2-501 IN at 0925H, 1220H, 1405H, 1517H, and 1620H had airstrike conducted. FAC reported extensive bunkers and trench systems at 1230H. D/2-501 IN moved out towards objective at 1315H and reached area at 1540H. Observed many trails eaten down underbrush, complex trench and bunker systems, with 35-40 bunkers observed. At 1817H, D/2-501 IN, Recon platoon reported two (2) more body count with a total of five (5). At 1823H, D/2-501 IN found medical records identifying unit 2<sup>nd</sup> Co. 9<sup>th</sup> Bn, 90<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment. At 1850H, B/2-501 IN killed one (1) sniper. At 2041H, A/2-501 IN reported radar picked up four (4) people coming towards their position from southwest and will engage with M-79 when they get closer. At 2100H, A/2-501 IN engaged four (4) personnel with M-79, M-60, HE & Illumination. Will give assessment later. At 2150H, D/2-501 IN, Recon platoon being proved by six (6) or eight (8) personnel to their southwest. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 28 March 1968)
- 28 March – 15 April 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** Phase II: 2-502 IN BN had to devote most of its effort in preparation of FSB BASTOGNE. Initially C/2-502 IN and Recon were sent out into assigned AO's with both making daily small contacts with the enemy. The remainder of the 2-502 IN BN concentrated on building the defenses of FSB BASTOGNE and providing security for the three different sized artillery units. C/2-502 IN was replaced by A/2-502 IN in the SE and made the first major contact with enemy, drawing B/2-502 IN to its aid. Afterwards A/2-502 IN returned to the TAC-CP and B/2-502 IN continued combat operations in the AO. C/2-502 IN replaced B/2-502 IN in the AO orientated to the West and continued combat operations until the end of Phase II. All companies were given convoy security missions along Hwy 547 into BASTOGNE, with C/2-502 IN springing an enemy ambush. Convoys were made to BASTOGNE mainly to bring in the heavy artillery pieces and the heavy engineer's equipment. Additional units of communications and artillery were deployed to BASTOGNE eventually doubling the size of the FSB. During Phase II only limited combat operations could be conducted, because the FSB had to be constructed. Also due to its size it took two companies to secure it however more major contacts were made with the enemy during this phase. All companies securing Hwy 547 for convoys, had the use of the platoon from A/3-5 CAV, thus greatly increasing their firepower and mobility. The Cavalry platoon was also used to reinforce the Reconos once and B/2-502 IN once during their major engagements. Phase II ended 160001 April when the 1-101 ABN DIV began Operation DELAWARE. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation JEB STRUAT/CARENTAN; 25 April 1968)
- 28 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** A/1-502 IN, C/1-502 IN and Recon conducted RIF operations to the south with Recon finding 1 NVA KBA in a fresh grave and a quantity of equipment. B/1-502 IN secured FSB VEGHEL and at 1730H the firebase received 10-15 60mm and 82mm mortar rounds resulting in 7 US WIA. D/1-502 IN continued to RIF to the northwest.
- 28 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** (2-502 IN) In the afternoon an LZ was prepped for the insertion of the reconnaissance platoon. Once on the ground, the platoon discovered the bodies of two NVA who had been killed by Artillery. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 28 March 1971 A/1-501 IN vicinity XD965457 received small arms fire while landing at LZ, also received 82mm or rockets. Results 3 US WIA.
- 29 March 1966 **Operation FILLMORE:** A/2-502 IN completed its search of hospital area vicinity CQ144266 and moved to battalion base area, closing at 1620H. B/2-502 IN remained battalion reserve and conducted three squad size "RECONDO" patrols. C/2-502 IN remained at CQ092252 with one platoon at CQ108228 with no reported enemy contact. Recon platoon remained at CQ168230 securing at engineer team in expansion of an LZ. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report; Operation FILLMORE; 18 May 1966)
- 29 March – 29 April 1967 **Operation SUMMERALL:** 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (1/327 IN BN, 2/327 IN BN, 2/502 IN BN, A/2-17) begins Operation SUMMERALL, a search and destroy mission in the highlands of DARLAC, KHANH HOA and PHU YEN Provinces, between BUON EA YANG and KHANH DUONG. US losses are 7 killed and 43 wounded, enemy losses are 72 killed and 11 POWs.
- 29 March 1968 1-501 IN BN conducted a cordon operation four and on-half miles northwest of HUE. When an NVA platoon located in the village began to fire on them, air strikes and supporting artillery fire were called in. By early afternoon, the NVA broke contact and the paratroopers began a sweep of the village. Thirty-three bodies were found as well as 20 weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)



29 – 31 March 1968 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations in QUANG DIEN District and defense of AN LO Bridge and LZ SALLY. Very light contact was made with negative results.

