



STRIKE

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

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



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



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



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

28 April - 17 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI - The 117th Assault Helicopter Company provided support for the 2-502 IN BN in its effort to halt the Viet Cong infiltration along the "HO CHI MINH" trail in the rugged central highlands near GIA NGHIA, approximately eight miles east of NHON CO, Republic of Vietnam, from 28 April - 17 May 1966, during the conduct of Operation AUSTIN VI. Some of the more important lessons learned during this period were the techniques required for flying at high density altitudes, maximum gross weights, and under severe weather conditions in the early morning and late afternoons caused by the rapidly approaching monsoon season for this area. In order to best accomplish its mission, the 117th placed volunteer crews and helicopters in the forward infantry command post. These crews, actually living with the infantry units were available to the supported units much earlier each day since they did not have to wait for the weather between GIA NHIA and the field locations to clear up enough to fly. In addition, the armed helicopter support was immediately available at all times and proved invaluable to the continuous combat operations. Midway through AUSTIN VI, the tactical emphasis shifted to the area of BU GIA Map. From this small landing strip, Infantry, Artillery, Army Aviation, and Air Force activities increased to a high peak. Close fire support by the 117th "Sidewinders" armed helicopter platoon was commonplace, requiring the addition of an ammunition and POL resupply point to be located at BU GIA Map. The rough jungle terrain between the Cambodian border and the forward command post was literally impossible to land in. Time after time, 101st Airborne Division Recondo teams attempted to blast areas in order to provide sufficient clearings for the helicopters, but the task was fruitless. Therefore, the assault helicopter pilots of the 117th were forced to hover more than 60 feet in the air above the treetops in order to accomplish the wide variety of missions, including resupply of ammunition, food, and high explosives and occasionally the extraction of critically wounded personnel. Operation AUSTIN VI was the most aggressive battle action for the 2-502 IN BN, 101st Airborne Division since its arrival in Vietnam. The data on enemy casualties is as follows: Killed in Action (by body count) 95, Killed in action (estimated) 85, Wounded (estimated) 17, Captured 15. An extract of the After-Action Report of 2-502 IN for Operation AUSTIN VI reveals that: "The assignment of the 117th Assault Helicopter Company command and control aircraft in direct support of the Infantry was invaluable to the success of the operation. A command and control helicopter were used for liaison, communication with subordinate units, assisting units to pinpoint their own locations, guiding units to terrain objectives, and the location of potential landing zones. This flexibility facilitated routine unit supply and airdrops and expedited emergency airdrops of chainsaws, demolitions, food and ammunition. Stationing the helicopters forward at BU GIA Map provided much greater utilization." (History of the 117th Assault Helicopter Company (UH-1))

28 April 1967

Operation SUMMERALL: One platoon of A/2-502 IN conducted stay-behind operations while other elements moved west. Two VC, searching for food in GI trash, were killed by the stay-behind force.

28 April - 02 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: The 2BDE helilifted four companies to the PHUOC YEN village 7km northwest of HUE (YD6928) in response to intelligence reports which indicated that an enemy battalion was in the village. Upon landing near the village, the companies immediately made contact with a sizeable enemy force. Throughout the period of 28 April - 2 May, numerous air strikes and heavy volumes of artillery fires were directed into the village. (Operational Report of 101st Air Cavalry Division for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))

28 April - 04 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: 1-501 IN BN cordons Thon PHUOC YEN resulting in 429 NVA KIA, 107 NVA PWs, 117 individual and crew-served weapons, and BN radios with SOI.

28 April 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: Captured NVA POW QUANG THE HAU remarked during interrogation that his VC commander's guidance was "if you make contact with the airborne, get out fast; they will surround you and kill you."

28 April 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: Battle of PHUOC YEN, as part of Operation CARENTAN II, element from the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 2/17 Cav encountered a strong enemy force from the 8th Battalion, 90th PAVN Regiment during cordon and search operations four miles northwest of HUE. Casualties: U.S. 6 KIA and 43 WIA; enemy 314 KIA and 107 POW.

28 - 29 April 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases, and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light with the exception of the 1-501 IN BN operation. Today's statistics - 3 US KIA, 1 ARVN KIA, 6 US WIA, 5 ARVN WIA, 2 PF WIA; Enemy assessment - 170 NVA KIA (BC), 9 VC KIA (BC), 1 PR 46 HMG, 2 LMG, 1 .30 cal. MG, 2 SKS, 2 AK-47, 1 M-16, 2 RPG-2 launchers, 50 B-40 rounds, 2 M-79 grenade launchers (destroyed), 15 US hand grenades, 13 CHICOM grenades, 11 82mm mortar rounds, 1760 SA rounds, 300lbs rice, 2 RPG-2 launcher (destroyed), 3 40mm rounds, 9 60mm mortar rounds.

1-501 IN BN

1-501 IN BN continued the containment of enemy force in the hamlets of THON DUONG SON vicinity YD687273 and then PHUOC YEN vicinity YD690277 throughout the night under continuous illumination. Blocking positions were occupied by A/1-501 IN, B/2-501 IN, A/1-502 IN, 1st ARVN DIV "Black Panther" Company and 3 PF platoons. At 0100H



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2-501 IN BN

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

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN

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

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

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



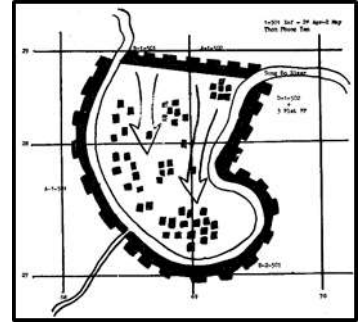
1-502 IN BN

1-502 IN BN at 0700H cordon elements will withdraw slightly to facilitate the firing of 4.2" CS and artillery on OBJ 1 (YD694287) and OBJ 2 (YD688278). At 0825H CS will be delivered by helicopter on OBJ 2 the OBJ 1. At approximately 0900H air preparation will commence. Upon completion A/1-502 will attack OBJ 1 and Panther Company will attack OBJ 2. At approximately 1600H Panther Company moved by air to HUE airstrip.

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

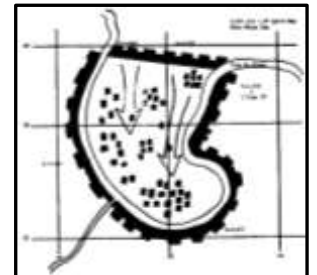
28 April – 02 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN I & II: Approximately 1400H the 1st ARVN Division Recon Company, while operating in close coordination with Division forces along the SONG BO River vicinity YD6929 reported a significant enemy force located vicinity YD6828. Reacting in response to this report, 1-501 IN BN with 4 rifle companies and 3 platoons of popular force troops moved overland and by helicopter to establish a cordon around the area. The rapid response caught the enemy by surprise. During the remainder of the afternoon and throughout the night, the enemy attempted to escape the cordon. Each attempt was repulsed utilizing tremendous amount of heavy artillery, helicopter gunships and continuous artificial illumination during the night. The following morning (29 April), the friendly forces in the northern "neck" of the cordon began to push into the village. Immediately they met stiff resistance from enemy forces with SA/AW/RPG in fortified bunkers. The battle raged throughout the day with allied forces making little progress. B/1-501 IN was inserted into the cordon to bolster the northern position. M106 recoilless rifles and 81mm mortars were air lifted in to add additional fire power as TAC Air and artillery continued to pound the fortified enemy. E8 (CS) dispersers were also inserted and integrated into the cordon as plans were made to attack the following morning. The actions on 29 April accounted for 64 enemy dead. Throughout the night, the enemy continued his violent, yet unsuccessful attempts to escape. The enemy estimated at battalion size massed AW/RPG and mortar fire while trying to rush a platoon size force through the cordon vicinity YD694284. Recoilless rifles and claymore mines were an effective deterrent to the would-be escapees. The artificial illumination and heavy artillery continued throughout the night. The enemy resistance was beginning to fade although savage fighting continued all day on 30 April. Contact continued during the night of 30 April – 1 May. Twice during the night, enemy forces tried to escape the cordon but were driven back. A HOI CHANH who rallied during the contact and several PW's identified the enemy unit as the 8th BN, 90th NVA Regiment. Early in the morning, a psywar appeal was made by loudspeaker to the trapped enemy. The psywar operation was made in conjunction with the TAC Air Strikes on the village. After several air strikes had been made, the Hoi Chanh made an appeal to the trapped enemy to surrender. After a pause, the forward air controller would direct a long, low, screaming pass over the village, then the loudspeaker made another appeal for surrender telling the trapped soldiers that the next pass would be for real. Sufficient time was given for believers to react then the aircraft were directed in "live" to further convince any doubters. This technique directly influenced the 95 NVA/PW's who surrendered during the day. The Psyops mission was followed by a CS drop and more tactical air strikes. The enemy had weakened considerably as substantial advance were made into the village and the cordon was further consolidated. The day's action resulted in an additional 141 NVA KIA, and 75 weapons captured. Continuous posture was maintained throughout the night of 1-2 May. Enemy attempts to escape decreased and his fire power was considerably reduced as artillery and TAC Air had eliminated his indirect weapons. PW's indicated heavy casualties had been sustained and the remainder had been without food for several days. On 2 May the sweep of the village was completed. For several more days friendly elements remained in the area to completely search the area for weapons and other items of intelligence value. The total results of this highly successful operation netted 314 NVA KIA, 107 NVA/PW's and 103 weapons captured. Friendly casualties were 4 KIA, 21 WIA (17 EVAC). Investigation after the action confirmed that the enemy unit was the 8th BN, 90th NVA Regiment and that during the action the Battalion Commander, Executive Officer and 3 Company Commanders had been killed. The five-day operation had rendered the enemy battalion virtually ineffective for considerable period of time. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, HQ, 101st Air Cavalry Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968)



28 April – 02 May 1968

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



141 NVA KIA, 95 NVA PW, 63 IWC and 12 CSWC. Division total for the first 4 days in the cordon operations was 218 KIA, 95 PWS and 79 weapons. The 101st ABN DIV combat methods of maintaining contact, rapid reinforcement, maximum use of fire support to include the use of CS produced results that leave little doubt about their effectiveness in this type of ground operations.



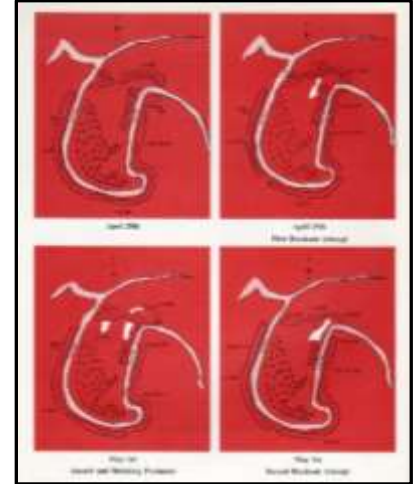
The battalion commanders concurred in the opinion that the preparation with CS significantly reduced the number of casualties and contributed greatly to the overall success of this Screaming Eagles operation. *Pictures are of D/2-501 IN personnel during operation. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned,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

28 April – 6 May 1968

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

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

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



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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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



NVA platoon sergeant tells his men to give themselves up.



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

28 April – 06 May 1968

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

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

The next morning, we were taken to the airfield and we walked by all these shot up and messed up helicopters and planes on our way to the helicopter that was taking us to LZ Jane where the 2nd Brigade was based. We flew to LZ Jane and they landed outside the wire and let us off. LZ Jane looked like mud city with tents and barbed wire. We went into the camp and made our way to A/1-502 IN area of tents and mud.

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

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

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

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

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

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





Air Assault

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



Airplanes (circled)
Bombing Village

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



US Soldier

It was dark by this time.

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

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



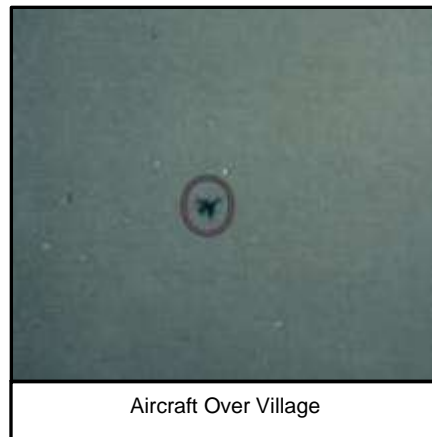
We were spread thin behind this line of trees with maybe a hundred thirty men in A Co. If they had hit us hard with a well-planned attack in these first few hours, they may have overrun our thin line and escaped this trap we had them in.

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



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

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



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

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





NVA Rifleman

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



SGT Gerald Laird

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

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



NVA Firing an RPG

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





NVA Firing an RPG

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

We were sent in to mop up the diehards.



PFC Robert Geirley

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



Mike Sellers

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





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

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



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

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

28 April – 06 May 1968

The classic cordon operation of the Vietnam war began on April 28, 1968 around the village PHUOC YEN. The battle began with units from 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV, trapping the 8th BN, 90th NVA Regiment, in the "stocking" area of the SONG BO RIVER two miles northwest of HUE. For four days, companies from three 2BDE battalions, together with local Popular Forces and a company from the 1st ARVN DIV, lay siege to the village complex that intelligence sources said was harboring an NVA battalion. Although the allied forces were supported by batteries of the 21st Artillery, helicopter gunships, and Air Force fighter-bombers, defeat of the NVA Battalion rested with the infantrymen. On the morning of the fifth day, with 419 NVA soldiers known dead, the remaining 107 surrendered, the first NVA unit to surrender en masse to American unit in the history of the war. Thirteen US Soldiers died in the five days of fighting around PHUOC YEN. (C/1-501 IN – 3 KIA; D/2-501 IN – 2 KIA; A/1-501 IN – 8 KIA)

28 April 1970

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

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



- 28 April 1970 B/2-502 IN while operating 37km southwest of the village, received an attack at 0500H, proceeded by small arms and grenade fire. B/2-502 IN with artillery support, repelled that attack killing 12 of the enemy but sustained one KIA and 20 WIA. After the contact while conducting a sweep, the unit discovered 75 bunkers and 50 enemy bodies killed three days prior by TACAIR strikes and artillery. (HQ, USMACV; Command History 1970, Volume III; 19 April 1971)
- 28 April 1970 Pink team preformed recon by fire on grid square 7303. PF patrol found one submachinegun and other small arms. The Division Commander conferred with the Brigade and Battalion Commanders on FSB BIRMINGHAM today. FSB BIRMINGHAM conducted a practice alert. (1-502 IN Annual Supplement; Approved by LTC Richard N. Lang, Commander)
- 28 April 1970 In the mountains southwest of HUE near the SONG BO River south of Three Forks, B/2-502 IN makes contact with an estimated enemy platoon while in their night defensive position. The "Strike Force" troopers engage the NVA and repulse the attack. An early morning search of the area reveals the bodies of 12 NVA. The sweep continues, and three enemy bunker complexes are discovered which have been heavily damaged by Aerial Rocket Artillery, artillery and air strikes. A further search discloses 50 NVA killed and nets numerous military equipment. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 2); Summer 1970)
- 29 April 1966 **Operation AUSTIN VI:** At 1430H, 2-502 IN BN had completed movement to NHON CO by C-130 aircraft. A battalion base area was established. A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN prepared for future operations and C/2-502 IN assumed mission of BDE reserve. C/2-502 IN dispatched two "Recondo" elements to establish ambush sites ND790320 and ND886247. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report; 24 May 1966)
- 29 April 1967 **Operation SUMMERALL:** Operation SUMMERALL terminated at 2400H. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation SUMMERALL; 21 May 1967)
- 29 April 1968 **Operation CARENTAN II:** TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light as the containment of an enemy force by 1-501 IN BN continued. Today's statistics: 2 US KIA, 1 US MIA, 14 US WIA (10 medevac), 3 ARVN WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 9 NVA KBA (BC), 4 NVA KIA (BC), 1 BBT (destroyed), 600lbs rice. ARVN enemy assessment: 3 NVA KIA (BC), 1 RPG-7 launcher, 1 AK-44, 1 AK-47, 7 RPG-7 rounds.

