



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.)

- 12 May 1966 **Operation AUSTIN VI:** B/2-502 IN remained BN reserve vicinity YU264314 with negative enemy contact. C/2-502 IN remained OPCON TF Brown and A/2-17 CAV. A/2-17 CAV participated in sweep of battlefield and continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" to west with negative enemy contact. TF Brown participated in sweep of the battlefield and continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" to west. They engaged a VC Force of 6-8 vicinity YU253349 at 1250H resulting in 1 VC WIA and one set of bloody web equipment captured. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation Austin VI; 24 May 1966)
- 12 May 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Three light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulting in 2 VC KIA (C) and 1 detainee. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)
- 12 – 14 May 1968 The 1-502 IN BN had light contact during the days as the Battalion continued the RIF and security missions in the AO. On the 14th, Recon and B/1-502 IN operating with PF's form QUANG DIEN, killed 1 NVA (BC), 2 VC (BC)
- 12 May 1969 **Operation APACHE SNOW:** Redlegs and troopers of the 2-501 IN BN fend off a vicious attack on FB AIRBORNE, a Screaming Eagle outpost built in the enemy's A SHAU "warehouse area." Thirty-one enemy die—and AIRBORNE remains alive as an irritating roadblock for the enemy. During the DONG AP BIA fight the 2nd Currahee battalion exploits the warehouse. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 2); Summer 1969)
- 12 May 1969 **Operation APACHE SNOW:** The 3-187 IN BN continued their push through the thick bamboo and elephant grass along the rough ridges of DONG AP BIA. Two air strikes were requested and completed at 0804 hours in support of B/3-187 IN's advance up the ill and C/3-187 IN's advance to the northeast of B/3-187 IN. At 0913H, B/3-187 IN began receiving sniper fire from their rear and by 0921 hours they were receiving intense automatic fire from the front and incoming mortar rounds. To aid in the evacuation of the wounded the battalion commander requested engineer support to blow a landing zone for B/3-187 IN. Attempting an insertion at 1024 hours the engineer ship was hit by RPG and small arms fire causing it to crash and burn resulting in seven casualties.
- B/3-187 IN continued to maneuver against the well-disciplined force, estimated at two companies, which were dug in about 200 meters to their front. The 3-187 IN BN called for ARA and artillery fire in order to dislodge the enemy from his fortified position, but the enemy held fast and throughout the day the 3-187 IN continued to receive heavy automatic weapons and RPG fire interspersed with mortar fire. Heavy air strikes consisting of 500 and 1000-pound bombs (high drag and delayed fuse), in addition to napalm and artillery fire, were continually placed on the enemy's position.
- Meanwhile, the other battalions – 2-501 IN BN and 1-506 IN BN – continued to conduct reconnaissance in force operations throughout their areas of operation encountering limited contact. B/1-506 IN while maneuvering in the vicinity of coordinates YC 309941, encountered three NVA, killing one and capturing his AK-47.
- While on reconnaissance in force operations in the immediate area of the Laotian Border 3-1 ARVN BN discovered a small cache of miscellaneous equipment and weapons – eight individuals and twelve crew-served weapons.
- Simultaneous with the maneuvering of the battalions on the ground, A/2-17 CAV conducted air reconnaissance in the support of the ground forces throughout the area of operations. (Narrative Operation APACHE SNOW; MG John M. Wright Jr. Commanding; 10 May – 7 June 1969)
- 12 – 13 May 1969 **FSB AIRBORNE:** While being manned by artillery batteries protected by elements of 2-501 IN BN, the base was attacked by the 6th NVA Regiment supported by 46 men from the K-12 Sapper Battalion. The bloody fight which followed left 27 American dead and at least 61 wounded. NVA losses were not accurately known since the attackers had, as usual, taken as many of their dead with them as was possible, but 39 NVA bodies were left behind. C/2-329 ARTY and A/2-501 IN had borne the brunt of the attacks.
- 12 May 1969 1-502 IN BN conducted RIF operations with D/1-502 IN providing security for FSB LASH. At 0935H at YC645615 the pointman of C/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon spotted 3-4 VC and opened fire. The results were 1 US WIA and 1 VC KIA. At 1141H at YC647618, C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon received fire from 3-4 VC, resulting in 1 US KIA and 1 US WIA.
- 12 May – 14 August 1969 Ten days after the inauguration of Richard M. Nixon, the communist leadership resolved to test his will and the will of the American people. COSVN Directive Number 71 ordered the North Vietnamese Army and its supporting local forces to maximize American combat casualties while disrupting lines of communications and disabling the pacification programs.
- In 1969, more than 11,500 American servicemen (and one woman) died in Vietnam, nearly half of them in the first four months of Nixon's presidency. The year's best-known combat action was the battle for AP BIA Mountain (Hill 937), known as the battle of HAMBURGER HILL. But over one hundred miles to the south in QUANG TIN Province, a little-known but highly significant set of military events unfolded. Shortly after midnight on May 12, 1969, under cover of a moonless sky,



two regiments of the 2nd NVA Division with support of local and regional units, a force of perhaps more than 2,500 soldiers, launched an offensive in the eastern third of QUANG TIN Province, now part of present-day QUANG NAM. This enemy force quickly gained control of nearly 80 percent of the targeted area, and threatened to overrun and capture several key allied military installations, including the provincial headquarters at TAM KY. The U.S. Army's 23rd Infantry Division, the Americal, was responsible for this tactical area of operation, but proved no match for the well-prepared, highly motivated, and determined enemy. On May 14, a Tactical Emergency was declared when the Americal called for help.

In the pre-dawn hours of May 15, land lines were busily ringing and FM radios loudly squawking as the plea from the Americal began to be answered. The 101st Airborne Division hastily prepared plans to send a brigade task force south to QUANG TIN Province. Clerks, cooks, supply personnel, truck drivers, and other rear-echelon types were rousted from their beds. At 4:30 a.m., division staff met with 1BDE staff. Aviation crews were called into briefings while two infantry battalions and the two artillery batteries that supported them were ordered to prepare for extraction from the field and transport to the CAMP EAGLE/PHU BAI area. Dense early morning fog nestled in the valleys around fire support bases PIKE and LASH in the southern end of the A SHAU VALLEY near the border with LAOS. As the sun began to illuminate the verdant peaks and ridges of the TRUONG SON Mountain Range, artillerymen readied their 105mm howitzers, shell canisters, powder bags, and firing projectiles in huge rope nets to be slung beneath Chinook helicopters. Meanwhile, grunts from the 1-501 IN BN and 1-502 IN BN boarded Huey helicopters at landing zones around the area of operations. These units belonged to the 2BDE but were placed under operational control of the 1BDE. In turn, for the duration of Operation LAMAR PLAIN, the 1BDE would become OPCON of the Americal.

Charlie Company, 1/501st, was on FSB PIKE providing security. Around 9:25 a.m., Alpha Company arrived from the field, and within the next hour its sister companies were there as well. The men knew little, if anything, about the events that were unfolding. But rumors were rampant. Had the war suddenly ended? After more than three months in the A SHAU VALLEY, were the grunts finally going to get that well-deserved stand-down at Eagle Beach on the South China Sea? Before long, the words "TAM KY" and "Americal" began to circulate among the men. They realized that something big was going on down south. In the east was the distant but unmistakable sound of in-bound helicopters. The men scrambled to their feet to put on their rucksacks. As they braced themselves for the wind and dust storm of rotor wash, flights of the big twin-rotor CH-47 Chinooks arrived at the firebases. Before long, the big choppers were headed east with them carbo-loads of men, equipment, and supplies. Operation Lamar Plain was underway.

Meanwhile, folks in the rear prepared for deployment to TAM KY as they loaded all available trucks and Jeeps with ammunition, tents, equipment, rations, and all things necessary to support an airmobile brigade task force. Support units also prepared for the trip to QUANG TIN Province. These included a maintenance company, a medical company, a signal company, a company of combat engineers, and a forward support and supply element. Aviation crews, which had been working since before first light, boarded their helicopters and headed south. These included an air cavalry troop, a battery of aerial rocketry artillery, an assault helicopter company, an assault support helicopter company, the brigade aviation unit, and a company of medical evacuation helicopters.

After arriving at the PHU BAI airbase, the infantrymen waited to board Air Force C-130 and C-123 transport planes. While they waited, they had hot showers, ice cream, cold sodas, and were entertained by Donut Dollies. The men were given new jungle boots, fatigues, and boonie-hats. They traded damaged weapons for good ones. The division's top brass joined the XXIV Corps commander, along with the division band, to see the troops off.

TAM KY lies about 40 miles south of Da Nang. Located in the coastal plain, the town is a market center where people come to buy and sell fruits, vegetables, and fish. By mid-afternoon on May 15, 1969, the little airstrip south of TAM KY was the focus of activity as transport planes from PHU BAI touched down and offloaded men, vehicles, and equipment. While old men and women squatted on their haunches, crowds of noisy wide-eyed children gathered to stare through the barbed-wire fencing that surrounded the airstrip. Young men and boys raced about on motorbikes spooking water buffalo and chickens. The air was clouded with red dust, diesel fumes, and smoke. Darkness fell, but planes continued to arrive throughout the night. As the first day of Operation Lamar Plain drew to a close, nearly 80 tons of supplies and equipment and 751 soldiers from the task force had been delivered to TAM KY.

While men and materiel continued to arrive the next day, the Screaming Eagles wasted no time going after the enemy. Two 105mm howitzer batteries were transported from TAM KY to fire support bases Young and Professional. By early afternoon on May 16, they began preparatory fires. As mid-afternoon approached, the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, minus Alpha Company, made a combat assault north of LZ Professional and began to conduct reconnaissance in force to the south. Temperatures soared over 100 degrees, and there were many heat casualties.

As the infantrymen began their RIF, they began to find well-established enemy huts, hootches, bunkers, and trenches—some of which had been occupied as recently as the night before. The air cavalry and brigade aerial recon teams also discovered many enemy installations while facing withering fire from .51-caliber machine-gun positions. During the next two weeks, virtually every aircraft assigned to the operation received damage from ground fire, and many were shot down. Infantry contact with the enemy was light for the first two days in the field. However, it was only being a matter of time before that changed.

On the morning of May 18, Bravo Company, 1/501st Infantry began to climb Hill 187, north of LZ Professional. As the third platoon reached the summit, several enemy mortar rounds rained down. As the remainder of the company, joined by recon and mortar platoons, reached the top, a command post was established. Soon thereafter, enemy mortar crews had the CP bracketed. One round fell on each side and a third directly hit the CP. The company commander, Capt. John C. Pape, and the senior medic, Spec 4 Russell Lane Jett, were killed in the blast, while the commander's RTO and five others were wounded. Mortar rounds continued to fall on Hill 187 until late afternoon, eventually killing four men and wounding 18.



Shortly after Bravo came under siege, Charlie Company began receiving intense small-arms and machine-gun fire while following a trail north of Hill 187. The first and third platoons tried an assault on enemy positions atop a small hill. The second platoon was defending the company CP and also engaged with the enemy. The assault on the little hill failed; the men pulled back. There were wounded, and ammo and water were running low. It became essential to secure the area so that a resupply helicopter and medevac could come in. Shortly after the men pulled back, a flight of Douglas A-1E Skyraiders, or "spades," rolled in and passed directly overhead, dropping 500-pound bombs onto the enemy position. Charlie Company eventually secured the hilltop, and the dead, one seriously wounded, and heat casualties were evacuated. As the men began to dig in for the night, they surveyed the surreal scene around them. Melted napalm hung from splintered, blackened vegetation. Tree stumps smoldered. Bomb fragments—ugly jagged chunks of steel—littered the landscape. The stiffening bodies of dead NVA soldiers lay close by. The air smelled of combat and death. The men of Charlie Company would call this hill Ghost Mountain.

The 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry entered the action on May 19 when they established a command post at Hau Duc. Meanwhile, their infantry companies and recon and mortar platoons conducted combat assaults by helicopter west of Professional and southeast of Tien Phuoc. The object was to seize the high ground surrounding Professional and take the pressure off of the firebase and district headquarters at Tien Phuoc. Contact with the enemy was generally light and sporadic until May 21 when 1/501 units, northeast of Hill 187, made contact in the early morning. Fighting continued throughout the day as two companies and the recon platoon were ambushed. The fighting was concentrated around a small hill where the enemy occupied well-concealed spider holes, trenches, and steel-reinforced concrete bunkers.

By mid-afternoon, Delta Company was scattered south and east of the hill. They were badly shot up and pinned down by heavy enemy fire. Worse, the location of one of their platoons was unknown. Recon also was hurting after losing its platoon leader, platoon sergeant, and several other men, leaving a Spec 4 rifleman in command. Bravo assaulted the enemy hill position from the northeast and sustained many casualties. They collected the dead and wounded and set up a CP and aid station.

Charlie Company, in reserve, was ordered to assault the hill late that afternoon. The third platoon stood up online, shoulder-to-shoulder, and before the command to charge could be given, the enemy opened fire. Immediately, second platoon was ordered into the fight and the two platoons charged across a rice paddy toward the hill. Several men fell wounded in the paddy, and more at the base of the hill as from above, the enemy fired mortar, machine gun, and rocket-propelled grenades. As the men leaped over a stone wall and began to advance up the hill, the first platoon and company CP also came under attack. The enemy tried to encircle them.

Murderous fire brought down several more of Charlie Company's men. But using grenades and fire and maneuver, they reached a second stone wall. Then they were fired on from every direction. Enemy soldiers wearing grass and tree limbs as camouflage rose up from spider holes and trenches and charged from behind. The fighting became very close, often hand-to-hand. There were many acts of personal courage. After taking out several enemy bunkers with light anti-tank weapons and spraying rifle and machine-gun fire into the trees where enemy soldiers had tied themselves with ropes, the 101st moved further up the hill toward a third stone wall, behind which there was a continuous line of spider holes interconnected by tunnels. To the left and right, behind the wall, were bunker and tunnel complexes. Each time a bunker was taken out, more enemy soldiers crawled through the connecting tunnels and trenches, pulled their dead away, and replaced them in the firing positions. The beleaguered grunts finally fought their way to the top of the hill and destroyed the last of the enemy bunkers. They were exhausted, nearly out of ammo and water, and without radio contact with the CP. The two platoon leaders, Don Gourley and Dan O'Neill, made the decision to recover their wounded and withdraw from the hill. After getting the wounded off the hill, Gourley led a group back up the hill to recover the dead, but the tactical situation prevented their recovery efforts. Only with the help of guys from Bravo's third platoon were they able to police up their weapons and equipment and get their wounded to a makeshift assembly area and aid station. Helicopters, under enemy fire, took out the wounded well into the night. Evacuation of the remaining wounded and recovery of the dead were the priorities the next morning. During the day's fighting, the 1/501st had 12 men killed in action and 49 wounded. Over the next dozen days, the enemy stalked the 101st units with well-placed mortar and sniper fire. Aircraft losses continued steadily. During this period, 18 men were killed and 54 were wounded. A 24-hour cease-fire was declared for May 30, Buddha's birthday.

On June 2, B Troop, 2/17th Air Cavalry inserted its aero-rifle platoon onto Hill 376, Tien Loc Mountain, for a reconnaissance mission. The undermanned platoon consisted of 18 men, including a medic and two Kit Carson scouts. They soon came under small arms fire and were ordered to turn around and go down the other side of the mountain. The two men at the lead were wounded in an ambush and the rest of the unit was pinned down. The medic, Joseph Guy La Pointe, rushed forward to help the two wounded men. La Pointe was hit but continued to administer aid until enemy grenades landed on his position, killing all three men.

As the battle continued into the afternoon, two more cavalymen were killed, and several others wounded. The C&C helicopter was shot down over the battlefield. The situation remained precarious. Bravo Company, 1/501st moved onto Hill 376 to relieve the beleaguered cavalry platoon. The next morning, June 3, two more infantry companies and the recon platoon from the 1-501 IN BN arrived. For the next nine days, the Screaming Eagles moved up and down the ridgelines assaulting enemy bunkers, often facing murderous machine-gun fire, mortars, and grenades. By the time they left Hill 376 on June 12, they had suffered 23 killed, 34 wounded, and one missing in action. In addition, a helicopter crew of four men from the 101st Aviation Battalion and a passenger were killed in the area, while elements of the 1/46th Infantry suffered casualties south of Hill 376. After a month of bitter fighting in which neither side gained an advantage, Operation Lamar Plain reached a turning point. It became a game of chasing an enemy that avoided contact while moving toward its sanctuaries deeper in the interior. Operations intelligence identified possible base camps and other enemy locations. Some were the subject of combat assaults, only to find the enemy had moved out ahead of assaulting units. Other locations were the targets of B-52 air strikes.



Then, in late June and early July, the 1/502nd Infantry started to make contact around Hau Duc. They found many enemy trails and a large transportation route. They also located enemy huts and a medical complex in which supplies were cached.

On the morning of July 8, Alpha Company, 1/502nd Infantry made a grueling march to a location about 3 km northeast of Hau Duc. There, in a fallow rice paddy, they were supposed to rendezvous with a resupply helicopter. Capt. Chuck Scribner ordered his third platoon to move forward and recon the area before putting out two squads as perimeter security. As those two squads advanced, the lead squad discovered a line of comms wire. When they reported their finding, they were ordered to follow the wire, which led to a small hootch. With a man on each flank, the squad leader stepped forward and fired into the hootch, killing three NVA soldiers.

The lead squad then turned around and moved back down the trail. Suddenly they heard intense rifle and machine-gun fire. The second squad was caught in an ambush with the enemy positioned on the right side of the trail, and a pair of machine guns, one located on each side, firing directly down the trail. Enemy mortars located on higher ground supported the ambush.

Under intense fire, the ambushed squad maneuvered to form a small defensive position, and desperately fought amid a hail of mortar and RPG fire. Meanwhile, the enemy flanked the lead squad under cover of mortar fire. A fierce firefight ensued. During the confusion of battle, some of the men became separated from the squad while others fell wounded or dead. Late in the afternoon, Alpha's three dead and five wounded were evacuated by helicopter to Chu Lai. The enemy finally broke off the fighting at around 8:00 p.m. There was no radio contact with the two cut-off platoons. Thirteen men were declared missing in action.

During the night, the enemy searched some of the bodies of the missing Alpha Company soldiers; some were still alive and feigned death. Toward morning the enemy recovered and buried their dead and began to move out of the area. They left behind some snipers and a small harassment force.

Early on the morning of July 9, Bravo Company, 1/502 arrived to secure the area while members of Alpha Company began a search for their missing men. An air cavalry Loach pilot spotted Ted Brenner, Duane Scott, and John Hanie, three of the missing men. The pilot, Luther Lassiter, landed his chopper. Scott and Hanie crawled inside the cockpit while Brenner hopped onto a skid. The overloaded chopper labored to lift off, but Lassiter managed to gain altitude and fly the soldiers to Hau Duc. When Lassiter returned to the area, he rescued a fourth soldier, Julius Bray.

Troops searching on the ground found two men, Kenneth Walker and Nelson Lucas, alive but wounded. By late morning, the bodies of six soldiers were recovered. The body of the thirteenth missing man, Sgt. James Manning, was not found until the following day.

For the remainder of Operation Lamar Plain, the Screaming Eagles continued to chase the enemy and engage whenever possible. Most of the operation was by then confined to the southern portions of the tactical area. Because the enemy had mostly broken up into many groups of fewer than ten soldiers, the operational tactics changed from RIF to saturation patrols, many of them in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Boxer. These patrols revealed extensive bunker and tunnel complexes, hospitals, classrooms, and other enemy structures. Many graves containing enemy soldiers killed by artillery and air strikes also were discovered. During this latter stage of the operation, 24 American soldiers and airmen were killed and 58 were wounded.

Early in the afternoon of August 11 an Air Force C-130 departed TAM KY with a load of grunts from the 1/501st Infantry. They arrived at CAMP EVANS and were taken home to LZ SALLY via trucks. Over the next three days, transport flights, vehicle convoys, and helicopters continued to take the Screaming Eagles home, and Operation Lamar Plain officially ended at 8:00 a.m. on August 14, 1969.

Sandwiched between the fighting at AP BIA Mountain during Operation APACHE SNOW and the siege of Firebase RIPCORD during Operation TEXAS STAR the following year, Operation LAMAR PLAIN was one of the last extensive operations conducted by the 101st Airborne Division against the North Vietnamese Army. Lamar Plain received little media attention, however, even though 126 men died, 404 were wounded, and it occurred because of a tactical emergency.