29 March 1968 At 0125H, A/2-501 IN reported one man needing medevac, wounded in lower abdomen. No information at this time. Man located at bridge, A-6 bringing him to his location FSB GERONIMO. At 0415H, A-6 reported man wounded by grenade fragment and also has wounded NVA prisoner. At 0220H, A-6 reports wounded man will not need medevac at this time, can possibly use log bird tomorrow. NVA apparently threw grenade at sub element near bridge. Element shot up area pretty good, thought to have wounded man due to moans, will check area at first light. At 0710H, A/2-501 IN reported negative assessment on last night's activities. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 29 March 1968)

29 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** A/1-502 IN, C/1-502 IN and Recon conducted RIF to the south; at 0835H C/1-502 IN made contact with an estimated NVA squad in bunkers. Results: 6 US WIA, 2 US KIA, 1 NVA KIA, 1 IWC. B/1-502 IN secured FSB VEGHEL and D/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to the east to a PZ at YD487028 and at 1655H conducted a C/A to YC520942 and conducted a RIF to the southwest.

29 March 1969 At 2015H at coordinates YD526227 (9K Northeast of HUE City) CPA 3-1-8 while proceeding to ambush site, via check points, leading element point man observed movement at coordinates YD831229 moving towards enroute ambush unit and immediately set up a hasty ambush site at coordinates YD826227. Spurge ambush with small arms and M-79 fire the ambushed unit illuminated the area with M-79 alum and a green star cluster, while 3-1-8 called for artillery alum. During the waiting period, 3-1-8 received small arms fire but did not return small arms because their actual ordered a cease fire, possibility of ambushed unit being USA. After established identification with green star cluster, 3-1-8 moved in to assist with Medevac and LZ landing. 3-1-8 the returned to harbor site. Results: One (1) USA/KIA – SSG John J. Clark, D/1-501 IN; two (2) USA/WIA. (From 3<sup>rd</sup> Combined Action Group CMD Chronology)

29 March 1971 **Operation LAM SON 719:** "GERONIMO's" of D/1-501 IN discovered two enemy caves while on search and clear operations northwest of QUANG TRI in support of Operation Lam Son 719. The caves contained 35 – 82mm mortar rounds, 82 – 82mm mortar fuses, 50 – 60mm mortar rounds, nine 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, a quantity of pull-type fuses, and various other enemy equipment. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 4); Winter/Spring 1970-71)

30 March 1966 **Operation FILLMORE:**

Battalion OPORD 30-66

**Mission:** 2-502 IN BN conducted search and destroy operations in area vicinity Hill 564 (CQ1724); conducted search and destroy operations from vicinity Hill 564 along natural routs of egress to vicinity route 1.

**Concept of Operation:** The operation will be conducted in three phases: During phase 1, 2-502 IN BN conduct helicopter assaults from present location to two secured LZ's utilizing B/2-502 IN to LZ ORANGE and C/2-502 IN to LZ BLUE. During Phase II, 2-502 IN BN conduct search and destroy operations in sector with B/2-502 IN securing objectives 3 and 4 destroying Viet Cong forces and installations in zone. During Phase III, 2-502 IN conduct search and destroy operations in sector, along routes of egress from Hill 564, with B/2-502 IN on axis Bravo and C/2-502 IN on axis Charlie and seized objective 5.

**Execution:** 2-502 IN BN conducted initial phases of operation of Battalion OPORD 30-66 on 30 March 1966. A/2-502 IN remained in battalion reserve and perimeter security.

B/2-502 IN conducted helicopter assault on LZ ORANGE vicinity coordinates CQ165230 at 0900H. From LZ ORANGE they moved to objective 1 and 2 with negative contact.

C/2-502 IN conducted a helicopter assault on LZ BLUE vicinity CQ152270 at 0830H and moved to secure objectives 3 and 4 with negative contact.

Recon platoon continued to secure LZ ORANGE.

(HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report; Operation FILLMORE; 18 May 1966)





30 March 1967

**Operation SUMMERALL:** HQ, IFFV directed the 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV to move from the base camp vicinity PHAN RANG on 28 March 1967 to a base camp vicinity KHANH DUONG and on 31 March to initiate operations, the SUMMERALL AO was extended to the southeast and the Brigade's mission was modified to include the conduct of search and destroy operations in the Hon Ba area.

Task Organization:

1-327 IN BN Engr LZ Clearing & Demo Teams	<u>BDE TROOPS</u> BDE HHC (-) A/2-17 CAV
2-327 IN BN (-) Engr LZ Clearing & Demo Teams	A/326 ENG (-) MP Platoon Sqd, 272 MPC
2-502 IN BN C-2-327 IN (OPCON) Engr LZ Clearing & Demo Teams	42 IN platoon, Scout Dogs 181 MI DET 20 <sup>th</sup> CML DET HB-1, 245 <sup>th</sup> PSY OPS CO
2-320 ARTY B/1-30 ARTY (155) B/3-18 ARTY (8" SP) (GS reinf) A/4-60 ARTY (M42, M55) (AWSP) (-) (reinf) (GS)	406 RRD LRRP Platoon TACP FSE

(HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation SUMMERALL; 21 May 1967)

30 March 1968

At 0807H, D/2-501 IN reports small pool of blood, poncho, 1 grenade; all was found at ambush site. At 1031H, D/2-501 IN located old mortar position vicinity 655248, does not appear to have been used in last two weeks. At 1035H, A/2-501 IN, 16 element found some fresh holes and bunker vicinity 703191 with no overhead cover approximately 20-25 of them. At 1050H, D/2-501 IN found mortar position with 4-5 bunkers will cover them up in the vicinity of 655248. At 1110H, D/2-501 IN found another mortar position in same vicinity as others, will destroy in place. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 29 March 1968)