1-501 IN BN

Continued the containment of enemy force in hamlets of THON DUONG SON vicinity YD687273 and THON PHUOC YEN vicinity YD690277. Blocking positions were occupied by A/1-501 IN, B/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN, A/1-502 IN, 1st ARVN DIV "Black Panther" Company and 3 PF platoons. At 2237H vicinity YD695289, A/1-502 IN received approximately 30 rounds of SA. Artillery fired, negative casualties, negative enemy assessment. At 0120H, the "Black Panther" Company received approximately 20 rounds 60mm mortar. Artillery was fired. Negative casualties. Negative enemy assessment. At 0808H a "Black Panther" element began moving, received heavy SA fire and withdrew. Negative casualties. Throughout the day units held in blocking positions while artillery and 14 air strikes were delivered on enemy positions. Results – 9 NVA KBA (BC). At 1050H, D/2-501 IN engaged 1 NVA. Results 1 NVA KIA (BC). At 1250H, A/1-502 IN began moving from YD695289 to the village vicinity YD694289 and received SA, AW and RPG or mortar fire. Engaged with organic weapons; heavy fire continued as A/1-502 IN withdrew to be supported by air strikes. Results – 1 US KIA, 9 WIA (6 medevac). A/1-502 also reported 1 MIA, missing prior to entering the village, circumstances unknown. Enemy assessment -2 NVA KIA (BC). At 1440H, "Black Panther" Company vicinity YD684280 sustained 3 WIA (medevac) from a BBT grenade. At 1608H, B/1-501 IN conducted a combat assault to LZ vicinity YD690292 and assumed the blocking position occupied by the "Black Panther" Company. Closed at 1644H. At 1655H, "Black Panther" Company found 3 NVA KIA (BC), 1 AK-44, 1 AK-47, 1 RPG-7 launcher and 7 RPG-7 rounds. At 1718H, "Black Panther" Company conducted a heliborne movement to HUE. Closed at 1816H. At 1910H vicinity YD694287, A/1-502 IN received SA fire and RPG round. Results: 5 US WIA (4 medevac). At the close of the reporting period the cordon was being maintained around the objective area under continuous illumination. Totals: 1 US KIA, 1 US MIA, 14 US WIA (10 medevac). Enemy assessment – 9 NVA KBA (BC), 3 NVA KIA (BC). ARVN casualties – 3 WIA (medevac). Enemy assessment – 3 NVA KIA (BC), 1 AK-47, 1 AK-44, 1 RPG-7 launcher, 7 RPG-7 rounds.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD616243. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD628260 and to YD613260. At 1608H, from PZ YD613260 conducted a combat assault and assumed the "Black Panther" Companies blocking position after closing on the LZ vicinity YD690292.

C/1-501 IN OPCON to 2-17 CAV. Occupied night position vicinity YD653306 with ambushes vicinity YD651319 and YD655316. Conducted RIF operation W to YD630308, then SE along the N side of the SONG BO River to vicinity YD652293. AT 1237H vicinity YD631307 received SA and AW fire from an estimated squad in bunkers. Engaged with SA fire. Artillery supported. C/1-501 IN held in place while artillery was fired and platoons from A/2-17 CAV and B/2-17 CAV moved to blocking positions. Sweep was conducted to B/2-17 CAV blocking position with negative results. Established night position vicinity YD652293. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment.

D/1-501 IN with 1 PF platoon attached. Occupied night position vicinity YD656245 with ambushes vicinity YD644245, YD667248, YD658238 and YD666245. Conducted patrols reconnoitering for night ambush sites from YD657253. Established night position vicinity YD656251 with local ambushes.

Recon platoon with 1 PF platoon and 1 RF platoon attached. Occupied night position vicinity YD606255 with ambushes vicinity YD606253, YD609255 and YD685285. Conducted RIF operation vicinity YD617270, YD640260 and YD618275. At 0800H vicinity YD607269 engaged 5 VC with SA fire. Negative enemy assessment. Established night position vicinity YD617267 with ambushes.



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

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD722319. Conducted RIF operation vicinity YD712306, YD719300 and YD711298. At 0830H vicinity YD715310 received 3 rounds SA fire. Returned fire. Negative casualties. Negative enemy assessment. Established night position vicinity YD710305 with local ambush. Negative casualties. Negative enemy assessment.

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD693312. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD677317, YD668315 and YD682311. At 0832H, vicinity YD682315 found 1 NVA, killed by SA approximately 3 days prior. Result: 1 NVA KIA (BC). At 1430H, vicinity YD684313 received sniper fire resulting in 1 US KIA. Returned fire, negative enemy assessment. Established night position vicinity YD687317 with local ambush. Results: 1 US KIA. Enemy assessment – 1 NVA KIA (BC).

D/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN

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

2-17 CAV

A/2-17 CAV occupied vicinity YD624316 with ambushes vicinity YD61532, YD620309 and YD625321. Conducted RIF operation vicinity YD6231, YD6232 and YD6332. At 1010H vicinity YD622324 found 600 lbs rice and destroyed, 1 BBT grenade. At 1116H vicinity YD623326 received 4 rounds of mortar or rifle grenade fire. Returned with SA fire. Artillery supported. Negative casualties. Negative enemy assessment. At 1442H 1 platoon moved to a blocking position vicinity YD637320 in support of C/1-501 IN. At 1710H platoon returned. Established night position vicinity YD623316 with local ambushes. Negative casualties. Enemy assessment – 1 BBT (destroyed) and 600 lbs rice.

B/2-17 CAV provided security at AN LO BRIDGE. Conducted platoon size RIF operation to YD615280 and returned. At 1142H 2 platoons moved to a blocking position vicinity YD650297 to YD649291 in support of C/1-501 IN. At 1710H returned to AN LO BRIDGE. Negative casualties. Negative enemy assessment.

2BDE

HHC Security platoon provided security for C/326 ENG elements clearing approximately 100 meters to each side of road vicinity YD604316, the scene of several recent mining incidents.

(Commanders Situation Report; 292001H April – 302000H April 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)

- 29 April 1968 RIF operations continued with 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducting a RIF from FSB LASH to the northwest at 0920H, vicinity YC644692. D/1-502 IN engaged 2-3 enemy trail watchers with negative assessment and at 1539H, vicinity YC640695, D/1-502 IN engaged estimated 2 NVA armed with AK-47's. Results 2 CSWC.
- 29 April 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** RIF operations continued with Recon platoon conducting a RIF from FSB LASH to the northwest at 0920H vicinity YC644692. D/1-502 IN engaged 2-3 enemy trail watchers with negative assessment and at 1539H vicinity YC640695, D/1-502 IN engaged estimated 2 NVA armed with AK-47's. Results: 2 CSWC.
- 29 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** At 2140H, vicinity YD438190 FSB GRANITE, A/2-501 IN received an enemy ground attack supported by mortar and RPG fire. With flare ship's, USAF AC-119 "stinger" aircraft, ARA and tube artillery supporting the company, the enemy was repulsed and at first light sweep revealed 16 NVA KIA and one PW captured. The company suffered seven killed, seven wounded, and one missing in action. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; Operational Report – Lessons Learned; Period ending 31 July 1970; 15 August 1970)
- 29 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** An element of the 2-501 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV located at FSB GRANITE in THUA THIEN Province receives a mortar attack followed by a sapper probe. Results are 18 enemy killed, 1 detained, 7 US KIA, 41 US WIA and 1 US MIA. (HQ, USMACV; Command History 1970, Volume IV; 19 April 1971)
- 29 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** Screaming EAGLES of the 2-501 IN BN received RPG, mortar, and small arms fire at FSB GRANITE. The "Drive On" Soldiers returned fire with organic weapons and called for support from Aerial Rocket Artillery. The attack is repelled and a post dawn sweep nets 22 NVA bodies and one detainee. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 2) Summer 1970)



29 April 1970

The Battle of FSB GRANITE: 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), (Operation Texas Star), 29 April 1970; South Vietnam; located at MGRS YD439188 (approximately 9 miles' northeast of the A SHAU Valley and 16 miles west of HUE City); Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry and Attachments.



(THE MAP ABOVE IS AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE ONE I CARRIED THROUGHOUT OPERATION TEXAS STAR... 1:50,000; EACH GRID SQUARE IS A KILOMETER SQUARE; THE BROWN CONTOUR LINES ARE AT 20 METER INTERVALS IN ELEVATION.)

I led A Company onto Fire Support Base GRANITE as its Company Commander; I was their leader throughout the fight on April 29th; I fought for and with them; I led them off of the hill when so ordered. They were (and are) common Americans of uncommon patriotism, valor, and fidelity. They fought for me and I fought for them for "greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends".

MY ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF FIRE SUPPORT BASE GRANITE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST BUT ESPECIALLY IN MEMORY OF SSG EDWARD J. BISHOP, JR.; MIA 29 APRIL 1970, DECLARED KILLED IN ACTION ON GRANITE; REMAINS NOT RECOVERED.



(CPT MITCHELL STANDING ALONG SIDE THE COMPANY COMMAND POST; THE PHOTO IS MADE LOOKING WEST TOWARD COC A BO MOUNTAIN.)

Following A Company's weeklong battle (17-24 April 70) with a determined NVA force along the ridge line from HILL 902 (YD348171) southeast to the trail junction we named REUP HILL (YD362165), we returned to EAGLE Beach for two days and then got back into the TEXAS STAR fight by air assaulting into Fire Support Base GRANITE on or about 26 April to begin our "shift" as its defenders. Our battalion mission remained unchanged...to locate and destroy enemy forces, base camps, and cache sites within our assigned area of operations. During our short stint at EAGLE Beach we'd picked up a precious few badly needed replacements and some of us were content to have a couple of days to get some shrapnel picked out, heal up a bit, and refit from the previous week's intensity. The short break from humping the mountainous jungles and the frequent engagements with the NVA on and around REUP HILL was a welcomed operational pause for every Avenger but we knew that our hours were numbered before we would head back northwest, and we would be quickly inserted back into the fight.





(ON GRANITE'S NORTH LZ, MEN OF A COMPANY AWAIT INCOMING "SLICKS" AS THEY AIR ASSAULT INTO NEARBY RIDGES TO CONDUCT RECON PATROLLING.)

As we air assaulted into GRANITE's tiny landing zone one aircraft at a time on the north end of the hilltop and began to fill the hill's fighting positions we were joining the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) of the 2-501st Infantry (under command of LTC Otis Livingston), along with our direct support 105mm artillery battery from 2-319 FA and organic 81mm mortars as they continued to perform the routine activities associated with operating from and defending a forward support combat base. GRANITE's principle function was to provide a reasonably secure platform for artillery weapons systems forward deployed into the canopy in support of infantry forces operating to our west and northwest. Our battalion's mission, as part of the 3rd Brigade's spring incursion into the mountainous canopy between the coastal lowlands to the east and the A Chau Valley to the west, was clear and unambiguous but the operational tempo, characteristic of an airmobile division, had kept the Geronimo Battalion's subordinate infantry companies constantly on the move in our efforts to "fix" an extremely illusive enemy. Having joined the 3rd Brigade the first week in April, we had been leaping by air from one landing zone to another and one fire base to another to locate specific enemy base camps and lines of communications and logistics. With the TEXAS STAR operation barely three weeks into execution, A Company had conducted at least three or four combat air assaults (as best I recall), and the 2-501 headquarters was now on GRANITE, its third fire support base since the operation began (Jack, GLADIATOR, and now GRANITE).



(THE COMPANY COMMAND POST [LOOKING SOUTHWEST] FROM THE LZ; WEAPONS ARE THOSE OF OUR KIAs AND WIAs ALONG WITH COLLECTED AKs AND RPGs FROM THE NVA KIAs.)

Immediately after my arrival on GRANITE I dropped my ruck at the Company CP and walked the hill's perimeter to get the lay of the land we were to defend and familiarize myself with locations of the hill's tenant units. My first impressions of GRANITE were that we were really packed tightly onto the hilltop. GRANITE, like many of the mountainous hilltops in the area, was extremely rocky around the summit (making it difficult to dig), and the slope off of the western side was extremely steep limiting the effectiveness of grazing fires from our automatic weapons. On the eastern side of GRANITE, the slope leading into the jungle was much less steep however a series of rocky outcroppings and boulders provided excellent cover and concealment allowing an excellent approach to within ten to fifteen meters of the existing fighting positions. From my initial reconnaissance of the hill I determined the most dangerous avenues of enemy approach were along GRANITE's eastern side and along the finger leading down from the LZ on the northern end of the fire base. After my short walk around the hill I recall thinking that we had much work to do to defend GRANITE's irregular shaped perimeter properly and I was concerned that we were short the numbers of infantrymen needed to fill existing fighting positions. Once A Company had closed on the hill and while the platoon leaders were sorting out the occupation of fighting positions and sectors of fire, I made my way up to the battalion TOC to gather the latest operational and intelligence updates. I found the TOC (with its maze of antenna masts) housed in sandbagged CONEX containers on the south end of the hill, and as is normally the case, the place was abuzz with taking situation reports from our three other rifle companies deployed to our west and northwest, preparing plans and orders for subsequent operations, and other such command and control functions. After a brief conversation and routine updates from the battalion's command group



(and some warm hand-shakes with some old friends on the staff) I headed back to my CP to get to work with my platoon leaders and review our plans for the defense.



(THE PHOTO ABOVE IS LOOKING SOUTH ATOP GRANITE AND FROM THE LZ CAPTURES OUR ARTILLERY AND MORTAR AMMUNITION STOCKPILES AS WELL AS VARIOUS ARTILLERY AND MORTAR AIMING STAKES.)

Throughout the day as A Company settled into GRANITE's perimeter our howitzer battery fired numerous missions responding to calls for fire from subordinate units and between lulls in fire missions, continued to improve defensive positions around their guns. For A Company, our primary functions were to defend GRANITE while simultaneously conducting limited counter reconnaissance patrols, improving the fighting positions and defensive wire obstacles that ringed the perimeter of the hill, and refining defensive plans to ensure the security of the hill's occupants. We were, by all accounts, still a severely under strength organization (infantry replacements were a critical shortage division-wide) but a combat-seasoned, battle tested rifle company that had seen the bulk of the battalion's combat activity in the early days of the brigade operation that had begun the first week of April.

