



STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



September 4th – September 10th 2016

Issue: 12

Brief History of the 501st, 502nd and 2nd Brigade

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



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



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



During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501st Infantry Regiment, 502nd Infantry Regiment and 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division deployed in support of the Vietnam War the following are from After Action Reports, Staff Duty Logs, and Personal Accounts.

04 September 1966

Operation JOHN PAUL JONES: A/2-502 IN made contact with an unknown size force vicinity BQ 99517 resulting in 5 NVA KIA and 2 RPD machine guns, 3 AK-47 submachine guns and numerous rounds of ammunition captured. One platoon of Bravo Company was inserted as a follow up force into the area occupied by 2nd Squadron, 8th Cavalry. This platoon had contact with one VC resulting in one VC KIA and one US carbine captured. Charlie Company conducted a heliborne assault on multiple LZ's located vicinity CQ 020495 and CQ 026847 with negative contact. (DA, HQ, 2-502 IN, After Action Report, Operation JOHN PAUL JONES; 10 September 1966)

04 – 09
September 1967

Operation COOK. Search and destroy mission conducted by Co "B", 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde, as part of Task Force Oregon in the villages and hamlets around the Duc Pho area, Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles' northeast of Saigon. One of the radio operators uses two radios to call in an air strike and a helicopter to evacuate a wounded soldier.



04 – 05
September 1968

1-502 IN had no contact was made, C/1-502 IN replaced company A/1-502 In on An Lo Bridge security.



05 September 1966

Operation JOHN PAUL JONES: A/2-502 IN had contact with unknown size enemy force at BQ 999517 resulting in 1 NVAC and 1 NVA KIA and 1 AK-47 captured. Another contact with 7 enemy later that day produced negative results. At 051830H September 1966, Bravo Company was relieved of security for BDE (-) perimeter by 1/22 IN and conducted a heliborne assault at BQ 980598 with negative contact. Charlie Company conducted a heliborne assault on multiple LZ's located at CQ 012513 and conducted RECONDO CHECKERBOARD too northeast with negative contact. (DA, HQ, 2-502 IN, After Action Report, Operation JOHN PAUL JONES; 10 September 1966)

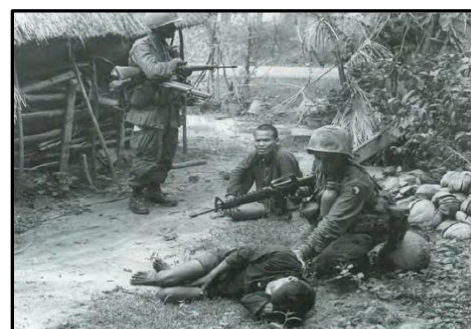
05 September 1966

Operation JOHN PAUL JONES: Frustrated by the lack of results, General Person terminated Operation JOHN PAUL JONES. (Weekly Sum, 14-20 Aug 66, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div; AAR, Opn JOHN PAUL JONES, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, p. 4; Combat Operations, Steaming the Tide, May 1965 to October 1966, John M Carland)

05 September 1966

Operation SEWARD: This Operation was conducted from 5 September to 25 October in Phy Yen Province. The operation was conducted in four separate phases: Phase I was conducted in the area northwest of Tuy Hoa, Phase II was at Tu Bong, Southwest of Vung Ro Bay, Phase III was a return to the area northwest of Tuy Hoa and Phase IV was conducted in Tuy An District, North of Tuy Hoa.

