



# STRIKE

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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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20 October –  
04 November 1967

**Operation WHEELER:** A/2-502 IN was returned to 2-502 IN BN control and continued working in assigned AO. Action for the next fifteen days was generally limited to sniper fire. On 1 November 1967, an airmobile raid was conducted in the vicinity of BT245165 by C/2-502 IN, the LRRP platoon, and the 2-502 IN BN, Recon platoon. The LRRP's and Recondos were employed as blocking forces and C/2-502 IN was the driving force. Following the raid, the LRRP's were extracted to the CP 1/35 IN, and C/2-502 IN and Recondos returned to the TAC CP 2-502 IN BN in preparation for planned operations in the southern portion of the AO. These plans were changed in reaction to current intelligence report. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation WHEELER; 24 November 1967)

20 October 1968

Screaming Eagle paratroopers killed six enemy and captured 46 weapons during more activity in NEVADA EAGLE. C/2-501 IN clashed with an NVA patrol and killed two enemy soldiers. A/2-501 IN also made contact resulting in four kills. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 4), Winter 1968-69)

20 October 1968

A/1-502 IN was at PHU VANG. B/1-502 IN conducting security of AN LO and mine sweep. The 1-3 ARVN regiment, working in our AO, vicinity YD6529, found 2 VC bodies attributed to D/1-502 IN, 8 days ago. D/1-502 IN engaged 3 VC, vicinity YD6438, with SA fire, with negative assessment. C/1-502 IN, 36 elements, at FSB T-BONE.

20 – 25 October 1968

2-502 IN BN, 3/7 ARVN Cav Troop, Nation Police Field Forces and Huang Thy RF's captured 24 VC in a soft cordon vicinity 9010, 9009, 8910 and 9011. Friendly losses were 1 US KIA and 5 US WIA. (Operational Report of 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

20 October 1969

**Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** A/1-502 IN continued to secure FSB ARSENAL and POHL BRIDGE while B/1-502 IN secured FSB BIRMINGHAM. C/1-502 IN conducted C/A to sensor string #35 and conducted a search in the same vicinity. D/1-502 IN conducted joint squad size patrols and night ambushes with 1 platoon from the 221<sup>st</sup> RF Company. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducted a blocking 3<sup>rd</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> ARVN Regiment and the Recon platoon of the same element. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon was extracted at 1740H to FSB BIRMINGHAM and became OPCON to B/1-502 IN.

20 October 1969 –  
06 March 1970

A/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon was involved in 11 combat assaults, conducted ground operations in the piedmont and deep jungle area south west of HUE in the "rocket belt" consisting of interdiction and denial of enemy use of the area and its routes of access to the HUE/PHU BAI populated area and manning nightly ambush locations, and when not in the field it took its turn in securing FB BIRMINGHAM, FB ARSENAL, FSB NORMANDY and the POHL BRIDGE where it completely rebuilt the defensive positions and refurbished/replaced the defensive weaponry around the bridge during the 12 days it was there. Fortunately, there were no hostile injuries during that time. The only personnel lost was a possible case of appendicitis and had to be extracted at night and a soldier who developed "conscientious objection" to our efforts there.



20 October 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 1-502 IN BN continued Operation JEFFERSON GLEN in sector Golf making maximum use of SP's and NA's with negative results.

20 October 1971

**Operation MONSOON DYNAMIC DEFENSE:** While conducting a sweep operation outside the perimeter of CAMP EAGLE, A/2-502 IN made contact with three VC which resulted in three VC KIA and the capture of three AK-47 automatic rifles, 50 lbs. of rice, one stove, a bag of documents and a diary.

20 October 1971

1-501 IN BN had initiated combined operation with RF.

21 October 1968

A new combined forces cordon battered the enemy at PHU VANG, 17km east of HUE. The search was conducted by troopers of the 1-501 IN BN who apprehended 54 suspects. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 4), Winter 1968-69)

21 October 1968

1-502 IN BN had negative enemy contact. PSYOPS personnel, led by CHU HOI, captured 60mm mortar. Two PACV's from Pistol Pete, started operating in northeast part of our AO, bounded by SONG BO and JUNG RIVERS. They picked up 1 VCS. Our S-3 acted as aerial observers for this operation.