Even today, few people outside of those who participated in LAMAR PLAIN know anything about it. The families of many of the men who died in the fighting during LAMAR PLAIN believed that their loved ones died on HAMBURGER HILL, and many of the soldiers' obituaries reflect that.

The men who fought in Operation LAMAR PLAIN are proud that they came to the aid of another military unit in a time of crisis, allowing that unit to recover from its losses and eventually return to normal combat operations. (Bitter Fighting in QUANG TIN: Operation Lamar Plain; By Roger Ables)

12 May 1970

2-501 IN BN moved to PHU BAI Combated Base to conduct battalion refresher training and returned to operational control of the 2BDE. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970; 15 August 1970)

12 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 2-502 IN BN Recon platoon and elements of the 3rd platoon, A/326 ENG repelled onto the top of Hill 882 to cut an LZ. The last helicopter into the area received small arms fire, forcing the chopper to land at FSB SHOCK and seriously injuring the pilot. ARA was employed, and the engineers once again began the dangerous and arduous task of blasting the LZ under enemy fire. D/2-502 IN continued their sweep north to the top of Hill 882 with no enemy contact. Two bunkers were found and destroyed, and two enemy bodies killed by air strikes were found. Twenty-



Four M-16 rifle magazines were found on and around the bodies indicating the enemy had used M-16 rifles. No weapons were captured, however. C/2-502 IN continued to move west.

A/2-502 IN combat assaulted to the top of Hill 882 on the LZ prepared by the engineers. They joined forces with the Recon platoon and began movement along the ridge line to the east to line up with C/2-502 IN in the saddle. D/2-502 IN, having cleared the ridge to the top of Hill 882, began a sweep back to the south.

12 May 1970

Three planes took ground fire from location 864159. Intelligence indicated 56 unknown persons moving in area immediately south of FSB ARSENAL. The firebase will be on 100% alert tonight.

13 May 1966

Operations AUSTIN VI: B/2-502 IN released 17 members of 245th RF Company and was helilifted from YU267317 LZ vicinity YU254352 which was completed at 1215H. They moved west to exploit B-52 strike area SAND. C/2-502 IN (-) was released from OPCON A/2-17 CAV effective 1200H and moved west to assume mission of BN reserve. They followed A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN by bounds. Recon platoon with one platoon from C/2-502 IN attached followed A/2-502 IN in area SAND. A/2-17 CAV was extracted to BU GIA MAP at 1223H and reverted to BDE Control. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation Austin VI; 24 May 1966)

13 May 1967

Operation Malheur: Five light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 5 VC KIA (C) 1 detainee, and 2 individual weapons captured. A/2-17 CAV conducted an airmobile cordon and search operation in a hamlet to the south of CAPENTAN Base resulting in 2 detainees. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

13 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR I: At 1050H at BS662334, B/2-502 IN accounted for 2 VC with 2 weapons, M1 and SKS. VC were moving southeast. At 1630H, vicinity BS666325, B/2-502 IN made contact with 3 more VC; one of whom was wearing a steel helmet. Results was 1 VC KIA (BC). Several other small contacts yielded 3 VC KIA (BC) but no weapons. Units continued search and destroy to the east. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, After Action Report: MALHEUR I, MALHEUR II; 28 July 1967)

13 May 1968

Paratroopers of A/2-502 IN and D/1-502 IN completed a successful cordon of CO THAP village eight miles northwest of HUE. The infantry surrounded an NVA battalion suspected of protecting a nearby enemy regimental headquarters and were joined by members of A/2-17 CAV. The two-day battle resulted in 38 NVA killed and 11 weapons captured. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)

13 May 1968

Operation DELAWARE: At 1215H, 2-502 IN BN, Recon platoon vicinity YD594177 engaged two NVA VC along trail with SA. Received return fire from approximately platoon size enemy force. Recon withdrew across a stream after capturing one NVA/VC with documents. Results: 1 NVA/VC Captured.

13 May 1969

Operation APACHE SNOW: On the morning of 13 May, at 0330H, FSB AIRBORNE was assaulted on three sides by elements of the 806th NVA BN and the K12 Sapper BN supported by 82mm mortar and RPG fire. FSB AIRBORNE (YD 355072) is located on the eastern lip of the A SHAU VALLEY on the north end of a long ridge running parallel to the Valley, and was defended by A/2-501 IN, and three artillery batteries – C/2-11 Artillery (4 tubes 155mm), C/2-319 Artillery (4 tubes 105mm), and a composite battery (4 tubes 105mm) from B/2-319 ARTY and C/2-319 ARTY.



After infiltrating through the concertina wire on the north side of the perimeter the attacking force systematically crisscrossed the northern portion of the fire base tossing satchel charges and grenades in the bunkers they encountered. By 0500H, the enemy attack had lost impetus and the men of Airborne drove the attacking force from the hill killing forty of the sappers, while suffering twenty-two killed and sixty-one wounded. In addition, five howitzers were either damaged or destroyed. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile); Operational Report – Lesson Learned, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) for period ending 31 July 1969; 09 December 1969)

13 May 1969

Operation APACHE SNOW: The situation remained unchanged for the 3-187 IN BN on 13 May as the companies conducted reconnaissance in force operations in their immediate areas. A/3-187 IN moved to the battalion command post and relieved D/3-187 IN of the security mission, and D/3-187 IN moved to assist B/3-187 IN and C/3-187 IN. Throughout the day the enemy employed small arms, RPG, automatic weapons, and mortars from well entrenched positions against the maneuvering elements of 3-187 IN. The 3-187 IN returned fire and employed additional artillery and tactical air which heavily pounded DONG AP BIA's western slopes.

During the day a med-evac helicopter, while extracting wounded from D/3-187 IN at 1536H, was shot down by small arms fire from suspected enemy location YC328993 and YC324988, resulting in six killed and one wounded. The A/3-187, 3rd platoon moved to link up with D/3-187 IN at the crash site and assisted in the evacuation of the wounded back to the battalion headquarters.

Earlier in the morning of the 13th at 0330H, FSB AIRBORNE, defended by A/2-501 IN and three artillery batteries, C/2-11 ARTY (4 155 Howitzers) B/2-319 ARTY (2 105 Howitzers) and C/2-319 ARTY, was assaulted on three sides by elements of two NVA battalions supported by 82mm mortars and RPG fire. After infiltrating through the concertina wire on the north side of the perimeter the attacking force systematically crisscrossed the northern portion of the fire base tossing satchel charges and grenades in the bunkers they encountered. In the glow of the burning powder in the ammunition storage area the men of Airborne drove the attacking force from the hill, killing forty of the attacking forces, while suffering twenty-two



killed and sixty-one wounded in addition to five howitzers that were damaged or destroyed. Later in the day B/2-501 IN, C/2-501 IN and D/2-501 IN were extracted from the field, reinserted into Airborne, and conducted reconnaissance in force operations to the north, south, and east of FSB AIRBORNE in search of the attacking force.

The 1-506 IN BN continued search and destroy missions in its assigned area of operations moving northwest along high ground checking extensive along the slopes of the A SHAU VALLEY. During the day A/1-506 IN found eight huts, which were considered to be part of a possible staging area, and small amounts of ammunition.

While searching the cache area discovered the previous day, 3-1 ARVN BN found a large cache consisting of eight vehicles, seventy-eight individuals, and twenty-five crew served weapons. (Narrative Operation APACHE SNOW; MG John M. Wright Jr. Commanding; 10 May – 7 June 1969)

13 May 1969

FSB AIRBORNE: At 0330H, on this morning a burst of AK-47 fire signaled the attack for the North Vietnamese Forces. Heavy enemy mortar and rocket propelled fire erupted followed by an all-out VC/NVA infantry attack. The American Forces held FSB AIRBORNE and the attack was over by 0530H when North Vietnamese forces withdrew. The US Forces suffered 22 killed in action and 61 wounded on FSB AIRBORNE. The enemy losses were 39 killed and 2 POW's. (Article from PFC Cleabern Hills Dedication Service program)



13 May 1969

1-502 IN BN continued to conduct RIF operations. At YC654626, A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon found what appeared to be a village. It contained 19 hooches, 2 SKS's, some ammunition, 200lbs of rice and medical supplies. B/1-502 IN was released from OPCON to 3BDE.

13 May 1970

3-3 ARVN Regiment moved by air from CAMP SALLY to FS/OB VEGHEL to join the 1BDE conducting offensive operations against elements of the 29th NVA Regiment in the mountains southwest of HUE. The three ARVN companies combat assaulted from FS/OB VEGHEL with A/1-501 IN and B/1-501 IN into two landing zones south of the RAU LA River. The ARVN companies conducted patrols to the south and the two US companies conducted patrols north toward the river. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970)

13 May 1970

1-502 IN BN S2 VR found and secured a ruck sack from the river containing 600 AK-47 rounds, 105 9mm pistol rounds, 700 M60 rounds and one M-16 magazine full of ammo. Estimated age is less than two weeks. PHU THU reported VN children found a turned in one box of M-16 ammo which was hidden in some bushes. A/1-502 IN at location 818187 found a tunnel.

13 May 1971

D/1-501 IN relieved from security mission at DA NANG. Returned to PBCB.

14 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI: B-52 strike in area SAND was conducted at 0001H. (DA, HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN VI; 24 May 1966)

14 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI: A/2-502 IN discovered the first bomb crater vicinity YU19362. The crater had many footprints heading west. At 1214H, A/2-502 IN engaged 15 VC vicinity YU194362 resulting in 3 VC KIA (BC) and 2 AK-47 captured. All three VC were members of the 609th BN. At 1810H, A/2-502 IN found an enemy base camp, recently occupied, consisting of 60-70 huts, vicinity YU192378. A/2-502 IN conducted "Recondo Checkerboard" generally northeast through area SAND and parallel vicinity YU195374 to YU215375. No trails were found, and no enemy contact was made.

C/2-502 IN at 1250H captured 1 POW WIA, vicinity YU234356. At 1830H, they discovered a BN size base camp vicinity YU225360. C/2-502 destroyed the base camp that was found. The camp consisted of 20-30 huts including classrooms, kitchen, and rifle racks spread along stream vicinity YU225360. The camp appeared to be unoccupied for a week. C/2-502 IN conducted "Recondo Checkerboard" generally northwest toward area SAND from vicinity YU233349 to YU219377 with negative enemy contact.

Recondo platoon (+) continued westward movement and prepared a 3 ship LZ vicinity YU215355. They became the 2-502 IN BN reserve and CP security at that location.

(DA, HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN VI; 24 May 1966)

14 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR: Eight light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 14 VC KIA (C) and 6 individual weapons captured. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

14 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR I: C/2-502 IN began to move around B/2-502 IN left flank. Permission was received to cross PL CHUT. At BS637330, B/2-502 IN found 6 new graves, dug up 4 bodies in black, 2 in khakis. At 0920H, at BS669305 Recondos had contact with 1 VC, results 1 VC KIA (BC) and a Mauser. At 0930H, at BS663316 A/2-502 IN killed 1 VC (BC) and captured a Mosin Nugant rifle. At 1040H at BS675334, B/2-502 IN killed 1 VC (BC) with an SKS. At 1545H, BS674347, C/2-502 IN dog team picked up a scent which resulted in 1 VC (BC) with carbine. Two more contacts resulted in 2 VC (BC) with 2 weapons. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, After Action Report: MALHEUR I, MALHEUR II; 28 July 1967)



14 May 1969

Operation APACHE SNOW: In the morning, B/3-187 IN, C/3-187 IN and D/3-187 IN once again received intensive small arms, automatic, and RPG fire as they began a deliberate fire and maneuver on the DONG AP BIA complex, under artillery, tactical air and gunship cover. This was the first concerted effort to seize Hill 937. B/3-187 IN, C/3-187 IN and D/3-187 IN were in the attack echelon, when heavy contact was established. By 1500H B/3-187 reported having two squads on top of the hill, but B/3-187 IN and C/3-187 IN had received heavy casualties' due to command detonated claymore and were unable to advance and the battalion was forced to break contact. Throughout the day Light Observation Helicopters used as med-evacs were called in to evacuate all the seriously wounded from a small landing zone on the ridge down to the battalion landing zone. This method of shuttling the wounded worked very well and drew much praise from the men on the ground. A rapid count on the battlefield resulted in forty-seven NVA killed by small arms fire and twenty-nine killed by air strikes. The 3-187 IN BN lost five killed and fifty-eight wounded. (Narrative Operation APACHE SNOW; MG John M. Wright Jr. Commanding; 10 May – 7 June 1969)

The other maneuver battalions involved in APACHE SNOW continued to accomplish their search and destroy missions in the area of operations encountering light enemy resistance. Many of the contacts were with enemy trail watchers and the remnants of the retreating Airborne attack force.

14 May 1969

The 1-502 IN BN continued operations normally. At 0951H, A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon made contact with 1-2 VC at YC655628. The results were 1 US KIA. B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon at YC689652 found 6 bunkers, M-1 carbine and 1 French submachinegun.

14 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: While sweeping to the west in the vicinity of YD504071, C/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon engaged 10 to 15 enemy. The enemy returned fire with RPG's, small arms and mortars. The enemy fled to the south leaving behind four bodies. One US Soldier was killed in the engagement.

14 May 1971

1-502 IN BN assumed responsibility for FSB TOMAHAWK and AO. 1-501 IN BN returned to PBCB for seven days stand down.

15 May 1965

2-502 IN BN was reorganized under the Department of the Army TOE 7-35F. HHC/2-502 IN was organized under TOE 7-36F, and Rifle Companies "A", "B", "C" under TOE 7-37F. Some months later, "D", and "E" companies were added with "E" company being a Combat Support Company containing the 81mm mortars and 90mm recoilless rifles. Each rifle company consists of 3 rifle platoons with M-60 machine guns and M-79 grenade launchers being organic to the individual platoons. This basic organization was used with some modifications in training and combat.

A Reconnaissance platoon was organized in the Battalion and assigned to "E" company. The Reconnaissance platoon was unique in that it was designed to work as a highly mobile rifle platoon or in six-man reconnaissance teams. It was employed under direct control of the Battalion Commander.

15 May 1966

On 15 May 1966, the 2-502 IN BN, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV conducted operation "AUSITN VI", a search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong in PHOUC LONG Province, near the Cambodian border, where an estimated battalion size unit of North Vietnamese regulars were operating. PFC Rodger Lyle (Huntington, West Virginia) C/2-502 IN, helping to clear trees and bush from area, so helicopters can land to resupply their unit.



15 May 1966

On 15 May 1966, the 2-502 IN BN, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV conducted Operation "AUSTIN VI", a search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong in PHOUC LONG Province, near the Cambodian border, where an estimated battalion size unit of North Vietnamese regulars were operating. PFC Michael Baldinger (New Haven, Connecticut), Medic of A/2-502 IN, treats a wounded Viet Cong captured by a recon patrol.



15 - 17 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR II: 2-502 IN BN, 2-502 IN Recondo Force ambushed 15 VC, killing 6 and capturing an 82mm mortar tube and 1 SKS. The following day A/2-502 IN ambushed 4 VC, killing 2 with weapons, and B/2-502 IN followed up with 2 more that afternoon. Late that night of 16 May the Recondo perimeter on the major trail in a deep valley was heavily probed. One round of friendly artillery fire unfortunately fell in the Recondo position causing several casualties. Some additional casualties were caused by enemy grenades and several enemy bodies were later found just outside the perimeter. One of the dead enemies had been killed in a hand to hand encounter. On 17 May C/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon ran into a battalion-size fortified base camp on hill 399, apparently still occupied by a considerable force, and was forced to pull back a short distance to evacuate casualties and bringing in supporting fires. Before reinforcements, including A/1-327 IN could be brought to the aid of the 2nd platoon, the enemy evacuated the camp.



- 15 May 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Seven light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN, resulted in 2 US WHA, 9 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee, and 2 individual weapons, 1 – 82mm mortar tube and 23 – 82m mortar rounds captured. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)
- 15 May 1967 **Operation MALHEUR I:** At 1400H, at BS673308, Recon had contact with 15 VC. Results were 6 VC (BC), 1 82mm mortar tube, 16 82mm rounds, SKS, and assorted small arms ammunition. At 1520H at BS6793115, A/2-502 IN made contact with 3 VC. Results were 1 VC (BC), 1 SKS, 4 82mm rounds captured. All units continued to move east toward PL RISER. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, After Action Report: MALHEUR I, MALHEUR II; 28 July 1967)
- 15 – 16 May 1968 **Operation CARENTAN II:** TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operations in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases and logistics in the coastal plains area, and deny the rice harvest to the VC/NVA. Contact was light with a total of 4 contacts. Today's statistics: 2 US KIA, 4 US WIA (medevac). (All US casualties resulted from mines). Enemy assessment: 1 NVA KIA (BC) (killed by arty).

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD781249 with ambush vicinity YD774249. One (1) platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD777232, YD786229 and returned. At 1250H vicinity YD787229 received sniper fire from the E from an estimated 2 enemy. Artillery was fired on suspected location. Negative casualties. Negative enemy assessment. A/1-501 IN (-) conducted classes, remained in night position vicinity YD781249.

B/1-501 IN secured FSB MONGOOSE and ambushed vicinity YD802293. Improved defensive position at FSB MONGOOSE and conducted reinforced squad patrols along POL pipeline to vicinity YD802293 and YD780262 and returned.

C/1-501 IN provided security at COLCO Beach. Two (2) squads conducted patrol to vicinity YD872299 and returned.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD781249 with ambush vicinity YD786239. One (1) platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD799247, YD798251 and returned.

Recon platoon provided security for bridge vicinity YD838177. Conducted local patrols to vicinity YD821181 and YD860161.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN provided security for FSB Pinky. Ambushed vicinity YD684258 and YD685246. One (1) platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD676255, YD684249 and returned to FSB PINKY. One (1) platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD694226 and returned. Vicinity YD690235 found 1 NVA killed by Artillery. Secured minesweep S to HUE.

B/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD631249 with ambushes vicinity YD624256, YD626242, YD638238 and YD643246. At 0140H night position received approximately 6 rounds of 82mm mortar near their position. Counter mortar fire was fired by artillery and 4.2" mortar. Negative casualties. Negative enemy assessment. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD625258, YD614259 and YD609266. With one platoon PF conducted RIF to vicinity YD610250 and YD632256. Established night position vicinity YD630260.

C/2-501 IN provided security for HUE Bridges

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD661245 with ambushes vicinity YD651255, YD655240, YD664255 and YD670250. At 2400H night position received approximately 20 rounds of 60mm mortar and 2 RPG rounds. Artillery was fired on suspected enemy position. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment. One (1) platoon conducted RIF operation vicinity YD643257, YD659257 and YD673267. With one (1) platoon pF continued RIF operation vicinity YD668251. Established night position vicinity YD674235.

Recon platoon secured LZ SATAN and conducted local patrols.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD767309 with ambushes vicinity YD763302 and YD774314. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD757314, YD750306 and YD769312. Established night position vicinity YD771314 with local ambushes.

B/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD727305. Provided security for Rome plow operation vicinity YD726306. Recon platoon conducted local patrolling to vicinity YD720296. Established night position vicinity YD725309 with local ambushes.

C/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD733312 with ambushes vicinity YD717317, YD724319 and YD739319. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD733327. At 0820H received 8 rounds of SA sniper fire from vicinity YD727326. Artillery was called. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment. Conducted search of village vicinity YD727326 and moved to vicinity YD732332. Established night position vicinity YD750210.

D/1-502 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV. Provided security for AN LO Bridge. Conducted platoon size RIF operation to vicinity YD635312 and returned. Secured minesweep N to AO boundary.



Recon platoon OPCON B/1-502 IN.

2d Brigade

HHC Security platoon provided minesweep security N and S from LZ SALLY.

(Commanders Situation Report; 152001H May – 162000H May 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)

15 – 17 May 1968

1-502 IN BN had light contact as the Battalion was credited with 6 VC KIA (BC) and 2 VC POW.

