



# STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



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

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



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



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



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

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- 13 October 1966      **Operation SEWARD:** In the morning C/2-502 IN moved south and joined A/2-502 IN in sweeping south to the blocking position established by B/2-502 IN (-), which had joined on the high ground south of the LRRP contact. The pattern of the earlier operation was repeated, as all companies reported sniper fire and sporadic contact in the sweep. Units scored with 5 VC body count and weapons and equipment captured. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operation SEWARD; 28 October 1966)
- 13 October 1968      A/1-502 IN was operating at PHU VANG. B/1-502 IN had one and WIA, vicinity YD6930 by sniper, they returned fire but had negative assessment. C/1-502 IN conducted security of AN LO, mine sweep and local patrols and ambushes. D/1-502 IN received SA fire, vicinity YD6628. They returned fire with SA, MG and M-79. A sweep of the area produced 4 VC KIA. Recon captured documents from a sampan, vicinity YD7233. The VCS in sampan escaped.
- 13 October 1969      **Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** A/1-502 IN provided security at FSB ARSENAL and POHL BRIDGE. B/1-502 IN with C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon OPCON remained at FSB BIRMINGHAM and provided security. C/1-502 IN conducted SRRP's and MAP's with negative results. D/1-502 IN (-) conducted SRRP's, MAP's and training with 1 RF platoon until 1705H when the D/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon moved by air to YD783109 from stand-down at EAGLE BEACH. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon C/A from YD783109 to YD787089 – LZ Green. Platoon established MAF's in the same vicinity.
- 13 October 1970      **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 1-501 IN BN moved by vehicle and air from the firebase to PHU BAI Combat Base and assumed the mission of division ready force and prepared for refresher training. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)
- 13 October 1970      **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 1-502 IN BN security detachment at POHL BRIDGE was notified to increase their alertness because of recent activities in the NAM HOA area.
- 13 October 1971      D/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon found 2 BBT one pressure device one trip wire with suspected markers. Engineers contacted and destroyed BBT.
- 14 October 1968      1-502 IN BN continued RIF and ambushes with negative contact. The documents found on one of D/1-502 IN KIA's, of 13 Oct, showed that one of them was a company CO., HOANG VAN TRUNG, of K300B.
- 14 October 1968      **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:**  
Operation Began (2-502 IN)  
Locations: THUA THIEN Province, RVN.  
Task Organization: A/2-502 IN, B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, Recondos. Battalion Control: 3(-) A/326 ENG.  
The following changes were made in the task organization during Operation NEVADA EAGLE.  
(1) A/4-12 CAV OPCON to 2-502 IN BN effective 14-26 Oct.  
(2) Recon/2-502 OPCON to 7<sup>th</sup> ARVN CAV Regt effective 21-25 Oct.  
(3) B/2-502 IN OPCON to 1-327 IN BN effective 25 Oct – 10 Nov.  
(4) C/2-502 IN OPCON 2-501 IN BN 25-28 Oct.  
(5) E/2-502 IN OPCON 1-327 IN BN 30 Oct – 02 Nov.  
(6) C/2-502 IN OPCON 1-327 IN BN effective 02-05 Nov.  
(7) D/2-502 IN OPCON 1-327 IN BN effective 02-10 Nov.  
(8) C/2-502 IN OPCON 1-327 IN BN effective 10-18 Nov.  
(9) B/2-502 IN OPCON 1-327 IN BN effective 25 Oct – 17 Nov.  
(10) Recon/2-502 IN OPCON 1-327 IN BN effective 12-13 Nov.  
(11) Recon/2-502 IN OPCON A/2-502 IN BN effective 20-23 Nov.  
(12) Recon/2-502 IN OPCON C/2-502 IN effective 29 Nov. – 15 Dec.  
(13) D 20, 30, plus Co. CP/2-502 IN OPCON 1-327 IN BN effective 30 Nov. – 09 Dec.  
(14) D/2-502 IN (-) OPCON 1-54<sup>th</sup> ARVN effective 20 Dec. – 26 Dec.  
(15) A/2-502 IN OPCON 1-54<sup>th</sup> ARVN effective 27 Dec 68 – 05 Jan. 69.
- Mission: The 2d BN (ABN) while in the canopy, the 2-502 IN BN will conduct RIF operations within assigned AO in order to disrupt enemy's base and staging areas. While in the lowlands, the 2-502 IN BN will conduct local patrols, ambushes and ensure the security of major bridges and villages along QL 1 in assigned AO. The secondary mission will be pacification of the area through Madcaps and S5 functions. (AAR 31JAN1969)