21 – 25 October 1968

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Phase II was conducted. This phase consisted of the PHU BAI Cordon. The cordon was established around PHU BAI I and II for the purpose of conducting a screening of all personnel in the village and a search of the area. A/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, & D/2-502 IN and Recon of the 7<sup>th</sup> CAV ARVN, formed the cordon around the villages of PHU BAI I & II with the 7<sup>th</sup> CAV ARVN on the North side covering the road; units being in position no later than 063021OCT. Recon platoon of ARVN to search the Village and move the personnel out of the village to the screening point (YD897128).

**21OCT:**

0630H: A/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, and D/2-502 IN were in their assigned position of the cordon. Recon of the 7<sup>th</sup> CAV ARVN secured their portion at 0730h.

0800H: Recon platoon (2-502) and one platoon ARVN moved in to PHU BAI II and began moving the personnel out of the village by helicopter to the screening point.

0835H: A/2-502 IN (YD910108) received 2 rounds of sniper fire from unknown location with negative results.

0910H: D/2-502 IN (YD875116) received sniper fire from inside the cordon.

1127H: 742d ARVN platoon (YD913105) found 3 caves which were small, 2 - B40 Rocket rounds, 2 Blocks of C-4, 1 Claymore and 60 rounds of AK-47 ammo.

1630H: The screening point had processed 89 personnel. Results: 8xVCI, 1xVC Suspect, 1xlocal Guerrilla. All the personnel were sent to the province for further interrogation.

2105H: A/2-502 IN (YD905101) spotted one man trying to get through the cordon. A/2-502 IN engaged with small arms fire with results unknown.

2105H: D/2-502 IN (YD896125) received 5 or 6 rounds of automatic fire from inside the cordon with negative results.

2137H: A/2-502 IN (YD904101) engaged an unknown size force with small arms fire with negative results.

**22OCT:**

0017H: A/2-502 IN (YD905101) received RPG rounds from unknown size element.

0730H: Units began searching PHU BAI I and screening personnel.

1630H: 2-502 IN BN had processed 234 personnel.

**23OCT:**

0730H: 2-502 IN BN began searching PHU BAI VI and screening of personnel.

1630H: 125 personnel had been processed.

**24OCT:**

0730H: searching of PHU BAI III began. 227 personnel were screened with 3xVCI sent to the province for further interrogation.

- There were 675 personnel screened which resulted in 22xVCI, 1xVC, 1xVC KIA, and 1xVC suspect.

21 October 1969

**Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN continued to provide security for FSB BIRMINGHAM, FSB ARSENAL and POHL BRIDGE. C/1-502 IN conducted squad patrols and night ambushes with negative results. D/1-502 IN worked in conjunction with 221<sup>st</sup> RF Company, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon in squad patrols, night ambushes and training. The RF platoon was released at 0930H to NAM HOA District in preparation for exchanging platoons. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon remained at FSB BIRMINGHAM OPCON to B/1-502 IN.

21 October 1971

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon vicinity 835067 found one machete one to two weeks old and in good condition. Later at vicinity 848970 they found one pair of binoculars in good condition, serial number 190265, 6x30 power, about 1-2 weeks old. On the way to that location they found four M-16 magazines and one M-26 hand grenade.

21 October 1971

**Operation MONSOON DYNAMIC DEFENSE:** 2-502 IN BN again assumed responsibility of OP APOLLO and its surrounding area.

22 October 1966

**Operation SEWARD:** 2-502 IN BN conducted a coordinated attack to search a village complex vicinity CQ0373 suspected of being a VC stronghold. A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN moved into blocking positions, while C/2-502 IN and Recon platoon conducted airmobile assaults north and east of the complex to seal it off. Two .50 cal. machineguns were utilized in the operation when they were lifted to OP's which dominated the objective area. The sweep resulted in many VC's, who were subsequently evacuated to be processed for interrogation. (HQ, 2-502 IN, After Action Report, Operation SEWARD; 28 October 1966)