A Company's leaders and its veterans were fully aware that our work to defend the hill would be difficult and would entail never-ending hard labor made more challenging because of our severe shortages of 11Bs (Infantrymen). Despite virtually no intelligence describing the threats near GRANITE we all knew that the area had more than its share of NVA and we were no more than eight kilometers east of the location of our previous fights less than a week earlier. Every A Company leader understood the defensive priorities of work as we filled the perimeter and assumed sectors of defensive responsibility. We were certainly resource poor with respect to our labor pool of 11B infantryman but heavily laden with a host of new tasks to accomplish in a static perimeter defense. Our list of defensive tasks to be accomplished seemed endless but included counter reconnaissance patrolling around the surrounding hills, filling countless sandbags, improving fighting positions, clearing fields of fire to our front and flanks, emplacing dozens of rolls of defensive wire, positioning claymore mines and fougasse barrels (a flame 55gallon barrel explosive), and most importantly, maintaining about a third of the force around the perimeter on full alert for possible probes or an NVA attack. As I watched the men of A Company close by air onto GRANITE, I recall thinking that I was indeed fortunate to command such a great group of soldiers for, to the man, they knew what needed to be accomplished and understood the demanding physical effort required. Our morale was high...the "Drive On" spirit (the motto of the 2-501 Infantry) was evident in the work ethic of every soldier. The men of A Company and our attachments arrived intent in going about our work day after day on GRANITE without complaint from dawn until dusk with great pride and a sense of accomplishment. We were determined to leave our professional mark on GRANITE as its defenders and depart within a week or so "back into the bush" confident that we had left the hill far more defensible than we had found it. In retrospect, I suppose most of us were relieved to get onto GRANITE having had a couple of days at EAGLE Beach after the REUP Hill affair. At least we could look at fire base duty for a week or so as a welcome break from heavy rucksacks to hump day after day and the constant threat of ambush. On GRANITE there was no lack of potable water...resupply of food and other necessities was reliable, and we could get some sun on the cuts, scratches, and jungle rot that always accumulated while we were operating under the canopy for extended periods of time. (Our Battalion Surgeon was on GRANITE with us too so those needing special medical attention were quite fortunate). We also welcomed a break from the frequency and intensity of combat we had experienced during our stint in the jungles to our northwest. Fire base duty was a tough, arduous assignment but often perceived by many of us as a welcome break from humping the mountainous jungle with the constant expectation of meeting the NVA face to face around every bend in the trail. I always assumed that our point men welcomed the break because our contacts with the NVA in the weeks before GRANITE had been up close and personal from the moment, we had begun the spring offensive as part of the 3rd Brigade. Most of our meeting engagements with the NVA were at 15 meters or less and we had ended almost three weeks of search and destroy operations sitting astride a critical NVA trail junction that drew their attacks or probes almost every night we were there. However, defending from fire bases like GRANITE occurred as a matter of normal rotation for rifle companies transitioning in and out of the canopy and therefore it was not an unexpected tasking. Our first few days on GRANITE were unremarkable and best described as business as usual. Other than seeing a few lights in the hills to our east (which we engaged with artillery) we had seen no enemy activity...no actionable intelligence had turned up and our patrols beyond our perimeter (including several air assaults into the surrounding hills) revealed no signs of any significant enemy presence. Our first few days and nights on GRANITE had been surprisingly quiet and we had worked relentlessly to improve our defensive posture.

Like every infantry company in Vietnam, as the sun approached the jungled mountain ridges to our west in late afternoon on the 29th of April, the mood and seriousness of purpose began its normal transition from tasks of preparation and improvement of our defenses to an increase in our alert status in transition for a night defense. With a sense of purpose,



soldiers along the line of fighting positions turned to the tasks necessary to bring every fighter on the hill to a full "stand to" occupation of our night defensive perimeter well before darkness. As mentioned earlier, defending the hill was our primary mission on GRANITE therefore our first priority. The clammer and noise of picks, mallets, and entrenching tools around the perimeter positions was rapidly coming to a close. The normal joking and occasional shouts from position to position along the bunker line gradually subsided. The infantryman on GRANITE quietly and purposefully moved to emplace or check trip flares, claymore mines and early warning devices to their front, verified that there were no "friendlies" forward of our defensive lines and then, without order, slipped into their fighting positions to conduct weapons checks, lay out ammunition for easy access in the dark, arm claymore mines, and swap their "boony hats" for steel pots before darkness fell. As the light faded, the defenders of the hill were at "stand to" in their fighting positions....one hundred percent alert around the perimeter. As the darkness overtook GRANITE, A Company's leaders



(LOOKING SOUTHEAST INTO A DESTROYED FIGHTING POSITION.)

(including me) walked the perimeter checking individual fighting positions, whispering quietly with the occupants of each hole, and giving last minute instructions for the night defense. Despite our limited counter reconnaissance patrolling around the surrounding ridge lines, we had no concrete indications or warning of an imminent attack....no tactical intelligence of any kind to suggest that elements of the 7th NVA Sapper Battalion and the 29th NVA Regiment were moving into their attack positions around GRANITE with intentions of destroying our fire base and killing or capturing its defenders.

As the darkness engulfed GRANITE on the night of the 29th of April, the clouds moved in and the heat of the day was replaced by a cooler, more overcast, almost light foggy condition. In my command post (CP), a roughly ten by ten-foot hole covered by steel planking and sandbags just above our one-ship landing zone (LZ) on the north end of GRANITE, it was "business as usual" as we accounted for the activities of the day by radio with subordinate platoons, confirmed last-minute defensive decisions, and laid plans for the next day's work. My Forward Observer and I were engaged shoulder to shoulder reviewing defensive indirect fire plans and confirming last-minute indirect fire target lists to be executed just before dawn on the 30th. My radio operators were also in radio contact with our three platoon command posts around the perimeter, busily gathering the often mundane daily personnel/logistics requests and relaying the collected information to our higher headquarters staff elements.... as usual activity each evening. As we settled in for the night defense, I recall that all was quiet and quite dark on GRANITE other than the tiny red glows from our mortar and artillery aiming posts atop the hill. I recall one or two complaints of an occasional hand flare being fired from the bunker line along the northeast side of GRANITE but that ended with a radio call to the CP responsible for that sector. By candlelight, red-filtered flashlight, and a few C-Ration cups of coffee the work inside our CP continued well into the evening.

At about 9:40 PM, the east and northeast side of GRANITE's perimeter suddenly, and without warning, erupted with igniting trip flares, small arms fire, and in rapid succession a series of large, recognizable explosions immediately identified as satchel charges (improvised explosive devices) and RPG's (rocket-propelled grenades). As our hand flares streaked skyward to provide immediate illumination, the hill shook from the largest explosions coming from along the eastern bunker line and near our 81mm mortar position some twenty meters or so to my right rear. Even more hand flares ran their familiar contrails up into the clouds to further illuminate our hilltop as the crescendo of exploding munitions continued to build. We immediately knew we were under attack by a sizable, well-armed, and carefully rehearsed NVA force that had obviously penetrated our outer defensive wire barrier in multiple locations. The fighting positions to my front across the LZ and to my right along the east and northeast side of GRANITE were hit hard with sporadic RPGs, small arms fire, and a hail of satchel charges of various sizes, some weighing 10 pounds or more.

Our mortar position, an obvious NVA priority target, was neutralized almost immediately without firing a shot (as I recollect) and its occupants were mortally wounded. A Company's infantrymen along that side of the perimeter and to my immediate front were countering the NVA assault with an almost indistinguishable roar of M-16, M-79, and M-60 machine-gun fire as well as detonating claymore mines and throwing hand grenades. Within the first 15 to 20 minutes or so the flame munitions were detonated along the eastern perimeter momentarily casting a bright orange glow beneath at least a dozen or more hand flares now illuminating GRANITE. Our sheer volume and intensity of fire from the bunker line rapidly halted the NVA Sapper's mass advance into our positions. In fact, several soldiers who had been overlooking the flame munitions reported later that they observed scores of NVA soldiers on fire and running back into the jungle. However, for several more hours the fighting continued against a battered but determined NVA force as they appeared to attack piecemeal in small groups of two or three focused on specific fighting positions along and within our perimeter.





(81MM MORTAR POSITION DESTROYED BY EITHER RPG OR SACHEL CHARGE.)

The NVA Sapper teams were a determined lot... they clearly had specific targets assigned...they were well rehearsed and apparently were desperate to accomplish their missions. (Over the years I've often marveled at the courage and tenacity of the NVA infantrymen.... they were a formidable enemy with enormous concentration and well-rehearsed in their efforts to destroy specific assigned objectives within our lines). Throughout the remainder of the night there were occasional close combat engagements with small surviving teams of NVA still hell-bent to penetrate our perimeter as we made adjustments in our lines to close gaps created by our own losses. Concurrently, as the battle raged, other supporting divisional and non-divisional assets arrived to augment the battle. While our supporting tube artillery pounded suspected NVA positions in the surrounding hills, aerial rocket artillery joined in the fight as did a USAF AC-119 "Stinger" Gun Ship and the hill was illuminated by welcomed general support aviation assets as we were becoming dangerously low on our own supply of flare munitions.

At first light on the 30th, the aerial rocket artillery along with the Division's Air Cavalry assets provided us greater precision in attacking suspected enemy locations as the visibility improved.



(ANOTHER FIGHTING POSITION HIT HARD BY SACHEL CHARGES ALONG THE NORTHEAST PERIMETER.)

As mentioned earlier, several of the fighting positions to my immediate front across the landing zone and also to my right rear along the northeastern perimeter were destroyed within the first few minutes of the battle. In effect, my CP had immediately become a critical component of the perimeter fight overlooking the only LZ on the northern end of the fire base. During the most intense hour of the battle I could see a number of my own soldiers in face to face encounters no more than 15 to 20 meters to my front and front right. The advancing NVA attackers were being met with a hail of small arms fire and grenades. As is always the case, the close combat to my front and right was chaotic and there were moments when all of us had great difficulty separating friend from foe as we identified human targets in the shadows created by drifting flares overhead. Time and again I listened to and observed A Company's infantrymen engaging individual NVA soldiers as they crawled to within arm's reach of our fighting positions. Above the pitch of the incessant explosions I could hear shouts between our fighting positions identifying approaching enemy soldiers and quick, violent engagements to stop enemy advances. For what seemed like much of the night the men of A Company raked known and suspected enemy positions with withering direct fire and scores of hand grenades were hurled at enemy soldiers attempting to close on our fighting positions. From my CP we were able to dispatch several NVA Sappers as they stood to hurl satchel charges in our direction from across the LZ. At one point around dawn, we used a LAW (Light Anti-Tank Weapon) to blast one or more NVA from a protective rock out cropping just below and left of my CP.





(ALONG THE NORTH EAST PERIMETER THAT TOOK THE MAIN ATTACK AND IN THE AREA WHERE THE FLAME MUNITIONS WERE DETONATED; SEVERAL NVA DEAD ARE LYING WITHIN THE BOULDERS THAT CONCEALED THEIR ADVANCE.)

As dawn broke, the direct fire engagements along the perimeter had all but stopped and our priorities shifted to evacuating the wounded and those killed in action along with reconsolidating our perimeter, redistributing and resupplying ammunition, and sweeping our immediate front for security purposes. As we swept the eastern sector mid-morning below our perimeter some 20 meters or so, I discovered a severely wounded but semiconscious NVA soldier desperately in need of medical attention. With some assistance we quickly began our struggle to get the POW back up the hill to our Aid Station for treatment. As I struggled up the hill helping to carry him we began to receive quite accurate NVA mortar fire (either 60mm or 82mm) for the first time and I recall dropping the enemy soldier at one point along our route to dive into a nearby foxhole to wait out the barrage. When the mortars finally lifted we got the POW back to our Aid Station and he was later evacuated from GRANITE. I returned to continue a sweep of the eastern sector just outside our defensive wire and found a number of dead NVA Sappers lying between and around several large boulders. Their bodies appeared to have been blackened from head to toe for the attack. Everybody was shirtless; most were without footgear, and wore nothing but short pants.

As I recall, most of them were equipped with folding stock AK assault rifles and a shoulder bag containing an assortment of satchel charges and one or more AK magazines. I must admit that the scene was a gruesome one and yet a testament of their courage and determination to destroy our fire base. Several RPG launchers and RPG rounds with propellant boosters were spread among the dead NVA as well and we collected their weapons and ammunition later that morning and piled them alongside our LZ for evacuation.



(MY COMPANY CP ON GRANITE.... DESTROYED RUCKS OF OUR CASUALTIES... SPENT HAND FLARE CANISTERS... MY M16 LAYING ACROSS AN AMMO CRATE FROM WHERE MOST OF MY FIGHTING OCCURRED.)





(THREE GREAT MEMBERS OF THE A COMPANY CP... [NAMES LEFT OFF INTENTIONALLY] BUT FOREVER REMEMBERED FOR THEIR SELFLESS SERVICE...WITHIN A DAY OR TWO I LOST ONE TO WOUNDS ON GRANITE AND ANOTHER TO WOUNDS ON HENDERSON ABOUT A WEEK LATER.)

For the remainder of our time on GRANITE there were no ground probes or direct fire attacks by the NVA although they were certainly anticipated. Our priority of effort at this point shifted to accountability of our own combatants, reorganizing our defensive perimeter, rearming/refitting for potential counter attacks, and evacuating our own dead and wounded. The NVA mortar attacks on GRANITE which had begun as we were getting the POW up the hill around 1000 AM on the 30th continued in earnest for the remainder of the day and were a serious threat to anyone moving around GRANITE. On at least five occasions we were forced to stop all movement around the hill to seek cover as mortar rounds rained onto GRANITE. Before the day was over, we would sustain approximately thirty more casualties from very accurate NVA mortar fires. I would emphasize that these indirect fire attacks came largely without warning and were very accurate which made them that much more dangerous. We were rarely able to detect the sounds of their launch from the surrounding hills due to the noise of our own supporting helicopters involved in resupply, medical evacuation, aerial reconnaissance and almost continuous air strikes targeting nearby hills. The NVA mortars were both physically and psychologically a factor in hampering our recovery on the hill.



(AIR ASSAULT TAKING PLACE FOR ANOTHER DAYLIGHT RECON PATROL)

A Company air assaulted off of GRANITE under the threat of mortar fire late in the day and not without our own grave concerns for ourselves and the brave air crews that risked their lives to extract us. As we lifted off of GRANITE and out of harm's way many of us knew that we had left one of our own behind as unaccounted for. All day on the 30th, despite the intense mortar fire, we had combed the hill and the immediate terrain around GRANITE's eastern perimeter searching for PFC EDWARD J. BISHOP JR. Many of us knew his exact location along the eastern flank near the 81mm mortar position when the battle had begun yet his whereabouts after the ground attack subsided remained a mystery. In fact, Ed's position was no more than 20 meters from my CP to my right rear and bore the brunt of some of the fiercest fighting and the greatest density of large satchel charges coming from the NVA's main thrust in their effort to overrun GRANITE. Ed Bishop was a great soldier and well-liked by all who knew him. None of us, not one, will ever rest until there is a full accounting of his loss and he has been brought home.