15 May 1968

Operation DELAWARE: At 1605, C/2-502 IN, 4th platoon received MG fire from estimated enemy squad and returned fire and swept area. Charlie Company's Commander, CPT Anderson was killed in action. Results: 1 US KHA, 2 NVA KIA, 1 RPD, 1 AK-47, 1 RPG-7 Captured.

15 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: A/1-321 ARTY displaced by road to FSB MONGOOSE (YD790272) to support operations of the 1-501 IN BN east of HUE. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned; HQ, 101st ABN DIV ARTY (AM); Reporting period ending 21 July 1968; 02 January 1969)

15 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 1-502 IN BN began Operation LAMAR PLAIN, with the battalion OPCON to the Americal Division. The operation began and was conducted in QUANG NAM Province. The mission of the 1-502 IN BN was with one company providing security for 1BDE FSSE, conduct combat assaults to the west of FSB PROFESSIONAL, conduct reconnaissance in force and detailed search operation to locate and destroy enemy forces. During the operation the battalion made two notable discoveries in the mountains southwest of TAM KY. One the 1st of July a weapons cache was found containing 111 individual weapons, 33 crew served weapons, 3 tons of ammunition and 17 bicycles. The other find was a 15-building hospital complex. The building was new and had been recently used, however most of the medical equipment had been removed prior to the discovery of the complex. Operation LAMAR PLAINS came to an end on 14 August.

15 May 1969

Operation APACHE SNOW: The 3-187 IN with A/3-187 IN relieving C/3-187 IN, continued its drive along the ridges of Hill 937 on the morning of the 15th. As the line companies maneuvered toward their objective under heavy enemy fire, they discovered fourteen NVA bodies from the previous days' contact. B/3-187 IN and C/3-187 IN once they reached the line of departure, found claymore emplaced by the enemy the night before. By 1300H all companies were in extremely heavy contact and suffering casualties. B/3-187 IN requested an ARA strike to suppress the heavy enemy fire to their front. A/3-187 IN was on the right of B/3-187 IN with C/3-187 IN approximately 200 meters to the left when the ARA arrived on station at 1400H. Instead of coming in from the rear of B/3-187 IN and finding its target on the hill, the ARA ships came from the right overflying A/3-187 IN and raked the lead platoon of B/3-187 IN with rockets slowing the momentum of the attack. A/3-187 IN at the same time came under heavy enemy fire and at 1630H the companies had to withdraw under heavy pressure to the landing zone in order to evacuate the wounded. Later in the day the battalion command post was hit by RPG rounds wounding several of the paratroopers Among those wounded was the battalion commander, LTC Honeycutt, who received RPG fragments in the back, with one piece lodged close to his spine. He refused evacuation and remained in control and was able to continue his duties following medical aid administered him in the field.

Rates of fire experienced during the day were extremely heavy and the enemy skillfully employed command detonated claymores, satchel charges, and grenades, which they rolled down the hill into the advancing US forces. Estimates of the size of the enemy force ranged as high as a regimental headquarters. The enemy were well entrenched – occupying bunkers in concertina rows which afforded maximum utilization of the terrain available. Similarly, they were well trained, experts at concealment and camouflage, hard to detect, and delivered a tremendous volume of accurate fire into advancing US troops. It was suspected that enemy reinforcements were being brought into the contact zone continuously because each day the enemy had fresh haircuts, clean uniforms and new weapons.

The intensive bunker to bunker fight of the 3-187 IN BN left more than sixty-two NVA soldiers dead. As the 15th, Operation APACHE SNOW losses in terms of friendly casualties were thirty-eight US killed and 245 wounded.

Due to heavy contact 3-187 IN BN was experiencing, the 1-506 IN BN was ordered to move northward to link up with the 3-187 IN BN and support the attack on DONG AP BIA with 3-187 IN acting as a blocking force on the northeast. Light contact was experienced by the 1-506 IN BN on its maneuver into the vicinity of Hill 937.

The 2-501 IN BN, still on reconnaissance in force operations in the area surrounding FB AIRBORNE, encountered light enemy resistance in the force of trail watchers, two to three men groups which continually harassed the lead elements. FB AIRBORNE at 1915H on the 15th received six 82mm mortar rounds causing little damage, indicating that the NVA were still very much interested in this area.

Throughout the night of 15-16 May elements of the 3-187 IN BN were involved in moderate contact. At 2310H, C/3-187 IN heard movement outside of their perimeter and responded with grenades until the movement ceased at 2330H. Later that night at 0110H, 16 May, they began receiving grenades, satchel charges, and small arms fire from probes on all four sides of their night defensive position. A Spooky (AC-47 flare ship with mini-guns) was requested and arrived on station working in conjunction with a Shadow (C119 with searchlight). ARA gun teams were also employed, working under the searchlight throughout the rest of the night. One rocket pass resulted in three secondary explosions. The enemy broke contact at 0530H and at first light check of the area surrounding their night defensive position revealed fourteen bodies and many blood trails.



During the days of 15 and 16 May, 3-1 ARVN BN continued to explore the cache area discovered on the 12th west of LA DUT. Added to the already impressive list of captured items were ten individual weapons, one 82mm mortar tube, in addition to large quantities of ammunition and the graves of forty NVA soldiers recently killed by air strikes. (Narrative Operation APACHE SNOW; MG John M. Wright Jr. Commanding; 10 May – 7 June 1969)

15 May 1969

Operation BRISTOL BOOTS: was terminated prematurely as the 1BDE, with 1-501 IN BN and 1-502 IN BN, and was redeployed to TAM KY where it became OPCON to the Americal Division in Operation LAMAR PLAIN. Throughout the twenty-one-day operation contact was light and sporadic. It was determined that no large concentrations of enemy forces or installations were in the RUONG RUONG Valley. Results of the operation were: 7 NVA KIA, 1 POW, and 16 individual weapons captured. Friendly losses were 5 KIA and 34 WIA. (HQ, 101st Airborne (Airmobile), Operational Report – Lessons Learned. Dated 20 August 1969)

15 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 1BDE TF organizing and deploying from the 101st ABN DIV AO to the Americal Division AO in QUANG TIN (P). At 0045H, the 1BDE received a verbal warning order from the 101st ABN DIV to move with two battalions, 1-501 IN BN and 1-502 IN BN, and designated support elements to the Americal Division currently operating in southern I Corps; the first element of the brigade were to be prepared to depart by air NLT 151200H May 69 from the PHU BAI Departure Airfield (DAF). The 1-501 IN BN and 1-502 IN BN were alerted to move to PZ for extraction from the AO commencing at first light; concurrently, the 2-327 IN BN was alerted to assume security of all fire bases in the AO upon extraction of the 1-501 IN BN and 1-502 IN BN. At 0400H, representatives from the 101st ABN DIV met with the 1BDE and coordinated the deployment of the brigade, to include division assets to accompany the brigade, and support to be furnished by the division. At 0830H, the 1BDE liaison team arrived at Americal Division Headquarters in CHU LAI and was briefed by the general staff, thereby effecting preliminary coordination between brigade and division staff representatives. At 1415H, the Commanding Officer, 1BDE, reported to the Commanding General, Americal Division, and the 1BDE feel under OPCON of the Americal Division. The Arrival Airfield (AAF) was TAM-KY S and brigade elements began to arrive that afternoon with the TAC CP, 1-501 IN BN and C/2-320 ARTY closing by 2130H. At 2345H, the 1BDE TF staging area received 5-7 rounds of 60mm mortar fire with negative results. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)



This photo is at the Tam-Ky airfield as elements of the 1st Brigade started arriving.

15 May 1969

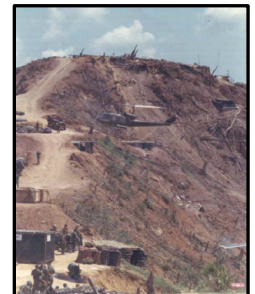
The 1BDE learns at 1230H in the morning that it will move with two combat battalions and support elements to the CHU LAI-TAM KY area to support the Americal Division. The operation is dubbed LAMAR PLAIN. Only 38 hours after the alert, troops of the 1-501 IN BN combat assaults deep into enemy territory near TAM KY. Also, airlifted south with the speed of an eagle were the 1-502 IN BN, two batteries of the 2-320 ARTY BN, a battery of the 4-77 ARA ARTY, a company of engineers, elements of the 2-17 CAV, and two assault helicopter battalions. Almost immediately after 1-501 IN BN (Geronimo) CA, they began uncovering NVA base camps more than six months old, with beds slept in only the night before.

In the first week, Screaming Eagles killed 90 enemy. By June 11 the total was raised to 222 and by the first of July to 313. With LAMAR PLAIN continuing, a total of 481 enemy had been killed, 247 individual and 26 crew-served weapons captured, and 19 prisoners taken, as of 05 August.

In the operation the 1BDE relived part of its history, for it was fighting not far from where the brigade won the battle of DUC PHO in late 1967. Twice in its previous history the always First brigade had been attached to Task Force Oregon, which was later redesignated the Americal Division, and fought for several months in the CHU LAI area. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 2); Summer 1969)

15 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: In the pre-dawn hours of May 15, land lines were busily ringing and FM radios loudly squawking as the plea from the Americal began to be answered. The 101st Airborne Division hastily prepared plans to send a brigade task force south to QUANG TIN Province. Clerks, cooks, supply personnel, truck drivers, and other rear-echelon types were rousted from their beds. At 4:30 a.m., division staff met with 1BDE staff. Aviation crews were called into briefings while two infantry battalions and the two artillery batteries that supported them were ordered to prepare for extraction from the field and transport to the CAMP EAGLE/PHU BAI area.



Dense early morning fog nestled in the valleys around FSB PIKE and FSB LASH (Pictured) in the southern end of the A SHAU VALLEY near the border with LAOS. As the sun began to illuminate the verdant peaks and ridges of the TRUONG SON Mountain Range, artillerymen readied their 105mm howitzers, shell canisters, powder bags, and firing projectiles in huge rope nets to be slung beneath Chinook helicopters. Meanwhile, grunts from the 1-501 IN BN, and the 1-502 IN BN regiments boarded Huey helicopters at landing zones around the area of operations. These units belonged to the 2BDE but were placed under operational control of the 1BDE. In turn, for the duration of Operation LAMAR PLAIN, the 1BDE would become OPCON of the Americal.



C/1-501 IN, was on FSB PIKE providing security. Around 0925H, A/1-501 IN arrived from the field, and within the next hour its sister companies were there as well. The men knew little, if anything, about the events that were unfolding. But rumors were rampant. Had the war suddenly ended? After more than three months in the A SHAU VALLEY, were the grunts finally going to get that well-deserved stand-down at Eagle Beach on the South China Sea? Before long, the words "TAM KY" and "Americal" began to circulate among the men. They realized that something big was going on down south.

In the east was the distant but unmistakable sound of in-bound helicopters. The men scrambled to their feet to put on their rucksacks. As they braced themselves for the wind and dust storm of rotor wash, flights of the big twin-rotor CH-47 Chinooks arrived at the firebases. Before long, the big choppers were headed east with their cargo loads of men, equipment, and supplies. Operation LAMAR PLAIN was underway. (Bitter Fighting IN QUANG TIN, Roger Ables.)

15 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 1-502 IN BN received a warning order to be prepared to extract all units and combat trains to CAMP EAGLE and move by air to TAM KY to become OPCON to the Americal Division. The new mission was to reinforce US forces in the vicinity of TAM KY. The entire battalion closed CAMP EAGLE by 2000H.

15 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon, 1st squad found one 500lb bomb. The bomb will be blown in place because it is armed, and the fuse is broken. The estimated age is nine months. A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon found one underground bunker. The bunker had not been used in the last seven months and inside was a small amount of equipment. A/1-502 IN also located an underground bunker.

16 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI: A/2-502 IN moved to LZ vicinity YU220375, arriving at 1500H with negative enemy contact. Extraction to BU GIA Map began at 1630H and was completed at 1745H. B/2-502 IN moved to LZ vicinity YU220375, arriving at 1515H with negative enemy contact. They are to be extracted after A/2-502 IN. B/2-502 IN completed its extraction to BU GIA Map airfield at 1845H. C/2-502 IN was extracted from LZ vicinity YU220325, commencing at 1015H and completed at 1135H. They closed into NHON CO by 1925H. Recondo platoon was extracted from LZ vicinity YU215355 after securing extraction of TAC CP. Extraction began at 1040H and was completed at 1145H. They were then extracted to NHON CO effective 1615H and completed by 1715H. (DA, HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN VI; 24 May 1966)

16 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR I: Fourteen light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 6 US WHA, 14 VC KIA (C), 4 detainees, and 8 individual weapons captured. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

16 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR I: At BS684314, A/2-502 IN sprang an ambush on 7 VC resulting in 2 VC (BC), 1 SKS, 1 Swedish K, 6 rucksacks. At 0945H, at BS691328 B/2-502 IN killed 2 VC (BC) with 2 weapons. Several other contacts resulted in body count and weapons captured, including an M-16 rifle at BS711347. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, After Action Report: MALHEUR I, MALHEUR II; 28 July 1967)

16 – 17 May 1968

Operation CARENTAN II: TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operations in support of Operation CARENTAN II to locate and destroy VC/NVA forces, bases and logistics in the coastal plains area, and deny the rice harvest to the VC/NVA. Contacts was light with a total of 3 contacts. Today's statistics: 1 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 2 NVA KIA (BC), 4 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC POW, 1 AK-47, 1 AK-50, 1 M16.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD781249 with ambush vicinity YD778243. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD828247. At 1030H vicinity YD823246 received SA/AW fire from an estimated enemy squad. Returned fire with organic weapons and artillery supported. Contact broken at 1050H. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment. A/1-501 IN returned to YD781249.

B/1-501 IN provided security for FSB MONGOOSE with ambushes vicinity YD795278. Secured minesweep teams N and S from FSB MONGOOSE. Continued to improve defensive positions at FSB MONGOOSE.

C/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD845230 with ambush vicinity YD865302. Conducted a platoon size patrol to vicinity YD836322 and returned. Continued to provide security at COLCO Beach installation.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD781249 with ambush vicinity YD776249. At 0618 ambush engaged 2 VC vicinity YD776247 with negative results. D/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD786234 and returned. At 1036H vicinity YD786236 engaged 2 VC. VC fled, results 1 M16 rifle captured. D/1-501 IN (-) conducted maintenance and mandatory classes. Results: Negative casualties; Enemy assessment – 1 M16.

Recon platoon secured bridge vicinity YD838177. Conducted maintenance and mandatory classes during the day.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN provided security for FSB PINKY. Ambushed vicinity YD682287 and YD700250. Secured minesweep S to HUE. One (1) platoon conducted RIF operation vicinity YD679288, YD676286 and returned to FSB PINKY. At the close of the reporting period one (1) platoon of A/2-501 IN and PF platoons were enroute to ambush positions vicinity YD672283, YD676275 and YD684276.

B/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD629260 with ambushes vicinity YD641259, YD633253, YD622255 and YD622258. B/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD631238, YD607250 and returned to company



CP vicinity YD629260, B/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF operation vicinity YD642268 and returned to company CP. Established night position vicinity YD646252 with local ambushes.

C/2-501 IN provided security for HUE Bridges.

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD675235 with ambushes vicinity YD678238, YD674246, YD663234 and YD657235. D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon with one (1) platoon PF conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD669231, YD652333, YD662238 and returned to company CP vicinity YD675235. Established night position vicinity YD668247 with local ambushes.

Recon platoon secured LZ SATAN. Established observation posts vicinity YD682287 and YD700250.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD771314 with ambushes vicinity YD767307, YD777317 and YD786315. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD802312 and coordinated for MEDCAP on 20 May. Established a night position vicinity YD781315 with local ambushes.

B/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD732311 with ambush vicinity YD732298. Provided security for Rome plow operations vicinity YD726306. Moved to night position vicinity YD725309.

C/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD713343 with ambushes vicinity YD706348, YD718351 and YD718342. At 2308H ambush vicinity YD706348 engaged 5 enemy. Results: 2 NVA KIA (BC), 1 AK-47, 1 AK-50. At 0332H night position captured 2 unarmed individuals (classified 1 VC, 1 CD). At 0601H night position received approximately 15 rounds of sniper fire. Friendly fire was returned. Results: 1 US WIA (medevac); Negative enemy assessment. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD716330. Found 4 fresh graves containing 4 VC killed by artillery. C/1-502 IN moved to vicinity YD723346. Established night position vicinity YD722336. Results: 1 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 2 NVA KIA (BC), 4 VC KIA (BC), 1 AK-47, 1 AK-50.

D/1-502 IN returned to OPCON effective 1000H from 2-17 CAV. One (1) platoon provided security for bulldozer vicinity YD635225. Returned to AN LO Bridge. D/1-502 IN (-) provided security for AN LO Bridge.

Recon platoon OPCON to B/1-502 IN until 1037H. Moved by UH-1 at 0952H from PZ vicinity YD727305 to LZ vicinity YD620317. Closed 1037H, OPCON D/1-502 IN. Moved to vicinity YD635325 and provided security for bulldozer. Returned to AN LO Bridge.

2d Brigade

HHC Security platoon provided minesweep security N and S from LZ SALLY.

(Commanders Situation Report; 162001H May – 172000H May 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)

16 May 1969

Operation APACHE SNOW: Throughout the morning of the 16th, 1-506 IN BN maneuvered north to affect its link up with the 3-187 IN BN leading with the reconnaissance platoon and followed by A/1-506 IN and C/1-506 IN. At 0830H, A/1-506 IN received RPG, automatic weapons and machinegun fire from heavily fortified bunkers in the vicinity of Hill 916 (YC 3196). Artillery, gunships, air strikes and the battalions' organic weapons were employed to suppress the enemy's fire, but as soon as the friendly fires let up the enemy would reengage the advancing troops. Contact was broken at 1435H, resulting in one US killed and seven wounded. Enemy losses were one killed and one AK-47 captured. B/1-506 IN later in the morning engaged one trail watcher with small arms fire which brought additional enemy fire. Artillery and air strikes were employed, and contact was broken at 1335H resulting in one US killed and seven wounded with unknown enemy results.

Because of the heavy enemy fire, A/1-506 IN and B/1-506 IN were having difficulty getting into position for the attack on DONG AP BIA and reported that they would probably not be in position before the morning of the 17th. The CS artillery preparation of the hill was then delayed until the 17th in anticipation of the link up of the two battalions and the coordinated attack on Hill 937. Protective masks and flak jackets were dropped to both battalions, (1-506 IN and 3-187 IN). The flak jackets were requested as a preventive measure against the increasing amount of shrapnel wounds of the chest, abdomen, and back regions of the body.

Three companies of the 2-501 IN BN continued on 16 May to conduct reconnaissance in force operations and saturation patrols in the vicinity of FSB AIRBORNE. The day's contacts resulted in one NVA killed.

The 1-506 IN BN began closing on Hill 937 to the southwest of the 3-187 IN BN and began moving up the hill in the early morning. While moving up they received twenty 82mm mortar rounds all of which impacted out of the line of the advancing troops. To counter the enemy's heavy fire three air strikes were placed on the high ground to the 1-506 IN BN front. Throughout the morning they experienced light and sporadic contact which impeded their movement considerably.

At 0945H, the 3-187 IN BN experienced radio interference on the command net when a Vietnamese voice repeated "Blackjack, Blackjack" for several minutes very rapidly. LTC Honeycutt, who's call sign is "Blackjack" answered with artillery fire and the resulting explosions were heard over the net.

At 0955H, LTC Honeycutt was evacuated by the Assistant Division Commander, Colonel Smith, to have the shrapnel removed from his back. Major Collier assumed command of the 3-187 IN BN as they moved into the blocking positions,



they would occupy the next morning in support of the main attack by the 1-506 IN BN. At 1415H, XXIV Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Stilwell arrived at the 3-187 IN BN location to receive a firsthand briefing on the situation on DONG AP BIA. (Narrative Operation APACHE SNOW; MG John M. Wright Jr. Commanding; 10 May – 7 June 1969)

16 May – 13 August 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN:

Locations: I Corps: QUANG TIN Province; Base Area 117; TAM KY; LZs PROFESSIONAL and RUSTLER.

Type/Objective: Search and Destroy into enemy Base Area 117, approximately 45 miles south of DA NANG.

Units: U.S. – 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) (1-46th IN), 101st Airborne Division: 2d Brigade (1-501st IN, 1-502 IN); NVA/VC – 2nd NVA Division.