22 October 1967

**Operation WHEELER:** At 1824H, the tactical command post of the 2-502 IN (BT238126) received 26 rounds of 60mm mortar fire followed by six rounds of rocket fire (estimated B-40 rockets). Results were 8 US wounded (medevac). (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation WHEELER; 11 December 1967)

22 October 1968

A/1-502 IN was at PHU VANG. B/1-502 IN security of AN LO and mine sweep. C/1-502 IN worked with PACV's from Pistol Pete. D/1-502 IN was the only unit to make contact, they engaged 3 VC wounding 1. The other 2 fled carrying the wounded with them.

22 - 24 October 1968

In support of the 2-501 IN BN, which conducted a RIF operation during this period, the Chemical Section conducted six incendiary drum drops "Fireball" missions from CH-47 aircraft. A total of 170 55-gallon drums of fuel mix (50% diesel – 50% JP4) was dropped using a special sling loading technique. The burning fuel sustained fires that lasted approximately thirty minutes. The fires burned out the underbrush exposing booby-trap trip wire and causing several secondary explosions. Although not originally designed for use in support of troops in contact, the fireball missions were a highly successful addition to combat firepower for close support. The success of the mission can be attributed to the skill of the



CH-47 pilots, who responded to the ground commander's call and dropped the drums of fuel mix within 200 meters of the friendly units. (Operational Report of 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))

22 October 1969

**Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** A/1-502 IN continued to secure FSB ARSENAL and POHL BRIDGE. B/1-502 IN conducted an air move from FSB BIRMINGHAM to 3 different LZ's and conducted MAP's and SRRP's in the area of their LZ's. C/1-502 IN conducted MAP's with negative results. D/1-502 IN moved to FSB BIRMINGHAM to provide security at that location. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducted rappelling training and artillery fire adjustment at FSB BIRMINGHAM. The Recon platoon became OPCON to D/1-502 IN at 0900H.

22 October 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** General Berry visited FSB ARSENAL at 1020H and departed at 1045H. B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon vicinity 780066 found one 81mm HE round and blew it in place. At 1845H, CAMP EAGLE reported incoming. At 1850H, FSB BIRMINGHAM reports incoming. At 1857H, C/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad reports flashes at 2100 mills, range 7 kilometers. C/1-502 IN CP at FSB ARSENAL sighted flashes between NUI KE and BANANA Mountain. At 1926H, C/2-501, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon vicinity YD838005 reported thumping that sounded like mortars leaving the tube 3-4 kilometers, direction of 350 degrees. At 1945H, B/1-502 IN reported three rounds impacting outside wire at FSB ARSENAL. At 1955H, D/1-502 IN reported flashes at 2000 meters, direction 2800 mills. At 2029H, C/1-502 IN reported two more rounds impacted 500 meters, direction 150 degrees.

23 – 25 October 1966

**Operation SEWARD:** B/2-502 IN conducted a heliborne assault vicinity CQ051767, made a daylight feint to the west and then a clandestine night movement east to a concealed company sized base camp. A village sweep was conducted vicinity CQ070770 at 250555H October which netted 2 VC KIA (BC) and 2 VCC, the agricultural minister and the economics and finance minister of the hamlet. This sweep was conducted prior to dawn employing artillery illumination as an offensive weapon.

Upon completion of this sweep, the companies returned to their AO's and began security operations for B/39<sup>th</sup> Engineers which was in the process of opening route 6B to LA HAI and DONG TRE. (HQ, 2-502 IN, After Action Report, Operation SEWARD; 28 October 1966)

23 October 1968

B/1-502 IN while on AN LO BRIDGE security, engaged 1 VC with small arms, with negative assessment. The S-3 air sighted 2 VC from log bird and engaged, resulting in 2 VC KIA and 2 weapons.