The 101st Airborne Division After Action Report lists seven U.S. killed, one U.S. Missing In Action, and seven wounded as a result of the battle on GRANITE that began on the 29th and another thirty-four wounded as a result of five separate mortar attacks on GRANITE on the 30th. NVA losses were reported as 18 killed in action. With some degree of certainty, I believe that the total U.S. wounded on GRANITE remains understated for many soldiers were treated for wounds at multiple Aid Stations after we had departed from GRANITE.

The by-name list of those killed on GRANITE, as best I can determine, is as follows:

1. ROBERT SIDNEY BOGGS; MOS 11B; B Company, 2-501 Infantry; died of multiple fragmentation wounds.



2. LARRY NEAL JONES; MOS 11C; E Company, 2-501 Infantry; died of multiple fragmentation wounds.
3. DENNIS WAYNE HUNTER; MOS 11B; A Company, 2-501 Infantry; died from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds.
4. CARL EUGENE PATTEN; MOS 11C; E Company, 2-501 Infantry; died from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds.
5. ROY HARRISON SNYDER; MOS 11B; A Company, 2-501 Infantry; died from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds.
6. FREDERICK EDWARD WORTMANN; MOS 64B; A Company, 2-501 Infantry; died of undefined cause.
7. ROBERT JOSEPH SHANNON; MOS 57A; A Company, 2-501 Infantry; died of undefined cause.
8. LINWOOD ALFERONIA WALKER; MOS 11B; C Company, 2-501 Infantry; died outright; misadventure.
9. EDWARD J. BISHOP, JR.; MOS 11B; A Company, 2-501 Infantry; initially listed as MIA; later classified as "died while missing-remains not returned".

"TO THOSE LOST ON FIRE SUPPORT BASE GRANITE, YOU WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED; TO THE SURVIVORS OF THE GRANITE BATTLE, YOU ARE BROTHERS FOREVER."

The author of this account, Brigadier General James E. Mitchell, USA, Retired, served on active duty for more than thirty years. He led two rifle platoons (one in combat); commanded four Infantry Companies (two in combat); commanded a Motorized Infantry Battalion, a Light Infantry Battalion, a Light Infantry Brigade and served as a Light Infantry Division Deputy Commander for Operations and Deputy Commander for Support. Key staff assignments include: Infantry Battalion S3 Air (twice); Infantry Battalion S2 (Intelligence) in combat; Infantry Battalion S3; Infantry Battalion Executive Officer; Light Infantry Division G3; Chief of Current Operations, U.S. Army-The Pentagon; Deputy Director of Operations-J3, The Joint Staff-Pentagon. He is a graduate of the Army Command and Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces-The National Defense University.

29 April 1970

At 1400H, vicinity YD505077, B/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon, received mortar and heavy small arms fire from an enemy force located in bunkers at a distance of 10 meters. The platoon employed organic weapons, tube artillery and ARA and was reinforced by the remainder of the company, C/2-502 IN and Reconnaissance platoon. As the US elements maneuvered against the enemy force, supported by air strikes, ARA and tube artillery, the enemy fled to a second bunker complex at 1515H. At 1549H the enemy fled to a third bunker complex. The contact terminated at dusk. A sweep revealed 15 NVA KIA, two RPG launchers, one AK-47, one M-60 machinegun, one M-79 grenade launcher and one PRC-25 radio set. Twenty-six US were wounded in this action. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970)

29 April 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: At 0955H, D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon began receiving limited small arms fire in the vicinity of YD519056. ARA was employed. The enemy attempted to split the platoon in two. Fighting for their lives, the platoon was able to regroup their forces, and by utilizing a large volume of small arms fire and ARA, they were finally able to rout the enemy. The 1st platoon and CP of D/2-502 IN were brought in as reinforcements and were employed as blocking force for B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN operating to the north. B/2-502 IN continued its sweep south from Hill 714 along the ridge line. At 1400H, B/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon set off a booby trap. Although no casualties were incurred, the booby trap alerted the enemy and the platoon was brought under heavy fire by automatic weapons and 60mm mortars. The initial fire halted the platoon, but reinforcements were brought up, ARA, field artillery and tactical air strikes were employed. At 1550H a combined assault of bunker complex was made by B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN with the Recon platoon screening the flanks. By 1550H two bunker complexes had been taken by close in fighting, and the enemy had been routed, although one US Soldier was killed and several wounded (26 US WIA), the enemy Soldiers suffered a solid defeat. A close check of the area revealed 16 enemy bodies, one M-79 grenade launcher, one RPG launcher, one U.S. M-60 machine gun, one PRC-25 radio, one B-40 rocket and one AK-47. B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN consolidated their forces and evacuated their wounded.

D/2-502 IN had established two-night positions in the vicinity of the earlier morning contact. An OP from the 1st platoon saw and engaged one enemy. A squad was brought up to check out the area and they were engaged by an enemy squad in bunkers. The initial burst of fire caused one US casualty. ARA was employed, and the enemy fled leaving behind one enemy body.

29 April 1970

A/1-502 IN located several pairs of boot prints freshly made. They were on a trail next to a campsite of about same age. Bunker #9 at FSB BIRMINGHAM spotted two NVA/VC crossing river and other bunkers heard noise. The firebase was put on 100% alert and the reaction force will sleep at the ready position. (1-502 IN Annual Supplement; Approved by LTC Richard N. Lang, Commander)

29 April 1970

At 1300H in the vicinity of YD359151; 3.5 KM Se of FSB RIPCORDER. A white team (2 LOHs on visual reconnaissance) flew uninvited into D/2-501 IN AO. While CPT Straub tried to contact them by radio, one of the loaches received .50cal machine fire and went down in flames resulting in 2 US KIA. (CW2 Edgar Berner and SP4 Jeffrey Klaves) The crash was witnessed by D/2-501 IN at a distance of approximately 1000m. D/2-501 IN immediately assaulted toward the crash site with 1st platoon in the lead, maneuvering along a stream containing large boulders. 1st platoon under sporadic enemy fire knocked out 2 bunkers along the way before arriving at the crash site at 1455H. At 1305H (YD365153) 2/D and 1/D received RPG, machine gun and small arms fire from an estimated enemy squad to the west of their position. The element returned organic weapons fire along with the assistance of ARA gunships and the enemy withdrew to the west. A sweep of the area revealed 3 NVA KBSA, 1 NVA KBARA and 1 NVA POW.

The following is a personal observation from the Delta Raiders Chronology. 1st platoon removed the two burned bodies from the downed loach, placed them in body bags, and evacuated them from the crash site along with the radios. While moving along the stream in a heavy rain to link up with Co 1st platoon captured one HOI CHANH (without a weapon) who was hiding behind a large boulder. (Account used by permission from Gary Goeckel)



29 April 1971 B/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon vicinity ZC041984 found one BBT. Was M13 antipersonnel mine with trip wire firing device. Results 1 BBT destroyed.

30 April 1966 **Operation AUSTIN VI:** At 1900H, 2-502 IN BN, Recondo platoon conducted a heliborne infiltration into BU PRANG and proceeded to secure LZ Alpha vicinity YU497757. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation Austin VI; 24 May 1966)

30 April 1967 **Operation SUMMERALL:** 2-502 IN BN conducted airmobile / overland extractions to KHANH DUONG and commenced preparations for future operations. A contact by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 2 VC KIA (BC) and 1 individual weapon captured. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation SUMMERALL; 21 May 1967)

30 April 1968 STRIKE (2-502 N BN) paratroopers continued reconnaissance-in-force missions near FSB VEGHEL, contacting the enemy three times, killing 21 and capturing three weapons. At 1625H one mile east of FSB BASTOGNE, the CG's command and control helicopter received hits from ground automatic weapons fire, slightly wounding MG O. M. Barsanti in the left leg. After directing artillery to be fired into the enemy location, Barsanti was evacuated to the 22nd Surgical Hospital, treated, and returned to duty at 1715H the same day. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)

30 April 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** 1-502 IN BN continued operation with all units discovering enemy weapons and equipment.

30 April 1970 D/1-501 IN assaulted to FS/OB HENDERSON and provided security for the insertion of B/2-11 ARTY (-) and B/12th ATRY (ARVN). The company passed to the operational control of the 3BDE. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970)

30 April 1970 1-501 IN BN terminated operations south of Camp EVANS and moved by air to FS/OB KATHRYN to commence reconnaissance in force operations to locate and destroy enemy anti-aircraft weapons and base camps in the area. The battalion (-) passed to the operational control of the 1BDE.

The 2BDE continued to provide support for pacification and development program in the lowland areas and assumed responsibility for the piedmont area of PHONG DIEN District south of Camp EVANS. Mobile training teams continued to improve the combat proficiency of RF and FF units and to teach PSDF fundamentals of defense. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970)

30 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** C/2-502 IN moved through D/2-502 IN and became the point element to continue the sweep to the south along the ridge form Hill 714. At 1400H, a large enemy cache was located by C/2-502 IN. The cache contained the following weapons: 1 SKS, 14 Sniper weapons, 19 French submachine guns, 2 shotguns, 4 60mm mortars (complete), 3 – 30 caliber machine guns, 1 – M-60 machineguns (US) and one RPD machine gun. By the end of April, the main defenses of the enemy had been eliminated from the top of Hill 714. Although several large enemy bunker complexes had been overrun and destroyed, the enemy forces had merely displaced and broken into smaller units to harass and delay the STRIKE Force Soldiers.

30 April 1970 2BDE continued to provide support for pacification and development programs in the lowland areas and assured responsibility for the piedmont area of PHONG DIEN District south of Camp EVANS. Mobile training teams continued to improve the combat proficiency of BF and PF units and to teach PSDF fundamentals of defense.

30 April 1970 FS/OB GRANITE received five separate mortar attacks resulting in 34 US WIA. ARA tube artillery was employed on suspected enemy positions as the Air Cavalry elements and ground forces searched for enemy mortar positions. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970)

30 April 1970 Intensive VR by a pink team around FSB BIRMINGHAM produced negative results. Elements of B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon located fresh tracks going in opposite directions. D/1-502 IN found 51 foxholes and a variety of VC/NVA equipment which appeared to have been used in the last four days. (1-502 IN Annual Supplement; Approved by LTC Richard N. Lang, Commander)

30 April 1970 At 0645H in the vicinity of YD360155 – 3.5km SE of FSB RIPCORN; while D/2-501 IN was still in a tight defensive perimeter 2nd platoon engaged with small arms fire 20m from their position. The enemy did not return fire. Results 1 NVA KIA, 1 AK-47. (2 members of 2nd platoon, went out to pick up their claymore mine they had setup the night before. While doing so, another NVA scout was looking for us, and unfortunately for him was successful, but very dead). The POW was medevaced to Camp EVANS (Although clearly observed by the enemy the medevac did not receive hostile fire). At 1225H in the vicinity of YD360156 – 3.5km from FSB RIPCORN; CPT Straub engaged one NVA spotted in a tree on a hill above D/2-501 IN position with a LAW at long range. In response to D/2-501 IN received 40 – 60mm mortar rounds from an unknown six enemy force. Artillery and ARA were employed on the suspected enemy location. Results: 2 US WIA. D/2-501 IN left the AO by marching up a long steep hill (Known to the 3rd platoon as RE-UP Hill) and linked up with C/2-501 IN where they set up their NDP. Personal Note: when the mortars started to rain down on us. CPT Straub order that all machine-guns (M-60), I believe we had nine at the time open fire on the hill top (The same one that was bombed the day before, and the location of the mortars.) This cause a brief stop to the mortar fire. The steep long hill, should read mountain. My squad ran point that day for the company. Ran being the key word, as the NVA mortars followed us up the side of the mountain. At the top we linked up with what was left of C/2-501 IN, both companies together most likely numbered less than a normal company would. (Account used by permission from Gary Goeckel)



30 April 1971

Operation LAM SON 720: The weather cleared allowing a small element of the 2-502 IN BN to be inserted on CO PUNG Mountain. One thousand fifteen meters in height, CO PUNG commands the eastern approach to the upper A SHAU Valley. To enjoy any success in the upper valley CO PUNG had to be held. It was to be a 1BDE support base for future raids in and around Tiger Mountain. STRIKE Force was called upon to seize and hold CO PUNG Mountain. Following B-52 strikes, fighter bomber attacks, and extensive artillery fire, the 2-502 IN BN landed on CO PUNG fighting bad weather and determined enemy. On the initial sortie onto the mountain two of the lift ships crashed on the LZ resulting in 5 STRIKE Force Troopers KIA and 10 WIA. Recon/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN quickly seized the high ground and the engineers expanded the LZ's Delta and Charlie Companies took the southern and eastern sides respectively. (2-502 Unit History, 1971)

April 1972

2BDE, 101st ABN DIV returned to Fort Campbell from Vietnam.

May – September 1968

2-501 IN BN returned to its former operational area West of HUE and began the slow task of identifying and destroying the VC infrastructure.

As the operation of the Battalion expanded to include the area adjacent to the initial operational area, contact continued to be light and sporadic. This trend continued thru the month of September. Mines and booby traps were encountered; food, ammunition, and weapons caches were located; small VC elements ranging from two to fifteen personnel were ambushed and eliminated; and the local VC infrastructure was identified and rendered ineffective.

01 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI: A/2-502 IN closed into LZ Alpha at 1130H and proceeded to conduct "Recondo Checkerboard" operations in area Hank. At 1700H, A/2-502 IN was located at YU472595 with a "Recondo" patrol at YU468574 with negative enemy contact. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation Austin VI; 24 May 1966)

01 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI: B/2-502 IN closed into LZ Alpha at 1130H and secured the TAC CP and Artillery battery vicinity YU497575. C/2-502 IN remained Brigade reserve at NHON CO. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation Austin VI; 24 May 1966)

01 – 18 May 1966

The 1-327 IN BN, 2-502 IN BN, 2-503 IN BN (173d Abn) and 45th ARVN Regiment begin operation **Austin IV**, a search and destroy effort in QUANG DUC and PHUOC LONG provinces along the II/III CTZ boundaries near the CAMBODIAN border, BU GIA MAP, BU PRANG, NHON CO area.

01 - 02 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light as the 1-501 IN BN continued a cordoned operation vicinity THON PHUOC YEN. Today's statistics: 5 US WIA (4 medevac). Enemy assessment: 35 NVA KIA (BC), 1 VC KIA (BC), 7 NVA POW, 9 AK-47, 7 SKS, 1 RP-46 HMG, 2 Soviet carbines, 1 M2 carbine.

1-501 IN BN

Continued the cordon of THON PHUOC YEN vicinity YD687282 with A/1-501 IN, B/1-501 IN, A/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN and 3 PF platoons. Throughout the reporting period the enemy made numerous unsuccessful attempts to escape the cordon. Friendly units received SA and AW fire along the northern section of the cordon. Fire was returned with organic weapons. Throughout the day artillery and 8 air strikes supported. B/1-501 IN moved along the west bank of the river into the village to vicinity YD686286. Intense SA and AW fire was received B/1-501 IN held in place as artillery supported. At the close of the period the cordon was maintained to the north by B/1-501 IN from vicinity YD686286 to YD691286 an A/1-501 IN (-) from YD691286 to YD693285. During the afternoon B/2-501 IN was airlifted from the cordon and reverted to OPCON 2-501. At 1723H, 1 platoon from A/1-501 IN was airlifted across the river from YD692286 to YD695285 to permit the filling at the gap created by B/1-501 IN. Also, 1 platoon from HHC/1-501 IN was employed to keep the cordon intact – results: 2 US WAI (medevac); Enemy assessment – 25 NVA KIA (BC), 7 NVA POW, 9 AK-47, 6 SKS, 1 RP-46 HMG, 1 Soviet carbine, 1 M2 carbine.