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

Authorized:	44 -2-875
Assigned:	37-2-790
Present for Duty:	39-2-745



- 14 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Having completed Operation SOMERSET PLAIN, the 2-502 IN BN returned to Operation NEVADA EAGLE. This part of NEVADA EAGLE was conducted in five phases with the mission depending on the sector of the AO being worked. While working in the canopy, units worked in company sized units by setting up patrol bases before sending out platoon size searching elements. Companies were kept within the 105 Artillery fan of the nearest fire base. Companies were also mutually supporting. Resupply cycle in the canopy was usually every five days. In most instances the lack of large LZ's (2 or more ships), precluded the use of CA's and the units usually ended up walking into the canopy. While working in the lowlands, our responsibility was the security of Bridges along QL1, FSB ROY (ZC057029), and FSB ANZIO (YD930075). In addition to security of these installations, the 2-502 IN BN conducted pacification programs of the population areas within our AO which consisted of local patrols, ambushes, cordons, and civil action projects.
- 14 – 21 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Phase I was conducted. At the beginning of this Phase, A/2-502 IN conducted local patrols vicinity YD873042, B/2-502 IN conducted local patrols vicinity YD670048, C/2-502 IN secured bridges 3 and 4 vicinity YD949069 and YD967063) and conducted local patrols and ambushes, D/2-502 IN secured bridge 1 and 3 vicinity YD913117 and YD936103 and conducted local patrols and ambushes, 2-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducted patrols and ambushes vicinity YD886037, and E/2-502 IN (-) plus the CP was located at FSB ANZIO vicinity YD936075. Nothing of significance occurred during this period and ended with A/2-502 IN, B/2-502 IN, and Recon platoon being extracted from the canopy in preparation for the next phase.
- 14 October 1969 **Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN continued to conduct security at FSB ARSENAL, POHL BRIDGE and FSB BIRMINGHAM. C/1-502 IN (-) MAP's and RIF operations with negative results. D/1-502 IN conducted SRRP's, MAP's and training in conjunction with 221<sup>st</sup> RF Company, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon to vicinity YD752111 and YD783107. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon RIF to YD794081 with negative results.
- 14 October 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** The 1-502 IN BN continued Operation JEFFERSON GLEN in sector Golf making maximum use of SP's and NA's with negative results.
- 14 October 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 2-502 IN BN with its CP at OP CHECKMATE continued reconnaissance in force operations in operational coordination with the 3<sup>rd</sup> IN Regiment (ARVN). The 1-501 IN BN remained at PHU BAI Combat Base, continued the mission of division ready force and conducted battalion refresher training. The 2BDE CP remained at PHU BAI Combat Base. The 1-502 IN BN continued search and attack operations in the FS/OB ARSENAL area while the 2-501 IN BN continued operations in the FS/OB BRICK Area. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)
- 14 October 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** A/2-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon was laying concertina wire around OP CHECKMATE. While driving engineer stakes, the element hit what appeared to be a 105mm dud round. The dud round detonated, wounding four US Soldiers. At 1115H, three kilometers east of STELLA, a trooper from D/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon was wounded when detonated an unknown type booby trap with a pressure plate type firing device. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)
- 15 October 1966 **Operation SEWARD:** Extraction and redeployment to the original company AO's began. The technique of leaving stay behind platoons, which had been used on the extraction earlier, was followed when all three companies left stay behind platoons. The last platoon was extracted and joined its parent company on 18 October, after C/2-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon discovered a cache of rice and small arms ammo, and A/2-502 IN, 4<sup>th</sup> platoon had successfully ambushed 2 VC in their role as stay behind platoons. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operation SEWARD; 28 October 1966)
- 15 – 16 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (Airmobile), 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 area of operations. Contact was light during the reporting period. Toady's statistics: 1 PF KHA; Enemy assessment – 1 VC POW, 1 .38 cal pistol.

### 1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN (-) working with 1 RF and 1 PF platoon occupied night position vicinity ZD081127 with ambushes ZD098118, ZD085102, ZD091112 and ZD0776129. Conducted RIF to vicinity ZD080110 and ZD087108. A/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon ambushed vicinity YD984182, conducted RIF to YD985176 then at 1558H from PZ vicinity YD985176 moved by CH-47 to LZ ZD083128, closed LZ 1607H.

B/1-501 IN (-) occupied night position vicinity YD834217 with ambushes at YD836215 and TYD832219. B/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon ambushed YD807251 and YD813249. At 0858H B/1-501 IN (-) conducted eagle flights, from PZ vicinity YD837217 to LZ's YD810222, YD801226, YD802230, last lift closed at 0958H. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD8123. At 1750H vicinity YD817232, B/1-501 IN (-) captured 1 VC with .38 cal pistol, he was evacuated to LZ SALLY at 1840H. B/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted patrols vicinity YD801247, YD805247 and YD813248.

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV.

D/1-501 IN (-) provided security for COCO Beach with ambush at YD865303, D/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon provided security for FSB SANDY with ambush YD879252. 2 platoon cushion vehicles with 8 men each from D/1-501 IN patrol village at YD860230 and YD850230.

Recon Platoon (-) working with 1 PF platoon occupied night position at YD877247, conducted RIF to YD889245. At 0930H vicinity YD888245 sustained 1 PF KHA from a BBT 105 round. 4.2" mortar was fired into the BBT'ed area and the



RIF was continued to YD886250. 2 squads of Recon working with 1 PF platoon from night position vicinity YD867247 conducted RIF to YD870259.

Remarks: At 0900H vicinity YD884252 1 VN woman tripped unknown type mine or BBT resulting in woman being killed.