30 March 1968

Seven and one-half miles east of HUE, D/2-501 IN found 31 NVA killed in a previous day's action in their area of operation (AO). (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)

30 - 31 March 1968

D/1-501 IN first new objective was to clear out and eliminate a large NVA unit entrenched in a small farming village located about three miles northeast of Hai Lang and just north of the boundary between QUANG TRI and TUA TIEN Provinces. D/1-501 IN (consisting of its Headquarters element of about 6 and three platoons of about 25 each) arrived near the outskirts of the village late in the afternoon on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The village stood out clearly; it was surrounded by a vast expanse of rice paddies. The NVA, dug in and fortified, were certainly prepared to defend the village and its nearby cemetery. Since they were surrounded, they had no choice.

A short time after arrival at the village outskirts, D/1-501 IN Commanding Officer decided to conduct small-unit probing attacks to ascertain the strength and strong points of the NVA. The several probing attacks in the late afternoon and early evening proved one sure thing for the CO and the D/1-501 IN paratroopers; the NVA were ready to fight and to fight hard since there was little hope for most of them to sneak away and escape.

The CO established the plan of attack which called for an assault by two platoons at first light the next morning. The attack plan was direct and simple (there were few, if any, options considering the fact that the village was isolated out in the rice paddies) with two platoons comprising the initial attack element. The remaining platoon, as standard procedure, was to stand by in reserve. In D/1-501 IN, the CO established the reserve platoon on a daily rotational basis between the three platoons. As such, the 1<sup>st</sup> platoon's turn as reserve was on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon would then comprise the initial "first light" assault elements with the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon on the right and the 3<sup>rd</sup> on the left.

The village, as noted previously, was isolated out in a vast rice paddy area. The village was typical Vietnamese farming enclave with its adjacent and traditional Vietnamese cemetery above 50 yards from its outskirts.

Off to one corner of the village and along the left side (the left side being from the direction of the attack) of the cemetery was a shallow drainage ditch with scrub bamboo and other brush growing in it. As planned, the vegetated ditch was to serve as the dividing line between the two attacking Platoons.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, at first light soon arrived for the paratroopers of D/1-501 IN and the attack by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon on the village would commence. The NVA were quick to respond to the assault on their positions. The paratroopers faced intense rifle, machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire from the entrenched NVA. In spite of the heavy enemy fire facing the (which resulted in several wounded-in-action casualties to their ranks), the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons made slow but steady progress toward their objectives. The 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon initially cleared out several enemy positions firing at them from the drainage ditch. Alternatively taking cover where available and laying down suppressing fire the platoon began maneuvering toward the small farm structures at the village edge. Upon receiving instructions from the CO, the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon temporarily held its position while the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon dealt with an unexpected strong enemy resistance at the cemetery. The 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon maintained its position and exchanged concentrated fire on the enemy at their defensive positions within the village. This action drew the village bound NVA's total attention. They were unable to provide support to the NVA that was stiffly engaging the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon as it approached the cemetery. The grave sites were ideal for defensive fighting positions and on the morning of March 31<sup>st</sup>, the NVA put them to good use.



With courageous and skilled leadership, the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon leader maneuvered his paratroopers who placed withering fire on the enemy at their grave site fortifications. The accurate and concentrated fire from their rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers kept the enemy down allowing effective use of hand grenades and more careful maneuvering. After more than two hours of this tactic, the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon eliminated several enemy grave site positions along the edge of the cemetery and closest to its line of attack. Finally, the tables of the battle for the cemetery had slowly started to turn in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon favor. From the beginning of the attack at first light and throughout the period leading up to the taking the first few grave site enemy positions there was no question that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was a "well-oiled" fighting machine as it engaged NVA with each paratrooper doing his job in a first-class resolute manner.

By this time the battle for the village had moved well into mid-morning. With the few initial grave site positions now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon's control and with the limited protection they provided, it was able to engage the stubborn NVA in fire and maneuver actions going from one grave site to another adjacent grave site eliminating the NVA in each as progress was achieved.

30 – 31 March 1968

D/1-501 IN BN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division; During the last week of March 1968, D/1-501 IN moved to the north of the town of Hai Lang which was located at the northern edge of Thua-Tien Province and about ten miles south of the city of Quan Tri. Hai Lang, situated on the coastal plain about five miles inland from the South China Sea, served as a regional and inter-provincial traffic hub (Route 1 – A major north/south highway passed through) for distribution of agricultural products (mainly rice) grown in the area and for products from the nearby ocean fishing boats.

From the beginning of the TET Offensive that started in the dark early in the morning of January 31, 1968, D Company, along with its sister companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, was engaged in continuous day and night combat with regular North Vietnamese Soldiers (NVA) in and around Hai Lang. By the end of March, the NVA in Hai Lang and the area surrounding it were eliminated. It was time for the Battalion to move out to new areas where enemy forces were concentrated and to engage them in combat. Experience from the initial TET battles and the battles throughout the months of February and March, taught the D Company paratroopers well. D Company, with first-class leaders, was battle hardened. D Company was skilled in combat discipline, teamwork and tactics; it was eager to engage the NVA in the battle at any time.