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV. Conducted RIF operation from vicinity YD674293 to YD650300. Established night position vicinity YD655297 with ambushes vicinity YD653293 and YD653294.

D/1-501 IN and 1 PF platoon attached. Occupied night position vicinity YD656252 with ambushes vicinity YD647250, YD658245 and YD659239. At 0230H, ambush vicinity YD658245 exchanged fire with approximately 50 NVA. Results - 1 US WIA; Enemy assessment - 1 NVA KIA. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD663255. At 1500H vicinity YD661255 engaged 1 NVA, resulting in 1 NVA KIA (BC). Results – 1 US WIA; Enemy assessment – 2 NVA KIA (BC).

Recon platoon with 1 PF platoon and 1 RF platoon attached. Occupied night position vicinity YD610265 and YD614266 and YD612262. Conducts patrols reconnoitering for night ambush sites. Established night position vicinity YD613271 with local ambushes.

A/1-502 IN remained at LZ SALLY as RRF.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN.

B/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD723317 with ambush vicinity YD725325. At 0628H received 7 rounds 82mm mortar fire. Artillery fired on suspected enemy mortar position vicinity YD715330. Negative casualties. Negative enemy assessment. Conducted RIF operation NE towards village vicinity YD732327. At 0930H, lead elements entering village



began receiving fire. Received SA and AW fire from YD726328. Results -2 US WIA. Withdrew to call in artillery. As intense SA and AW fire continued to be received from an estimated company size element, B/2-501 IN withdrew to YD725324 to be supported by air. From 1115H to 1449H, 7 air strikes supported B/2-501 IN resulting in 8 NVA KBA (BC). Established night position vicinity YD726323 with ambushes vicinity YD725328 and YD729323. Results: 2 US WIA (medevac). Enemy assessment – 8 NVA KBA (BC).

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD673333 with ambush vicinity YD667338. Provided security for rice harvest with C/2-501 (-) at YD673333 and platoons at YD665334, YD664328 and YD673329.

D/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN until 1530H. At 1546H conducted a combat assault from PZ vicinity YD696288 to LZ vicinity YD727335. At YD729330 found 1 SKS and 1 Soviet carbine. Established night position vicinity YD728335 with ambushes vicinity YD724334 and YD732333. At 1551H vicinity YD734339 gunships in support of D/2-501 IN engaged 1 VC. Results – 1 VC KIA.

Recon platoon provided security for FSB OMAHA.

2BDE

HHC Security platoon provided minesweep security N and S along QL-1.

(Commanders Situation Report; 012001H May – 022000H May 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)

01 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: As part of Operation CARENTAN II, the 2-17 CAV which was supporting the 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV encountered an estimated reinforced NVA company 13 miles northwest of HUE. Casualties: U.S. 2 KIA and 26 WIA; enemy 82 KIA.

01 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: 1-502 IN BN moved back into QUANG DIEN District by helicopter and began RIF operations and security of AN LO Bridge and clearing of Q.L. #1. C/1-502 IN sprang an ambush at (706348) on 5 NVA, killing 2 (BC). Later 2 VC were captured as they walked into the NPD. After interrogation, it was learned that they were going to vicinity 715330 to act as guides for NVA. At 0530H. The NDP received SA fire and suffered 1 WIA. At 0635H, they moved to the village (715330) and swept it finding a grave approximately 24 hours old with 4 KIA. Results: Friendly: 1 WIA; Enemy: 6 NVA KIA (BC), 2 WIA/POW. A/1-502 IN returned from OPCON to 1-501 IN BN after 3-day operation (Battle of PHUOC YEN). They received credit for 80 NVA KIA (BC)



01 May 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: 1-502 IN BN reacted rapidly to capture documents and subsequent readouts to discover a hospital complex and a heavy machine repair shop near the LAOTIAN Border which yielded over 100 pounds of medical supplies, eight vehicles, and ten weapons. (HQ, 101st Airborne (Airmobile), Operational Report – Lessons Learned. Dated 20 August 1969)

01 May 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: Operations continued with B/1-502 IN establishing contact with an estimated enemy squad at 1008H in the vicinity of YC306920. The element employed organic weapons, ARA and ARTY. Results: 1 US WIA.

01 May 1970

Enemy indirect fire attacks continued on FS/OB GRANITE and GLADIATOR. A total of eleven attacks were directed at the fire bases as US ground units aided by counter-mortar radar and serial reconnaissance aircraft continued to search for enemy mortar positions. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970)

01 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 1-502 IN BN is continuing Operation TEXAS STAR. NAM HOA set up an ambush based on some intelligence they had and sprung it on 8 NVA/VS. The results were one NVA/VC KIA and one NVA/VC female wounded and captured. Pink team discovered one fighting position with signs of recent use at 698114. Recon discovered six bunkers with overhead cover and destroyed the same. There were no signs of recent activity. D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon, 1st squad found an old NDP site with 30 foxholes. The last usage was estimated at one month ago.

01 May 1970

At 0830H in the vicinity of YD415210 - FB GLADIATOR; Shortly after D/2-501 IN CA'd to reopen the FB GLADIATOR, 2nd platoon received 4 - 60mm mortar rounds which impacted 300 - 400mm from their position. A suspected enemy location was not determined. This was the first of many mortar showers that the company was to receive while on GLADIATOR. At 1020H, FB GLADIATOR 2nd platoon received 8 to 10 - 82 mm mortar rounds which impacted to one side of their perimeter and then 50 meters to the opposite side of the perimeter. Negative casualties. (Actually, a dud round landed just a few feet from 2 members of the 2nd platoon. D/2-501 IN lucky still holding on.) At 1125H, FB GLADIATOR D/2-501 IN received 8 to 10 60mm mortar rounds impacting inside the perimeter, resulting in three men medevaced to 85th Evac. Hospital. (I had a very rare circumstance, I was an E-5 squad leader, but had an E-6 in my squad. He had transfer from the First Infantry Div (The Big Red One). He had 15 more days to DEROS (Date Eligible for Return from Over Seas) than I did and didn't want a squad with, so few days left. He had come to Vietnam as a PFC E-3) Anyways when the mail had come in that day, I was going over to retrieve it, when he said he wanted to go. We had a discussion, as I also wanted to pick up the latest Situation report on our status on GLADIATOR. I told him to go and said, "Be sure to wear your helmet." He said, "I don't need it" He was one of the three medevaced to the 85th. He had head wounds.) At 1359H, while a bird was landing bringing in engineers three more mortar rounds impacted inside the perimeter. (By this time, we had learned that if a chopper was landing. Get in your hole.) At 1545H, three more mortar rounds impacted outside the perimeter. At 1606H, three 82mm mortar rounds impacting on the northeast helo-pad. AF FAC "Bilk" was



placed on station, with an air strike completed at 1646H A pink team was employed in the area. At 1643H, D/2-501 IN received 5 82mm mortars from an unknown location. Personal notes; I was on the last lift from RE-UP Hill where we had set up our Night Defensive Position with C/2-501 IN. As the slick lifted off, I could hear small arms fire hitting the bottom of the chopper. When they told, us we were going to Firebase GLADIATOR, I had thought it was an established firebase, it was just a cleared hilltop, that had been use as a firebase in the past few months. GLADIATOR was opened up, because the division was unable to secure the area around FB GRANITE. Some of the things I found on the hilltop was an 20lb shape charge, a box of dynamite and about 30 lbs. of nails. I placed the shape charge on a finger that ran down the ridge line. Knowing that if the NVA was coming, it would be up this finger. I then placed the 30 pounds of nails in front of it. When LT Arndt saw this, he said "Sgt Goeckel if you set that off you are going to be killed." I said, "if we set it off it off, we know that." Later after SSgt Tompkins had been wounded, I approached CPT Chris Straub in a rant, because after 11 months in country this was the first wounded man I had in my squad. I wanted pay back, and I wanted it badly. I told Straub to get us off this damn hill and let find these guys. (Thank you, Chris, for your understanding, and letting me rant.) We did go off that hill for a couple days but didn't find the bad guys. During this time, I began to believe I was becoming ineffective as a squad leader. Short timer thoughts were going through my head. I was so close to going home, and the NVA seemed to be all around us. I kept this to myself, I don't think my squad ever knew how I felt during this time. (Account used by permission from Gary Goeckel)

01 – 31 May 1971

During this period the 1-501 IN BN conducted search and attack operations in its assigned area of operation. The 1-501 IN BN (-) occupied FB TOMAHAWK, conducting search and attack operations in the AO until 14 May. During the same time, D/1-501 IN and C/1-501 IN, 4th platoon was securing the Reserve Ammo Dump at DA NANG. On the 14th of May, the 1-501 IN BN returned to PBCB for a seven day stand down for refitting, organization and refresher training. In addition to the refresher training, D/1-501 IN participated in two Division ceremonies at Camp EAGLE. On 20 May, the 1-501 IN BN CP and two platoons from D/1-501 IN moved by air to FB BRICK; while the companies moved to their assigned AO's. By 1100H, 20 May, the 1-501 IN BN assumed control of the BRICK AO. The remainder of the reporting period the 1-501 IN BN conducted search and attack operations in its assigned AO.

02 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI: A/2-502 IN completed "Recondo Checkerboard" operation in area Hank with negative enemy contact and returned to the TAC CP at 1310H vicinity YU497575. A/2-502 IN assumed TAC CP and Artillery security with "Recondo" squads providing local security. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation Austin VI; 24 May 1966)

02 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI: B/2-502 IN commenced "Recondo Checkerboard" operations in area Lou at 1630H. One platoon prepared for a heliborne assault on a plantation vicinity YU583560. C/2-502 IN remained Brigade reserve at NHON CO. "Recondo" platoon completed "Recondo Checkerboard" operations in area Tom with negative enemy contact at 1500H and returned to the TAC CP. "Recondo" platoon prepared for operations in area Jim. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation Austin VI; 24 May 1966)

02 – 03 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light as the 1-501 IN BN completed their cordon operation and the 2-501 IN BN established a cordon around the village's vicinity YD690300 and YD693304. Today's statistics: 3 US KIA, 13 US WIA (11 medevac); Enemy assessment: 12 NVA KIA (BC), 2 NVA POW, 5 AK-47, 2 LMG, 2 SKS and 3 CHICOM grenades (destroyed).

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN, B/1-501 IN, A/2-501 IN, HHC/1-501 IN platoon, and 3 platoons of PF continued the cordon of THON PHUOC YEN vicinity YD687282, throughout the night under continuous illumination. At 0410 vicinity YD688286, B/1-501 IN received SA and RPG fire. Returned fire. Sporadic fire continued until 0525H. Results – 2 US WIA. At first light check resulted 4 NVA KIA (BC), 1 LMG, 4 AKI-47 and 1 POW WIA. Approximately 0800H, a CS drum drop was conducted vicinity YD688283. A Psychological Operations Team broadcasted for the enemy to surrender. B/1-501 IN and A/2-501 IN conducted a sweep of the cordoned area. Results: 3 US WIA (includes 1 minor WIA from Artillery shrapnel) (2 medevac); Enemy assessment: 10 NVA KIA (BC), 2 NVA POW, 4 AK-47, 1 SKS< 2 LMG, 1 CHICOM grenade destroyed.

B/1-501 IN conducted sweep of village THON PHUOC YEN. Established ambushes vicinity village.

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV until 1700H, occupied high position vicinity YD655297 with ambushes vicinity YD653293 and YD653294. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD613318. OPCON 2-501 IN BN effective 1400H.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD663255 with ambushes vicinity YD653250, YD664246 and YD663241. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD675286. Established night position vicinity YD671281 with local ambushes.

A/2-501 IN conducted sweep of village THON PHUOC YEN. Established ambushes vicinity of village.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD613271 with ambushes vicinity YD617270 and YD615276. Conducted patrols to vicinity YD623264 reconnoitering for night ambush sites. Established high position vicinity YD623264 with local ambush.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN.

B/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD726323 with ambushes vicinity YD725328 and YD729323. Conducted RIF operation to village vicinity YD728327. Searched the village with negative contact, found 1 SKS, 1 AK-47 and 2 CHICOM



grenades (destroyed). At 1208H conducted combat assault from PZ vicinity YD723325 to LZ vicinity YD684316, closed at 1235H. Conducted RIF operation S to village vicinity YD686305. At 1440H vicinity YD687304 received RPG, SA and AW fire from an estimated reinforced platoon. Returned fire with organic weapons & artillery support. Intense fire continued to be received. LFT supported as B/2-501 IN recovered their wounded. Contact broke at 1500H as B/2-501 IN withdrew to a blocking position to cordon the enemy force. At the close of the reporting period sporadic fire continued to be received. Occupied a blocking position from YD684305 to YD689308. Results: 2 US KIA, 6 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 1 SKS, 1 AK-47, 2 CHICOM grenades (destroyed).

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD673333. Provided security for rice harvest with elements at YD673333, YD665328 and YD674328. At 1312H conducted a combat assault from PZ vicinity YD672333 to LZ vicinity YD688296. Closed at 1350H. Held in place while an artillery preparation was fired vicinity YD688300. Moved forward and entered village vicinity YD688302. Unable to advance because of closeness to artillery being fired in support of B/2-501 IN. Occupied blocking position from YD690298 and YD684304.

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD728335 with ambushes vicinity YD734334 and YD732333. Conducted RIF operation to village vicinity YD722313. At 1305H vicinity YD724314 received SA fire. Returned fire and artillery supported. Intensity of fire increased as AW fire and 1 60mm mortar round was received from an estimated reinforced squad, resulting in 1 US WIA. LFT supported. Contact was broken at 1500H as D/2-501 IN withdrew to permit 5 AS to support. Approximately, 1600H company withdrew to a PZ vicinity YD731311 to prepare to move to an LZ vicinity YD695296 and assume a blocking position to cordon an unknown size enemy force vicinity YD600303. PZ time was 1705H, closed LZ 1740H. Occupied a blocking position vicinity YD695300 to YD690298. Results: 1 US WIA (medevac); Negative enemy assessment.

Recon platoon provided security for FSB OMAHA. Conducted RIF operation to YD687306 and returned. At 1910H conducted a combat assault from FSB OMAHA to LZ vicinity YD683300, closed 1930H. Moved to a blocking position vicinity YD684304 to YD684305.

A/1-502 IN OPCON to 2-501 IN BN effective 1650H. At 1643H conducted a combat assault from LZ SALLY to LZ vicinity YD691341. Occupied a blocking position from YD691304 to YD695301. At 1900H vicinity YD695303 received SA and AW fire. Returned fire. Results: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment negative.