### **2-501 IN BN**

2-501 IN BN (-) to include TAC CP, A/2-501 IN, C/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN and Recon platoon moved by CH-47 from LZ SALLY/FSB T-BONE to 1BDE AO and reverted to 1BDE OPCON at 1457H.

A/2-501 IN staged at LZ SALLY. At 1330H moved by CH-47 to LZ vicinity ZD117004, closed 1418H.

B/2-501 IN (-) provided security for FSB T-BONE. B/2-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon ambushed vicinity YD643189 and YD645190, conducted RIF to FSB T-BONE. B/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon occupied OP APACHE. At 1005H, B/2-501 IN reverted OPCON to 1-502 IN BN.

C/2-501 IN staged at LZ SALLY. At 1252H moved by CH-47 to LZ vicinity ZD151012, closed 1335H.

D/2-501 IN (-) occupied night position vicinity YD594130. At 0728H D/2-501 IN (-) was extracted from PZ vicinity YD595131 to LZ SALLY. Closed 0808H and linked up with D/2-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon which was extracted 151838HOCT to LZ SALLY from the same PZ. At 1417H moved by CH-47 to LZ vicinity YD116104, closed 1457H.

Recon platoon provided security at FSB T-BONE. At 1240H moved by CH-47 to LZ vicinity YD116014, closed at 1220H.

### **1-502 IN BN**

A/1-502 IN (-) occupied night position at PHU VANG. A/1-502 IN (-) occupied strong points along QL 551, POL pipeline, POL pumping station, security at LCU RAMP and liaison at HUE Bridges. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon OPCON to C/1-502 IN, at 1610H OPCON B/2-501 IN.

B/1-502 IN occupied night position at YD697296 with ambushes vicinity YD679288, YD697287 and YD688301. Conducted platoon size RIF operation vicinity YD687296.

C/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE with ambush at YD614298. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon occupied fortified OP's on QL 1. C/1-502 IN provided bridge and mine sweep security. At 1400H, C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon relieved A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon of the OP security mission. At 1600H, A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon moved by CH-47 from PZ YD605314 to FSB T-BONE, closed at 1610H at which time became OPCON B/2-501 IN.

D/1-502 IN occupied night position at YD667297 with ambush at YD654294 and YD670293. At 2100H CP and D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted night RIF to YD664308. Conducted platoon sized RIF vicinity night location.

Recon platoon marshaled LZ SALLY and assumed RRF mission.

C/2-34 Armor, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon OPCON C/1-502 IN.

1-3 ARVN Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> company occupied night position at YD619338, conducted platoon sized RIF vicinity night position.

1-3 ARVN Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> company occupied night position at YD613333, conducted platoon sized RIF vicinity night position.

1-3 ARVN Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> company occupied night position at YD658326, conducted platoon sized RIF vicinity night position.

Remarks: At 0817H, 2 PF platoons conducted eagle flights from PZ FSB OMAHA, to LZ's YD713330, YD717330, YD724333, YD726327, YD723313 and YD735328. At 1005H, 1-502 IN BN assumed OPCON of B/2-501 IN and 2-501 IN BN AO. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon OPCON to B/2-501 IN at 1610H.

Beginning at 0600H, 1-502 IN in cooperation with QUANG GIEN PF, HUONG TRA PF and 1-3 ARVN Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Company will cordon and search the village of HA LANG located vicinity YD660285. 1-3 ARVN, 1<sup>st</sup> Company will cordon from YD646288 to YD662290, link with D/1-502 IN which will cordon from YD662290 to YD676295. B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon will cordon from YD677290 to YD670284. 3<sup>rd</sup> PF platoons from HUONG TRA will block from YD670284 to YD646287. At 0700H, 2 PF platoons and 15 Special Branch Police will RIF and search from YD646287 to YD660285. 2 PF platoons and Special Branch Police will RIF and search from YD662285 to YD674293.

### **2BDE**

HHC Security platoon secured minesweep N and S from LZ SALLY.

(Commanders Situation Report; 152001H October – 162000H October 1968; MAJ James M. Higgins, Kayo 3)

B/1-502 IN was only unit to have contact, they engaged 2 VC in sampans, vicinity YD7129, resulting in 2 VC KIA.

15 October 1968





15 October 1969 **Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** All elements of the 1-502 IN BN continued to conduct their same mission with negative results. A/1-502 IN C/A was conducted with 2 platoons from the 177<sup>th</sup> RF Company from NAM HOA District. The platoons went into 2 LZ's at YD790113 and YD802117. Both LZ's were green and the sweep operations had negative results.

15 October 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** General Henessay visited FSB ARSENAL, arrived at 1043H and departed at 1113H. Tropical storm warning received, with 50 knots winds expected within 48 hours and expected to last through 20 October. All units were instructed to order necessary log to carry them through.

15 October 1971 1-501 IN BN, Recon platoon in the vicinity ZC116984 found 4 NVA/VC green plastic rain capes and 2 NVA/VC rain jackets in open area near 2<sup>nd</sup> trail. Last activity two days.

16 – 17 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (Airmobile), 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 area of operations. There was no contact during the reporting period. Today's statistics: No friendly casualties; Enemy assessment – 5 suspects detained.