23 October 1968

A/2-501 IN located 7 KM S of PHU LOC in SE THUA THIEN, received 45 rounds of 82mm mortar fire resulting in 8 Soldiers WIA. (III MAF; Commanders Daily Summary; III MAF TT 1201004061.pdf, page 30)

23 October 1969

**Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** A/1-502 IN provided security at FSB ARSENAL and POHL BRIDGE with 1 joint squad size ambush at YD757145. B/1-502 IN established night ambushes, squad patrols and conducted training with 1 platoon from 177<sup>th</sup> RF Company. C/1-502 IN conducted MAP's and RIF operations vicinity YD770073. D/1-502 IN conducted 2 Lifesaver missions until 1534H when they closed FSB BIRMINGHAM and conducted platoon training at that location.

23 October 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** General Berry and COL Root arrived at FSB ARSENAL at 100H and departed at 1024H. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon vicinity 852017, found ½ bag of alt and one clear plastic bag with Chinese writing and a sleeping position for three to five men about five days old. A high-speed trail 2 ½ feet wide runs N-S through the area. There were no signs of recent activity. C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> squad reported chopping sounds in the vicinity YD764037. Engaged with artillery and search produced negative results.

23 October 1971

1-501 IN BN: Typhoon Hester curtailed all tactical operations and inflicted minor damages to FSB TOMAHAWK.

24 – 25 October 1966

**Operation SEWARD:** At 0925H, 2-502 IN BN received word that an O-1 was downed 31 KM west of TUY AN. Gunships and a 14-man reaction force from C/2-502 IN were dispatched to secure an LZ for a dust-off of the two injured occupants. Within 90 minutes, complete destruction of the plane and extraction of the occupants was accomplished.

The Battalion remained in this posture until 24 October when extraction and return to the new base camp at TUY HOA South began, as the Battalion was relieved by the 3-8 IN BN, 4<sup>th</sup> ID, which assumed responsibility for TUY AN AO at 1130H at 25 October 1966. (HQ, 2-502 IN, After Action Report, Operation SEWARD; 28 October 1966)

24 October 1967

**Operation WHEELER:** At 1824H, TAC CP/2-502 IN vicinity BT239142 received mortar, rocket, and small arms fire. Hardest hit was the firebase collocated with the TAC CP. Results: 8 Arty WHA, 1 KHA, enemy casualties' unknown. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation WHEELER; 24 November 1967)

24 October 1968

A/1-502 IN was lifted from PHU VANG to vicinity YD8130. B/1-502 IN conducted security of AN LO. C/1-502 IN was lifted from FSB T-BONE (Pictured) to PHU VANG to assume security mission of A/1-502 IN.