A short time after arrival at the village outskirts, the D Company Officer (CO) decided to conduct small-unit probing attacks to ascertain the strength and strong points of the NVA. The several probing attacks in the late afternoon and early evening proved one sure thing for the CO and the D Company paratroopers; the NVA were ready to fight and to fight hard since there was little hope for most of them to sneak away and escape.

The CO established the plan to attack which called for an assault by two Platoons at first light the next morning. The attack plan was direct and simple (there were few, if any, options considering the fact that the village was isolated out in the rice paddies) with two Platoons comprising the initial attack element. The remaining Platoon, as standard procedure, was to stand by in reserve. In D Company, the CO established the reserve Platoon on a daily rotational basis between the three Platoons. As such, the First Platoon's turn as reserve was March 31<sup>st</sup>. The Second and Third Platoons would then comprise the initial "first light" assault elements with the Second Platoon on the right and the Third on the left.

The village, as noted previously, was isolated out in a vast rice paddy area. The village was a typical Vietnamese farming enclave with its adjacent and traditional Vietnamese cemetery about 50 yards from its outskirts.

Off to one corner of the village and along the left side (the left side being from the direction of the attack) of the cemetery was a shallow drainage ditch with scrub bamboo and other brush growing in it. As planned, the vegetated ditch was to serve as the dividing line between the two attacking Platoons.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the first light soon arrived for the paratroopers of D Company and the attack by the Second and Third Platoon on the village commenced. The NVA were quick to respond to the assault on their positions. The paratroopers face intense rifle, machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire from the entrenched NVA. In spite of the heavy enemy fire facing them (which resulted in several wounded-in-action (WIA) casualties to their ranks), the Second and Third Platoons made slow but steady progress toward their objectives. The Third Platoon initially cleared out several enemy positions firing at them from the drainage ditch. Alternatively taking cover where available and laying down suppressing fire it began maneuvering toward the small farm structures at the village edge. Upon receiving instructions from the CO, the Third Platoon temporarily held its position while the Second Platoon dealt with an unexpected strong enemy resistance at the cemetery. The Third Platoon maintained its position and exchanged concentrated fire on the enemy at their defensive positions with the village. This action drew the village bound NVA's total attention. They were unable to provide support to the NVA that was stiffly engaging the Second Platoon as it approached the cemetery.

A Vietnamese cemetery consists of numerous gravesites that are at ground level. A grave is covered with a durable concrete seal and is set on a thick concrete slab. Each grave is further surrounded by a low (about 3 feet high) decorative masonry railing supported by numerous decorative masonry posts and religious symbols. The grave sites were ideal for defensive fighting positions and on the morning of March 31<sup>st</sup>, the NVA put them to good use.

With courageous and skilled leadership, the Second Platoon Leader maneuvered his paratroopers who placed withering fire on the enemy at their grave site fortifications. The accurate and concentrated fire from their rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers kept the enemy down allowing effective use of hand grenades and more careful maneuvering. After more than two hours of this tactic, the Second Platoon eliminated several enemy grave site positions along the edge of the cemetery and closest to its line of attack. Finally, the tables of the battle for the cemetery had slowly started to turn in the Second Platoon's favor. From the beginning of the attack at first light and throughout the period leading up to the taking of the first few grave site enemy positions, PFC Danny Stephens, along with his Second Platoon comrades, performed his duty as a rifleman with determination, skill and courage. There is no question that on the morning, the



Second Platoon was a 'well-oiled' fighting machine as it engaged the NVA with each paratrooper doing his job in a first-class and resolute manner.

By this time the battle for the village had moved well into mid-morning. With the few initial grave site positions now in the Second Platoon's control and with the limited protection they provided, it was able to engage the stubborn NVA in fire and maneuver actions going from one grave site to another adjacent grave site eliminating the NVA in each as progress was achieved.

It was during the mid-morning period of the battle among the cemetery's masonry structures that PFC Danny Stephens, while providing intense suppressing fire on the NVA, received an instantly fatal single shot to his upper chest.

PFC Stephens had taken cover in one of the grave site positions. Lying prone, he was covered on most sides by the stone posts and railing of the low enclosures that defined the borders of this particular grave site. Enemy forces were within 30 to 50 yards of the Second Platoon line. As the squad on his right engaged the enemy by throwing hand grenades at the enemy positions to their front, PFC Stephens provided effective suppressive fire on the enemy while his comrades were throwing the grenades. He was doing everything correctly; ran, not exposing himself unnecessarily, shielding himself behind available cover and firing at the enemy. Unfortunately, an enemy rifleman was able to engage his position through a very narrow field of fire and by firing only inches above the ground.