### 1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN (-) occupied night position ZD081277 with ambushes ZD090118 and ZD085192. At 2206H, A/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon conducted roving patrols from ZD076129 to ZD067136, A/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon from ZD076134 to ZD070139. During the day conducted RIF operations vicinity night position while continuing to work with 2 PF platoon.

B/1-501 IN (-) occupied night position vicinity YD809226 with ambushes YD807231 and YD807227. B/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon ambushed vicinity YD807247 and YD805248. B/1-501 IN (-) conducted eagle flights from PZ YD808226 to LZ's vicinity YD857240 and YD866238. The last lift closed LZ at 1059H then conducted local patrols vicinity LZ's. At 1530H vicinity YD846225, B/1-501 IN (-) detained 2 female VCS.

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV.

D/1-501 IN (-) provided security for COCO Beach and ambushed at YD863307. D/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon provided security for FSB SANDY and ambushed at YD810250. At 1345H, 16 personnel from D/1-501 IN (-) conducted search via PACV boats of villages vicinity YD8422, YD8522 and YD8523. At 1555H vicinity YD847225 detained 3 VCS. Patrol closed COCO Beach at 1700H.

Recon platoon (-) ambushed at YD878240. Recon platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> squad ambushed at YD855247. Recon consolidated at 1153H vicinity YD875235 and conducted local patrol working with 1 PF platoon.

### 2-501 IN BN

2-501 IN BN (-) OPCON 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-502 IN BN

### 1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN (-) occupied night position at PHU VANG. A/2-501 IN (-) occupied strong points along QL 551, POL pipeline, POL pumping station, security at LCU Ramp and Liaison at HUE Bridges. A/2-501 IN OPCON B/2-501 IN.

B/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD696297 with ambush at YD679288. At 1309H moved by CH-47 from PZ YD696297 to AN LO, closed LZ at 1351H and assumed the bridge security mission.

C/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE and ambushed vicinity YD600210, YD605310 and YD611212. C/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon occupied fortified OP's along QL 1. At 1313H from PZ vicinity AN LO BRIDGE moved by CH-47 to LZ YD696297, closed LZ at 1431H. At 1351H, C/2-501 IN was released from bridge security responsibility. At 1440H, 3 fire teams conducted eagle flights from PZ YD696297 to LZ's YD705305, YD712311 and YD644307, closed LZ's at 1457H, and conducted local search operations. At 1623H moved by UH-1 from PZ's YD705305, YD712311 and YD644307 to LZ YD696297 closed LZ at 1638H.

D/1-502 IN occupied night position at YD656296, with ambush at YD675296. At 0502H established blocking position from YD647290 to YD660289. At 0905H, D/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted RIF from YD647290 to YD6528. At 1435H, D/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon conducted eagle flights from PZ YD656294 to LZ's YD668303, YD660303, YD655303, YD667289 and YD671294, closed LZ at 1459H and conducted local search operations. At 1545H, D/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon was extracted from PZ's YD668303, YD660303, YD653303, YD667289, YD671294 to LZ YD656294, closed LZ 1628H.

Recon platoon marshalled at LZ SALLY and at 1700H was lifted from LZ SALLY to LZ YD631248, closed LZ at 1715H.

B/2-501 IN with A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon attached, provided security for FSB T-BONE. B/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon occupied night position on OP APACHE. B/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon occupied night position at YD644205 and during the day conducted cloverleaf patrolling vicinity night position. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon sent out a squad sized patrol vicinity YD637222 and returned to FSB T-BONE.

C/2-34 Armor, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon OPCON C/2-501 IN. At 1351H OPCON B/2-501 IN.



1-3 ARVN Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> company occupied night position at YD619338. Conducted local search operations.

1-3 ARVN Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> company occupied night position at YD613333. Conducted local search operations.

1-3 ARVN Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> company occupied night position at YD665325. Conducted local search operations.

## **2BDE**

HHC Security platoon secured minesweep N and S from LZ SALLY.

(Commanders Situation Report; 162001H October – 172000H October 1968; MAJ James M. Higgins, Kayo 3)

16 October 1968 1-502 IN BN had negative enemy contact on this day. It was, however, an important day as it was the day we assumed security of FSB T-BONE. B/1-502 IN was lifted to FSB T-BONE at 1600H.

16 October 1969 **Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** A/1-502 IN provided security at FSB ARSENAL and POHL BRIDGE. B/1-502 IN continued to provide security at FSB BIRMINGHAM. C/1-502 IN RIF with negative results. D/1-502 IN continued to conduct SRRP's, MAP's, training and RIF operations with 1 platoon from the 221<sup>st</sup> RF Company. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducted MAP's vicinity YD796075.

16 October 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** B/1-502 IN vicinity 777082 found one rear casing for a 122mm rocket in a stream bed. It was old and rusty and may have been washed down the stream.

17 – 18 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (Airmobile) 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 area of operations. There was no contact during the reporting period. Today statistics: 2 US WHA, 1 NPFF KHA; Enemy assessment - 1 detainee.