- 24 October 1968 U.S and ARVN force in the THUA THIEN and QUANG NAM Provinces reported a total of 61 mortar rounds during the period. Resulting in negative casualties. The majority of incoming was concentrated in SE THUA THIEN where A/2-501 IN, located 7 kms of PHU LOC (ZC124940) received 50 rounds of 60mm mortar fire. (III MAF; Commanders Daily Summary; III MAF TT 1201004061.pdf, page 31)
- 24 October 1969 **Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** A/1-502 IN secured FSB ARSENAL and POHL BRIDGE. B/1-502 IN conducted squad ambush training and night ambushes with 1 platoon of the 177<sup>th</sup> RF Company. C/1-502 IN conducted MAP's and RIF operations to YD780089. D/1-502 IN secured FSB BIRMINGHAM with 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon OPCON and conducting training at that location.
- 24 October 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** Hurricane warning out today. Hurricane expected to hit tomorrow with windspeed up to 85 knots. At 2323H, PHU BAI received incoming. PHU BAI took 12 to 15 82mm rounds.
- 24 October 1970 At 1300H, four and one-half kilometers north of FS/OB BASTOGNE, a trooper from A/1-501 IN detonated an unknown type booby trap with an unknown type firing device located on a trail, resulting in one US soldier WIA. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)
- 24 October 1971 **Operation MONSOON DYNAMIC DEFENSE:** The weather conditions began to worsen the day the 2-502 IN BN assumed the AO. Typhoon Hester struck the AO on 24 October and by 25 October the winds had reached 90 mph. Nevertheless, the companies in the field patrolled their areas very aggressively as exemplified by C/2-502 IN. (2-502 IN Unit History, 1971)
- 25 October 1968 **Operation PHU VANG II** initiated. Based on the success of the previous PHU VANG, the 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV returned the 1-501 IN BN to team with the 54<sup>th</sup> ARVN Regiment to conduct further search and destroy - cordon and search operation in the PHU VANG District, eight miles southeast of HUE. Casualties: US 5 KIA; enemy 55 KIA, 67 POW.
- 25 October – 06 November 1968 **Operation PHU VANG II and III:** Incorporated elements of the 1-501 IN BN, 54<sup>th</sup> ARVN Regiment, Regional Force Companies, along with National Police and US Naval Forces. The objective of the operation was the destruction of the enemy, his supplies and installations in the rice growing area just east of HUE. Intelligence had been received indicating that the Viet Cong infrastructure was attempting to reestablish some control in PHU VANG, RUONG THUY and PHU THU Districts of THUA THIEN Province. Contemplated in the operation was the cordon and sweep of the area, followed by intensive search with emphasis on saturation patrolling, extensive night ambushes and rapid exploitation of intelligence information. The operation was promptly initiated with forces assuming their blocking positions. Once the cordon was established, the search of the area commenced with positive results. PHU VANG II and III was immensely successful since it dissolved the existent lines of continuity within the Viet Cong infrastructure, and resulted in heavy enemy losses of personnel and weapons. 55 killed, 67 prisoners of war (28 of whom were members of the Viet Cong infrastructure), and 60 individual weapons. (DA, Senior Officer Debriefing Report; MG Melvin Zais, CG, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Period 19 July – 25 May 1969)
- 25 October 1968 D/1-502 IN was the only unit making contact, they had engaged 2 VC with negative assessment. They found 3 cases of RPG rounds and other ammo, vicinity YD6453.
- 25 October – 02 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Phase III was conducted. This phase saw two companies followed by a third company move into the canopy area south of PHU LOC District HQ. This move was based upon intelligence reports that elements of the K4B NVA BN were operating in that area. This disposition of the 2-502 IN BN at the beginning of this phase was as follows: A/2-502 IN and D/2-502 IN were moved by truck to their new AO, B/2-502 IN OPCON to 1-327 IN BN, C/2-502 IN OPCON to 2-501 IN BN, E/2-502 IN was responsible for FSB Anzio (Pictured), and the CP was moved to FSB Old Hickory (ZD088007).



- 25 October 1968 The majority of incoming was again concentrated in the PHU LOC area of SE THUA THIEN. Elements of 2-501 IN BN, located 6 km SE of PHU LOC, received a total of 60 rounds of 60mm mortar fire resulting in negative casualties. (III MAF; Commanders Daily Summary; III MAF TT 1201004061.pdf, page 31)
- 25 October 1968 Heavy enemy ground fire downed an LOH-6 Aircraft SSE of CAMP EVANS in THUA THIEN. The majority of incoming was again concentrated in the PHU LOC area of SE THUA THIEN. Elements of 2-501 IN BN located 6 km SE of PHU LOC, received a total of 60 rounds of 60mm mortar fire resulting in negative casualties. (III MAF; Commanders Daily Summary; III MAF TT 1201004061.pdf, page 32)
- 25 October 1969 **Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** All elements of the 1-502 IN BN remained in their same configuration as of 24 October.
- 25 October 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** At 0005H, POHL BRIDGE reported 4-5 large explosions in rapid succession. It may have been incoming, but the distance was too great to determine. The rounds landed south of POHL BRIDGE and south NAM HOA. During a stream crossing vicinity 839032, one Soldier from 1-502 IN BN, Recon lost his M-16 rifle.