After driving the enemy from the cemetery by late morning, D Company's attack halted to regroup and re-arm. During this lull the enemy engaged the cemetery area with what were estimated to be 60-mm mortars. The Second Platoon Leader and his Radio Telephone Operator (RTO) and several other members of the Platoon were wounded. The NVA mortar attack essentially blunted the attack on the village. The CO then decided to pull the two assault Platoons back and to establish a cordon around the village.

After the cordon was established, the CO called for artillery fire to pound the village and the NVA in it. The artillery fire softened the area for the remainder of the day and throughout the night. That night, a squad from the First Platoon successfully set-up and ambush at a trail along a dike leading out of the village. They made contact and early the next morning, while policing the ambush site, they found, among other fallen NVA, one wounded enemy who was taken prisoner.

As was after the case, the few NVA that remained in the village and who survived the battle and the artillery exfiltrated during the night.

Early the next day, D Company was able to enter the village without any enemy resistance. (After Action Report written by David A. Lamenzo (former 1LT and former D Company XO and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon leader))

30 March 1969

**Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** A/1-502 IN, C/1-502 IN and Recon continued to RIF to the south. A/1-502 IN had 1 US WIA from D/1-502 IN contact. B/1-502 IN secured FSB VEGHEL and D/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to the west. At 1215H, D/1-502 IN made contact with an estimated NVA squad; sporadic contact continued until 1845H when D/1-502 IN moved to the west. Results: 10 US WIA, 1 VN WIA.

30 March 1970

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 1-502 IN, Recon team #1 spotted a flashlight approximately 300 meters from their location. D/1-502 IN located 6-10 old bunkers at 76404. A/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad found a Chi Com grenade which they blew in place. Recon at location 763045 found two bunkers with a variety of equipment inside including a NVA poncho, AK-47 magazine, and several rounds of ammo. The estimated age of the bunker was 1 year.

30 March 1970

A/1-501 IN CP was struck by the enemy, 22km north of A SHAU VALLEY. The 5-hour midnight attack with RPGs and satchel charges was halted by US artillery fire which prevented penetration. Eight US were wounded and four killed while the enemy lost only three killed. (HQ, USMACV; Command History 1970, Volume III; 19 April 1971)

30 March 1970

**XXIV CORPS (THUA THIEN PROVINCE)** - At 0315H an element of 3BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, in a night position 16 miles SW of Hue (60 miles WNW of DANANG), received rocket-grenade fire and satchel charges from an undetermined size enemy force. The troopers returned fire with unit weapons and were supported by artillery and helicopter gunships. As the contact continued, another element of the Brigade moved into the area and engaged an undetermined number of enemy soldiers. The troopers used unit weapons and fighting continued for about an hour until the enemy withdrew at 0540H. The bodies of three enemy soldiers were found in the battle area. In addition, one individual weapon and one crew-served weapon along with two rocket-grenade rounds and ten satchel charges were captured. U.S. casualties were four killed and eight wounded. (4-KIA's were: SSG David W. Burrus, SGT Floyd S. Franklin, SGT Russell C. Hibler (A/1-501 IN) and SGT Gleason C. Helton (E/1-501 IN)) (HQ, MACV, Montly Summary, March 1970)



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

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1 x Distinguished Service Cross Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
5 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
4 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)  
31 x Bronze Star Medal (31 x Posthumously)  
84 x Purple Heart Medal (65 x Posthumously)  
3 x Died of Wounds  
1 x Died of Non-Hostile injuries or illness

24 March 1966



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

24 March 1968



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

24 March 1968



SGT Kenneth M. Barker (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received when his unit engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1968



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

24 March 1968



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

24 March 1968



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



24 March 1968



PFC Eric B. Nilsen (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 this death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight 14km west of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 March 1968



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

24 March 1968



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

24 March 1969



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

24 March 1970



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

24 March 1970



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

25 March 1966

SGT Richard M. Epps (B/2-502 IN) died from non-hostile illness (Malaria) as a ground casualty in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

25 March 1968



SP4 William J. Shortsleeves (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received while driver of mail truck making mail run when hit by fragments from hostile anti-tank round in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 March 1968



PFC Gary R. Wiginton (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was hit by fragment from hostile grenade while on combat operation in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam on 24 March 1968. PFC Wiginton was admitted to a military hospital in Vietnam where he later expired.



25 March 1969



SP4 David F. Black (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered on Bloody Ridge (DONG A TAY), 9km southwest of FSB VEGHEL, 16km north of A SHAU Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 March 1969



SGT Willie C. Dozier (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from burn wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered on Bloody Ridge (DONG A TAY), 9km southwest of FSB VEGHEL, 16km north of A SHAU Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 March 1969



SGT Steve Flaherty (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered on Bloody Ridge (DONG A TAY), 9km southwest of FSB VEGHEL, 16km north of A SHAU Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 March 1969



SGT Carter L. Graves (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered on Bloody Ridge (DONG A TAY), 9km southwest of FSB VEGHEL, 16km north of A SHAU Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 March 1969



SP4 Michael L. Malin (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered on Bloody Ridge (DONG A TAY), 9km southwest of FSB VEGHEL, 16km north of A SHAU Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 March 1969



PFC Robert F. Mc Donald II (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered on Bloody Ridge (DONG A TAY), 9km southwest of FSB VEGHEL, 16km north of A SHAU Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 March 1969



CPL Rene C. Mischeaux (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered on Bloody Ridge (DONG A TAY), 9km southwest of FSB VEGHEL, 16km north of A SHAU Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1966



PFC James L. Hudspeth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to his chest, neck and back when hit by fragments from an artillery round in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.