## **1-501 IN BN**

A/1-501 IN occupied night position at ZD075128 and ambushed at ZD077117, ZD075120 and ZD079125. At 2210H, A/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon (-) conducted roving patrol from ZD083120 to ZD091115 and returned at 2340H. 1 squad from A/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon conducted roving patrol from ZD085107 to ZD088100 and returned at 2340H. At 2345H, vicinity ZD090115, A/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon detained 1 VCS. A/1-501 IN conducted squad patrols vicinity ZD075128, ZD075120, ZD077117 and ZD079125; all patrols closed ZD075128 at 1550H. Continued working with 1 PF and RF platoon.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position at YD864246 and ambushed at YD806253, YD863238, YD865235, YD872235 and YD798249. B/1-501 IN (-) conducted RIF to YD859258. At 1830H vicinity YD862260 found and destroyed 1 BBT hand grenade. At 1800H, vicinity YD863260, 1 NPFF detonated BBT 105 round resulting in 1 NPFF KHA, 2 US WHA (medevac).

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV.

D/1-501 IN provided security for COCO Beach and ambushed at YD798249. D/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon provided security for FSB SANDY and ambushed vicinity YD878253.

Recon platoon occupied night position at YD869239 and ambushed at YD873236. At 0656H conducted RIF to YD883249.

## **2-501 IN BN**

2-501 IN BN (-) OPCON 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-502 IN BN

## **1-502 IN BN**

A/1-502 IN (-) occupied night position at PHU VANG. A/2-501 IN (-) occupied strong points along QL 551, POL pipeline, POL pumping station, security at LCU Ramp and liaison at HUE BRIDGES. A/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon OPCON B/2-501 IN BN.

B/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE and ambushed at YD605370 and YD611312. B/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon occupied fortified OP's along QL 1. B/2-501 IN (-) provided bridge security and conducted minesweep.

C/1-502 IN occupied night position at YD697296 and ambushed at YD701296, YD696299 and YD689294. At 0657H, C/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon established blocking position from YD676287 to YD669283. C/2-501 IN (-) conducted platoon sized RIF operation vicinity YD697296.

D/1-502 IN occupied night position at YD656294 and ambushed at YD667300, YD651296 and YD659288. At 0653H established blocking position from YD66028 and YD675294. At 1557H, D/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon moved by logistical helicopter from PZ YD660298 to LZ SALLY, closed LZ 1624H. Assumed RRF mission.



Recon platoon occupied night position at YD637238 and ambushed at YD640255 and YD644243. Conducted squad sized patrol vicinity YD637238. At 1510H linked up with 1 PF platoon and conducted combined small unit patrol to vicinity YD658255, YD640250 and YD650245.

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-502 IN. B/2-501 IN (-) and A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon provided security for FSB T-BONE. B/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon occupied OP APACHE and ambushed at YD641204 and YD641199. B/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD632211. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon sized RIF to vicinity YD648192 and returned.

## **2BDE**

HHC Security platoon secured minesweep N and S from LZ SALLY.

(Commanders Situation Report; 172001H October – 182000H October 1968; MAJ James M. Higgins, Kayo 3)

- 17 - 18 October 1968 1-502 IN BN conducted TIR missions, ambushes and eagle flights, failed to develop contact.
- 17 October 1968 SP5 James P. Mason, passenger, WO1 Ralph O. Daugherty, Pilot and LCPL Dan R. Moore and SGT Robert D. Ashmen, Observers, were flying an OH6A aircraft (#67-16224), on a support mission off the coast of South Vietnam. The helicopter had landed on the USS Eversole to pick up SP5 Mason to return him to his unit. At 1925H, the UH6A took off and for unknown reason, crashed 500 meters from the USS Eversole. Rescue efforts started immediately, recovery SGT Ashman and LCPL Moore. SGT Ashman and one of the rescuers reported seeing a third man in the water prior to his rescue. The crash reportedly occurred in the vicinity of grid coordinates (GC) ZD170137. Extensive searches failed to locate SP5 Mason, but on 21 October the body of WO1 Daugherty was found on the beach in the vicinity of (GC) Au844059, some thirteen kilometers from the crash site. (Joint Task Force – Full accounting, Biographic Site Report as of 13 August 1992)
- 17 October 1969 **Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** All 4 companies of the 1-502 IN BN continued with their same missions. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducted MAP's vicinity YD795886 unit 1055H when they were extracted to LZ SALLY and then moved by truck to EAGLE BEACH for a stand-down.
- 17 October 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** The 1-502 IN BN continued Operation JEFFERSON GLEN in sector Golf making maximum use of SP's and NA's with negative results.
- 18 – 19 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> 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 area of operations. There was no contact during the reporting period. Today's statistics: Negative friendly casualties; Enemy assessment – 1 Italian .25 cal pistol, 100 rds AK-47 ammo.