25 - 26 October 1971

**Operation MONSOON DYNAMIC DEFENSE:** A patrol from C/2-502 IN while moving in to check three grass huts, observed and engaged on NVA. Three other NVA fled from one of the huts and were engaged by the patrol which resulted in an unknown number of casualties. The company followed the blood trails in an attempt to locate the enemy but had to give up the chase because of heavy rain and wind from Typhoon Hester. The following day the C/2-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon received fire from an unknown size enemy force resulting in negative casualties. (2-502d IN Unit History, 1971)

26 October 1968

A harassing enemy mortar attack was launched against A/2-501 IN and D/2-501 IN as the enemy tried to elude pursuing Screaming Eagles 35km southeast of HUE. Cobra gunships from 2-17 CAV retaliated and silenced the mortar tubes killing six enemy. The companies maintained pressure on the enemy causing him to leave three bodies behind. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 4), Winter 1968-69)

26 – 31 October 1968

1-501 IN BN, ARVN, D/1-502 IN and RF/PF elements conducted a soft cordon operation in the vicinity of YD8322, the same area as the cordon conducted during 27 Sept – 10 Oct. Following the establishment of the cordon on 26 Oct, the ARVN, RF/PF and NPF forces swept through the cordoned area engaging the VC elements and the hamlets and capturing several. The operation ended on 6 November 1968. The operation ended on 6 November and the final results were:

Friendly Losses

1 US KHA  
6 US WHA  
3 ARVN KHA  
12 ARVN WHA  
1 RF/PF KHA  
7 RF/PF WHA

Enemy Losses

56 VC KIA  
6 VC/POW  
1 NVA/POW  
60 Individual Weapons Captured  
3 Hoi Chanhhs  
7 Civil Defendants

(Operational Report of 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))

26 October 1968

A/1-502 IN detained 1 VCS, vicinity YD7132. B/1-502 IN conducted security of AN LO BRIDGE. C/1-502 IN (-) was at PHU VANG. D/1-502 IN was OPCON to 1-501 IN BN, C/1-502 IN, 26 elements at FSB T-BONE (Pictured). Recon was at FSB Apache.



26 October 1969

**Operation REPUBLIC SQUARE:** A/1-502 IN conducted a C/A from FSB ARSENAL to YD774050 and YD766049. A/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon combined with elements of 221<sup>st</sup> RF Company and established a night ambush at YD766144. B/1-502 IN conducted squad ambushes and training with 1 platoon of the 177<sup>th</sup> RF Company. C/1-502 IN conducted an air move at 1405H to POHL BRIDGE and FSB ARSENAL to provide security at those locations. D/1-502 and Recon platoon remained at FSB BIRMINGHAM and provided security.

26 October 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 1-501 IN BN continued operations in the FS/OB BASTOGNE area. The 2-502 IN BN continued the mission of division ready force and conducted refresher training at CAMP EAGLE. The 2BDE CP remained at PHU BAI Camp Base and maintained liaison with the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment (ARVN). The 2-501 IN BN continued operations south and southeast of FS/OB BRICK while the 1-502 IN BN continued operations in the FS/OB ARSENAL area.

26 October 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** Engineers at POHL BRIDGE estimate it will take 3-6 days to remove debris piled up under the bridge from the storm. Debris extends 6-12 feet deep below the water line. D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> squad found six bunkers and twelve foxholes about one year old. A two-foot-wide trail ran through the area north to south. There were no signs of recent activity. 1-502 IN BN, Recon recovered the M-16 they lost on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 81mm mortar section saw a light at 285-degree direction, 200 meters across the river from FSB ARSENAL. Light was moving south and five 81mm HE was fired on grid 797078.



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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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3 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (2 x Posthumously)  
11 x Bronze Star Medal (11 x Posthumously)  
12 x Purple Heart Medal (12 x Posthumously)  
1 x Died of Wounds  
1 x Died of Non-Hostile actions

20 October 1967



SP4 Wayne A. Colantuono (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from fragmentation wounds when he was hit by a fragment from hostile grenade while setting up perimeter 9km East of TIEN PHUOC in the province QUAN TIN, Republic of Vietnam.

20 October 1968



SP4 Robert E. Rehder (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 while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in a firefight in the province THUA THIEN, Republic of Vietnam.