C/1-501 IN OPCON to 2-501 IN BN effective 1400H. At 1505H conducted combat assault from PZ vicinity YD613315 to LZ vicinity YD666294, closed 1515H. Conducted RIF operation to YD670290. AT 1735H conducted a combat assault from PZ vicinity YD666294 to LZ YD690311. Occupied a blocking position vicinity YD691304 to YD689308. At 1945H, received sniper fire. Results: 1 US WIA (medevac)

(Commanders Situation Report; 022001H May – 032000H May 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)

02 – 03 May 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: The 1-502 IN BN continued RIF operations and on May 3rd, conducted three air moves. A/1-502 IN moved by CH-47 from FSB LASH to EAGLE BEACH and C/1-502 IN returned to EAGLE BEACH to FSB LASH and assumed security of the firebase. The Recon platoon was extracted from YC650681 to FSB LASH.

02 May 1970

A man in C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon was seriously hurt when he fell of 10ft embankment. He was medevaced to 85th Evac. C/1-502 IN at location 707070, found a booby trap on a trail. It was blown in place.

02 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon encountered an enemy squad in bunkers 500 meters' northwest of FSB SHOCK. The platoon received RPG fire, small arms fire and satchel charges from three sides. The enemy attempted to maneuver to cut off the platoon. The 2nd platoon and Command group were brought up as reinforcements. The enemy fled the area leaving behind one body and one AK-47 rifle. D/2-502 IN 3rd platoon sustained only 3 men slightly wounded.

02 May 1970

Sixty-four 55-gallon drums of napalm were dropped in the vicinity of FS/OB Henderson to improve fields of fire. Enemy mortar attacks continued against FS/OB GRANITE. Air strikes against enemy mortar positions resulted in three NVA KIA, three secondary fires, four bunkers destroyed and one secondary explosion.

02 May 1971

Operation LAM SON 720: The enemy in the surrounding area launched the first of many mortar attacks against CO PUNG.

03 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI: A/2-502 IN continued security of TAC CP and had "Recondo" squad patrolling the nearby area. 26 Montagnard's approached the TACP CP and told CO of A/2-502 IN that they were not moving out of the area; were pro American and had observed no enemy activity in the last few days.

B/2-502 IN continued "Recondo Checkerboard" operations in area Lou with negative enemy contact and were located vicinity YU581562 at 1100H and established local security. C/2-502 IN remained in Brigade reserve at NHON CO. "Recondo" platoon moved to ambush site at vicinity YU531524 at 1000H with negative enemy contact and rejoined Battalion CP at 1520H. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation Austin VI; 24 May 1966)



Operation CARENTAN II: TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operation in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases and logistics in the coastal plains area. Contact was light as the cordon of villages vicinity YD690300 and YD693304. Today's Statistics: 3 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 27 NVA KIA (BC), 1 NVA WIA POW, 1 AK-47.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD678284 with ambushes vicinity YD677291 and YD675287. Conducted a search in conjunction with a minesweep team area vicinity YD6728, negative results. Established a night position vicinity YD677283.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position YD685277 with ambushes vicinity YD684281, YD687274 and YD685284. Throughout the night engaged 3 different suspected enemy movements. First light check resulted in 3 NVA KIA (BC). Conducted a search of THON PHUOC YEN village to further access results of cordon operation conducted 28 April – 03 May. At 0902H vicinity YD685280 found 1 NVA WIA. At 0943H received 2 US WIA resulting from a bunker being blown. Throughout the day found an additional 20 NVA KIA (BC), 7 were in fresh graves. Established a night position vicinity YD690279 with local ambushes. Results: 2 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 23 NVA KIA (BC), 1 NVA WIA (POW).

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-501 IN BN until 1430H, then OPCON 1-502 IN BN.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD671281 with ambushes vicinity YD671277 and YD671283. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD674243. At 1514H vicinity YD666236 found 2 NVA bodies in fresh graves, killed by SA. Results 2 NVA KIA (BC). Established night position vicinity YD668238 with local ambushes.

A/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD690278 with ambushes vicinity YD694286, YD693276 and YD690274. At 2300H engaged 2 enemy vicinity YD690278. First light check resulted in 2 NVA KIA (BC) and 1 AK-47. At 0900H reverted to OPCON 2-501 IN. Results: 2 NVA KIA (BC), 1 AK-47.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD623264 with ambush vicinity YD626261. Conducted local patrols reconnoitering for night ambush sites. Established night position vicinity YD617249 with local ambushes.

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

2-501 IN BN

B/2-501 IN, C/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN Recon platoon, C/1-501 IN and A/1-502 IN maintained a cordon around villages vicinity YD690300 and YD693304. At 0335H vicinity YD693298 D/2-501 received 2 RPG rounds with negative casualties. At 0345H A/1-502 IN exchanged SA fire with 2 NVA vicinity YD696302. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment. At 0425H, D/2-501 IN vicinity YD693298 received approximately 20-30 60mm rounds from vicinity YD699318. Results: 1 US WIA. D/2-501 IN was relieved in place by B/1-502 IN approximately 1200H. Recon platoon 2-501 IN was relieved in place by Recon platoon 1-502 IN approximately 1215H. At 1430H OPCON of cordon operation and AO were assumed by 1-502 IN BN. Results: 1 US WIA (medevac); Negative enemy assessment.

A/2-501 IN returned OPCON from 1-501 IN BN at 0900H; at 0928H conducted combat assault from YD694275 to FSB GERONIMO. Provided security for FSB GERONIMO.

B/2-501 IN OPCON to 1-502 IN BN effective 1430H.

C/2-501 IN OPCON to 1-502 IN BN effective 1430H.

D/2-501 IN at 1320H conducted a combat assault from PZ vicinity YD690298 to LZ vicinity YD750210 closed 1340H. At 1445H assumed mission of providing security at HUE bridges with D/2-501 (-) at YD749210, platoon at YD780209, and 1 squad at LST Ramp vicinity YD771222.

Recon platoon at 1210H conducted a combat assault from YD6843014 to Satan vicinity YD663223.

C/1-501 and A/1-502 IN OPCON to 1-502 IN effected 1430H.

1-502 IN BN

1-502 IN BN OPCON 2BDE effective 0200H.

B/1-502 IN, E/1-502 IN, HHC/1-502 IN, C/1-502 IN and D/1-502 IN moved by CH-47 from FSB BASTOGNE commencing 0725H to FSB OMAHA closing 1750H. At 1430H, 1-502 IN BN assumed OPCON of AO previously controlled by 2-501 IN BN. 1-502 IN BN also assumed OPCON of cordon operation vicinity YD6930 and B/2-501 IN, C/2-501 IN, A/1-502 IN and A/1-502 IN at 1430H.

A/1-502 IN OPCON 1-502 IN effective 1430H. Maintained blocking position vicinity YD691304 to YD695301.

B/1-502 IN moved from FSB BASTOGNE to FSB OMAHA. At 1115H conducted a combat assault from FSB OMAHA to LZ vicinity YD681305, closed 1138H. Relieved D/2-501 IN in place. Maintained a blocking position vicinity YD690298 to



YD695300. At 1815H received SA and AW fire from their N. Returned fire. Contact broken 1830H. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment.

C/1-502 IN moved from FSB BASTOGNE to FSB OMAHA. C/1-502 IN (-) moved to vicinity YD663310 and proved security for rice harvest.

D/1-502 IN moved from FSB BASTOGNE to FSB OMAHA. At 1639H conducted combat assault from FSB OMAHA to LZ vicinity YD681305, closed 1715H. Established night position vicinity YD731311 with local ambushes.

Recon platoon moved from FSB BASTOGNE TO FSB OMAHA. At 1145H conducted a combat assault from FSB OMAHA to LZ vicinity YD681305, closed 1154. Relieved Recon platoon 2-501 IN in place. Established a blocking position vicinity YD684304 to YD684305.

C/1-501 IN OPCON effective 1430H. Maintained a blocking position vicinity YD691304 to YD689308.

B/2-501 IN OPCON effective 1430H. Maintained a blocking position vicinity YD684305 to YD689307. At 1810H received SA, AW and RPG fire from vicinity YD689302. Returned fire with organic weapons. Results: 2 US WIA (medevac); Negative enemy assessment.

C/2-501 IN OPCON effective 1430H. Maintained a blocking position vicinity YD686303 to YD690298.

(Commanders Situation Report; 032001H May – 042000H May 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)

03 – 05 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: 1-502 IN BN cordons AP NAM PHU and AP PHO NAM resulting in 33 NVA and VC KIA and 2 NVA PWs.

03 May 1968

While on a reconnaissance mission southwest of HUE, elements of the 2-502 IN BN received small arms and RPG fire. The 101st troopers returned fire and called in Aerial Rocket Artillery and Air Strikes. After the battle a sweep of the area reveals the bodies of 27 NVA.

03 May 1970

The Pink team found four to five sets of footprints with HO CHI MINH sandals moving north. A Vietnamese civilian discovered a body tied up in the tree line near TAM BOA village and an investigation is under way. An RF accidentally set off a booby trap. A/1-502 IN found five rockets of varying sizes at 773046, 100 meters from the location the rockets were found. A/1-502 IN found 3 bunkers. FB BIRMINGHAM received several incoming 82mm rounds with negative casualties.

03 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: C/2-502 IN continued to sweeping operations to the south at YD511063 made contact with the enemy at 1140H. The enemies encountered were fighting from well dug in camouflaged bunkers. Contact continued in the same location throughout the day, with the enemy giving no evidence of breaking contact. The enemy utilized tree platforms as well as reinforced bunkers. Although C/2-502 IN kept up a high volume of fire and was supported by ARA and tube artillery, the enemy stubbornly resisted with small arms fire, RPG fire, automatic weapons fire and 51 caliber machine gun fire. Contact was broken by C/2-502 IN at 1740H to regroup and call in air strikes on the enemy location. At the end of the day, a sweep of the area revealed 27 enemy KIA, while US casualties were 1 KIA and 13 WIA.

To relieve the pressure on the units on Hill 714 ridge line and to open the ridge line west of Hill 714 for operations, D/2-502 IN, 1st platoon and elements of the 3rd platoon 326/ENG were combat assaulted into YD498047 and began expansion of the LZ. Contact with the enemy was initiated just off the LZ. An estimated 5 or 6 enemy firing small arms were engaged, and ARA was called in support. The engineers worked diligently to expand the LZ although they were receiving sniper fire throughout the day. At the end of the day one enemy had been killed while there were no friendly casualties. B/2-502 IN was extracted from Hill 714 to FSB SHOCK which one platoon secured while the remainder of the Company screened to the south. Air Strikes continued to be employed in support of C/2-502 IN against enemy locations in vicinity of the previous day's contact.

03 May 1970

Daily Journal for S2-3 Section, HQ/2-502 IN at FSB VEGHEL YD550035 (only significant events)

0120: Message #1: Message #1: All area north and east of 1BDE boundary from YD568198 SW to 519150 SE to 542130 east to 6213 will belong to the 2BDE to be utilized and occupied by 3d ARVN Regt. effective: 030800 May 70.

0210: Message #2: All Daisy Cutters: Were employed at 030820 on YD498053, YD494058, 100% ordnance was used, estimated 80% completed. Also, employed on YD442067, YD455603, YD465063, YD472065, 95% completed. It is requested that Commanders VR LZ's to determine which target will have priority of work. Additional Daisy Cutters are to be requested for employment on 04 May 70 on above targets.

0515: At 0303H to 0310H unknown number of 122mm rockets hit Camp EAGLE impacting vicinity Varsity pad; four Cobra hit, one hanger, vehicles, H sector received small arms fire.

1013: Message #3: AO Extension granted 3-54 ARVN from 1-506 IN BN. From 1-506 and 3-54 boundary at YD490127 north to YD491160 east YD520160 south to base YD520150. Effective: 031200H to 072400H.

1040: B/2-502 IN, 1st platoon (-) CP & 3rd platoon (-) YD508077, 2nd platoon & 3rd platoon, 1st squad vicinity YD508076, 1st platoon, 1st squad vicinity YD509079, C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon vicinity YD511063, 2nd platoon & 3rd platoon & CP vicinity YD514064, C/1-327 IN, 1st platoon vicinity YD510075, CP & 3rd platoon vicinity YD511072, 2d platoon YD512068

1051: 1045, C/1-327 IN is no longer OPCON to 2-502 IN BN



1145: Message #4: LZ construction team; LZ construction team should be inserted as early as possible on 04 May 70. Units should provide a reaction platoon to support team in case of contact. Air Request will be submitted to this HHQ NLT 032100 May 70. The goal is one LZ per unit per day.

1216: S-R 3-1: See Incl #1

S-R 3-1:

1. 2-502 IN BN
2. TS
3. Item #12
4. D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon
5. 1150G
6. YD516057
7. D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon in a patrol base received unidentified incoming rounds. Took approximately nine rounds 75 meters from their perimeter. Suspected enemy location was at YD514063. At 1228H ARA reported receiving automatic weapons fire, did not take any hits and have enemy location pinpointed and request ARA replacement. Element will sweep following ARA.

1254: S-R 3-2: See Incl #1

S-R 3-2:

1. 2-502 IN BN
2. TS
3. Item #13
4. C/2-502 IN, 1st Platoon 5. 1140-1225 hours
6. YD513063
7. Element while sweeping found two hooches when they were engaged by an undetermined sized enemy force with RPG and automatic weapons fire. The friendless received fire from the southwest. They returned fire and were maintain contact yet at 1220H without the enemy fleeing or withdrawing. At 1225H contact terminated. The initial contact distance of engagement was 25 to 30 meters. Cannot determine which direction the enemy fled. No M-72 laws were used. At 1305H contact regained at same location. Contact continuing at 1330H and receiving RPG fire. At 1405H Medevac received fire. At 1430H 1st platoon was reinforced by the 2nd platoon. Six pax were wounded. At 1440H, C/2-502 IN reported that dead enemy were everywhere. Element reported that there were enemy in platforms in trees throwing satchels at them. FOLLOW-UP: C/2-502 IN attempting to overrun from the southeast and southwest met heavy resistance, RPG fire, at least 8 Machine gun positions to include 51 Cal; satchel charges, grenades, and small arms fire. Element moved to regroup at 1740H on a high feature and call in all possible ordinance before resuming contact, all enemy positions well camouflaged. Results were one US KIA and 13 wounded. Enemy losses were estimated at 27 KIA.

1400: 1-327 IN BN request permission to insert sniper team and radar team on FSB VEGHEL and would set up tonight at YD553045 and then to go on a radar raid at YD559049 from 04 May 70 to 06 May; permission was granted.

1855: Night Location: A/2-502 IN, 1st platoon YD537016, 2nd platoon & CD YD537023, B/2-502 IN YD508081, C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon YD511063, 2nd platoon & 3rd platoon & CP YD514064, D/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon & 3rd platoon & CP YD513059, 1st platoon YD518056, Radar YD544044.

1945: Message #5: Air request for LZ construction: 1-6-2 Engineers and 2 squad's D Co 28 pax; PZ FSB VEGHEL and FSB Shock 0730, LZ YD498042 0745; AMV meeting 0700. Request a log bird with a hook for tomorrow.