26 March 1966



PFC Ronald W. Jones (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

26 March 1966

SGT Robert D. Torry (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

26 March 1966

PFC Wayne Linville (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

26 March 1966

PFC Ernie Turpin (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

26 March 1966

PFC Christopher McTyre (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

26 March 1966



SSG Ray Archuletta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

26 March 1968



PFC Edwin L. Armstrong (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



SGT John H. Barnes (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received while on combat operation when a hostile force was engaged in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



2LT Philip C. Benn (B/1-502) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



SP4 Jack E. Derrico (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Alvin R. Gibble (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds while on combat operation when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



26 March 1968



PFC John R. Horton (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



SP4 Glen D. Hubbard (B/1-502) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



SGT Philip J. Krek Jr. (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Wayne D. Krueger (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Roger M. Link (B/1-502) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Joe W. Smith (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Hoyle Terry Jr. (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



SP4 Don J. Yelverton (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.





26 March 1968



SP4 Ronald J. Ymbras (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ; 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Order No: 11443; 31 December 1968)

26 Mar 1968



SP4 Ernesto S. Perea (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Wayne E. Risner (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



CPL Craig P. Averill (B/2-502 IN) died from respiratory insufficiency due to pneumonia secondary to metal fragment wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile booby trap on 20 March 1968 in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. CPL Averill was admitted to a military hospital on 20 March 1968 and later expired on 26 March 1968.

26 March 1970



SGT Joe A. Escandon (E/1-501 IN) died as a result of burns received while at an artillery firing position when the round he was handling accidentally detonated on 24 March 1970, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1966



PFC Ronald W. Jones (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of a massive chest wound received when hit by friendly artillery fire while on a evacuation patrol; death is the result of hostile action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1966

SP4 Leonard Frank (2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

27 March 1966

SGT Frederick R Myers (2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

27 March 1968

SFC George W. Parker (D/2-501 IN) was award the Purple Heart Metal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968

Nick Saxiones (D/2-501 IN) was award the Purple Heart Metal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968

David W. Martin (D/2-501 IN) was award the Purple Heart Metal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968

Robert B. Washington (D/2-501 IN) was award the Purple Heart Metal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam.



27 March 1968



SP4 Robert D. Brockman (D/2-501 IN) was award the Purple Heart Metal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968



2LT William D. Loftin (D/2-501 IN) was award the Purple Heart Metal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968

Richard Buzzini (D/2-501 IN) was award the Purple Heart Metal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968



CPL Clifford L. Williams (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wound received when hit by fragments from hostile mortar round while on combat operation in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968



PFC Harvey G. Adair (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wound received while on combat operaiton when hit by fragment from a hostile grenade detonated in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968



SGT John H. Barnes (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was engaged in firefight on 26 March 1968 in KHE BANG Valley 6km south-southwest of LZ SALLY; 14km west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968



PFC Lawrence R. Lopes (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wound received while on combat operaiton when hit by fragment from a hostile grenade detonated in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968



2LT Franklin N. Giles Jr. (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when a hostile force was engaged in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1969



PFC Ferrol S. Smith (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when hostile forces was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



27 March 1971



CPL Robert T. Bradley (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 gun fire wounds while on a military mission when the area came under attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of CA LU Airfield in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1971



1LT Robert C. Chaudoin (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 while on a military mission when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of CA LU Airfield in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1971



CPL Thomas P. Olson (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 while on a military mission when the area came under attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of CA LU Airfield in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1971



SP4 Paul E. Serven (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 while on a military mission when the area came under attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of CA LU Airfield in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1971



CPL Glen H. Yell (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 while on a military mission when the area came under attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of CA LU Airfield in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 March 1970



CPL Sidney E. Rohler (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 small arms gun fire wounds in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 March 1971



PFC Carl W. Pritchett (A/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 while on combat operation when area came under attack by hostile force on CAM LO River 12km N-NW of CA LU Airfield in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



2LT Michael L. Gandy (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received while on combat mission, crossing river, when unit came under hostile small arms fire on the west bank of SONG BO RIVER, 4.5km Northwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



29 March 1968



PFC Jose Medrano Jr. (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on a combat operation crossing a river when hit by hostile small arms fire on the west bank of SONG BO RIVER, 4.5km Northwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



CPL Aniello C. Nunziato (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds and drowned while on combat operation crossing a river when unit encountered hostile small arms fire on the west bank of SONG BO RIVER, 4.5km Northwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



SGT Marvin E. Penry (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of gunshot wounds received when his unit was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation crossing a river on the west bank of SONG BO RIVER, 4.5km Northwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



PFC Harold E. Penson (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received while on combat mission, crossing river, when unit came under hostile small arms fire on the west bank of SONG BO RIVER, 4.5km Northwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