20 October 1968



SGT Jimmy L. Howard (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) SGT Howard died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty while working as supply clerk when another individual dropped a weapon which discharged, striking SGT Howard; in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

20 October 1971



SFC Billie L. Coleman (E/2-501 IN) died from wounds from Non-hostile burns as a ground casualty during a bunker explosion 15km S-W CAM RANH BAY Airfield on October 05<sup>th</sup>, in the NINH THUAN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 October 1967



SP4 James M. McCormick (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gun shot wound received while on a combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire during operations 9 to 12km east of TIEN PHUOC in the QUAN TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 October 1967



CPL Daniel J. Ryan (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gun shot wound received when he was hit by hostile sniper fire while on combat operation 9km east of TIEN PHUOC in the QUAN TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



22 October 1968



PFC James M. Holmes (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 while on combat operation when a hostile mine was detonated in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 October 1968



SP4 William W. Lester (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when area came under hostile mortar attack in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

23 October 1968



PFC Robert L. Jones (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from pulmonary embolism which developed from wound received while on combat operation when hit by fragment from hostile mine. Wounds in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Jones was admitted to a military hospital, placed on the SI list, and later expired.

23 October 1971



SP4 Lonnie W. Mitchell (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and served during Vietnam. SP4 Mitchell died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty when he suffered injuries when a tree fell on him during a storm 20km South of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 October 1967



SFC Garold T. Wilson (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 from fragment wounds received while on perimeter guard when hit by fragments from hostile mortar round 8km E-NE of TIEN PHUOC in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 October 1968



SGT Robert T. Dunn (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously). SGT Dunn died from burns received while passenger aboard a military aircraft on a resupply mission when the aircraft crashed and burned 7km S-SE of PHU LOC in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SGT Dunn was admitted to a military hospital, placed on the VSI list, and later died.

25 October 1965



SP4 Joseph R. Sweda (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes from Malaria as a ground casualty in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

25 October 1967



SP4 Donald R. Foster (B/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 which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation 8km E-NE of TIEN PHUOC in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.





25 October 1967



MAJ Richard K. Boyd Jr. (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 from fragment wound received when he was hit by hostile grenade fragment while on perimeter defense in NDP 8km E-NE of TIEN PHUOC in the QUANG HGAI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 October 1969



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

26 October 1969



PFC James Jones (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 on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 October 1969



SGT Richard M. Logan (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 a combat operation when mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by friendly fire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 October 1972



SP4 Ronnie D. Beets (B/2-502 IN) died from wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds 11km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC on 13 August 1967 in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



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

23 October 1968



PSG James D. Kyzer (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 October 1968. Platoon Sergeant Kyzer distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Sergeant of the Second Platoon; Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, in the mountains northwest of DA NANG, THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, Company A participated in a planned search and clear mission through an area known to be controlled by a North Vietnamese Army regiment. As the Second Platoon approached the crest of a peak, the lead element was engaged by exceedingly heavy automatic weapons fire and was unable to maneuver. Sergeant Kyzer immediately took his portion of the platoon and moved to flank the enemy. In doing so, he came under fire from a sniper. His radio was hit and was no longer functional, so he had no contact with the portion of the platoon which was unable to maneuver forward. He worked himself to the front of the platoon in order to try locating the sniper. Sergeant Kyzer located and mortally wounded the sniper, and the element continued its offensive drive. As his element neared the enemy, it came under fire from two directions. Realizing that the other half of the platoon had not shifted its fire, he began to crawl through the heavy enemy fire to get to the other element. With no radio, the task of shifting the fire was accomplished only through his personal gallant actions. With the fire shifted and the sniper eliminated, the entire platoon continued the assault and routed the hostile force. Sergeant Kyzer'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 3758; 25 April 1969)

24 October 1967



SSG Garold T. Wilson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 24 October 1967 near CHU LAI, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Wilson distinguished himself by his courage and his intense devotion to duty and to his men. While in a defensive perimeter, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, came under intense enemy mortar and automatic weapons fire. Two members of Sergeant Wilson's platoon were wounded and lay in an exposed position. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Wilson left his relatively safe position and rushed through the murderous enemy fire and dragged the two men to safety. Just as Sergeant Wilson reached cover with second man, he was mortally wounded by an enemy mortar round. Because of their exposed position, Sergeant Wilson's gallant act undoubtedly saved the lives of the two wounded men. Staff Sergeant Wilson's gallant display of courage and unselfish concern for the lives of his fellow Soldiers were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD, General Orders Number 1507; 02 December 1967)