Events: 21 May – 1-46th IN (Americal) engages an enemy force of unknown size near PHUOC AN 12 miles southwest of TAM KY.

Loses: in the five-hour firefight: U.S. – 7 KIA, 19 WIA; NVA/VC – 6 KIA.

Events: 8 July – A/1-502nd IN squares off against an estimated NVA company near HAU DUC, approximately 20 miles southwest of TAM KY.

Loses: U.S. – 9 KIA, 7 WIA; NVA/VC – 4 KIA

Casualties: Totals for LAMAR PLAIN. U.S. – 105 KIA, 333 WIA; NVA/VC – 524 KIA, 11 POWs.

16 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 1BDE TF continued to deploy from the DAF at PHU BAI to the AAF at TAM-KY S and the 1-501 IN BN conducted a CA into the AO. At 0830H, the 1-502 IN BN and 2-320 Arty (-) began movement by air from DAF to the AAF. At 1200H the 1BDE TF assumed OPCON of the 1-46 IN BN and C/1-14 ARTY which were located at LZ PROFESSIONAL (BT173077). The 1-46 Infantry continued to conduct local reconnaissance in force operations in the vicinity of LZ PROFESSIONAL. At 1445H, C/2-320 Arty completed an air move from TAM-KY S to LZ Young (BT188158) where it established a firing position with a battery from the 2d ARVN Div, secured by forces of the 5th ARVN Regt. At 1454H, 1-501 Infantry conducted a CA into an LZ to the southwest of LZ YOUNG and commenced RIF operations to the south toward LZ PROFESSIONAL. At 1745H, B/1-501 Inf vicinity BT259156 engaged three enemy Soldiers with small arms fire; the enemy south and the element pursued with negative results. At 2230H, the remainder of the 1BDE TF combat elements closed into TAM-KY S; also, at that time, the AAF staging area received 10-15 rounds of 60mm mortar fired resulting in three US lightly wounded. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

16 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: Initiated on 16 May, with the 1-501 IN BN and 1-502 IN BN of the 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV (AM) and 1-46 IN BN of the 196th IN BDE, terminated on 13 August; having successfully relieved the pressure on the GVN population center of TAM KY and New HAU DUC by eliminating the forces of the 2d NVA Division and their VC counterparts who had previously been operating in Base Area 117. In the first 13 days of the reporting period, three battalions concluded the third phase of Operation LAMAR PLAIN, a large-scale combat operation in the SONG TRAM Valley initiated with combat air assaults into the area after a series of Arc light strikes and began redeployment from the area. In the last days of Operation LAMAR PLAIN, allied forced met little enemy resistance and were able to successfully conclude the operation with negative significant incidents. Results for Operation LAMAR PLAIN during the reporting period are as follows: Friendly Forces: 6 US KIA, 21 US WIA (E), 2 US WIA (M); Enemy Forces: 32 VC KIA, 19 NVA KIA, 17 DET, 1 PW/VC, 10 IWC, 3 CSWC. (Americal Division-Operation Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1969)

16 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: Two 105mm howitzer batteries were transported from TAM KY to FSB YOUNG and LZ PROFESSIONAL. By early afternoon on May 16, they began preparatory fires. As mid-afternoon approached, the 1-501 IN BN, minus A/1-501 IN, made a combat assault north of LZ PROFESSIONAL and began to conduct reconnaissance in force to the south. Temperatures soared over 100 degrees, and there were many heat casualties.

As the infantrymen began their RIF, they began to find well-established enemy huts, hootches, bunkers, and trenches—some of which had been occupied as recently as the night before. The air cavalry and brigade aerial recon teams also discovered many enemy installations while facing withering fire from .51-caliber machine-gun positions. During the next two weeks, virtually every aircraft assigned to the operation received damage from ground fire, and many were shot down. Infantry contact with the enemy was light for the first two days in the field. However, it was only being a matter of time before that changed. (Bitter Fighting in QUANG TIN, Roger Ables)

16 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: At 0630H, the 1-502 IN BN crossed the IP by truck convoy and moved to the HUE PHU BAI Airfield. The 1-502 IN BN moved by C-130 to TAM KY Airfield. The first lift was airborne at 0945H and the battalion closed TAM KY Airfield at 1920H. The 1-502 IN BN CP and all units except C/1-502 IN established positions at TAM KY and provided security for the airfield. C/1-502 IN moved by truck convoy from the airfield to the 1BDE FSSE, vicinity BT290230, and provided security for the BDE forward element. At 2210H, the 1-502 IN BN came under 60mm attack receiving seven to ten rounds. Results: A/1-502 had 2 US WIA.

16 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: B/1-502 IN found a spider hole in brush three to four weeks old. Fifteen meters west of first hole they found another the same age. All vehicles from now on will have sand bagged floors to prevent casualties from mines.

16 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: At 0428, vicinity YD487065 and enemy sapper platoon launched an attack against the northwestern sector of A/2-502 IN night defensive position, seven minutes later they received RPG, automatic weapons, and small arms fire from the east and west of their position. Moving under cover of a heavy rainstorm the enemy attacked, employing mortars, B-40 rockets and small arms. Fire was returned by small arms and claymores. A USAF Flareship was employed to provide illumination. The enemy broke contact and fled to the east and west. At 0521H three (3) enemy walked east about ten minutes apart from each other in the vicinity of YD490068 and encountered the Recon platoon in an ambush location. The first enemy soldier was killed by a claymore and the second two by M60 and other small arms. The three enemy were killed, and two AK-47's and 1 RPG launcher were captured. US Losses were four KIA and 22 wounded. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970; 15 August 1970)



- 17 May 1966 **Operation AUSTIN VI:** A/2-502 IN completed its extraction to NHON CO at 1030H. B/2-502 IN came under 1-327 IN BN effective 1600H. (DA, HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN VI; 24 May 1966)
- 17 May 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Eleven light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 6 US WHA, 7 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee and 5 individual weapons captured. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)
- 17 May 1967 **Operation MALHEUR I:** Recon/2-502 IN had several contacts vicinity BS668317. Results were 2 VC (BC) with 2 weapons. An airstrike at BS704311, produced negative results. A Psywar mission was flown over the AO. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, After Action Report: MALHEUR I, MALHEUR II; 28 July 1967)
- 17 May – 31 July 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 101st AIR CAV DIV conducted Operation NEVADA EAGLE. In this operation, the 101st ACD coordinated rice denial operations in THUA THIEN Providence and conducted offensive operations to defeat NVA/VC forces and to destroy enemy base camps and installations. The 1BDE, 101st ACD continued RIF operations in the area vicinity Hwy 547 and 547A; the 2BDE, 101st ACD continued RIF operations in the coastal plains north and east of HUE and provided security and support for rice collection; and the 3BDE, 82nd ABN DIV continued security of fire bases astride Hwy 547 and conducted RIF operations along the entry and exit routes to the coastal plains. (Operational Report of 101st Air Cavalry Division for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))
- 17 May 1968 **Operation DELAWARE:** FIRST STRIKE paratroopers of the 1BDE completed their phase of Operations DELAWARE, designed to block the main enemy supply route leading out of the A SHAU VALLEY toward HUE. The airborne the Battalion killed 318 NVA, captured three prisoners and 121 weapons during the 28-day operations. DELAWARE was characterized by the capture of several large caliber ammunition caches, the loss of which further limited enemy capabilities in providing fire support for large scale operations, according to Division intelligence sources. The interdiction of Route 547 was also realized during this operation, completely cutting off its use by enemy forces as a resupply route.
- 17 May 1968 **Operation DELAWARE:** 2-502 IN BN effectively accomplished its mission during Operation DELAWARE. During phase I it only established a mini-firebase near LZ VEGHEL; however, this was all that was needed. The BN pushed west and south along Hwy 547 and 547A overcoming all enemy resistance in its path. When the contacts became scarce the BN deployed into its new area, effectively established it firebase and conducted reconnaissance in force operations into New Base Area. In both phases, the enemy sustained significant losses, particularly in equipment and intelligence documents.

Results of Operation DELAWARE:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>Equipment Lost or Destroyed</u>
US	13	1	99	2 M-16

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>VC CIA</u>	<u>NVA CIA</u>	<u>C/S Wpns CIA</u>	<u>Ind Wpn CIA</u>	<u>Rice Dest.</u>
ENEMY	43	1	2	2	37	2300lbs

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

Authorized:	920
Assigned:	801
Present for Duty:	755
Not present for duty:	46

Casualties for Operations were as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>INRHA</u>
HHC	1	0	1	0	2	0	0
A Co.	4	2	0	0	27	0	0
B Co.	3	0	0	0	49	0	1
C Co.	5	0	0	1	15	0	1
D Co.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E Co.	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Total	13	2	1	1	99	0	2

- 17 May – 25 June 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Phase I was conducted. RIF operations commenced with little significant action. B/2-502 IN ran into a small delaying action almost daily but failed to locate any large base camp areas or caches.

- 17 May 1969 **Operation APACHE SNOW:** The plan of attack on Hill 937 was formulated on the 17th. Elements of the 3-187 IN BN were moved to the west up to the high ground and would support the attack from vicinity YC323983 with 90mm, machinegun and small arms fire. In addition, there was to be a one minute artillery preparation utilizing the 105mm CS howitzer round (approximately 200 rounds). The wind on the morning of the attack was ideal with the flow to the east. The CS preparation would be followed by fifteen minutes of VT and HE artillery fire. At 1000H, the attack would commence with A/1-506 IN, B/1-506 IN and C/1-506 IN online. At that time, the artillery fire would be shifted to the east and Pink Teams, Air Cavalry Reconnaissance forces consisting of one Huey gunship and one Light Observation Helicopter, would screen the area and air strikes would be on call. The attack was delayed until 1130H when it was learned that all elements were not in position.



As the elements began their attack the fire, they faced was intense. Additional CS drops were requested at 1330H by the 1-506 IN BN and placed to the front of A/1-506 IN position to get the company across the line of departure; the drops were completed at 1405H. At 1450H, an additional drop missed the target and as a result A/1-506 IN was still pinned down and unable to move. B/1-506 IN and C/1-506 IN were maneuvering to assist A/1-506 IN, but due to the intense fire the three companies were unable to get to their objective.

Although the enemy possessed gas masks, the CS attack were effective and caused them to leave their bunkers and were thus exposed targets to the attacking forces. At 1550H, A/1-506 IN and gunships caught eight NVA coming out of their bunkers and killed all eight.

Through the 17th the 3-187 IN BN remained in blocking positions on the northeast of DONG AP BIA supporting the 1-506 IN BN with organic fires and in conjunction with the 3BDE's forward air controller, directed air strikes on the bunker complexes to their front. The NVA continually popped violet smoke grenades to confuse the forward air controller and pilots as they came in for their runs.

The 2-501 IN BN continued their search and destroy missions to the north., and west of FSB AIRBORNE encountering bunkers and equipment caches. Little contact was experienced during the 17th.

The 2-1 ARVN BN searching an area southwest of FSB BRADLEY discovered four Russian trucks, five bulldozers and 3,000 pounds of TNT, all of which were destroyed. (Narrative Operation APACHE SNOW; MG John M. Wright Jr. Commanding; 10 May – 7 June 1969)

17 – 18 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 1-502 IN BN (-) at TAM KY and conducted local platoon size operations to familiarize the ground units with the weather and terrain while the commanders and staff conducted aerial reconnaissance and liaison with US units, MACV Advisor detachment, Special Forces, CIDG and RF/PF HQ's.

17 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: VR bird sighted possible rocket and mortar sight. A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon found on 60mm round buried in ground. They destroyed it in place.

17 May 1971

Operation LAM SON 720: One Team of 2-502 IN Recon platoon air assaulted into FSB SHOCK (Vic 5105). On the same day C/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon observed and engaged three NVA's.

18 May 1966

Operation AUSTIN VI: A/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN and Recon remained at BN base NHON CO. B/2-502 IN was released from OPCON 1-327 IN BN effective 0745H and closed into NHON CO at 1030H. (DA, HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN VI; 24 May 1966)

18 May – 4 June 1967

Operation MALHEUR I: 2-502 IN BN commander felt that it was likely that the enemy would be found on the heavily forested slopes of Hill 424 (BS 705322) caught between the eastward sweep of the STRIKE FORCE and the western push of the 2-327 IN BN. Consequently, a coordinated attack was planned with B/2-502 IN in the center driving over the hill from west to east, A/2-502 IN clearing the lower slopes on the south flank and C/2-502 IN positioned to attack from the north and east. During the morning B/2-502 IN encountered what appeared to be an enemy medical unit on the north-western slope of Hill 424 and aggressively pursued, killing eight and capturing one nurse. This successful action tended to make the lead platoon of B/2-502 IN, and the CIDG platoon working with them, overconfident and as a result during the afternoon they were split into several groups and pushed ahead of the company. This set the stage for one of the three largest engagements in which the STRIKE FORCE has participated in over a year. Through the remainder of the afternoon and into the rain sodden dark night, in an improbable location on the steep eastern slope of Hill 424, the enemy held his ground in a heavy engagement with elements of all 3 companies of the STRIKE FORCE. The conflict began when LT Booth in command of the B/2-502 IN, 1st platoon sent a squad and part of the CIDG platoon to secure an LZ on the east side of 424. This patrol encountered a large enemy force that was well dug in and armed with automatic weapons, as it moved down a ridge. 6 Americans were killed, and the 6 others wounded; the CIDG were scattered, some being captured and others escaping. As LT Booth moved to reinforce with the rest of his element, he was taken under fire. The Company commander with two more platoons of B/2-502 IN arrived from the northwest and also became heavily engaged. A/2-502 IN in a brilliantly aggressive action swept through what appeared to be a part of the same forces south of 424, capturing a machinegun, and then turning to block the enemy escape. Meanwhile, C/2-502 IN made a very rapid move to the south and a slashing counterattack into the enemy's north flank. This action accounted for eleven enemy Soldiers and probably turned the tide in favor of the STRIKE FORCE.

B/2-502 IN continued in contact throughout the rainy night, by morning the enemy had abandoned his positions and in spite of the tight ring composed of four companies, disappeared. A thorough police of the area by all elements revealed 45 VC/NVA KHA, 16 weapons, 12 US KHA, and 38 US WHA. Enemy fortifications on Hill 424 were mutually supporting, many had overhead cover and firing ports low to the ground.

During the rest of May units continued making contact as they moved back into the valleys to the west then east to the edge of the coastal plain. As the SF departed a heavy odor hung in the valley from the large number of bodies, both VC and water buffaloes, that lay rotting in the sun.

The operation concluded on a positive note when B/2-502 IN uncovered 54 tons of rice and in over 30 hours of hard, hot work, extracted the majority of it to the government control to feed refugees. On 4 June, the last elements of the 2-502 IN BN was lifted back to CARENTAN BASE, to prepare for MALHEUR II.

The final body count for MALHEUR I was 152 VC/NVA killed, and 3 POW and 45 weapons were captured. Friendly losses were 13 US KHA and 65 wounded. Intelligence gathered during the operation indicated that the enemy belonged to the 93rd, 95th, and 97th Battalions, 2nd Regiment, 1st NVA Division; as well as local VC forces in the area.



18 May 1967

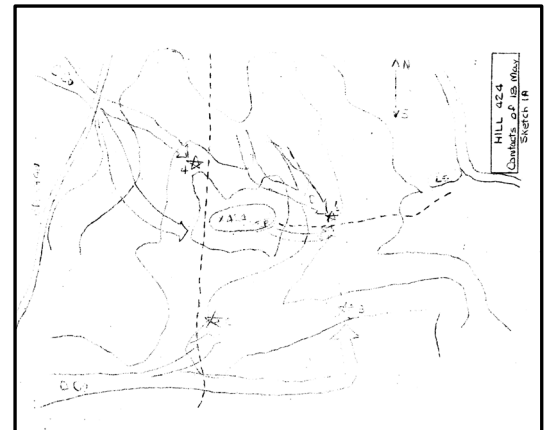
Operation MALHEUR: 2-502 IN BN contacted an estimated Battalion sized force (BS710310) armed with numerous automatic weapons and machine guns. The contact was characterized by many small engagements in a two-square kilometer area with friendly and enemy personnel intermingled. The enemy defended from numerous spider holes and fortified positions scattered throughout the area of contact. Artillery and TAC Air supported. Contact lasted six hours and resulted in 12 US KHA, 41 US WHA, 31 VC KIA (C) and 12 individual weapons, 1 machine gun and 1 flamethrower captured. Based on the continued contacts with this Regiment, Regimental strength is probably about 800-900 personnel, with Battalions at a strength of approximately 200. The 2nd VC Regiment is believed to be located southeast of the Tactical Area of Responsibility, vicinity BS 7728 and BS 8044.

18 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR: 2-502 IN BN contacted an estimated 100-man VC force armed with numerous automatic weapons and machine guns. The contact was characterized by many small engagements in a two-square kilometer area with friendly and enemy personnel intermingled. The enemy defended from numerous spider holes and fortified positions scattered throughout the area of contact. Artillery and TAC Air supported. Contact lasted six hours and resulted in 12 US KHA, 41 US WHA, 31 VC KIA (C) and 12 individual weapons, 1 machine gun and 1 flamethrower captured. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

18 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR I: At 0920H the battle of Hill 424 began with B/2-502 IN in contact at BS705322 (See picture), just north of the summit. The enemy force was well dug in and armed with automatic weapons; strength was about 20 NVA. C/2-502 IN, coming to B/2-502 IN aid from the northwest made contact with an element of the same force, also dug in on the north slope. A/2-502 IN, moving in from the south and south west, made contact on the south slope; again, the enemy was dug into well-fortified and camouflaged positions. B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN remained in contact until about 2030H with an estimated force of 100 enemy troops. The CO of B/2-502 IN could not account for all of his men that night as the fighting had been close in. B/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon was badly mauled by enemy machinegun fire. The CIDG platoon broke and ran, some being captured by VC. Flasheships and airborne relay were used throughout the night. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, After Action Report: MALHEUR I, MALHEUR II; 28 July 1967)



18 – 19 May 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: TF 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operations in support of Operation NEVADA EAGLE to limit and disrupt attempts made by the enemy to extort the VN rice production throughout the coastal plains area, and to seek out and destroy enemy forces and installations in the 2BDE AO. Contact was light with a total of 4 contacts. Today's statistics: 25 US WIA (17 medevac); Enemy assessment: 1 NVA KIA (BC) (killed by artillery), 1 Sub MG, 1 Carbine.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD834237 with ambushes vicinity YD835236. Conducted RIF operation vicinity YD828229, linked up with D/1-501 IN and began moving SW along the E side. Continued RIF operation to vicinity YD827223 and YD829220. At 0945H vicinity YD829228 received several rounds AW fire from vicinity YD826225. Returned fire with SA, AW. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment. At 1403H vicinity YD829226 a soldier tripped a BBT grenade resulting in 4 US WIA (3 medevac). Established night position vicinity YD832228.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD781249 with ambushes vicinity YD787250, YD790245, YD786239 and YD774249. At 0902H conducted combat assault from PZ vicinity YD783249 to LZ vicinity YD858203. Closed LZ at 1000H. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD848203. At 1115H a PF platoon joined B/1-501 IN at YD848203. Continued RIF operation to vicinity YD827222. At 1427H picked up 8 detainees (6 mail, 2 female) and 1 Sub MG. Established night position vicinity YD833217.

C/1-501 IN company minus provided security for COCO Beach installation vicinity YD845320 with ambush vicinity YD860207. One (1) platoon provided security at FSB MONGOOSE and secured minesweep N and S from FSB MONGOOSE.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD832229 with ambushes vicinity YD829229. Conducted RIF operation SW and linked up with A/1-501 IN vicinity YD828229. Continued RIF operation to vicinity YD824226 and YD830218. Established a night position vicinity YD824223.

Recon platoon secured bridge vicinity YD838177.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD660245 with ambushes vicinity YD643243, YD651236, YD661234 and YD673236. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD642258. A/2-501 IN, 1st platoon continued to YD644242, YD609244, YD611262 and returned to company CP. At 1705H vicinity YD661240 found 1 carbine. Established night position vicinity YD650253 with local ambushes. Enemy assessment – 1 Carbine.



B/2-501 IN provided security for FSB PINKY with ambushes vicinity YD689258, YD679254 and YD689245. B/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD694226, YD695246 and returned to FSB PINKY. Provided security for minesweep from FSB PINKY S to HUE.