2005: Message #6: 032300May70, Item #30: Wounded pas: PAC #5 0-2 Simpson, David L.; #12 E-6 Gibbons, Philip; #16 E-5 Carstens, Harold H.; #37 E-5 Schweitzer, Anthony; #67 E-4 Hardy, Homer R.; #84 E-4 Nantz, Alvin; #85 E-4 Nordin, Glen; #94 E-4 Rosas, Luis A.; #96 E-4 Stanley, Michael; #133 E-3 White, Tomas; #121 E-3 Majia, Raul E.; #141 Medic – Fuller, Kenneth G.; #146 Wilson; KIA #44 Witycyak, Glen R.

2208: Air Requests: Confirmed; one UH1H C&C bird; two log birds 0800-1200, one with a hook, 1-10-2 at 1445H to move A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN; 1-6-2 0730 at VEGHEL for LZ construction; 1-6-2 to extract LZ team at 1600, 1-4-2 to extract pax from VEGHEL.

2220: Alternate Lifesaver YD520048 is clear.

2300: Message #7: 030205 May 70, Item #4: There will be no flame drops available for undetermined period of time due to shortage of thickening exits without which thickened fuel cannot be mixed. In this regard, supply of fougasse is dangerous low, units advised not to blow fougasse unless essential for defense. Units occupying airmobile firebases at this time should plan to carry as many employed fougasse as possible to the new firebases until shortage is eliminated. Unit commanders should make maximum use of self-started fires to clear underbrush and fields of fire.

2400: Summary: The STRIKE Force Battalion continued operations in assigned AO with severe clashes with the enemy. At 1150H vicinity YD516057, D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon received approximately 9 unidentified enemy rounds outside their perimeter ARA reported on station and received enemy automatic weapons fire (See Incl - #1). At YD513063, C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon was engaged by an undetermined size enemy force resulting in six US WIA. The element attempted to overrun the enemy's position and received hostile 51 caliber fire, grenades, small arms fire and satchel charges. The satchel charges were thrown from enemy platforms in trees. The contact resulted in one US KHA 13 US WHA and 27 enemy KIA.



Plans Summary: A/2-502 IN continues patrol and ambush operations in assigned AO with one platoon as security for FSB. B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, D/2-502 IN, and Recon Companies continue patrol and ambush operations in assigned AO.

- 03 May 1970 The search for enemy mortar positions in the vicinity of FS/OB RIPCORD and GRANITE continued, with heavy artillery support for FS/OB JACK. At 0330H, Camp EAGLE received seventeen 122mm rockets causing light damage to aircraft and ammunition supply points. Eleven US were wounded in the attack. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970)
- 03 May 1970 At 1130H, vicinity YD511063 C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon while conducting patrol activities, received RPG and small arms fire from an enemy force at 40 meters. The element returned organic weapons fire and employed ARA, tube artillery and air strikes on the enemy positions. A sweep of the contact area revealed 27 NVA KIA. US Casualties were one KIA and 13 WIA. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970)
- 03 May 1970 While on a reconnaissance mission southwest of HUE, elements of the 2-502 IN BN receive small arms and RPG fire. The 101st ABN DIV troopers return fire and call in Aerial Rocket Artillery and air strikes. After the battle a sweep of the area reveals the bodies of 27 NVA. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 2); Summer 1970)
- 04 May 1966 **Operation AUSTIN VI:** 2-502 IN BN continued “Recondo Checkerboard” in area JACKSON and prepared for movement to future area of operations. B/2-502 IN continued operations in area LOU with negative contact and closed into BN CP area by helicopter at 041310H May 66. C/2-502 IN remained BDE reserve at NHON CO. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation Austin VI; 24 May 1966)
- 04 May 1968 Cordon by A/1-502 IN, B/1-502 IN, and Recon with other 2BDE elements at vicinity 692303. Contact was heavy during the night as elements seeking to escape the Cordon. Artillery was called for and adjusted as well as use of small arms. At first light, a sweep of the area revealed; Enemy: 26 NVA KIA (BC), 2 VC KIA (BC), 3 VC POW.
- 04 – 05 May 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** 1-502 IN BN had negative change in operations. On 5 May at 0850H, B/1-502 IN was extracted from YC645653 to FSB LASH and assumed security of FSB LASH. At 0953, C/1-502 IN and Recon conducted a combat air assault from FSB LASH. The LZ was green and the elements conducted RIF to the south.
- 04 May 1970 D/1-502 IN found 300lbs of rice broken down in 7-15lb sandbags and 1-100lb waterproof bag and 1-100lb burlap bag. Located with the rice were several sets of clothes. There were signs of recent use around the area and the company discovered a small hootch. All the findings were located at 863030. D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found one bunker with signs of very recent use by about four people. The bunker was destroyed.
- 04 May 1971 B/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon detonated BBT at vicinity ZD064979. Results: 1 US WIA.



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

17 x Silver Star Medal (7 x Posthumously)
2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)
25 x Bronze Star Medal (24 x Posthumously)
92 x Purple Heart Medal (52 x Posthumously)
87 x Air Medal
55 x Army Commendation Medal
1 x Army Good Conduct Medal (1 x Posthumously)
14 x Died of Non-Hostile injuries (Aircraft Crash)

28 April 1966



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

28 April 1968



SP4 Steven M. McArthur (A/2-501 IN) in was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when hit by fragment from hostile rocket round in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1968



SSG John B. Gingery (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1968



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

28 April 1968



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

28 April 1968



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



28 April 1968



PFC Michael J. Saunders (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 April 1968



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

28 April 1968



SFC Robert E. Holeyfield (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operations in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SFC Holeyfield was admitted to 22d Surgical Hospital on 29 April 968 and evacuated to a Naval Hospital and later expired.

28 April 1968

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

28 April 1968

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

28 April 1968

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

28 April 1968

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

28 April 1968

The following Soldiers A/1-502 IN:

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

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

28 April 1970

SSG Ronald S. Patterson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

28 April 1970

SP4 Thomas R. Weber (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

28 April 1970

SP4 Eugene V. Thurm (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

28 April 1970



CPL Steven R. Sandlin (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the 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 on Hill 882 Northwest of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



28 April 1970



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

28 April 1970



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

29 April 1968



SP4 Thomas L. Twyford (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received by fragment wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile mine in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1968



SGT Thomas S. Cook (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire 4k NW of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1968



PFC Ronal E. Critzer (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire 4k NW of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1968



PFC Gary L. Daniels (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when engaged by hostile force in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1968



PFC David L. Massa (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 combat operations when a hostile mine detonated in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1968



SGT Joseph T. Kovaloff (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the vicinity of Phuoc Yen, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



29 April 1968

SGT William R. Hofstrom (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1528; 15 June 1968)

29 April 1968

PFC Randolph Gregory (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1528; 15 June 1968)

29 April 1970



SSG (then SP4) Edward J. Bishop Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously); SSG Bishop died while MIA as a ground casualty with the incident date of 29 April 1970 when he was last seen while at an artillery firing position when the area came under attack by a hostile force. There were two other members with him in his position and they were putting out a heavy volume of weapons fire on the enemy. However, the base was also receiving a heavy volume of enemy fire including satchel charges. Their position was being hard hit and the third member, who was the squad leader, ordered their position abandoned. As they moved from their position, a satchel charge hit it. A search of the area the next day revealed the body of the squad leader. The other member was wounded and no evidence of SP4 Bishop was found during the search, however a surviving member of the unit stated that he had sufficient time to abandon the position when the order to abandon was given. SP4 Bishop was classified as MIA with a date of death as of 29 August 1978. Remains not recovered. Location of incident: YD439188; FSB GRANITE, 18km S-SW of Phong Dien in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. (Coffelt Database Report)



29 April 1970



CPL Robert S. Boggs (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar rounds while at an artillery firing position when they came under mortar attack by hostile force at FSB GRANITE, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1970



CPL Dennis W. Hunter (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar rounds while at an artillery firing position when they came under mortar attack by hostile force at FSB GRANITE, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1970



CPL Carl E. Patten (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar rounds while at an artillery firing position when they came under mortar attack by hostile force at FSB GRANITE, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1970



SGT Roy H. Snyder (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar rounds while at an artillery firing position when they came under mortar attack by hostile force at FSB GRANITE, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1970



CPL Linwood A. Walker (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by a friendly force near FSB GRANITE, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



29 April 1970



SP4 Frederick E. Wortmann (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar rounds while at an artillery firing position when they came under mortar attack by hostile force at FSB GRANITE, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1970



SP4 James W. McGuire (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1970



SP4 William J. Stieve (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 April 1970

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

29 April 1970

SP4 Benard V. Slider (E 2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 6936; 19 June 1970)

30 April 1968



PFC Larry E. Lutz (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hit by a blast form hostile anti-tank round in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 April 1968



CPL Arie Terry (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 while on combat operations when hit by fragments from a hostile mortar in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7 KM NW of HUE Citadel, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 April 1968



PFC Donald L. Peterson (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 April 1968

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

30 April 1968

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

30 April 1968

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



30 April 1969

The following Soldiers from A/1-502 IN:

SGT John T. Borgers	PFC Roger M. Bost	SP4 Roy J. Brown	SP4 Gary L. Caauwe
PFC Robert D. Cantu	SP4 Ronnie L. Carroll	SP4 Russell B. Carson	SP4 Jack Clark Jr.
SP4 James R. Cotton	SP4 Peter K. Crossan	PSG Rancis L. Demory	PFC Michael C. English
SP4 John A. Glover	PFC Clifford R. Godwin	SSG Rodney K. Green	SP4 Henry W. Helfenbein
PFC Thomas W. Hurlbut	PFC Andrew Johnson	SP4 David B. Korbobo	SP4 Darrell C. Lombard
SGT Martin L. Long	SGT James H. Manning	SP4 James A. Milby	SP4 Michael K. Morrison
PFC John J. Oliver	SP4 Harold R. Parker	PFC Douglas H. Smith	1LT John D. Sorge
SP4 Jerry L. Sykes	SP4 Ernest Tobias	PFC James A. Trice	SP4 Thomas G. Welch

Was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for the period of 01 December 1968 to 30 April 1969; for meritorious achievement in South Vietnam. (DA, HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6907; 16 June 1969)

30 April 1969

The following Soldier from B/1-502 IN:

SGT Jackie Allen	SP4 Henry Bickerstaff	SGT Kenneth D. Brandon	PFC David E. Brewster
SP4 Daniel Brown	PFC Donald H. Brown	SP4 Myron W. Buczak	SP4 Earl J. Buquet
PFC Robert L. Carter	SP4 Thoams W. Coss	PFC Dana F. Davis	PFC Gary Duncan
PFC Leonard P. Dunne	PFC Claude H. Echols	PFC Gary R. Hall	PFC Harold D. Haney
SP4 James J. Heuer			

Was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for the period of 01 December 1968 to 30 April 1969; for meritorious achievement in South Vietnam. (DA, HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6907; 16 June 1969)

30 April 1970

The Following Soldiers from A/2-501 IN:

PFC James Evans	SGT Gordon J. Forrester	PFC Gary Gaglead	SP4 John Gillilano
SP4 Darwin A. Grow	SP4 Sterling Lawrence	SP4 Ernest M. McDaniel	SP4 Thomas North
PFC James O. Riley	SP4 David R. Schmidli	SP4 Mickey Shackelford	PFC Wayne R. Smyly
SP4 James C. Thompson	SGT John E. Upton		

Was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for the period of 01 December 1969 to 30 April 1970; for meritorious achievement in South Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 5079; 7 May 1970)

30 April 1970

MAJ James R. Wessel (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96; 1 May 1970)

30 April 1970

SGT Gene H. Carlson (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96; 1 May 1970)

30 April 1970

PFC Michael J. Roland (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96; 1 May 1970)

30 April 1970

SP4 Larry D. Standley (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96; 1 May 1970)

30 April 1970

CSM Stanley R. Marcille (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970



CPT Donald R. Goates (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

SP4 James F. Mashon (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)



30 April 1970



1LT Joseph L. Guerra (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

2LT James W. Kwiecien (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

SSG Alan G. Pagels (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

SGT John M. Vitron (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

SGT John E. Upton (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

SP4 James E. Boyde (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

SP4 Thomas W. Lippy (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

SP4 Jay B. Wolfe (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

PFC Jasper L. Sistar (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

PFC Joe C. Barrientes (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970

PFC Daniel R. Stark (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970



SP4 Bill N. Lyman (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

30 April 1970



SGT Robert J. Shannon (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery fire when their area came under attack by a hostile force at FSB GRANITE, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien, THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



30 April 1970



SGT Larry N. Jones (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery fire when their area came under attack by a hostile force at FSB GRANITE, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien, THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 April 1970



SGT Donnie E. Horton (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when a hostile booby trap detonated in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 May 1968



PFC Daniel W. Daley (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile anti-tank round in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Daley was admitted to 22d Surgical hospital and transferred to a Naval Hospital ship where he expired.

01 May 1968



PFC Herald L. Delaney (C/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 hit by hostile small arms fire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 May 1968



SSG Gelasio N. Gomez Jr. (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile anti-tank round in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 May 1968



CPL Jackie G. Montgomery (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 May 1968



2LT John K. House (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile rocket in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 May 1968



PFC Lawrence J. Merschel (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile anti-tank round in the vicinity of PHUOC YEN, 7km NW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



01 May 1968



PFC Charles R. Cole (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1528; 15 June 1968)

01 May –
30 October 1969

The Following Soldiers from C/1-501 IN:

1LT Daniel L. O'Neill	SFC Issac Heyward Jr.	SSG Kenneth E. Buesing	SSG Walter L. Jensen
SGT Leonard D. Cole	SGT Robert Geddes	SGT Donald G. Lewis	SGT Freddie S. McLendon
SGT John O. Perkins	SP4 James M. Cannon	SP4 Benjamin F. Cryer	SP4 Gregory C. Decock
SP4 Santiago J. Erevia	SP4 Lacy J. Farmer	SP4 Albin B. Garland	SP4 Robert C. Goodpaster
SP4 Howard C. Heinecke	SP4 Herbert G. Hobbs	SP4 Walter L. Hooker	PFC William B. Ingle
SP4 Bruce V. Johnson	SP4 David A. Johnson		

Was awarded the Air Medal (1-OLC) for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight operations. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 13938; 17 November 1969)

01 May 1970

SGT Ronnie G. Clemmons (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 85th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 99, 2 May 1970)

01 May 1970



1LT Robert W. Layton (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 85th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 99, 2 May 1970)

01 May 1970

SP4 Norman D. McGowans (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (1-OLC) for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 85th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 99, 2 May 1970)

01 May 1970

SGT Benjamin B. Nevel (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 85th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 99, 2 May 1970)

01 May 1970

SP4 Charles E. Mott (E/2-501 IN); was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 85th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 99, 2 May 1970)

02 May 1969

The Following Soldiers from A/2-501 IN:

SP4 Ira J. Sturgeon	SP4 Samuel C. Tharpe	SP4 Donald R. Williams	SP4 Ernest C. Williams
SP4 Robert C. Winstead	PFC Paul D. Arrowood	PFC Larry J. Baker	PFC John R. Bryant
PFC Gregory H. Bucknor	PFC Charles G. Coghain	PFC Charles I. Fain	PFC Roger R. Gayken
PFC Steven C. Gerevics	PFC Larry J. Gladney	PFC Ernest Gutierrez	PFC Roberto M. Hegler
PFC Cleabern W. Hill Jr.	PFC Michael G. Hovis	PFC Arthur N. Keister	PFC Dennis Jordan
PFC Douglas V. Leonard	PFC Fred T. Lyons	PFC Richard O. Malboeue	PFC Robert R. Malecki
PFC James R. McGraw	PFC Leston N. McVicar	PFC Ray E. Moon	PFC Connie R. Moss
PFC Richard E. Myrice	PFC Randal C. Nevil	PFC Gordon L. Niceswanger	PFC Nowlin,
PFC Randal R. Pike	PFC Arthur L. Pittman	PFC William D. Poole Jr.	PFC William F. Robershaw
PFC Tommy L. Rodreguez	PFC Bruce E. Buston	PFC Charles Small	PFC Michael D. Sopko
PFC James V. Steiner			

Was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam (HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM); General Order Number 7421; 22 June 1969)

02 May 1970



SP4 Daniel C. Johnson (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while at an artillery firing position when the area came under attack by a hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. He was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.