2LT Frank L. Rodriguez (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of fragment wounds received when he was hit by fragments from hostile mortar fire while on combat operation crossing a river on the west bank of SONG BO RIVER, 4.5km Northwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



PFC Manuel Ruiz (A/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 metal fragment wounds while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile grenade and mortar round while on combat operation crossing a river on the west bank of SONG BO RIVER, 4.5km Northwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



2LT Gary A. Scott (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operations when hit by hostile small arms fire on the west bank of SONG BO RIVER, 4.5km Northwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1969



SGT Connie V. Wells (A/1-321 ARTY) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operations when hit by hostile small arms fire on the west bank of SONG BO RIVER, 4.5km Northwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



29 March 1969



SP4 Roy B. Boyd (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in a bunker complex on Bloody Ridge (DONG A TAY) 9km Southwest of FSB VEGHEL, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1969



CPL Glenn T. Shibata (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in a bunker complex on Bloody Ridge (DONG A TAY) 9km Southwest of FSB VEGHEL, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1969



SSG John J. Clark (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from misadventure (friendly fire) when unit entered CAP 3-1-8 ambush 7KM East of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1971



SSG Terrel O. Kimber (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 a hostile force was encountered with small arms fire during assault on ridgeline 13km North-Northwest of CA LU Airfield in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1968



SP4 William P. Murphy (HHC/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 as the result of a gunshot wound received when his unit came under hostile fire while on combat operation in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1968



PFC James E. McPherson (D/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 from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1968

1LT Ronald E. Burdette (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Order Number 9394; 14 November 1968)

30 March 1969



SP4 Nelson L. Horchem Jr. (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from hostile small arms fire while on combat operation. He was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list, and later expired in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1969



PFC Lawson D. Nelson (C/2-501 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 a hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province Republic of Vietnam. PFC Nelson was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list and later expired.



30 March 1970



CPL George M. Anaya (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously); CPL Anaya died while at an artillery firing position when artillery fire from a friendly force landed in his area, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1970



SSG David W. Barrus (A/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 at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force 16 miles southwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1970



SGT Floyd S. Franklin (A/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 at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force 16 miles southwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1970



SGT Gleason C. Helton (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force 16 miles southwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1970



SGT Russell C. Hibler (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force 16 miles southwest of HUE, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1971



PFC Robert J. Skewes (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 from other explosive device wounds 12km northwest of CA LU Airfield, in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.



# STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

24 March 1968



SGT William D. Montgomery (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (2-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 March 1968. Sergeant Montgomery distinguished himself while serving as a team leader with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry northwest of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. The second squad of the third platoon in Company C was moving through a region with extremely heavy foliage when sniper fire opened up wounding three of the men. Simultaneously a brush fire flared up and began to eat its way toward the wounded men unable to move under their own power. Sergeant Montgomery with utter disregard for his own personal safety threw all his equipment to the ground, and braving two elements, the now heavy enemy fire and the onrushing brush fire, he along with two other men began to move toward the fallen men. When he reached the men, Sergeant Montgomery picked one of the men up and once again ignoring the deadly enemy fire carried the wounded comrade to the rear to be evacuated for medical aid. Sergeant Montgomery's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, General Order Number 7153; 12 October 1968)

24 March 1968

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

25 March 1966



SSG Ray A. Archuletta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force SSG Archuletta distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 26 March 1966 while serving as a scout team leader during a search and destroy mission near TUY HOA, Republic of Vietnam. As his four-man scout team traveled along a dark trail, SSG Archuletta detected a Viet Cong moving in the dense jungle. He immediately moved to the front of his patrol, charged the insurgent, and killed him. Moments after the initial contact, three men were pinned down by intense hostile fire. With complete disregard for his safety, SSG Archuletta charged forward and killed two more Viet Cong before he was seriously wounded himself. Through his courage and determination, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission, SSG Archuletta'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, USARV; General Order Number 4742; 18 July 1966)

25 March 1968



PFC William D. Montgomery (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 March 1968. Private First Class Montgomery distinguished himself while serving as a team leader with Company C, 2d Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry. Company C was on a reconnaissance operation near HUE, Republic of Vietnam, when they made contact with an enemy entrenched in well-fortified positions. Private First Class Montgomery was moving with the third platoon which was the second element of the movement. When the first platoon sustained heavy enemy fire, Private First Class Montgomery's platoon was maneuvered to the left in order to relieve the enemy pressure of the lead element and to put out supporting fire on the enemy position. However, while moving, the third platoon also encountered heavy fire in the form of automatic weapons and grenades, severely wounding two men. With utter disregard for his own safety, Private First Class Montgomery along with another man moved through the lethal enemy fire to the fallen Soldiers, applied first aid, and then carried them to the rear to be evacuated. Then unhesitatingly Private First Class Montgomery moved back to the heavy hostile fire and began to assault an enemy position. While crawling and alternately firing his weapon and throwing grenades, disdainful of his own safety, Private First Class Montgomery calmly placed such effective fire on the well-fortified position that he destroyed not only the position but all the enemy within. With the enemy silenced Private First Class Montgomery reorganized the men in his team and moved forward again. His unwavering courage and fierce determination not only destroyed the enemy position but took pressure off the rest of the company and allowed them to regroup. Private First Class Montgomery's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (DA, HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, General Orders Number 5720; 9 September 1968)