24 October 1968



CPT Michael H. Feurer (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 October 1968. Captain Feurer distinguished himself while serving as Commanding Officer of Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Captain Feurer was leading his company on a reconnaissance in force mission in the jungle near HUE, Republic of Vietnam. The lead platoon came under a heavy volume of fire. The initial burst wounded several men including the platoon leader. Captain Feurer immediately moved forward and assumed command of the platoon. It soon became apparent to Captain Feurer that he was engaging heavily fortified bunker systems that were extremely formidable. As the platoon closed in on the enemy stronghold, Captain Feurer advanced to the front of his unit to determine the extent of the enemy's defenses and the overall strength of the positions. As soon as he came within view of the positions, enemy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire churned up the earth within inches of his position. The fire increased, severely wounding two men, and making it extremely dangerous for the wounded to be carried to the rear of the column. Captain Feurer organized a small group of volunteers to aid and carry the wounded. He exposed himself to the enemy fire several times in order to reach the fallen men. He then moved to the forward portion of the platoon and directed helicopter gunship fire on the enemy. As the helicopters were firing, Captain Feurer withdrew his forces from the point of contact but remained behind to cover the withdrawal of his men. Captain Feurer's expert knowledge and courageous actions resulted in the evacuation of several wounded men and the safer withdrawal of the company. Captain Feurer remained within twenty meters of the enemy position, continuing to call in gunship support. When he felt sure the company was in a good position, he began to pull back. Captain Feurer and his radio telephone operator had only moved five meters when the radio telephone operator was wounded. Disregarding his own safety, Captain Feurer carried his radio-telephone operator to safety. After Captain Feurer evacuated all the wounded, he called for a resupply of ammunition. As the helicopter came in, it crashed not more than one-hundred meters from the point of contact. He very quickly organized his men and secured a medical evacuation helicopter in order to save four of the men injured in the crash. The entire operation took place after dark and the enemy taking advantage of the company's precarious situations, began a mortar barrage. Captain Feurer continued to evacuate the seriously injured men as the enemy rounds came closer and closer to the hastily constructed landing zone. Captain Feurer's exceptional valor is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 11230; 28 December 1968)



# ACRONYMS

ACAV: Armored Cavalry  
ACD: Air Cavalry Division  
AD: Americal Division  
AD: Airborne Division (Would be after numeric numbers)  
AO: Area of Operations  
ARA: Aerial Rocket Artillery  
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal  
ARVN: Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA))  
BDE: Brigade  
BN: Battalion  
BSM: Bronze Star Medal  
BBT: Booby Traps  
CA: Combat Assault  
CANOPY: Heavily Wooded Terrain  
CAV: Cavalry  
CO: Company  
CP: Command Post  
DIV: Division  
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross  
DZ: Drop Zone  
ENG: Engineer  
FSB: Fire Support Base  
HQ: Headquarters  
IED: Improvised Explosive Device  
IFFV: I Field Force Vietnam  
IN: Infantry  
KBA: Killed by Air or Artillery  
KHA: Killed by Hostile Action  
KIA: Killed in Action  
KNHA: Killed by Non-Hostile Action  
LZ: Helicopter Landing Zone  
MI: Military Intelligence  
MOH: Medal of Honor  
MP: Military Police  
NDP: Night Defensive Position  
NVA: North Vietnamese Army  
OBJ: Objective  
OP: Observation Post  
PAVN: People Army of Vietnam  
POW: Prisoner of War  
PF: Popular Forces  
PZ: Helicopter Pick-up Zone  
Recon Platoon: Reconnaissance Platoon  
RIF: Reconnaissance in Force  
RF: Regional Force  
ROK: Republic of Korea  
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