## **1-501 IN BN**

A/1-501 IN occupied night positions vicinity ZD076129 and ambushed at ZD075134, XD077123 and ZD081113. At 2250H, A/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon conducted roving patrols from ZD081119 to ZD079127, ZD087118 to ZD089111 and returned, both patrols closed night position at 0005H. At 0608H, A/1-501 IN (-) moved from night position to PZ vicinity ZD074128. A/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon moved to PZ ZD075126. At 0737H conducted CA from PZ's vicinity ZD074128 and ZD075126 to LZ's vicinity YD933258 and YD913274, closed LZ's at 0810H and 0814H respectively. At 0944H vicinity YD926258 found 100 rds AK-47 ammo. A/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon working with 36 PF's continued to conduct RIF operations in VINH LOC AO.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position at YD826257 and ambushed at YD860262, YD856255, YD805251, YD803247 and YD805247. At 0810H, B/1-501 IN (-) conducted CA from PZ YD863257 to LZ YD898285, closed at 0840H, and to LZ YD879299, closed LZ at 0846H. At 0848H from PZ vicinity YD863247, NPFF were lifted into LZ's YD933257, YD912170, closed LZ's at 0841H and assisted in screening and interrogation of local populace. B/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon from psn vicinity YD805251 conducted patrols vicinity YD805251, YD797246, YD799247, YD802247, YD807247 and YD811247. All patrols closed vicinity YD805251 at 1406H.

C/1-501 IN OPCON 2-17 CAV. At 1510H from PZ YD835167 was lifted into LZ COCO BEACH, closed LZ at 1910H and relieved elements of D/1-501 IN blocking position vicinity YD8630.

D/1-501 IN provided security for COCO BEACH and ambushed at YD868306. D/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon provided security for FSB SANDY. D/1-501 IN (-) continued to provide security for COCO BEACH. At 0256H, D/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon sighted wounded individuals outside the defensive wire at FSB SANDY, was detained, given medical aid and medevaced in the morning. At 0646H elements of D/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon moved into blocking position vicinity YD881254. D/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon and CAP team at 0707H closed blocking position from YD863303 to YD866307. At 1040H CAP team returned to COCO BEACH.

Recon platoon occupied night position at YD884249 and ambushed at YD878240. At 0700H with 17 PF's, closed blocking position from YD868259 to YD858257.

Remarks: At 1145H vicinity YD947244, and element of the 54<sup>th</sup> ARVN REGT engaged and killed 1 VC and captured 1 .45 cal pistol. At, 1400H, vicinity YD947246, and element of the 54<sup>th</sup> ARVN REGT engaged and killed 1 VC with carbine.



## 2-501 IN BN

2-501 IN (-) OPCON 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-502 IN BN

## 1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN (-) occupied night position at PHU BANG. A/1-502 IN (-) occupied strong points along QL 551, POL pipeline, POL pumping station, security at LCU Ramp and liaison at HUE BRIDGES. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon OPCON B/2-501 IN.

B/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE with B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon occupying fortified OP's along QL 1. Provided bridge security and conducted minesweep.

C/1-502 IN occupied night position at YD696297 and ambushed at YD696728, YD687293, YD700297, YD721295 and YD716295. Conducted platoon sized RIF vicinity night position. At 1355H vicinity YD721295, found 1 Italian .25 cal pistol.

D/1-502 IN occupied night position at YD651297 and ambushed at YD656293, YD661302, YD663309 and YD667303. D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon RRF for LZ SALLY. D/1-502 IN (-) conducted squad sized saturation patrol vicinity YD651297.

Recon platoon occupied night position at YD632249 and ambushed at YD649241, YD643251 and YD639239. Conducted squad sized saturation patrolling with 1 PF platoon vicinity YD632249.

C/2-34 Armor, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon OPCON C/1-502 IN.

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-502 IN BN. B/2-501 IN (-) with A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon provided security for FSB T-BONE. Conducted local patrol vicinity FSB T-BONE. B/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon occupied OP APACHE. Conducted local patrols. B/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon occupied night position vicinity YD632211. Conducted platoon sized RIF vicinity YD632211.

## 2BDE

HHC Security platoon secured minesweep N and S from LZ SALLY.

(Commanders Situation Report; 182001H October – 192000H October 1968; MAJ James M. Higgins, Kayo 3)

18 October 1968

**Operation NEVADA EALGE:** C/2-501 IN; C36 lead element vicinity 175977 received a burst of AK-47 from an estimated 4-5 enemy personnel resulting in 1 slight WIA no medevac is needed at this time. C36 contact was broken at 1305. At 1320H, C26 vicinity 178974 in contact with unknown size enemy force (estimated squad with AW) from spider holes at this time receiving SA/AW. C26 is maneuvering at this time LFT has been requested. At 1341H, C26 is still receiving fire from the South West up the hill from their location. At 1350H C26 contact has been broken, while C26 was maneuvering up the hill the enemy threw hand grenade down the hill. When contact was broken enemy fled to the South East. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN, Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log, FSB Tomahawk; 18 October 1968)

18 – 19 October 1969

**Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** All elements of the 1-502 IN BN maintained their same configuration unit 1614H when 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon moved by truck to FSB BIRMINGHAM on 19 October. At 1800H, 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon C/A to YD685125 and then established MAP's vicinity YD686132.

18 October 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 1-501 IN BN completed refresher training. The 1-501 IN BN CP and 1-501 IN BN, Recon platoon moved by vehicle to FS/OB BASTOGNE. A/1-501 IN moved by air to FS/OB BASTOGNE and secured the firebase. B/1-501 IN moved by air to FS/OB VEGHEL, C/1-501 IN and D/1-501 IN conducted assaults and began search and attack operations in the BASTOGNE/VEGHEL area. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)

18 October 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> squad vicinity YD772078 found five 122mm rocket shipping boxes, seven 122mm rocket launcher caps, six shipping plugs. The site is about six months old and no recent signs of activity or trail.