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD693226 with ambushes vicinity YD690238, YD683231, YD693223 and YD695210. C/2-501 IN, 1st platoon and one (1) platoon PF conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD678238, YD667235, YD646251 and returned to company CP (YD669246). At 1200H vicinity YD686237 found 1 NVA killed by artillery approximately 5 days prior. Established night position vicinity YD679239 with local ambushes. Enemy assessment – 1 NVA KIA (BC).

D/2-501 IN provided security for HUE Bridges.

Recon platoon provided security for LZ SATAN with ambush vicinity YD693235. Conducted local patrols vicinity LZ SATAN.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD767308 with ambushes vicinity YD760307 and YD754306. Established a blocking position from YD751316 to YD761314 to YD757311 for 4 PF platoons moving from YD736294 NE towards the blocking position. A/1-502 IN then moved to YD754306. Established night position vicinity YD745316 with local ambushes.

B/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD724307. Provided security for Rome plow operation vicinity YD724307. Established night position vicinity YD718307.

C/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD709343 with ambushes vicinity YD704334, YD706334 and YD717347. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD728333 and YD732327. At 0812H vicinity YD731332 received 8 rounds of SA sniper fire from the S. Engaged with SA and artillery supported. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment. Established night position vicinity YD712308 with local ambushes.

D/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO Bridge with ambushes vicinity YD609313, YD603311 and YD599309. Two (2) platoons provided security for bulldozer vicinity YD635325. At 0815H from vicinity YD635326 received approximately 15-20 rounds sniper fire. At 0820H received 2 60mm mortar rounds. Engaged with SA and artillery supported. At 1055H vicinity YD638323 a 105mm round BBT resulted in 1 US WIA (medevac). At 1258H vicinity YD625320 received approximately 20 rounds SA fire. Engaged with SA and artillery supported. Results: 2 US WIA (medevac); Negative enemy assessment. Returned to AN LO Bridge at 1350H.

Recon platoon OPCON to D/1-502 IN.

2d Brigade

HHC Security platoon secured minesweep N and S from QL-1.

(Commanders Situation Report; 182001H May – 192000H May 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)

18 May 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Paratroopers of the 1BDE, 2BDE, 3BDE, and 82nd Airborne Division Initiated Operation NEVADA EAGLE in northern I Corps. It was designed to deny all NVA and Viet Cong forces operating in the area the ability to capture the ripening rice crop growing in the rich coastal plain north and south of HUE.

18 May 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Operations begins to protect the rice harvest and deny the NVA/ VC access to it. Before its completion, 2BDE will have destroyed the 803rd Regiment of the 324B North Vietnamese Army Division.

18 – 19 May 1968

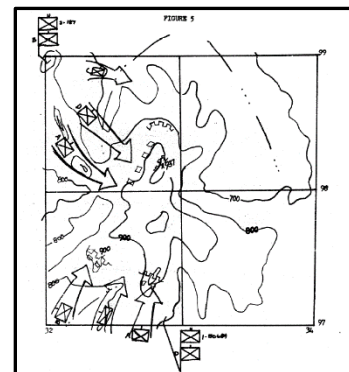
1-502 IN BN had light contact, received 2 WIA from Snipers.

18 May 1969

Operation APACHE SNOW: By 0717H, the two battalions (1-506 IN BN and 3-187 IN BN) were in position around DONG AP BIA and started up the hill. Two air strikes were put in as the attacking forces began their move and six additional strikes were completed by 0830H to suppress the enemy fire. 1-506 IN BN made initial contact early in the morning with an unknown size enemy force on the southside of the ridge and contact continued periodically throughout the day. The enemy delivered heavy volume of RPG and small arms fire as the attacking forces employed air strikes, artillery, CS gas drops and small arms fire.

At 0800H, artillery was registered on target with 105mm howitzers in position at FSB CURRAHEE. At 0820H, a fifteen-minute artillery preparation commenced. When the artillery preparation was completed three companies of the 1-506 IN BN attacked from the south and three companies of the 3-187 IN BN attacked from the north.

At 1100H, D/3-187 IN, with A/3-187 IN on its right flank, made initial contact by killing two NVA. At 1132H, D/3-187 IN was slowed and heavily engaged by entrenched enemy forces 200 meters directly to their front firing RPG's and automatic weapons. At 1200H, D/3-187 IN Commander was severely wounded and by 1225H, D/3-187 IN had over 50% casualties with only one wounded lieutenant and one NCO left in command. Weather



closed soon after as both D/3-187 IN and A/3-187 IN had depleted their resources – both men and ammunition. D/3-187 IN at this time had a total of fifty-seven men who were able to fight. In order to evacuate the wounded and the dead 3-187 IN BN had to withdraw from the crest of the hill to the landing zone. The same day the 2-506 IN BN was alerted and deployed to FSB BLAZE for a possible combat assault into the area to reinforce the 3-187 IN BN. At 1645H, A/2-506 IN was combat assaulted into the area to reinforce the beleaguered 187th. The remainder of the 2-506 IN BN was to stay at FSB BLAZE and on the 21st would assume responsibility for FSB AIRBORNE.

At 1700H, the 1-506 IN BN was still in contact and still advancing, fighting from bunker to bunker. At 2000H they withdrew and established their night defensive position just below the crest of the hill.

In the evening of 18 May agreement between Lieutenant General Stilwell, Major General Zais and General Troung the 1st ARVN Division Commander was made to employ the 2-3 ARVN BN to assist the 3BDE. The battalion was to be picked up the following day at HUE and helilifted to FSB CURRAHEE. They would then combat assault into a landing zone east of DONG AP BIA and attack west up the DONG AP BIA Ridge. (Narrative Operation APACHE SNOW; MG John M. Wright Jr. Commanding; 10 May – 7 June 1969)

18 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: The day was punctuated with a series of sharp clashes as enemy activity increased in the AO. At 0700H, B/3-16 ARTY engaged and enemy force at BT131163 resulting in 6 NVA KIA; the battery was firing in support of the TIEN PHUOC Popular Forces. AT 0710H, B/1-501 IN, vicinity BT162123, engaged a single NVA who fled; the unit pursued and captured the wounded enemy who later died. At 1127H, C/1-501 IN, vicinity BT152123, began to receive heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well dug-in and bunkered enemy. The element employed artillery and ARA and maneuvered against the enemy throughout the day. That afternoon the enemy position was overrun, resulting in 8 NVA KIA and 9 IWC. C/1-501 IN sustained 3 KIA and 1 WIA in the bitter day-long fight. At 1240H, B/1-501 IN vicinity BT178112, again received 82mm mortar fire, resulting in 4 US KIA, including the company commander, and 6 US WIA. At 1605H, C/1-501 IN vicinity BT163124, observed four enemy Soldiers; the element employed artillery accounting for 4 NVA KIA and 1 Weapon captured. At 1735H, B/2-17 CAV vicinity BT190117 engaged an enemy mortar position with 40mm fire, resulting in 4 NVA KIA. Throughout the day, the enemy resisted the 1-501 IN BN in its movement to the south. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

18 May 1969

Clarification of Events of this day involving C/1-501 IN, 101st ABN DIV. The following account, presumably taken from the 1-501 IN BN or 2BDE unit history for 18 May 1969 is not accurate in many respects (**Originally came from Combat Operations After Actions Reports, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U)**).

At 1127H, C/1-501, vicinity BT152123, began to receive heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well dug in and bunkered enemy. The element employed artillery and ARA and maneuvered against the enemy throughout the day. That afternoon the enemy position was overrun, resulting in 8 NVA KIA and 9 IWC. C/1-501 sustained 3 KIA and 1 WIA in the bitter day – long fight.

I was assigned to C/1-501 IN on this date as 2d Platoon Leader and participated in this battle. Following is the corrected account of the events of 18 May 1969.

“On the morning of 18 May 1969, C/1-501 IN moved from its nearby NDP site to a position at the base of a prominent hill. The CP was established at this location, secured by 2d platoon, the reserve element on this date.

1st platoon led by SFC Isaac Heyward was ordered to move to the crest of the hill and establish OPs. Approaching the crest, 1st platoon came under heavy fire from NVA soldiers in well-concealed foxholes and fighting positions. PFC Rudy Rossi fired two rounds from his 90mm recoilless rifle before being killed by small arms fire. PFC John Vollmerhausen was also killed and medic Paul GaNun was mortally wounded by small arms fire in this initial encounter.

The company commander, CPT David T. Gibson ordered 3rd platoon, led by 1LT Daniel O’Neill to assist 1st platoon in taking the hill and this was quickly accomplished without further friendly casualties. Eight NVA were killed on the hilltop and a number of enemy fighting positions were destroyed.

While 1st and 3rd platoons were engaged, the CP remained at the base of the hill and was attacked by a squad-sized NVA unit. An element from 2d platoon saw the attack developing and quickly halted it with rifle fire, hand grenades and an M60 machinegun. Five NVA soldiers were killed and five individual weapons (four AK-47s/1 SKS) were captured.

The CP moved to the top of the hill, which had been secured by 1st and 3rd platoons while 2nd platoon remained at the base of the hill for additional security. Late in the afternoon of the 18th, more NVA soldiers were observed maneuvering toward the hill, presumably for a counterattack. Tactical air support was requested, and the Vietnamese AF immediately provided two A1-E Skyraiders to assist C/1-501 IN.

The Skyraiders, bomb-laden from wingtip to fuselage came in low and slow. Their canopies were back, and the pilots/observers were leaning out and looking for targets; no Forward Air Controller (FAC) was required. Locating the enemy, the Skyraiders made pass after pass, dropping 500lb iron bombs and firing their .50cal machineguns.

The enemy situation around the hill prevented C/1-501 IN from doing an extensive bomb damage assessment (BDA). No one who observed the Skyraiders’ attacking will ever forget the image of these propeller driven warplanes from another era going into action. (By then 1LT Donald F. Gourley; 2/C/1-501 IN – 1969)

18 May 1969

Operation APACHE SNOW: By D+7 of the Battle for AP BIA Mountain, the 3-187th Inf had been reinforced with the 1-506 IN BN and 2-501 IN BN and an ARVN Bn from the 3rd ARVN Regt. These forces were posted around Hill 937 to seal it off. The Hill had been pounded for 36 straight hours by artillery and air strikes that followed all the other bombardments



since the battle began. Two Battalions, the 3-187 IN BN and 2-501 IN BN, attacked the NVA and by mid-afternoon some platoons had reached the summit, but a thunderstorm drenched the hill. Visibility dropped to zero and the mud made for difficult going so the fourth withdrawal was ordered.

18 May 1969

A SHAU VALLEY, Vietnam: A quartet of U.S. 101st ABN DIV troops keep low as they rush a stretcher-borne wounded comrade to a medical aid station during the Battle for Hamburger Hill. (Image by Bettmann/CORBIS)



18 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: The day was punctuated with a series of sharp clashes as enemy activity increased in the AO. At 0700H, B/3-16 ARTY engaged an enemy force at BT131163 resulting in 6 NVA KIA; the battery was firing in support of TIEN PHUOC Popular Forces. At 0710H, B/1-501 IN vicinity BT162123, engaged a single NVA who fled; the unit pursued and captured the wounded enemy who later died. At 1127H, C/1-501 IN vicinity BT162123, began to receive heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well dug-in and bunkered enemy. The element employed artillery and ARA and maneuvered against the enemy throughout the day. That afternoon the enemy position was over-run, resulting in 6 NVA KIA and 6 IWC. C/1-502 IN sustained 3 KIA and 1 WIA in the bitter day-long fight. At 1240H, B/1-501 IN vicinity BT1786112, again received 82mm mortar fire, resulting in 4 US KIA, including the company commander, and 6 US WIA. At 1605H, C/1-501 IN vicinity BT163124, observed four enemy Soldiers; the element employed artillery accounting for 4 NBA KIA and 1 weapon captured. At 1735H, B/2-17 CAV vicinity BT190117 engaged an enemy mortar position with 40mm fire, resulting in 4 NBA KIA. Throughout the day, the enemy resisted the 1-501 IN BN in its movement to the south.

18 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: On the morning of May 18, B/1-501 IN began to climb Hill 187, north of LZ PROFESSIONAL. As the third platoon reached the summit, several enemy mortar rounds rained down. As the remainder of the company, joined by recon and mortar platoons, reached the top, a command post was established. Soon thereafter, enemy mortar crews had the CP bracketed. One round fell on each side and a third directly hit the CP. The company commander, Capt. John C. Pape, and the senior medic, SP4 Russell Lane Jett, were killed in the blast, while the commander's RTO and five others were wounded. Mortar rounds continued to fall on Hill 187 until late afternoon, eventually killing four men and wounding 18.

Shortly after B/1-501 IN came under siege, C/1-501 IN began receiving intense small-arms and machine-gun fire while following a trail north of Hill 187. The first and third platoons tried an assault on enemy positions atop a small hill. The second platoon was defending the company CP and also engaged with the enemy. The assault on the little hill failed; the men pulled back. There were wounded, and ammo and water were running low. It became essential to secure the area so that a resupply helicopter and medevac could come in.

Shortly after the men pulled back, a flight of Douglas A-1E Skyraiders, or "spades," rolled in and passed directly overhead, dropping 500-pound bombs onto the enemy position. C/1-501 IN eventually secured the hilltop, and the dead, one seriously wounded, and heat casualties were evacuated.

As the men began to dig in for the night, they surveyed the surreal scene around them. Melted napalm hung from splintered, blackened vegetation. Tree stumps smoldered. Bomb fragments—ugly jagged chunks of steel—littered the landscape. The stiffening bodies of dead NVA soldiers lay close by. The air smelled of combat and death. The men of C/1-501 IN would call this hill Ghost Mountain. (Bitter Fighting in QUANG TIN, Roger Ables)

18 May 1970

In response to intelligence indicating a possible enemy attack against PHU BAI Combat Base and the GONG HA Training Center in celebration of the birthday of HO CHI MINH, B/2-501 IN and C/2-501 IN passed to the operational control of PHU BAI Base Defense. A/2-501 IN passed OPCON to the 1-502 IN BN to screen the south of PHU BAI. The 101st ABN DIV observed a cease fire and all offensive operations terminated with units assuming a defensive posture from 181200 to 191200 May. (Operation Report – HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970; 15 August 1970)

18 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: Infantry OP at FSB BIRMINGHAM reported movement was spotted 100 meters from the Rock Crusher. The area was illuminated with negative results. A cease fire is in effect from 1200H today until 1200H on 19 May.

18 – 31 May 1971

Operation LAM SON 720: A/2-502 IN discovers and old bunker complex and approximately 300 pounds of printing type. D/2-502 IN and E/2-502 IN (-) combat assaulted into an area in the vicinity of FSB VEGHEL. D/2-502 IN moved onto and secured FSB VEGHEL while the remaining elements of the Battalion conducted "Search and Clear" missions three to five kilometers south of FSB VEGHEL. Prior to the Battalions assault into this AO, a unit of Vietnamese Marines had been operating in this area and had numerous enemy contacts. From the sum of intelligence collected, it was concluded that the NVA had a major base of operations located east of the SONG BO River. The Battalion's mission was to move into the area forcing this base west of the SONG BO, at which time B-52 strikes, FAC airstrikes, and artillery would be dropped on their suspected location. While the 3rd ARVN Regiment was heavily engaged with the 6th NVA Regiment west of the SONG BO River and south of route 547, the "Always First" Brigade moved to secure their eastern flank. E/2-502 IN secured DONG A VO



mountain while A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN attacked south with extensive fire support. C/2-502 IN joined in the final assault on Hill 608. This operation turned out to be a true infantry ground attack.

The combat assaults of the Vietnamese Marines and elements of the 1st ARVN Division into the known location of the 6th NVA Regiment around FSB VEGHEL was heartening to the Strike Force troopers. While the battalion of the 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV were deployed along a line north and east of FSB VEGHEL, the South Vietnamese Marines and the Army units struck deep into the 6th NVA territory. This was the first time that American units has passed by Vietnamese units in pursuit of the enemy. The combined operation with the 3rd ARVN Regiment at FSB VEGHEL was a perfect example of this. While the Battalion was securing their artillery and headquarters of FSB VEGHEL, the 3d ARVN Regiment attacked the 6th NVA Regiment at DONG A TAY Mountain.

Having completed the operation south of FSB VEGHEL (Vic 5502), A/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, D/2-502 IN, and E/2-502 IN (-) CA'd into the AO north of FSB VEGHEL while B/2-502 IN continued to secure firebases.



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

1 x Medal of Honor (1 x Posthumously)
5 x Distinguished Service Cross
30 x Silver Star Medal (15 x Posthumously)
30 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (9 x Posthumously)
28 x Bronze Star Medal (28 x Posthumously)
82 x Purple Heart Medal (71 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
1 x Died of Wounds
1 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

12 May 1968



SGT Robert M. Fletcher (C/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 on combat operation when engaged hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 May 1968



SGT John E. Laipple (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 May 1968



CPL Charles D. Dorman (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 May 1968



SP4 Richard W. Van Blarcom (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 May 1968



PFC Richard L. Lohse (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

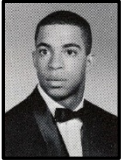
12 May 1968



PFC Charles W. Harbert (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



12 May 1969



SP4 Olen W. Smith (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 May 1969

SP4 Olen W. Smith (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Good Conduct Medal (First Award) (Posthumously) for military merit from 21 May 1968 to 13 May 1969. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 5136; 22 May 1969)

12 May 1969



CPL Richard L. Hopkins (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 from small arms gun fire wounds while at a defensive position when he was mistaken for a member of a hostile force in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1967



PFC Carl R. Konopa (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal & Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of injuries sustained while as a passenger in a helicopter (UH-1D 65-10056) which crashed into a mountain due to mechanical failure in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1968



PFC Octavio Molina-Rosario (A/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1968



SP4 David A. Garcia (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 while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms gunfire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1968



CPL Marvin G. Tozour (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 burns received while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. CPL Tozour was admitted to a military hospital in Vietnam, placed on the VSI list where he later expired.

13 May 1968



SP4 Nelson Santiago-Aponte (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds while on combat operation when encountered hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Santiago-Aponte was admitted to a military hospital in Vietnam where he later expired.

13 May 1969



SP4 Carl F. Arbogast Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



13 May 1969



PFC Odell D. Beasley (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



PFC Odell D. Beasley (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for meritorious service in ground operations against a hostile force. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 5083; 21 May 1969)

13 May 1969



SGT Oscar D. Boydston (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



SP4 Donald J. Corbett (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



CPL Ernest L. Gordon (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



PFC Cleabern W. Hill Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



SP4 Richard R. Kelley (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from undefined causes while at fire support base when the area came under attack by a hostile force at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Kelley was first reported MIA when he was last seen at the FSB when area was attacked.

13 May 1969



SP4 Richard R. Kelley (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for meritorious service in ground operations against a hostile force from 21 October 1968 to 13 May 1969 in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 5033; 21 May 1969)



13 May 1969



SP4 Richard R. Kelley (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) (Posthumously) for military merit from 21 May 1968 to 13 May 1969. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 5136; 22 May 1969)

13 May 1969



CPL Robert R. Malecki (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 multiple fragmentation wounds while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



PFC William D. Poole Jr. (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 other causes (unknown) while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



2LT Bruce Saunders (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from multiple fragment wounds while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. 2LT Saunders was admitted in a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list and later expired on 15 May 1969.

13 May 1969



SP4 Ira J. Sturgeon (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other causes (unknown) while at an artillery firing position while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



PFC Lynn C. Swanson (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 their deaths from other causes (unknown) while at an artillery firing position while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



SP4 Samuel C. Tharpe (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 multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969



SP4 Samuel C. Tharpe (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) (Posthumously) for military merit from 21 May 1968 to 13 May 1969. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 5136; 22 May 1969)



13 May 1969



PFC James M. Thompson (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 multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB AIRBORNE, 7km N-NW of A LUOI Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 1969

The Following Soldiers from A/2-501 IN:

SGT Kenneth E. Counts SP4 Thomas W. Johnson SP4 Walter T. Givens PFC William F. Robershaw
PFC Charles G. Coghlan PFC Ray E. Moon

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, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6335)

13 May 1969

SP4 Willie C. Harrington (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, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6335)

13 May 1969

PFC Mark L. Weston (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, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6335)

13 May 1969



PFC William L. Hayden (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously). PFC Hayden died as a result of non-hostile causes when he drowned in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 May 1967

SP5 Lee C. Pugh (HHC/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, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 886)

14 May 1967

PFC Douglas Calderwood (HHC/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, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 886)

14 May 1967

1LT George R. Tillman (A/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, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 886)

14 May 1967

PFC Michael McNamara (A/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, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 886)

14 May 1967



SP4 Boyd D. Pearson (C/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, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 886)

14 May 1969



CPL Leslie L. McCorkle (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam. CPL McCorkle was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list and later expired.