25 March 1969



MAJ John C. Reid (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 March 1969. Major Reid distinguished himself while serving as the Battalion S-3, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, during a reconnaissance in force mission east of the A SHAU VALLEY, Republic of Vietnam. Major Reid was moving with the Command Group of Company B when the lead element came under heavy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire. The First and Third Platoon were pinned down and the First Platoon had called for more ammunition. Major Reid secured the necessary ammunition and started forward under heavy fire. Once forward, he located the Third Platoon, which was pinned down by rocket propelled grenade and automatic weapons fire. During this time, the Second Platoon was maneuvering on the right flank and had come under fire. A ninety-millimeter recoilless rifle which was being used to clear the area of snipers was located with the Second Platoon. Major Reid instructed two men to watch carefully while he drew fire on an open trail in an effort to locate the enemy positions. He then proceeded to move across the trail under intense enemy fire and joined the Second Platoon, which was just beginning an assault. He then located the recoilless rifle whose gunner had been killed. He took the weapon and then assaulted with the platoon firing the weapon as he moved. After turning the weapon over to another man, he returned to the Third Platoon which was still pinned down. He resolutely moved from man to man, encouraging them to move in an assault which succeeded in routing the enemy from their positions, leaving two enemy casualties behind. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed to the success of the mission immeasurably. Major Reid'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 5923; 27 May 1969)

27 March 1971



1LT Kenji Takeda (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Takeda distinguished himself on 27 March 1971 while serving as a platoon leader during combat operations in QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam. While leading a patrol, Lieutenant Takeda's platoon came under intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Although wounded by the enemy fire, Lieutenant Takeda directed the suppressive fire of his platoon. He then led and assaulted on the enemy positions, continuing even after being wounded a second time. Through-out the encounter he directed his element's fire, radioed for support, and directed the evacuation of the wounded. His efforts were instrumental in routing the enemy from the area. First Lieutenant Takeda'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. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 6193; 04 June 1971)

29 March 1968



2LT Michael L. Gandy (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Second Lieutenant Gandy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 March 1968 as a platoon leader during a search and clear mission on the west bank of the Song Bo River. A three-man scout team was crossing the river in a sampan when it came under an intense barrage of enemy fire, killing one man instantly. The other two men were wounded and sought protection in a bamboo thicket on the river bank. Lieutenant Gandy moved from squad to squad, encouraging his men and directing their fire against the communists. Six of his troops attempted to cross the river to rescue the two casualties by pushing a sampan before them for protection, but were carried downstream by the strong current. Despite the vicious enemy fire, Lieutenant Gandy dropped his equipment, made his way to the river's edge, and swam the seventy-five meters to the other side. Upon reaching the river bank, he found that only one of the scouts was alive. Grabbing hold of him, he began the hazardous swim back through intense hostile small arms and automatic weapons fire. As he approached mid-stream, the scout was hit and disappeared beneath the water. A few seconds later, Lieutenant Gandy was mortally wounded by the enemy fusillade. Second Lieutenant Gandy's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, and the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 436; 07 February 1969)

29 March 1968



PFC Stephen W. York (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 March 1968. Private First Class York distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner of Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry during a combat operation along the SONG BO RIVER, THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. Before attempting to cross the river, a three-man point team was sent across in advance to secure the far bank. Upon reaching the opposite side of the river, the point team came under intense automatic and small arms fire wounding all three men. Cries for help from the wounded men could be heard from across the river. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Private First Class York volunteered to assist in an attempt to rescue the wounded men. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, and carrying his machine gun, he, along with the other members of the rescue team, began to make their way across the river using a sampan for cover. They proceeded to the center of the river under a hail of enemy fire. Then the strong current caused the sampan to turn around, thereby exposing the rescue team to the heavy volume of fire being directed at them. Supporting his machine gun on the sampan, Private First Class York managed to place effective fire on the enemy positions while exposing himself to their fire, thereby allowing the remainder of the rescue team to effect a withdrawal back to the near bank of the river. Although the rescue attempt did not succeed, in their heroic effort to save their comrades, Private First Class York'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> AIR CAV DIV; General Order Number 3472; 15 July 1968)





29 March 1971



SSG Terrel O. Kimber (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Kimber distinguished himself on 29 March 1971 while serving as a squad leader during combat operations in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam. While assaulting an enemy occupied hill, Sergeant Kimber's platoon came under an intense barrage of enemy fire. With four men wounded and on radio inoperative, Sergeant Kimber organized the evacuation of the wounded and the withdrawal of the platoon. Exposing himself to the increasing volume of fire, Sergeant Kimber moved to a forward position directing his squad to cover the withdrawal of the rest of the element. After insuring the safety of his platoon, Sergeant Kimber directed his squad to withdraw while he put out devastating suppressive fire on the enemy. As his squad withdrew, Sergeant Kimber was fatally wounded. Staff Sergeant Kimber'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. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 5446; 01 July 1971)



# 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