02 May 1970



SSG Leo J. Ludvigsen Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 May 1970



SGT Harold G. Craft (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds received while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. He was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

03 May 1968



SGT Brian G. Hughes (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 May 1968



SGT Robert P. Johnston (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 May 1968



SGT Roger H. Sparks (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 May 1968



PFC Charles W. Kinney (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Kinney was admitted to a hospital ship in Vietnam where he later expired.

03 May 1968



SGT Herman Jackson (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 May 1969



SP4 Richard D. Miller (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



03 May 1970



SSG Glen R. Witycyak (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered on DONG ONG DO Mountain 15km E-NE of A LUOI Village in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 May 1970



SP4 Edward W. Stone (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 May 1970



SSG Thomas G. Hess (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by hostile fire in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 May 1970



SSG Glenn C. Duncan (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by hostile fire in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 May 1970



SSG Randall S. Phillips (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by hostile fire in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 May 1966



PFC Roger L. Berg (A/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



SSG John A. Brown (A/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



PFC Robert L. Clark (A/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.



04 May 1966



PFC Roger C. Collette (A/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



PFC Robert A. Fenton (C/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



MSG J. D. Harrell (HHC/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



SSG Gene Hawthorne (A/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



PFC Malakia Jackson Jr. (C/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



PFC Michael Simpson (C/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



PFC Joseph J. Swayze (C/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



PFC Robert E. Thompson (C/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.



04 May 1966



SP4 Earnest A. Tucker Jr. (C/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



1SG Harden B. Walker (HHC/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.

04 May 1966



SP4 Howard D. Weiss (HHC/2-502 IN) died as a result of massive trauma while a passenger aboard a CH-47 helicopter on an ammunition and troop lift when the helicopter crashed and burned 13 nm NW NHON CO, in the QUANG DUC Province, Republic of Vietnam during a combat mission. Eyewitnesses agreed for the most part that there were flames coming from the rear of the A/C and it seemed to have no forward airspeed and was spinning and falling straight down. The technical report suggests that the combing transmission failed excessive heat and fire causing the #2 drive shaft to separate. Resulting fire may have been ingested into the remaining engine causing a loss of power, SAS and AC electrical systems. There is evidence that the pilot attempted to flare the A/C prior to impact to no avail, crashing on its left side and was consumed by fire.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

28 April 1967

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

28 April 1968



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

29 April 1968



SP4 Dan J. Evans (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1968. Specialist Four Evans distinguished himself while serving as squad leader with Company A 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry on a combat operation near HUE, Republic of Vietnam. During the early afternoon when Company A was engaged in a combat operation the first platoon made contact with a large, well-entrenched enemy force. The point man for the platoon was approximately fifty meters in front of the main element, and with the initial burst of fire he was wounded as the enemy opened fire with automatic weapons, machine guns, and rocket propelled grenades. The point squad immediately maneuvered back to a nearby treeline for cover from the deadly onslaught. Specialist Four Evans, who was in the point squad, refused to take cover, however, and decided to try to assault the bunker that was firing on him and to rescue the wounded point man. Taking it upon himself, Specialist Four Evans began crawling toward the enemy bunker whose fire was raking the ground all around. Systematically using what available cover, he could find, he crawled to within fifteen meters of the treacherous bunker, and by throwing several hand grenades directly into the position was able to neutralize it and kill the enemy soldiers. Although still receiving enemy sniper fire, Specialist Four Evans crawled over to the wounded man and even through not a medic, administered first aid to the injured man. Then, with an all-out effort, he was able to move the man to the safety of the wood line, despite the withering hail of bullets that sought yet another victim. Through his indefatigable efforts Specialist Four Evans was able to reach the safety of friendly lines and able to secure additional treatment for him. Specialist Four Evans outstanding valor and concern for his comrades is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 3795; 18 July 1968)

28 April 1970



SGT Francis Bartush (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 28 April 1970. Sergeant Bartush distinguished himself while serving as a fire team leader in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While set up in a night defensive position; Sergeant Bartush's unit came under a concentrated enemy sapper attack. The insurgents assaulted Sergeant Bartush's position on the perimeter and he engaged them with anti-personnel mines and rifle fire. During the fighting, he pinned down one insurgent with rifle fire and successfully engaged him with a hand grenade. Although his position bore the brunt of the assault, Sergeant Bartush repulsed the attack and forced the insurgents to withdraw. During a lull in the fighting, he subjected himself to enemy fire as he carried wounded personnel to the middle of the perimeter. Later, the sappers again attempted to overrun the friendly location. Although the other men at Sergeant Bartush's position were wounded, Sergeant Bartush fought alone and again repulsed the enemy attack. Sergeant Bartush's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 7002; 20 June 1970)



29 April 1970



SP4 Edward J. Bishop (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Specialist Bishop distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base GRANITE, Republic of Vietnam. When the fire base came under hostile mortar fire and sapper attack, Specialist Bishop continually subjected himself to hostile fire to man his squad's radio and keep his company commander informed of the status of the fighting. After aiding a wounded comrade, he returned to his position to engage the insurgents. While assisting the machine gunner, he was mortally wounded by an enemy satchel charge. Specialist Bishop's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 7005; 20 June 1970)

29 April 1970



CPT James E. Mitchell (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Captain Mitchell distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, defending Fire Support Base GRANITE, Republic of Vietnam. When the firebase came under attack from an enemy sapper force supported by grenade and mortar fire, Captain Mitchell rallied his men for a counterattack. Despite intense fire, he moved from one position to position to brief his men on assaulting a helicopter pad which had been overrun by the insurgents. From an exposed position atop the command post bunker, Captain Mitchell coordinated the counterattack and directed his men in successfully retaking the helicopter pad. His actions contributed greatly to the successful defense of the firebase. While leading a sweep of the perimeter the following morning, Captain Mitchell detected enemy movement and at great risk personally captured a North Vietnamese Soldier. Captain Mitchell's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 7876; 9 July 1970)

29 April 1970



1LT James T. Hill (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (2-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Lieutenant Hill distinguished himself while serving as a reconnaissance platoon leader in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, near Fire Support Base VEGHEL, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Hill's platoon was providing rear security for another element of his battalion on a search and clear operation. When the lead platoon had moved approximately seventy-five meters from its patrol base, it came under intense enemy fire from a bunker complex. The element sustained numerous casualties in the first few minutes of contact, and Lieutenant Hill moved his platoon forward to assist, engaging several bunkers and radioing for aerial rocket artillery support and reinforcements. Although wounded during his advance, Lieutenant Hill continued moving toward the bunker complex until an enemy hand grenade exploded approximately two meters to his front, knocking him to the ground. Although wounded again, Lieutenant Hill maneuvered toward the nearest bunker and killed an enemy Soldier at a range of one foot. Despite numerous wounds and a damaged weapon, Lieutenant Hill continued fighting until the enemy was routed; even then refusing to be evacuated until all other wounded personnel were extracted. Lieutenant Hill's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 13286; 6 November 1970)

29 April 1970



LTC Otis W. Livingston Jr. (HHC/2-501 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 on 29 April 1970. Lieutenant Colonel Livingston distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of the 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during the defense of Fire Support Base GRANITE, Republic of Vietnam. When the fire base came under a concentrated enemy sapper attack, Lieutenant Colonel Livingston radioed for air support and rushed to the perimeter to supervise the counterattack of his men. He constantly subjected himself to hostile fire while moving from position to position directing the defense of the perimeter. He directed the fire of his men and inspired them to defend their positions despite the vicious assaults of the numerically superior force. His actions contributed immeasurably to repulsing the enemy attack and the successful defense of the fire base. Lieutenant Colonel Livingston's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 7184; 27 June 1970)

29 April 1970



SSG Peyton Mullins (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Sergeant Mullins distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, defending Fire Support Base GRANITE, Republic of Vietnam. When the firebase came under a coordinated mortar and sapper attack, several friendly soldiers were wounded in a foxhole hit by a satchel charge near Sergeant Mullins' position. Despite intense hostile fire, Sergeant Mullins rushed from his protected position to aid the wounded personnel at the foxhole. As he approached, he noticed several enemy sappers and successfully engaged them with accurate rifle fire. After moving the wounded under heavy fire to a protected position, Sergeant Mullins spotted an enemy soldier approaching his original position and successfully engaged the insurgent. Moments later, however, hostile grenade fire hit the position and wounded the two men there. Once again Sergeant Mullins braved enemy fire to move the casualties to safety, then returned to his sector of the perimeter, which he defended single-handedly. Later, while searching for friendly casualties under heavy mortar fire, he observed another enemy sapper and successfully engaged him with a hand grenade. Sergeant Mullins' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 8324; 27 July 1970)

29 & 30 April 1970



SP4 Philip Calderwood (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970 and 30 April 1970. Specialist Calderwood distinguished himself while serving as a clinical specialist in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during combat operations at Fire Support Base GRANITE, Republic of Vietnam. When the firebase was attacked by a battalion-size enemy force using rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, and automatic weapons, Specialist Calderwood immediately rushed to the perimeter to assist wounded personnel. Throughout the night he sought out the casualties, treated them, and moved them through the hostile fire to medical evacuation helicopters. The following day the firebase was subjected to a constant barrage of mortar fire and Specialist Calderwood continually braved the impacting rounds to aid the wounded and assist in



their extraction. When a resupply helicopter was hit by a mortar round, several of its occupants were seriously wounded by the shrapnel. Specialist Calderwood unhesitatingly carried the casualties a considerable distance to a medical evacuation helicopter. His actions were responsible for saving many lives. Specialist Calderwood's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 9306; 14 August 1970)

29 April 1970



SP4 Robert J. Shannon (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Specialist Shannon distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base GRANITE, Republic of Vietnam. The fire base came under hostile mortar fire and an attack by a sapper force armed with satchel charges. Subjecting himself to hostile fire, Specialist Shannon rushed from his foxhole to trap the insurgents in a suppressive crossfire between himself and his platoon. Although Specialist Shannon was mortally wounded during the attack, his actions served to repulse the sapper force and keep friendly casualties to a minimum. Specialist Shannon's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 7007; 20 June 1970)

29 April 1970



SGT (Then SP4) GERAL A. KULM (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Specialist Kulm distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner in Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operation near Fire Support Base VEGHEL, Republic of Vietnam. When his unit was engaged by an enemy force of unknown size Specialist Kulm rushed forward with his machine gun to place suppressive fire on the well-entrenched insurgents. When the weapon malfunctioned, Specialist Kulm was directed to assume the duties of radio-telephone operator. Moving forward, he grabbed a stick and proved for undergo enemy fortifications. Specialist Kulm repeatedly subjected himself to intense hostile fire during the contact to spot enemy positions and radio the locations to unit commanders. Besides advising his commanders during the troop deployment, Specialist Kulm moved throughout the area under intense enemy fire and assisted the wounded. Despite the hostile fire, he carried a wounded Soldier over three hundred meters to a landing zone for medical evacuation. Specialist Kulm'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 of Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 8785, 7 August 1970)

29 April 1970

PFC Joseph P. Safina (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Private Safina distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in Company D, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. An element of Private Safina's unit was ambushed by an enemy force and three of Private Safina's comrades were wounded in the ensuing fighting. Private Safina, despite intense hostile fire, rushed to their location and treated them. After administering initial first aid to all three, he moved the most seriously wounded man to a safer position and performed an emergency tracheotomy when the man had difficulty breathing. Still under fire, Private Safina moved all wounded personnel to a landing zone and organized medical evacuation operations. Private Safina's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 7003; 20 June 1970)

29 April 1970



SGT James P. Brinker (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Sergeant Brinker distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. While approaching an enemy bunker complex, Sergeant Brinker's unit received intense automatic weapons, small arms, and grenade fire. Sergeant Brinker immediately deployed his men and directed their fire against the hostile bunkers. He then led his men in an assault on the fortified enemy positions and charged the bunkers, engaging the insurgents at close range. Despite the intense hostile fire directed against him, Sergeant Brinker fought from bunker to bunker, employing hand grenades and rifle fire, and routed the enemy force. Sergeant Brinker's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 7916; 11 July 1970)

01 May 1968



SSG Jorge Otero-Barreto (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 17 February 1968. Staff Sergeant Otero distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader on a combat operation in the Republic of Vietnam. Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry was occupying defensive positions around a village north of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. The village was occupied by elements of the 8th Battalion, 90th North Vietnamese Army Regiment and had defied all offensive attempts for two days. Because of clear weather, the enemy had been subject to constant air strikes and artillery. At 0415 hours, the enemy lay began a series of human wave attacks against Company A in a desperate attempt to break out of the village. After the human wave assault had twice been driven back and fifty-eight enemy lay dead, the enemy forces withdrew into the village for their final stand. The first platoon led Company A into the village to destroy the remainder of the North Vietnamese Army forces and Sergeant Otero was the leader of the point element of the first platoon. Suddenly, the point came under fire from rocket propelled grenades, machine guns, and small arms firing from enemy bunkers and spider holes. With complete disregard for his own safety, Platoon Sergeant Otero immediately assaulted the nearest machine gun emplacement and killed all three of its crew members. He then led his squad through enemy fire in assaulting three more enemy positions, overrunning them and killing or incapacitating all of the enemy. Platoon Sergeant Otero's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



03 May 1970



1LT Gerald F. Dillon (C 2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 May 1970. Lieutenant Dillon distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations near Fire Support Base VEGHEL, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance patrol, Lieutenant Dillon's platoon came under heavy fire from an enemy bunker complex. Lieutenant Dillon immediately rushed to the area of contact, led his platoon in an assault on the bunker complex, and moved to the foremost position in the assault to direct fire on the insurgents. Despite hostile automatic weapons, rocket propelled grenades, satchel charges, and hand grenades, Lieutenant Dillon moved from position to position insuring that the wounded had been moved to safety and directing aerial rocket artillery fire. Though wounded, he refused evacuation and continued firing on the enemy and directing his platoon until the enemy bunker complex was captured. Lieutenant Dillon's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM); General Order Number 8495; 01 August 1970)



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
RVN: Republic of Vietnam
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