14 May 1970



SP4 Boyd D. Pearson (C/2-502 IN) for wounds received in action in earned him the Purple Heart Medal. (U.S. Total Army Personnel Command; Permanent Orders 9-14, 17 January 1995)

14 May 1970



SSG Ronald E. Schmidt (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds on Hill 714, NW of FSB VEGHEL, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 May 1968



CPT Dennis K. Anderson (C/2-502 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 fragment wounds received while on combat operations when engaged hostile force in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 May 1969



2LT Bruce Saunders (A/2-501 IN) died from wounds from actions on 13 May 1969 while he was at a military medical facility.

16 May 1967



CPL John C. Silver (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operations when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on patrol near DUC PHO in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 May 1967

PFC Claude H. McCart (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received. (General Orders Number 18; 12 June 1967)

16 May 1967

SP4 Timothy B. Sprecker (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received. (General Orders Number 18; 12 June 1967)

16 May 1970



CPL David L. Christopherson (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound 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 on Hill 882, 13km E-NE of A LUOI Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 May 1970



SSG David L. Jones (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound 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 on Hill 882, 13km E-NE of A LUOI Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



16 May 1970



PFC John R. Mariani (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound 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 on Hill 882, 13km E-NE of A LUOI Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 May 1970



SGT Billy R. McCullough (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound 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 on Hill 882, 13km E-NE of A LUOI Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 May 1967

PFC Raul J. Benavides (HHC/2-502 IN); was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received. (General Orders Number 18; 12 June 1967)

17 May 1968



SP4 Ronnie D. Luman (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Luman was admitted to a Naval Hospital Ship, where he later expired.

18 May 1967



CPL Florentino C. Barron (B/2-502 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 fragments from hostile grenade while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



SSG Roy D. Chitwood (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation in a defensive position when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



CPL Coil (Carl) Edmond Jr. (B/2-502 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 fragments from hostile grenade while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



CPL William C. Freund (B/2-502 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 while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



SP4 Willie R. Griffith (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, RVN Military Merit First Republic Medal and Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Individual 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 while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.



18 May 1967



SP4 John W. Hudgens (B/2-502 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 while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



SP4 Stanley M. Jamrozy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



PFC Philip J. Olofson (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 on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



PFC Alvin R. Spider (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile automatic weapons fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



PFC Calvin L. Taylor (B/2-502 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 while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



SGT Leon Thornton (A/2-502 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 while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967



SFC Oliver A. Ware (B/2-502 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 while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of DUC PHO, in the QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1967

SP4 William A. Moore (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received while engaged by hostile forces. (General Orders Number 18; 12 June 1967)



18 May 1967

The Following Soldiers from B/2-502 IN:

SSG Donald G. Matthews	PFC Robert D. Andres	PV2 Harvey E. Campbell	PV2 Charles K. Morgan
PFC George L. Preston	SP4 Carson Walk Over Ice	PFC Sterling R. Webb	PFC Raul Rosales
PFC Daniel E. Macneil			

Was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received while engaged by hostile forces. (General Orders Number 18; 12 June 1967)

18 May 1968



SP4 Charles B. Mason (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1969



SP4 Lincoln E. Bundy (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 while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of Hill 187, 6km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC, in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1969



CPL Paul H. Ga Nun (Doc Nun) (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of Hill 187, 6km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC, in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1969



SP4 Russell L. Jett (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of Hill 187, 6km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC, in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Jett was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list and later expired.

18 May 1969



SP5 Hans L. Mills (HHC/1-501) 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 the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of Hill 187, 6km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC, in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1969



CPT John C. Pape (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 while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of Hill 187, 6km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC, in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 May 1969



PFC Rudolph Rossi (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 operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of Hill 187, 6km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC, in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



18 May 1969



PFC John M. Vollmerhausen (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 operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of Hill 187, 6km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC, in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

13 May 1969



SFC George W. Parker Jr. (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Platoon Sergeant Parker 1969 when Fire Support Base AIRBORNE came under intense mortar and rocket grenade attack, followed by an enemy sapper assault on the perimeter. With the first incoming rounds, Sergeant Parker rallied his mortar crews and commenced firing illumination and high-explosive rounds on the hostile fire that rained around his mortar emplacement, Sergeant Parker made his way to the platoon leader to warn of the ground attack on two sides of the compound. Suddenly a rocket-propelled grenade struck one of the mortar emplacements and knocked it out. Running to the position, Sergeant Parker immediately set up the mortar tube and started firing on the enemy. Although a satchel charge thrown at his position momentarily stunned him, he continued his mission, often exposing himself to the enemy barrage to obtain re-supplies of ammunition. On one of his trips to the munitions stockpile, he was attacked by four sappers armed with satchel charges, and he eliminated them with a well-thrown grenade. Through his courageous example, the Fire Support Base successfully repelled the enemy attack. Platoon Sergeant Parker's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, General Order Number 477, February 20, 1970)

13 May 1969



SGT Roger J. Barski (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Barski distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry at Fire Support Base AIRBORNE, in the A SHAU VALLEY, Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning hours of the cited date, the base was attacked with heavy mortar fire. Simultaneously, a group of North Vietnamese sappers penetrated the perimeter, throwing satchel charges through doors and bunker apertures. The First Platoon's sector of the perimeter bore the brunt of the initial main sapper attack, and the platoon leader and platoon sergeant were seriously wounded in the initial conflict. Sergeant Barski immediately took charge and rapidly set up a makeshift defense. Suddenly an enemy mortar round knocked out the friendly mortar used to provide illumination. Sergeant Barski realized the enemy force was preparing to overrun his platoon again, and that the absence of illumination was to the advantage of the advancing enemy. Realizing his platoon would be helpless in the face of a human wave assault; he left his cover and dashed for the supply of boxed star parachute flares located in the Command Post bunker. Despite the heavy enemy mortar fire, which was landing within the entire perimeter, he managed to reach the needed flares. As he maneuvered back toward his platoon, he encountered two North Vietnamese soldiers in his path. He fired at the enemy, killing one and wounding the other. He then provided continuous illumination by hand flares until a flare helicopter arrived. The heavy enemy attack was eventually repulsed. His heroic actions, with complete disregard for his own safety, were responsible for preventing his platoon from being overrun. Sergeant Barski'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 6574; 9 June 1969)

13 May 1969

PFC Vick L. Burnette (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 May 1969. Private Burnette distinguished himself while serving as a mortar gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat support operations in the A SHAU VALLEY, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base AIRBORNE was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Regulars. The enemy force consisted of an infantry element, mortar section, and sapper squads. Waves of insurgents stormed the perimeter from two sides and immediately penetrated the barbed wire and defensive positions of the bunker line. Enemy Soldiers combed the fire base, hurling satchel charges and engaging in hand to hand combat with men in night defensive positions and mortar crews. A satchel charge exploded beside Private Burnette, amputating his leg below the knee. Despite the loss of his leg, he continued to engage the enemy with his weapon. Maintaining a heavy volume of fire, he blocked the path for the enemy to pass his position and gave the mortar crews enough time to assemble and prevent the mortar section from being overrun. He continued to pinpoint the locations of the attacking enemy to his fellow Soldiers, even though in great pain and steadily weakening from loss of blood. Private Burnette'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.

13 May 1969



SFC George W. Parker Jr. (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Parker distinguished himself while serving as platoon sergeant of the mortar section of Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat support operations in the A SHAU VALLEY, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base AIRBORNE was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. The enemy force consisted of an infantry element, mortar section, and sapper squads. The enemy force assaulted the perimeter from two sides under the cover of a heavy mortar barrage. The enemy Soldiers penetrated the perimeter line obstacles and immediately engaged the night defensive positions of the fire base. Supported by the infantry, sapper squads moved among bunkers and mortar positions, hurling satchel charges and engaging in hand to hand combat with the defenders. In the immense confusion, Sergeant Parker moved among his mortar crews utilizing his M-16 rifle to cover his advance. While assisting a mortar crew, an exploding satchel charge knocked him unconscious. Upon regaining consciousness, he continued to direct mortar crews in the firing of illumination and high explosive mortar rounds. In the process, he was knocked down three additional times by exploding satchel charges. Sergeant Parker'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 6806; 13 May 1969)



13 May 1969



PFC William D. Poole (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Private First Class Poole distinguished himself while serving as assistant machine gunner with Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A had just moved to Fire Support Base AIRBORNE in order to secure the area prior to moving into the northern part of the A SHAU VALLEY, Republic of Vietnam. During the early hours, a barrage of mortar rounds began to fall on the partially completed camp, many of them smashing into bunkers manned by friendly troops. Simultaneously, a wave of North Vietnamese sappers pierced the perimeter, heaving satchel charges through the bunker apertures. The friendly forces were caught by surprise by the attack but fought back heroically. Private Poole was serving as an assistant machine gunner for the Second Platoon and when the platoon defenses were threatened by a wave of satchel-carrying sappers, the machine gunner directed fire into the battalion size enemy force attempting to keep the sappers at a distance where the deadly satchel charges could not be employed. During the ground fighting a deluge of mortar rounds impacted within the perimeter. At a critical point in the action. Private Poole's weapon ran low on ammunition. He reacted immediately to the emergency and abandoned the comparative safety of his bunker to crawl toward the ammunition dump twenty meters away. Enemy mortars continued intent on reaching the much-needed ammunition. Although a burst of shrapnel hit him, he continued to crawl until he reached his goal. As he was moving back toward his bunker with the ammunition, a mortar round exploded to his immediate front. Though mortally wounded Private First Class Poole tossed the belts of ammunition and the machine gun was able to continue issuing sustained fire. Private Poole'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 9226; 21 July 1969)

13 May 1969



SGT Thomas L. Roehm (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Roehm distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was in the process of fortifying Fire Support Base AIRBORNE, in the mountains west of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the base was hit by a combination mortar barrage and sapper assault launched by elements of three North Vietnamese battalions. Sergeant Roehm directed the activities of his squad against the advancing insurgents, successfully thwarting repeated enemy attempts to overwhelm his position. The platoon's Command Post bunker was then hit with multiple mortar rounds. Sergeant Roehm rushed to the battered Command Post position, ignoring the rounds exploding all around him. He applied lifesaving first aid to the wounded members of the group until the platoon medical aidman arrived. He then attempted to establish communication with the company Command Post, but the platoon radios had been damaged beyond repair in the mortar strike. He then maneuvered to nearby Company E, where he realized that he was the only noncommissioned officer left in the sector. He immediately began to reorganize the remnants of the area's perimeter defense. He personally led his men against the sappers who had penetrated the perimeter, killing several of the enemy with his M-16 rifle. After reestablishing security in his sector, he assisted in the defense of the rest of the fire base by openly through the enemy fire in the process. Late in the action, he personally directed the evacuation of the wounded personnel. Sergeant Roehm'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 7820; 29 June 1969)

13 May 1969

PFC Roger A. Veis (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Private Veis distinguished himself while serving as a mortar gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at First Support Base AIRBORNE, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated North Vietnamese Army Battalion. The enemy force consisted of an infantry element, a mortar section, and sapper squads, assaulting the fire base from two sides. Within minutes, the insurgents passed through the perimeter line defense, and close combat began in bunkers and mortar positions. Private Veis continued to fire illumination round throughout the attack. During the attack, he was knocked away from his mortar tube three times by exploding satchel charges, only to crawl back and again begin to fire from his position. Even though wounded, he continued to fire the mortar and was an inspiration to his fellow Soldiers. Private Veis' 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 8014; 30 June 1969)

13 May 1969

SGT Anthony J. Branco (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Branco distinguished himself while serving as a mortar squad leader in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base AIRBORNE, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. The insurgents fought through the perimeter and spread throughout the fire base, throwing satchel charges and firing automatic weapons. Despite the enemy fire and shrapnel from exploding mortar rounds, Sergeant Branco remained at his mortar position, firing illumination rounds into the early morning darkness. A satchel charge thrown within a few feet of this mortar tube wounded the ammunition bearer. After Sergeant Branco moved the wounded ammunition bearer to a safe location and administered first aid, he had the double task of supplying the mortar tube with ammunition and firing the illumination rounds. Although the early morning darkness hindered visibility, he made several trips to the ammunition storage point. In the process of carrying an armful of ammunition to the mortar position, he received shrapnel in his hip. Despite the painful shrapnel wounds, he was determined to have the mortar position remain operational. He succeeded in maintaining almost continuous illumination over the fire base until daylight arrived. Sergeant Branco'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 8454, 8 July 1969)



13 May 1969

SGT Joseph A. Palazzolo (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Palazzolo distinguished himself while serving as a radar team leader in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat operations in the A SHAU VALLEY, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base AIRBORNE was attacked by an estimated North Vietnamese Army battalion. The enemy force consisted of an infantry element, mortar section, and sapper squads. Sergeant Palazzolo and his radar team were thrown from their bunker by an explosion which destroyed the radar bunker. Only after his own men had been taken care of did he allow himself to be treated for his wounds. Even though hampered by fragmentation wounds, he returned to the bunker line where he personally silenced an enemy soldier with his own weapon. He refused to give up fighting until the attack terminated. Sergeant Palazzolo'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 8550, 10 July 1969)

13 May 1969

SP4 Richard A. Powell (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Specialist Powell distinguished himself while serving as a mortar gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base AIRBORNE, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. The insurgents fought through the perimeter and spread throughout the fire base throwing satchel charges and high explosives. Despite enemy automatic weapons fire and shrapnel from exploding mortar rounds, Specialist Powell continued to fire illumination rounds over the fire base. He was thrown from his mortar tube three times by explosions, but each time he returned to the mortar tube and kept his mortar crew operating flawlessly, despite the early morning darkness which hindered visibility. Although he was wounded by shrapnel and could no longer operate the mortar tube, his determination to keep the mortar position operational supplied the fire base with almost continuous illumination throughout the attack. His efforts contributed immeasurably to the successful defense of the fire base. Specialist Powell'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 8567, 10 July 1969)

13 May 1969

CPT Alan J. Spoons (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Captain Spoons distinguished himself by valorous actions while serving as Commanding Officer of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat operations in the A SHAU VALLEY, southwest of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base AIRBORNE was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. Throughout the battle, Captain Spoons moved to the defensive positions checking the conditions of the men and their supplies of ammunition. He made several trips to ammunition storage points, securing hand grenades, small arms ammunition, and illumination rounds. Although under intense fire, he could be found at the point of heaviest enemy resistance giving advice, making corrections, and laying down suppressive fire with his M-16 rifle. The consistency at which he appeared at the location of heaviest fighting was a display of courage and intelligent leadership. Captain Spoons' 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 7841, 29 June 1969)

13 May 1969

SGT Edward C. Wicks (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Wicks distinguished himself by valorous actions while serving as a fire direction leader in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat support operations in the A SHAU VALLEY, southwest of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base AIRBORNE was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. From his position in the Fire Direction Control Center, Sergeant Wicks observed the progress of the attack. He studied the enemy pattern of assault and maintained constant radio contact with helicopter gunships and land-line communication with mortar crews. At times, he had to utilize his M-16 rifle to defend his position as the insurgents threw satchel charges and hand grenades at his bunker. He adjusted the fire of circling gunships on enemy positions just outside the fire base perimeter, foiling several attacks. His accurate calculations to mortar crews brought illumination flares directly over enemy squads rushing the fire base, leaving the enemy force vulnerable to the friendly forces. Sergeant Wicks' 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 8551, 10 July 1969)

13 May 1969



SGT Kenneth E. Counts (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Counts distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as a team leader in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was in the process of fortifying Fire Support Base AIRBORNE, in the mountains west of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. Early in the morning of the cited date, the fire base was hit by an intense enemy mortar attack and sapper assault launched by elements of three North Vietnamese Army Battalion. Sergeant Counts grabbed his M-16 rifle and ran out of his bunker. Observing a burning bunker to his front, he moved through the intense fire to the flaming structure and pulled out a friendly Soldier who had been blinded by the fragments from exploding satchel charges. He carried the wounded man to a secure bunker and immediately returned to action. He again saw an enemy sapper preparing to engage another friendly bunker, and he silenced the insurgent before he could employ the satchel charge. He then aided in the evacuation of the wounded Soldiers to a rear area. Sergeant Counts' 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 8456; 8 July 1969)



13 May 1969



SP4 Robert C. Farabee (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Specialist Farabee distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at First Support Base AIRBORNE, Republic of Vietnam. Early in the morning on the cited date, the fire base was hit by a combination mortar attack and sapper assault, launched by elements of three North Vietnamese Army Battalions. Specialist Farabee reacted swiftly to the sapper threat and rushed outside his bunker while under direct small arms fire. He spotted two enemy sappers crawling through the wire and opened fire on them with his M-16 rifle, mortally wounding both. He continued to engage the insurgents in the First Platoon sector while medical aidmen treated the seriously wounded personnel. When the last man was evacuated, he left his position and maneuvered to the howitzer area. For the duration of the battle, he helped load and fire the weapon, inflicting heavy casualties upon the North Vietnamese attackers. Specialist Farabee'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 State Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 8586; 10 July 1969)

13 May 1969



PFC Cleabern W. Hill Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Private Hill distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was in the process of fortifying Fire Support Base AIRBORNE, in the mountains west of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. Early in the morning on the cited date, the base was hit by a combination mortar and sapper attack mounted by elements of three North Vietnamese Battalions. The sappers poured over the First Platoon's bunker line, intent upon swarming inside the perimeter before the friendly element could defend itself. The members of the First Platoon, bearing the full brunt of the initial assault, fought valiantly to delay the enemy onslaught. Private Hill held his position in one of the hard-pressed bunkers, leveling intense small arms fire against the advancing sapper waves. He continued to fight until an enemy mortar round hit his bunker, mortally wounding him. His stubborn persistence provided the rest of the friendly force with valuable moments to brace themselves for the enemy ground assault. Private 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 Order Number 9054; 19 July 1969)

13 May 1969



PFC Odell D. Beasley (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Private Beasley distinguished himself while serving as an ammunition bearer in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat operations at Fire Support Base AIRBORNE, in the A SHAU VALLEY, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese's Army Soldiers. The enemy force assaulted the fire base from two sides, with infantrymen and sapper rushing the perimeter under a heavy mortar attack. At the beginning of the battle, Private Beasley immediately assumed his duties as an ammunition bearer for his mortar position. Despite enemy automatic weapons fire and shrapnel from enemy mortar rounds, he completed several trips through the early darkness to an ammunition storage point securing illumination rounds. During the engagement, an ammunition bearer in an adjacent mortar position was wounded and unable to continue supplying the needed ammunition. Private Beasley realized the seriousness of the situation and doubled his trips to the ammunition point, supplying illumination rounds for the shorthanded mortar position as well as his own. In the process of securing another load, Private Beasley was mortally wounded when an enemy satchel charge exploded near him. Private Beasley'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 9055; 19 July 1969)

13 May 1969



SP4 James E. Miller (C/2-319 ARTY) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Specialist Miller distinguished himself while serving as a cannoneer for the Fifth Howitzer Section, Battery C, 2d Battalion, 319th Artillery. During the early morning hours of Fire Support Base AIRBORNE, twenty-five miles southwest of HUE, Republic of Vietnam, Specialist Miller's battery came under heavy ground attack by an estimated battalion size enemy force. He immediately began firing his M-16 rifle at the attacking insurgents. After firing several magazines of ammunition, he manned his howitzer and began firing illumination for visibility and direct fire at the insurgents. When the position was overrun, he moved to the inner perimeter where he again began firing his M-16 rifle at the hostile force, driving them from the perimeter. Although wounded in the ensuing battle, he moved through a mortar and rocket attack in order to help the more seriously wounded to cover. Specialist Miller'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 9567, 24 July 1969)

15 May 1967

1LT Martin W. Tovar (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 15 May 1967 near, DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Tovar, platoon leader of the reconnaissance platoon was moving down a jungle trail when an enemy weapons platoon was observed approaching in the opposite direction. He immediately gave the signal to his men to move off the trail and prepare for a hasty linear ambush. On three separate occasions, under cover of heavy rainfall, Lieutenant Tovar approached to within thirty meters of the enemy while positioning his men. Then, waiting until the critical moment, he triggered the ambush. Lieutenant Tovar, with complete disregard for his own safety, led his men in an assault into the killing zone. Lieutenant Tovar's courageous actions and aggressive leadership enabled his platoon to kill eight enemy soldiers and capture several weapons without a single friendly casualty. First Lieutenant Tovar's outstanding display of gallantry, and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD, General Orders Number 1424; 27 November 1967)



15 May 1968



SFC Onorio R. Romo (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for actions in combat. It has been determined that SFC Onorio R. Romo, is entitled to and was awarded the Silver Star (1st Oak Leaf Cluster) while serving as a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division in the Republic of Vietnam for action on or about 15 May 1968 in the vicinity of HUE and Quang Tri. In the absence of orders, this memorandum will be filed permanently in the military personnel record jacket and the official military personnel file. Personnel qualification records will be annotated to reflect this award. This memorandum confirms General Orders 8451 (November 1968), 101st Airborne Division.