19 – 20 October 1968

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (Airmobile) 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 area of operations. Contact was light during the reporting period. Today's statistics: Negative friendly casualties; Enemy assessment – 1 M1 carbine, 1 M1 rifle, 1 VC POW.

## 1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN (-) occupied night position at YD923260. At 2215H conducted roving patrols from vicinity YD923260 to YD930257, YD920261 to YD909270 and returned, closing night position at 010H. Conducted local patrol vicinity YD923260. At 1130H vicinity YD913267, a detainee showed elements of A/1-501 IN where 1 M1 carbine was hidden. At 1157H vicinity YD915268 the detainee points out 1 M1 rifle and 1 lb. C-4 BBT (dest). A/1-501 IN (-) patrols closed YD923260 at 1708H. A/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon occupied night position at ZD086116 and ambushed ZD086108. Conducted local patrol and continued to work with 39 PF's in VINH LOC AO, vicinity ZD0911. Patrols closed ZD094118 at 1525H.





B/1-501 IN (-) occupied night position at YD887287 and ambushed at YD876296, YD873303, YD798247 and YD797248 and YD800252. Conducted local patrols vicinity YD873297, YD885286, patrols closed YD873297 at 1455H. B/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon with 32 PF's ambushed at YD798247, YD797248 and YD800252. Conducted local patrols vicinity YD799250, YD802247, YD806247, YD812247, patrols closed YD799251 at 1455H.

C/1-501 IN provided security for COCO BEACH and provided squad sized elements for blocking position vicinity YD8630.

D/1-501 IN (-) occupied night position at COCO BEACH. D/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon provide security for FSB SANDY and ambushed at YD883256. At 0743H, D/1-501 IN (-) conducted combat assault from COCO BEACH to LZ's vicinity YD845228, YD859241, closed LZ's at 0805H and 0820H respectively. At 0822H 4 PF's were helilifted into D/1-501 IN location vicinity YD859211 to aid in interrogation of screening of detainees. At 0852H, D/1-501 IN established a blocking position from YD860240 to YD847226. At 1450H conducted RIF to vicinity YD860240.

Recon platoon occupied night position at YD866256 and ambushed at YD869258. With 17 PF's and 2 dogs, conducted RIF to YD869257 and established blocking position. At 0850H vicinity YD867259 found and destroyed 1 BBT M26 hand grenade.

Remarks: At 0825H vicinity YD843227, 1-501 IN BN command and control helicopter apprehended 1 VC and 1 M26 hand grenade, evac to PHU VANG District. At 0950H vicinity YD884227, 3-54 ARVN captured 3 VC. At 1000H a detainee led elements of 3-54 ARVN to 1 SKS, 200 rds. AK ammo, 10 blocks TNT. PHU VANG District personnel accepted the surrender or 14 CHIEU HOI'S at YD832319.

### **2-501 IN BN**

2-501 IN BN (-) OPCON 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-502 IN BN.

### **1-502 IN BN**

A/1-502 IN (-) occupied night position at PHU VANG. A/1-502 IN (-) occupied strong points along QL 551, POL pipeline, POL pumping station, security at LCU ramp and liaison at HUE BRIDGES. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon OPCON B/2-501 IN.

B/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE with B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon occupying fortified OP's along QL 1. Provided bridge security and conducted minesweep.

C/1-502 IN occupied night position at YD661304 and ambushed at YD667290, YD676295, YD669309 and YD655308. C/1-502 IN (-) conducted squad sized saturation patrols vicinity YD661304. At 1005H, C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon moved by UH-1 helicopter from vicinity YD655308 to LZ SALLY. On the backhaul, C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon was eagle flighted from LZ SALLY into LZ's vicinity YD641337, YD673355 and YD654363, closed LZ's at 1152H. At 1810H vicinity YD644372, C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon sighted and engaged 3 VC with SA and fired artillery with unknown results.

Recon platoon occupied night position at YD664257 and ambushed at YD664254, YD667253 and YD650250. Conducted squad sized saturation patrol vicinity YD664257.

C/2-34 Armor OPCON C/1-502 IN.

B/2-501 IN (-) and A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon provided security for FSB T-BONE. Conducted local patrols vicinity FSB T-BONE. B/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon occupied OP APACHE. At 1315H conducted platoon sized RIF to vicinity YD626218. B/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon occupied night position at YD629213. From night position conducted RIF to OP APACHE, at 1315H relieved B/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon.

1-3 ARVN, 3<sup>rd</sup> Company occupied night position at YD648287 and conducted platoon sized RIF operation vicinity night position. At 1850H vicinity YD654285 found 2 VC bodies. BC attributed to action of night roving patrol from D/1-502 IN on 12 October.

### **2BDE**

HHC security platoon secured minesweep N and S from LZ SALLY.