16 May 1967



SFC Edward F. Garrett (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 16 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. Platoon Sergeant Garrett, while leading a squad-size patrol, was taken under heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from the direct front. Sergeant Garrett quickly placed half of the patrol into position and began to maneuver the other half of the patrol into position maneuvering element was taken under a withering hail of automatic weapons fire from an estimated platoon-size enemy element in well concealed and well-fortified positions. On the initial burst of fire every man in the maneuvering element was wounded with the exception of Sergeant Garrett. Sergeant Garrett immediately called for assistance and began to pull to wounded men to safety. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Garrett moved through the vicious enemy fire four different times to pull wounded men to covered positions. Sergeant Garrett had retrieved all but two of the wounded men when the remainder of the platoon arrived. Quickly briefing the platoon leader on the situation, Sergeant Garrett directed them to give him covering fire, so he could pull the two remaining wounded men to safety. Again, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Garrett moved through the bullet swept area and brought the two remaining casualties to safety. As a result of Sergeant Garrett's courageous actions, six of his comrades were saved from further injury and possible death. Platoon Sergeant Garrett's outstanding display of valor and intense determination and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD, General Orders Number 1386; 23 November 1967)

16 May 1967



PFC John C. Silver (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 16 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam, Private Silver, while serving as a member of a small patrol, was moving down a mountain trail when the patrol was suddenly brought under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. On the initial burst of enemy fire approximately half of the patrol was wounded, and the remainder of the patrol was pinned down. Private Silver observed that one of his comrades had been severely wounded and lay in the area completely exposed to the vicious enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Silver left his covered position and dashed through the withering enemy fire to the side of his wounded comrade. Quickly Private Silver administered medical aid and then picked his wounded comrade up and started to carry him to a safe area. After having traveled a few meters, Private Silver was struck by an enemy bullet and wounded in the chest. Although seriously wounded, Private Silver completely disregarded his wounds and continued to carry his wounded comrade to safety. As Private Silver approached a safe position he was again struck by an enemy bullet and this time mortally wounded. Private Silver's heroic actions resulted in the saving of his comrade's life, even at the cost of his own. Private Silver's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his own life are in keeping with the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P), General Orders Number 56; 27 June 1967)

16 May 1967



1LT Robert A. Clifford (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 16 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Clifford was assigned the mission of giving assistance to a beleaguered patrol by extracting their casualties and maintaining contact with the enemy until reinforcements could arrive. Upon arriving at the battle scene, Lieutenant Clifford immediately made an evaluation of the situation and maneuvered his platoon into position in order to place suppressive fire into the enemy position. While placing his men into position, Lieutenant Clifford observed a wounded man who was laying in an area exposed to heavy enemy fire. On two different occasions, men were wounded attempting to pull the injured man to safety. Lieutenant Clifford directed his men to give him covering fire while he, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged through the bullet swept area to where the wounded man lay, picked him up and carried him to a safe position and administered the needed medical aid. On numerous occasions, he exposed himself to the enemy while directing the fire of his platoon by point out enemy positions. Lieutenant Clifford then called for artillery and supporting fire in order to evacuate the wounded. During the evacuation Lieutenant Clifford and his platoon were brought under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire, forcing the medical evacuation helicopter to take off before the wounded could be loaded. Immediately, Lieutenant Clifford deployed part of his platoon and personally directed their fire into the enemy positions. He remained exposed while directing the suppressive fire into the enemy positions until the casualties could be evacuated. As a result of Lieutenant Clifford's courageous actions, the lives of numerous men were saved, and his men inspired to such a degree that the mission was successfully accomplished. First Lieutenant Clifford's display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD, General Orders Number 1347; 23 November 1967)



16 May 1967

SFC Clark Cook (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Cook distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 16 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Cook, serving as platoon sergeant, was placing his men into a security perimeter when two enemy soldiers were sighted and fired upon. He immediately moved to the position where contact was made and observed one of the enemy soldiers fleeing into the bushes. Sergeant Cook, with complete disregard for his own safety, started running in pursuit of the enemy soldier. For over two hundred meters, he pursued the enemy soldier without being able to get an accurate shot at him. Suddenly the enemy soldier stopped and fired several shots at him and, still remaining completely exposed to the enemy soldier's fire, Sergeant Cook fired his weapon and succeeded in killing the enemy soldier. Sergeant Cook's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1790; 3 September 1967)

16 May 1970



SSG David L. Jones (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 May 1970. Sergeant Jones distinguished himself while serving as an acting platoon leader in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. While set up in a night defensive position, Sergeant Jones' unit came under a concentrated enemy sapper attack. Sergeant Jones returned a heavy volume of suppressive fire on the insurgents and directed his men to their fighting positions. Although wounded during the initial contact, Sergeant Jones moved around the perimeter ensuring that the wounded were treated and that all positions on the perimeter were manned. Observing an enemy position, he crawled forward and engaged the insurgents with accurate rifle fire. While engaging the insurgents, Sergeant Jones was mortally wounded by enemy grenade fire. Sergeant Jones' 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 7834; 8 July 1970)

16 May 1970



SP4 Edward Matyjasik Jr. (A/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 16 May 1970. Specialist Matyjasik distinguished himself while serving as a Rifleman in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, while defending a night defensive perimeter in THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. When numerous heavily armed enemy sappers tried to penetrate his company's defensive perimeter, Specialist Matyjasik, despite being wounded in the initial contact, remained at his fighting position, refusing medical aid. He placed effective fire on numerous insurgent positions and contributed heavily to the defeat of the hostile force. Specialist Matyjasik'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 9650; 20 August 1970)

17 May 1967



PFC James M. McCormick (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private McCormick distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 17 May 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam. Private McCormick's platoon had just set up a platoon perimeter for the night when they were attacked by an estimated enemy platoon. Private McCormick's position was the hardest hit with everybody wounded including himself, but with complete disregard for his own safety, he exposed himself to the vicious enemy fire in order to protect his fallen comrades and continued to fire his weapon and throw hand grenades which killed one enemy soldier. Because of his valorous action, Private McCormick was instrumental in repelling the enemy who left behind five dead and saving the men in his position. Although wounded Private McCormick remained in his position on guard until all the other wounded had been taken care of. Private McCormick's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 2368; 13 July 1968)

18 May 1967



SPC Dale E. Wayrynen (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy aggressor forces at DUC PHO, QUANG NGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 18 May 1967. Specialist Fourth Class Wayrynen's platoon was assisting in the night evacuation of the wounded from an earlier enemy contact when the lead man of the unit met face-to-face with a Viet Cong soldier. The American's shouted warning also alerted the enemy who immediately swept the area with automatic weapons fire from a strongly built bunker close to the trail and threw hand grenades from another nearby fortified position. Almost immediately, the lead man was wounded and knocked from his feet. Specialist Fourth Class Wayrynen, the second man in the formation, leaped beyond his fallen comrade to kill another enemy soldier who appeared on the trail, and he dragged his injured companion back to where the point squad had taken cover. Suddenly, a live enemy grenade landed in the center of the tightly grouped men. Specialist Fourth Class Wayrynen, quickly assessing the danger to the entire squad as well as to his platoon leader who was nearby, shouted a warning, pushed one soldier out of the way, and threw himself on the grenade at the moment it exploded. He was mortally wounded. His deep and abiding concern for his fellow soldiers was significantly reflected in his supreme and courageous act that preserved the lives of his comrades. Specialist Fourth Class Wayrynen's heroic actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the service, and they reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. (General Orders No. 66, October 27, 1969)



18 May 1967

SP4 Clifford Dinkins (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Dinkins distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 while serving with an airborne infantry unit on a search and destroy mission near DUC PHO. While moving along a jungle trail, the patrol was suddenly subjected to a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire which inflicted several casualties. Observing a wounded comrade lying in the killing zone of the savage fusillade, Specialist Dinkins unhesitatingly raced through a withering hail of bullets to the casualty, pulled him to the safety of an abandoned enemy bunker and administered emergency medical aid. He then saw two Vietnamese troops fall under the intense Viet Cong fire. Heedless of his safety, Specialist Dinkins began to move across the bullet-swept battlefield to their aid but was knocked to the ground and wounded by an enemy grenade. Disregarding his wounds, he gallantly continued his rescue attempt through a curtain of hostile fire. He reached the fallen men, discovered one was dead, and pulled them both back to the bunker. While treating the wounded trooper, he detected three Viet Cong advancing toward his position. He jumped from the bunker and fired deadly bursts from his rifle, killing one insurgent and forcing the others to withdraw. Unnoticed, a fourth enemy soldier had flanked his position and had crawled close enough to throw a hand grenade into the shelter. Specialist Dinkins leaped for the grenade, picked it up and threw it back at the insurgent. The grenade exploded in midair, killing the Viet Cong and seriously wounding Specialist Dinkins a second time. His fearless action in close combat saved the lives of two fellow soldiers. Specialist Four Dinkins' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 1050; 9 March 1968)

18 May 1967

SP4 Ronald J. Wright (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Wright distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 while serving as medic of an airborne infantry platoon on a reinforcing mission deep in hostile territory. While moving to relieve the pressure on a sister platoon which was heavily engaged and pinned down by a numerically superior hostile force, his unit was savagely attacked by enemy soldiers firing automatic weapons. As the intensity of the battle increased, Specialist Wright heard a call for help from a wounded comrade. Completely disregarding his own safety, he began working his way toward the man through a hail of murderous fire. The concussion from an exploding grenade knocked him to the ground and stunned him, but he quickly got up and moved to the wounded soldier. He was seriously wounded while administering aid, but he ignored his injury and moved his comrade to safety. Refusing aid for himself, he again dashed through the withering fire to reach another casualty. Despite his own weakened condition, he carried the man back through a curtain of Viet Cong fire and treated the wounded soldier until he could no longer continue. Specialist Four Wright's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 6350; 10 December 1967)

18 May 1967

SP4 John Hogan (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Services Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Hogan distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 while serving as fire team leader of an airborne infantry platoon on combat operations near DUC PHO. While moving along a ridge line, his company was heavily attacked by a well-entrenched Viet Cong force firing automatic weapons. Seeing a wounded comrade trapped in the open, Specialist Hogan dashed from the rear of the column under a hail of enemy bullets and dragged the man to safety. Grabbing several hand grenades, he charged through the fire now concentrated on him and destroyed one enemy bunker. Heedless of the bullets striking all around him, he charged another bunker and killed the defenders with another hand grenade. He saw a wounded comrade nearby and quickly began carrying him to safety under a barrage of fire. A Viet Cong soldier stood up to fire on him, but he grabbed the wounded man's rifle and killed the insurgent with a deadly burst of fire. After moving the man to the perimeter, he ignored his own safety to grab his rifle and more grenades and again assault the fortifications single-handedly. Firing furiously, he destroyed another bunker with well-placed grenades. Shouting to his fire team to follow, he quickly knocked out another bunker and moved inside to pick up enemy weapons. Leading his men in a fierce charge, he swept through the hostile positions and aided in destroying four more Viet Cong fortifications. Specialist Four Hogan's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 5387; 22 October 1967)



18 May 1967

SP4 Alan Kent (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Kent distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 while serving with an airborne infantry platoon on a combat mission near DUC PHO. His unit was moving to reinforce a heavily-engaged sister platoon when it was fiercely attacked and pinned down by an enemy force firing automatic weapons. Specialist Kent was painfully wounded in the initial barrage, but he refused aid and dashed through a sheet of enemy fire to reach a fallen comrade and carry him to safety. As his platoon attempted to maneuver against the enemy positions, the intensity of the fusillade increased, inflicted several casualties to the friendly forces and caused the unit to pull back. Specialist Kent saw one of the new casualties trapped in the open and moved across the bullet-swept battlefield to aid him. Finding the man dead, he charged into the face of withering fire and destroyed a nearby enemy bunker with deadly rifle fire and grenades. Automatic weapons fire from another position began raking his location, and he assaulted the second emplacement. After being knocked to the ground and wounded by an enemy grenade, he staggered to his feet, continued his charge on the bunker and demolished it. He then conducted a one-man frontal assault on a machine gun bunker. As a hail of bullets cut down brush and kicked up dirt all around him, he fearlessly pressed the attack and silenced the weapon with a hand grenade. His aggressive charge and devastating fire forced the determined enemy to break contact and flee the battlefield. Specialist Four Kent's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 911; 28 February 1968)

18 May 1967

SP4 Bobby E. Spears (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Spears distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while machine-gunner with a small patrol as it moved along a jungle trail and was suddenly engaged by hostile fire. On the initial brutal burst of enemy fire, the point-man was wounded and lay in an exposed area. Disregarding his own safety, Specialist Spears rushed through the hail of enemy fire to reach his wounded comrade and pulled him to safety. He then returned to the area of battle and returned heavy fire to the insurgent positions. As the acuteness of the hostile fire increased, Specialist Spears picked up his machine-gun and charged through heavy enemy fire and grenades to assault an enemy bunker. Upon closing on the bunker, a grenade wounded him; disregarding his wounds, he valiantly continued forward and killed two enemy soldiers. Without hesitation or regard for the intensity of fire, he continued to expose himself to the enemy and assaulted a second bunker. He destroyed that bunker and killed two more insurgents. When ordered to pull back, Specialist Spears remained behind in an exposed position giving covering fire for the withdrawing platoon. Only after the wounded were evacuated and his platoon pulled back to a safe area did Specialist Spears rejoin his unit and allow himself medical aid. Through Specialist Spears' aggressive determination and courageous actions, the life of one individual was undoubtedly saved, two enemy bunkers destroyed, and at least four enemy killed. Specialist Four Spears' outstanding display of unquestionable gallantry; his perseverance, resolute and personal determination while engaged in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 416; 28 August 1967)

18 May 1967

2LT David V. Booth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. Second Lieutenant Booth distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action, personal bravery, and leadership while conducting operations against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. While conducting a search and destroy mission, Lieutenant Booth was given the mission of moving to a landing zone and securing it. Working in conjunction with a Civilian Irregular Defense Group Platoon, Lieutenant Booth split up his platoon and sent half of his element with half of the other platoon to the landing zone, the element ran into an estimated Viet Cong company which completely surrounded the element and inflicted numerous casualties with murderous automatic weapons fire. Receiving their call for assistance, Lieutenant Booth immediately set out to relieve and reinforce the beleaguered element, upon arriving at the location of the ensuing battle, quickly maneuvered his element against the enemy's flank. The size of the hostile force was much greater than estimated and they pinned down his small force under intense volume of automatic weapons fire. Realizing the precariousness of the immediate situation, Lieutenant Booth, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to the vicious hostile fire and led an assault on the strong, entrenched enemy positions. The advance was halted by intense fire and he was wounded by grenade fragments. Disregarding his wounds and undaunted by the intensity of the enemy fire, Lieutenant Booth led two more assaults through the increasing hostile fire in a vain attempt to overrun the insurgent positions. Unable to advance or destroy the enemy, he reorganized his element so that the enemy could not flank him. He then courageously held his ground until another platoon arrived. In the renewed battle which followed, Lieutenant Booth successfully led an aggressive assault on the enemy bunkers which resulted in several enemy killed, and several weapons captured. Lieutenant Booth's outstanding display of unquestionable valor in close combat is in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 340; 23 August 1967)



18 May 1967



1LT Edward R. Throckmorton (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Throckmorton distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action while on a search and destroy mission near DUC PHO, he was directed to move his platoon into an area where another platoon was heavily engaged with an enemy element and needed assistance. Quickly moving his platoon through the enemy infested jungle, Lieutenant Throckmorton reached the platoon and began maneuver against the enemy element. As the platoon moved forward, they were suddenly assaulted with a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Throckmorton crawled through the vicious enemy fire to within five meters of two enemy machinegun positions so as to place effective fire into them. One of the enemy soldiers detected him and wounded him with a grenade. Disregarding his wounds and refusing medical aid, Lieutenant Throckmorton aggressively placed suppressive volumes of fire into one bunker killing an enemy soldier and enabling his men to destroy two bunkers. Lieutenant Throckmorton then jumped to his feet and moved through the battle area and purposely exposed himself in order to draw the enemy fire, thus allowing his men to successfully destroy the remaining enemy positions. Lieutenant Throckmorton then moved through the area aiding the wounded and giving encouragement. Only after the last wounded man had been evacuated did Lieutenant Throckmorton allow himself to be given medical attention. As a result of Lieutenant Throckmorton's undaunted courage and decisive actions, four enemy bunkers destroyed, and three weapons captured. Lieutenant Throckmorton's outstanding display of unquestionable valor, resolute determination and devotion to duty in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 317; 22 August 1967)

18 May 1967

1LT Gerald R. Petheram (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. First Lieutenant Petheram distinguished himself by heroic action and personal bravery against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, his platoon came under a tremendous volume of automatic weapons fire from well dug-in enemy positions. Seeing that his platoon was surrounded, he exposed himself to the hostile fire, ran to his lead element and directed their fire until gaining fire superiority. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lieutenant Petheram again moved through the heavy enemy fire to his other squad, and leading the squad, started to maneuver them to engage the enemy. The advance was halted, and they were pinned down by the intensity of the enemy fire. Undaunted by the tremendous amount of hostile fire, Lieutenant Petheram exposed himself to their fire and aggressively assaulted the position, destroying it with grenades. Continuing his valiant effort, he assaulted another enemy bunker, silencing it with small arms fire. Inspired by Lieutenant Petheram's courageous example, his squad quickly attacked the remaining enemy positions and succeeded in forcing the enemy to withdraw in a complete route leaving behind six of their dead, two machine guns, and four other weapons. First Lieutenant Petheram's outstanding display of unquestionable valor, fortitude, and devotion to duty in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 322; 22 August 1967)

18 May 1967

2LT Jerry R. Barnhill (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. Second Lieutenant Barnhill distinguished himself with heroic action while engaged on a search and destroy mission. The first platoon, Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry came under a tremendous volume of automatic and semi-automatic weapons fire from an estimated Viet Cong platoon. Lieutenant Barnhill immediately moved to the front of his element and started maneuvering his element against the enemy positions. As the enemy fire increased, he realized that an enemy machine gun position had to be destroyed before he could effectively engage the enemy. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Barnhill, with resolute determination jumped up, exposing himself to a hail of enemy fire and assaulted the machine gun position. His valiant effort silenced the machine gun position by killing two enemy soldiers. As a result of Lieutenant Barnhill's decisive and courageous actions, his platoon was able to overrun the enemy positions, routing the enemy who left behind nine dead and eight weapons. Lieutenant Barnhill's outstanding display of unquestionable valor in close combat is in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 318; 22 August 1967)

18 May 1967

1LT John M. Keane (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Keane distinguished himself when given the mission to move his platoon to an area where another platoon had become heavily engaged and surrounded by an enemy element. Lieutenant Keane quickly organized his platoon and moved them approximately two thousand meters to the scene of the battle. Upon arriving at the battle area, Lieutenant Keane, realizing that darkness was rapidly descending and that he must reach the beleaguered platoon as soon as possible, quickly maneuvered his platoon into position to assault the rear and both flanks of the enemy element. Lieutenant Keane, aware that maintaining strict control would be the key factor in the execution of a successful assault, directed his platoon not to open fire until fired upon. After having moved less than one hundred meters, the platoon was suddenly brought under a withering hail of enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Keane rushed through the heavy enemy fire, giving his men encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out the muzzle flashes from enemy positions. Lieutenant Keane lead and directed the assault into the enemy with such aggressiveness, and his men were so inspired by his courage, that the assault element successfully overran the enemy positions, forcing the enemy to hastily flee the battle area. First Lieutenant Keane's outstanding gallantry, leadership and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 1349; 12 November 1967)



18 May 1967



CPT John C. Pape (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 May 1969. Captain Pape distinguished himself while serving as the Commanding Officer of Company B, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, on a combat operation in QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam. ON the cited date, at approximately 1500 hours, the Second Platoon of Company B was given the mission of reconnoitering an area for the company's night location. As it moved into the predetermined area, it received eighty-two-millimeter mortar fire. Captain Pape, who was with the First and Third Platoons at the time, skillfully maneuvered the entire company toward the suspected enemy positions and forced the unknown size enemy force to break contact and flee. With nightfall approaching, he gave order to stop and set up in a night defensive perimeter. As the company, was digging its night positions, it again received mortar fire. When the initial rounds wounded numerous personnel, Captain Pape, with utter disregard for his own safety, left his entrenched position to help move the wounded men to safety. It was at this time Captain Pape suffered fatal fragmentation wounds. His conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the cost of his own life saved a number of his subordinates from further injury and possible death. Captain Pape'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 9610; 26 July 1969)

18 May 1967

1LT John F. Pavlansky Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Pavlansky distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action as his platoon was moving along a jungle trail and became engaged with an enemy force concealed in well-fortified bunkers. During the initial contact the platoon sustained numerous casualties from the enemy automatic weapons fire. Lieutenant Pavlansky moved forward through the enemy fire to the point of contact and quickly reorganized his lead elements into a position to lay down an effective base of fire. He exposed himself to the vicious fire with complete disregard for his own safety while moving among the positions directing fire and physically placing his men into position. Several times he purposely drew the enemy fire to enable his men to maneuver. When the platoon suddenly received intense volumes of fire from its flank, Lieutenant Pavlansky organized and personally led three of his men in an assault on the enemy position, knocking it out with grenades. He then shouted to the remainder of his platoon to move forward in the assault. Through his personal courage and inspired leadership, Lieutenant Pavlansky personally led his platoon through enemy positions and destroyed eight enemy bunkers. First Lieutenant Pavlansky's outstanding display of unquestionable valor, determination, and aggressive devotion to duty while engaged in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 461; 1 September 1967)

18 May 1967



SSG Larry A. Fletcher (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force in the republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Fletcher distinguished himself on 18 May 1967 while conducting a sweeping operation of suspected enemy positions, near DUC PHO. On this date, Sergeant Fletcher's nine-man element was suddenly brought under an intense volume of hostile automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunkers. Upon initial contact, the point man was wounded, and completely disregarding his personal safety, Sergeant Fletcher went forward and brought him back to safety. After having evaluated the situation, Sergeant Fletcher directed his small element to the left flank and instructed them to lay a base of fire. Observing an enemy bunker approximately fifteen meters to his right flank, Sergeant Fletcher neared the enemy position singlehandedly, disregarding the increased volume of fire being directed toward him. As Sergeant Fletcher neared the enemy position, he was he was wounded and knocked to the ground by an exploding grenade. In spite of his wounds, Sergeant Fletcher got back up, continued his assault and succeeded in destroying the enemy position, killing two enemy soldiers. He then proceeded to assault two more enemy bunkers, killing three more enemy. Sergeant Fletcher then returned to his men and quickly reorganized them, making sure that the wounded were treated and evacuated. Only after the last man had been given medical treatment, did Sergeant Fletcher seek aid for his own wounds. Sergeant Fletcher's outstanding display of aggressiveness and consummate personal bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 373; 26 August 1967)

18 May 1967



SP4 Leon Thornton (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. While serving as radio telephone operator, Specialist Thornton was moving along a jungle trail with the company headquarters group. The lead squad was suddenly taken under a tremendous volume of enemy fire from an estimated platoon size element. The lead squad immediately began to maneuver against the enemy element but was immediately pinned down and found that they were surrounded. The company commander along with Specialist Thornton, his radio telephone operator, upon learning of the precarious position of the squad, quickly moved forward to the beleaguered squad. As the company commander and Specialist Thornton approached the position they were brought under a tremendous hail of enemy fire as two enemy soldiers assaulted them. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Thornton threw himself in front of his company commander and at the same time returned the enemy fire. Specialist Thornton succeeded in killing both of the enemy soldiers but was mortally wounded. As a result of Specialist Thornton's gallantry and courageous actions two enemy soldiers were killed, two weapons were captured, and the life of his company commander was saved through his supreme sacrifice. Specialist Thornton's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P), General Orders Number 57; 26 June 1967)



18 May 1967

PFC Lionel Gutierrez (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Private First Class Gutierrez's platoon was suddenly taken under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. In the initial stages of the fire fight numerous casualties were inflicted. When another platoon moved into the area to assist, they too were brought under intense fire and pinned down. Private Gutierrez moved through the vicious enemy fire with complete disregard for his own safety to an exposed position where he could best give the pinned-down platoon covering fire. Seeing that a wounded man lay in an area exposed to hostile fire Private Gutierrez rushed forward to aid the wounded warrior. Placing himself between the wounded man and the enemy positions, Private Gutierrez began to administer much-needed first aid, while giving the wounded man aid, Private Gutierrez deliberately exposed himself to draw the enemy fire so that he might pinpoint the position. Private Gutierrez continued to expose himself until he located the enemy positions and then succeeded in killing the enemy soldier. Private First Class Gutierrez's unquestionable valorous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD: General Orders Number 1355; 23 November 1967)

18 May 1967



SSG Oliver A. Ware (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Ware's platoon was suddenly taken under tremendous volume of automatic weapons fire from an estimated platoon size enemy element in well-fortified positions. Sergeant Ware with complete disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to the withering enemy fire while directing the fire of his platoon and moving from position to position giving his men encouragement. Numerous casualties had been received by his platoon on the initial burst of fire and Sergeant Ware on numerous occasions exposed himself to the vicious enemy fire to give aid and comfort to his wounded comrades. Sergeant Ware had begun to reorganize his platoon and to maneuver them in an assault on the enemy positions when he was struck and killed by enemy fire. Sergeant Ware's platoon had become so inspired by his actions that they were able to fight their way out of what was later determined to be an enemy ambush of platoon strength. Sergeant Ware's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P), General Orders Number 81; 7 July 1967)

18 May 1967



SSG Roy D. Chitwood (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Chitwood distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry in action on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. The Recono Platoon of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry while conducting a combat operation, had established an ambush position along a jungle trail. During the early morning hours, the friendly element was suddenly attacked by an enemy element using automatic weapons and hand grenades. When the attack started Sergeant Chitwood realized that his section was taking the main force of the attack and immediately, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, rushed forward to his sector of the perimeter and began to pull the positions in closer so that his sector would not be overrun. The enemy element, after being beaten back, attacked the friendly perimeter again. Sergeant Chitwood continued to expose himself to the withering enemy fire as he moved from position to position giving his men encouragement and directing effective fire into the ranks of the enemy. As Sergeant Chitwood again exposed himself to the vicious enemy fire while bringing an ammunition resupply to some of his men, he was wounded by a burst of enemy automatic weapons fire. Disregarding his wounds and refusing medical aid, Sergeant Chitwood continued to resupply his men with ammunition and give them encouragement until he was again struck by an enemy bullet and mortally wounded. Sergeant Chitwood's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his own life are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P), General Orders Number 50; 26 June 1967)

18 May 1967

SFC Thomas K. Bennett (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. The first platoon of Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, while moving along a jungle trail, suddenly became engaged with an undetermined number of enemy soldiers in well-fortified and well concealed bunkers. Sergeant Bennett quickly reorganized his platoon, maneuvered his squads into position and established security elements. Sergeant Bennett, seeing that his platoon had received several casualties, immediately and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, rushed through the withering enemy fire and began pulling the wounded men to covered positions. After pulling the first man to safety, Sergeant Bennett returned through the vicious enemy fire five different times to bring wounded men to safety; each time he was within twenty meters of the enemy positions. During this time Sergeant Bennett also directed the fire of his platoon by exposing himself to the enemy fire while pointing out enemy positions. Later in the battle, Sergeant Bennett received a report that more casualties had been sustained at the other end of his platoon's positions. Again, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Bennett moved through the heavy enemy fire across the entire front of his platoon's positions and began pulling the wounded to safe positions and giving them medical aid. Sergeant Bennett's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 704; 19 September 1967)



- 18 May 1967 SP4 William A. Moore (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Moore's platoon had been given the mission of assisting a platoon that had become completely surrounded by an enemy company. When his platoon arrived at the scene of the battle, they also became heavily engaged with the enemy element and received numerous casualties. Specialist Moore, the platoon medic, immediately began to pull his wounded comrades to safety and give them medical aid. Specialist Moore observed three wounded soldiers lying in an area completely exposed to enemy automatic weapons fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he rushed through the hostile fire to the first wounded soldier and picked him up. Just as Specialist Moore started for cover, he was struck in the leg and wounded by enemy fire. Disregarding his wound, Specialist Moore continued forward, carrying the wounded man until he reached a safe position. Refusing medical treatment, he returned to the bullet-swept area two more times to bring the remaining two men to safety. Still refusing medical aid, Specialist Moore returned to the raging battle and began to take care of the wounded from both platoons as the medic from the other platoon had been seriously wounded. For over an hour Specialist Moore moved through the battle area treating the wounded. On one occasion Specialist Moore moved to within ten meters of an enemy position to aid a wounded man. Specialist Four Moore's outstanding display of valor and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1348; 23 November 1967)
- 18 May 1967 PFC Willie J. Woodard (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near DUC PHO, Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Woodard distinguished himself by exceptional valor while on a relief mission when his platoon was suddenly brought under intense volumes of enemy automatic weapons fire which pinned them down. Seeing that most of the grenadiers were casualties and the platoon was in dire need of heavier support, Private Woodard with complete disregard for his own safety jumped from his covered position and ran up and down the line of friendly positions placing effective grenade fire into the enemy emplacements. Upon being wounded he fearlessly continued the one-man grenade barrage on the enemy without heed to his wound or medical attention. As a result of Private Woodard's determined, aggressive assault, the effectiveness of the enemy fire was sufficiently reduced to allow his comrades to move the wounded to cover and then regroup for an assault which routed the insurgents. Private First Class Woodard's outstanding display of unquestionable valor, dauntless determination and devotion to duty in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 457; 1 September 1967)
- 18 May 1967 CPT Arthur F. Conlon (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Captain Conlon distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, the platoon moved into a small valley on the edge of a ridge line and were taken under extremely heavy automatic and semi-automatic small arms fire from an estimated enemy platoon. As the fire fight ensued, Captain Conlon rendered encouragement to his men and positioned them in strategic places. As the platoon moved online to assault the enemy, Captain Conlon, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to the enemy fire, as he pointed out enemy positions to the attacking platoon. At one point the platoon became pinned down by an enemy soldier and Captain Conlon personally assaulted the enemy soldier's position killing him with effective small arms fire. Captain Conlon's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1264; 4 July 1967)
- 18 May 1967 SSG Donald G. Mathews (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. SSG Mathews distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Mathews, the squad leader for the point squad, was given the mission of moving his squad across an open rice paddy to secure the tree line so the remainder of the platoon could move across. Approximately halfway across, the squad was taken under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. On the initial burst of enemy fire, Sergeant Mathews and four of his men were wounded. Sergeant Mathews received a serious wound in the arm that rendered his arm useless. Quickly applying a tourniquet to his arm, he grabbed his weapon and began placing fire into the enemy positions. He suddenly detected an enemy Soldier preparing to throw a grenade into his squad's positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Mathews jumped to his feet completely exposing himself to the heavy enemy fire and killed the enemy Soldier. Sergeant Mathews continued to expose himself to the enemy fire while directing effective machine gun and grenade fire into the enemy positions. As a result of Sergeant Mathews' actions, two enemy were killed, and one automatic weapon was captured. Sergeant Mathews' devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1678; 19 August 1967)
- 18 May 1967 2LT David V. Booth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Lieutenant Booth distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Booth's platoon had been placed in a blocking position for another company when approximately twenty Viet Cong soldiers were spotted working their way around the high ground. Lieutenant Booth at the time had two friendly Vietnamese soldiers wearing black pajamas attached to his platoon. Quickly grasping the opportunity, he directed the two Vietnamese soldiers to attempt to lure the enemy soldiers to their location. Placing his men into well concealed positions he gave the word to the Vietnamese Soldiers to attempt to lure the enemy soldiers into the trap. The decoy action was effective, and the enemy element unsuspectingly approached the friendly positions. Lieutenant Booth waited until the enemy soldiers were within five feet of his position before initiating the ambush by jumping from his concealed position in full view of the enemy and personally killing two enemy soldiers. Shouting for his men to follow him, he also directed one squad to maneuver to the right flank in an attempt to keep the enemy element from reorganizing and succeeded also in killing two more of the enemy soldiers. Lieutenant Booth's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1331; 7 July 1967)



- 18 May 1967 SSG Mines Elmore Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Elmore distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Elmore's squad, serving as point squad for a friendly element evacuating casualties to a landing zone, was moving down a jungle trail when the point man halted them to insure, they were still on the trail. Immediately, they were brought under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire and grenades from well concealed enemy bunker. Wounded and dazed, Sergeant Elmore moved forward firing his weapon, laying down a base of fire and quickly reorganized his squad. Sergeant Elmore, with complete disregard for his own safety, brought up his machine gun and exposed himself to the withering enemy fire while pointing out enemy positions to his men. Suddenly Sergeant Elmore detected an enemy soldier throwing grenades at his squad and without hesitation he jumped to his feet and while fully exposed to the vicious enemy fire, killed the enemy soldier. Sergeant Elmore then began moving his wounded men to a safe area and out of the line of enemy fire. Sergeant Elmore's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1645; 12 August 1967)
- 18 May 1967 SP4 Nathaniel Fells (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operation against a hostile force. Specialist Fells distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967, near DUC PHO, in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Fells' platoon had been employed as forward security while attempting to move the wounded down a steep trail during the hours of darkness. Suddenly the element was taken under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from the direct front and flanks. On the initial burst of enemy fire, the friendly element received ten more casualties. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Fells moved forward through the withering enemy fire to the most forward point of contact and began to place extremely effective machine gun fire into the enemy positions. Due to the fact it was so dark, Specialist Fells was able to locate enemy targets by muzzle flashes from their weapons. Specialist Fells continued to place effective fire into the ranks of the enemy killing four and forcing the remainder to flee the battle area leaving behind miscellaneous equipment and weapons. Specialist Fells' devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1520; 26 July 1967)
- 18 May 1967 SSG Donald G. Mathews (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Mathews distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Mathews, the squad leader for the point squad, was given the mission of moving his squad across an open rice paddy to secure the tree line so that remainder of his platoon could move across. Approximately halfway across, the squad was taken under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. On the initial burst of enemy fire, Sergeant Mathews and four of his men were wounded. Sergeant Mathews received a serious wound in the arm that rendered his arms useless. Quickly applying a tourniquet to his arm, he grabbed his weapon and began placing fire into the enemy positions. He suddenly detected and enemy soldier preparing to throw a grenade into his squad's positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Mathews jumped to his feet completely exposing himself to the heavy enemy fire and killed the enemy soldier. Sergeant Mathews continued to expose himself to the enemy fire while directing effective machine gun and grenade fire into the enemy positions. As a result of Sergeant Mathew's actions, two enemy were killed, and one automatic weapon was captured. Sergeant Mathews' devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1678; 19 August 1967)
- 18 May 1967 PFC Daniel MacNiel (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private MacNiel distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Private MacNiel's squad was suddenly taken under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from well-fortified positions. In the initial burst of fire, all the leaders of the element were wounded. Private MacNiel, serving as radio operator, immediately took charge and began to reorganize his men. Realizing that they were up against a numerically superior element, Private MacNiel immediately radioed for assistance, and then began to organize the withdrawal of his squad. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private MacNiel exposed himself to the withering enemy fire while moving from position to position directing his men to pull back. As the element began to withdraw, Private MacNiel assisted in getting the wounded men to a safe area and returned to the rear of the element to give the remainder of his men covering fire. Private MacNiel remained in the rear of the element until he was seriously wounded by enemy fire. Private MacNiel's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1649; 12 August 1967)
- 18 May 1967 SP4 Robert F. Shannon (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Specialist Shannon distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission. Specialist Shannon was acting as point man for the platoon when they approached an open area. Specialist Shannon's fire team was given the mission of moving across the exposed area under the cover of supporting machine gun and grenade fire to secure the far side. As the fire team advanced approximately halfway across the exposed area they were suddenly brought under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire wounding all the members of the fire team but Specialist Shannon. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Shannon continued to advance through the vicious enemy fire and personally assaulted the enemy position. As the enemy soldiers started to run, Specialist Shannon rushed after them and succeeded in killing two enemy soldiers and capturing an enemy automatic weapon. Specialist Shannon was solely responsible for overrunning the enemy position and forcing the enemy to withdraw. Specialist Shannon's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1549; 28 July 1967)



18 May 1967

CPT Lucius V. Reeves (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Captain Reeves distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. After becoming engaged with the enemy, Captain Reeves detached his small command post group from the main element so that he could effectively direct the fighting. On numerous occasions, he exposed himself to enemy fire in order to better observe and more effectively direct his maneuvering elements. The enemy element attempted to engage the command post element, but due to Captain Reeves' initiative and anticipation of such a maneuver, he had taken the necessary precautions. Captain Reeves again dashed through the withering enemy fire and began to give aid to his wounded men. By the time the battle area had been cleared and the wounded had been prepared for evacuation, the company started moving down a jungle trail. They were again taken under a murderous volume of enemy fire from well-fortified positions. Captain Reeves, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to the enemy fire by moving among the positions of his company, giving the men encouragement, and personally giving covering fire while the wounded were pulled to a safe area. Captain Reeve's devotion to duty, and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1266; 4 July 1967)

18 May 1967



CPT Stephen Silvasy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (2-OLC) for heroism in connection with military operation against a hostile force. Captain Silvasy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. When Company B became heavily engaged with a numerically superior enemy element, an immediate call to Captain Silvasy for assistance was made. Captain Silvasy immediately informed his element leaders of the situation and to proceed to the battle area as quickly as possible. The closest element of Company C was approximately fifteen hundred meters from the battle area. Directing his platoons to move as rapidly as possible, Captain Silvasy personally led one of his platoons to assist the stricken element. As the elements of Company C began to arrive at the battle area, Captain Silvasy being one of the first to arrive immediately began to direct his elements against the enemy positions. As the company engaged the enemy element Captain Silvasy on numerous occasions exposed himself to the withering enemy fire while directing effective fire into the enemy positions and moving among his men while giving them encouragement and inspiring them to such a degree that they were able to fight their way through the enemy positions and alleviate the pressure on their sister company. Captain Silvasy's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1644; 12 August 1967)

18 May 1969



1LT Valentine J. Zapert (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 May 1969. Lieutenant Zapert distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader of the reconnaissance platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a reconnaissance in force operation near TAM KY, in QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam. Company B, with the reconnaissance platoon attached, received intense enemy mortar fire. Many were wounded by the initial shelling, among them the commanding officer of Company B. Lieutenant Zapert, realizing that his segment of the perimeter was secured and relatively safe from the shrapnel of the exploding enemy mortars, moved to the company headquarters to assist the acting company commander. Assuring himself that the acting company commander had the situation under control, he left his covered position and went into the area of concentrated enemy fire to treat and evacuate the wounded in his relatively secure portion of the perimeter. Having repeatedly subjected himself to the enemy in evacuating all the wounded, Lieutenant Zapert again ascended to the crest of the hill to adjust aerial rocket determination many lives were saved. Lieutenant Zapert's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM); General Orders Number 14942; 18 December 1969)



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