(Commanders Situation Report; 192001H October – 202000H October 1968; MAJ James M. Higgins, Kayo 3)

19 – 23 October 1968

1-501 IN BN, 1-54 ARVN, 3-54 ARVN, HUONG THUY PF's and US and ARVN Navel elements established a soft cordon vicinity YD9126, YD9226, and YD8828, which resulted in the following enemy losses: 3 KIA, 16 VC and 6 individual weapons captured, 18 Hoi Chanhs returning to the GVN. There were no allied casualties. (Operational Report of 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

19 October 1968

1-502 IN BN continued RIF operation, security of AN LO, FSB T-BONE and A/1-502 IN at PHU VANG. No contact made. C/1-502 IN found a small cache, vicinity YD7230.

19 October 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** C/1-502 IN observed a sampan in the vicinity of the bridge near FSB ARSENAL. Three people came ashore. C/1-502 IN sent six men to check on the situation. Appears the people gathered some gravel and left. COL Root (2BDE, CO) arrived at FSB ARSENAL at 1022H and departed at 1040H.



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

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- 1 x Distinguished Service Cross
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 3 x Bronze Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)
- 3 x Purple Heart Medal (3 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Air Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Army Commendation Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Died of Non-Hostile actions

13 October 1968



PFC Richard J. Price (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Price was admitted to a military hospital, placed on the VSI list, and later evacuated to Japan where he expired.

15 October 1970



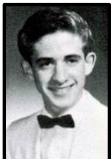
CPL Allen J. Smith (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) CPL Smith died as result of injuries received while at a firing position when an artillery round detonated for unknown causes in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. CPL Smith was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

15 October 1971



SP4 Ralph N. Lee (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal and Air Medal (Posthumously) for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed while on a combat operation when the area came under attack from an unknown source 4km South of PHU BAI Airfield, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 October 1966

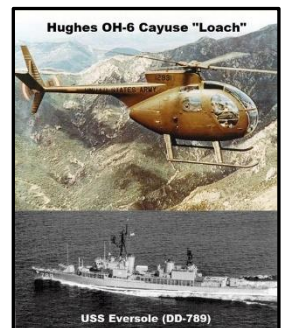


SP4 Horton S. Coker Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound to the head in hostile ground action in the PHU YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 October 1968



SP5 James P. Mason (HHC/1-502 IN) drowned while passenger on military helicopter on naval gunfire adjustment mission when a OH-6A helicopter crashed into the sea and sank shortly after take-off from a US Naval Ship USS Eversole, 6km northwest of Cape Chon May, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP5 Mason remains were not recovered. SP5 Mason was held by the Department of the Army to have been absent in a pay status pursuant to provisions from 17 October 1968, date of death 26 December 1968, date evidence of death was received by the Department of the Army.



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

17 October 1968

MAJ Paul F. Wertz (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (5-OLC) for heroism in connection with ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 17 October 1968. Major (then Captain) Wertz distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, during combat operations near the village of PHU LOC, Republic of Vietnam. While the company was engaged in a large sweep designed to route the enemy from fortified positions, an element came under heavily hostile fire. After assessing the situation, Major Wertz moved forward through enemy automatic weapons fire to personally direct the besieged element's flanking attack. Through informants gathered through the sweep, it was determined that an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army regulars intended to ambush the company. Due to the enemy's numerical superiority and proximity, Major Wertz elected to withdraw his men and call in effective artillery fire. He personally supervised an orderly withdrawal of his company and, despite heavy enemy fire, stayed in the area until assured that all elements were safely withdrawn. Major Wertz's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 15323, 20 December 1970)

19 October 1968



CPT Robert G. Mayor (A/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 A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Captain Mayor distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during the period from 19 October through 25 October 1968 while leading a reconnaissance-in-force operation in the enemy-infiltrated mountains near Da Nang. Late in the afternoon of 19 October, Captain Mayor detected movement on a nearby ridge and quickly positioned his company in an ambush formation. When the North Vietnamese force entered the killing zone, he imitated an attack with Claymore mines and grenades. After the successful skirmish, the unit continued to seek out the enemy. During the early morning hours of 25 October, the company's night position was hit by a hostile force that penetrated the defensive line and swarmed toward the command post. Captain Mayor immediately ordered his men to fire into the center of the camp, even though the members of the command post had only scant protection. After the perimeter troops, had unleashed a barrage on the invaders, the command group engaged the fleeing enemy soldiers at close range. Captain Mayor shot one hostile soldier and used his empty rifle to bludgeon another to death. The remnant North Vietnamese force fled into the jungle. Later in the day as communist mortar rounds began to pound the hill, Captain Mayor decided to break camp and capture a nearby hill held by a well-entranced enemy force. He located the site of the hostile mortar emplacement and called in artillery strikes on the North Vietnamese entrenchments. When the enemy soldiers were forced out of their bunkers by the devastating barrage, he led an assault up the hill-side. Suddenly his men were pinned down by strafing machine gun fire. Running and crawling forward through the fusillade, Captain Mayor neared the machine gun emplacement which he destroyed with a well-thrown grenade. Shortly afterward, his men successfully routed the enemy force and secured the hill. Captain Mayor'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 3398; 04 September 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