This operation began with the 2-502 Battalion deploying with Alpha Company and Charlie Company pushing north where Bravo Company had established a blocking position after conducting a heliborne assault to an LZ located at DQ980561. On the night of 4 September, the Recondo Platoon was located at the TAC CP as the Battalion reserve, while the Heavy Mortar Platoon was at Tuy Hoa South on standby alert. (DA, HQ, 2-502 IN, After Action Report, Operation SEWARD; 28 October 1968)



Paratroopers guard Viet Cong suspect captured during SEWARD



05 September 1967

Operation COOK: 2/502 IN with 1 Company of Mike Force OPCON made airmobile assault into SEBRET AO & Commenced Operation COOK. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's log; 05 September 1967)

05 September 1967

Operation COOK: At 0920, A/2-502 IN at BS505677 encountered numerous punji stakes on LZ continuing mission 4 WIA's will be evacuated. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's log; 05 September 1967)

05 September 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: Operation Texas Star was terminated and Operation Jefferson Glen began. The final results for Operation Texas Star were: 37 US KIA, 290 US WIA, 288 Medevac'd. Enemy casualties known are 228 KIA, 61 KBA and 2 PW's. 2/502 IN performed in an outstanding manner, and moved anxiously into Operation Jefferson Glen.

06 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. A UH-1D helicopter carrying the Brigade Commander comes in for a landing at the Battalion Command Post. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



06 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. BG Salve H. Matheson (Los Angeles, California), CG, 101st Abn Bde, leaves the UH-1D helicopter for a briefing at the Battalion Command Post. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



06 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. BG Salve H. Matheson (Los Angeles, California), CG, 101st Abn Bde, is briefed on the tactical movements of the brigade by LTC Ralph Puckett, Jr., CO, 2nd Bn, at the Battalion Command Post. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



06 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. BG Salve H. Matheson (Los Angeles, California), CG, 101st Abn Bde, is briefed on the tactical movements of the brigade by LTC Ralph Puckett, Jr., CO, 2nd Bn, at the Battalion Command Post. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



06 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. MSG Elmer C. Calloway (Camden, North Carolina), S-2 Intelligence, and a South Vietnamese Army interpreter examine a Viet Cong map found in a captured map case. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



06 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of 2nd BN, 502nd IN, 101st ABN BDE.

BG Salve H. Matheson (Los Angeles, Cal), CG, 101st ABN BDE, talks with officers of the Battalion after the briefing at the Battalion Command Post. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



06 – 14
September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Heavy rains (typhoon) during early September caused the operation to come to a halt for three days, ending on 6 Sept. when extraction of STRIKE Force elements to the Rear for a stand down was begun. The stand down activities and Unit Proficiency Training was conducted 7-14 Sept.

06 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: 2/502 Battalion remained at Camp Eagle and conducted refresher training until this day, when operation began in a new area of operations around FSB Normandy. There was no enemy contact on this date.

07 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st ABN DIV. A South Vietnamese Army interpreter questions a Viet Cong Prisoner and then gives the prisoners answers to CPT Dennis K Anderson Intelligence Officer for the Battalion S-2. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



07 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. A South Vietnamese Army interpreter questions a Viet Cong prisoner and then gives the prisoners answers to CPT Dennis K. Anderson (Crookstown, Minnesota), Intelligence Officer for the Battalion S-2. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



07 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. SFC Irving C. Futch (San Antonio, Texas), medical specialist, applies medicine to a Vietnamese boy's ear which is infected during a MEDCAP mission for ailing Vietnamese villagers in the Xuan Vinh Refugee Resettlement Camp as part of Operation Cook. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



07 September 1967

Operation COOK: At 0935H, B/2-502 IN at BS 478688 had contact with unknown size enemy force; engaged enemy requested gunships with results of 1 US KIA, 3 US WHA and negative enemy results. (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log, 07 September 1967)

07 September 1967

Operation COOK: At 1125H, Recon/2-502 IN at BS502662 discovered a hootch complex consisting of 25 hootches, one long building used as a classroom and also numerous bunkers were in the area; area has not been used recently and platoon continuing to search and destroy; results area being destroyed. (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log, 07 September 1967)

07 September 1967

Operation COOK: Summary of day's events: B/2-502 engaged a unit size VC force which shot at C&C Ships results 2 KHA, 2 WHA; Recon Platoon found and destroyed hootch complex; Charlie Company captured 1 VC; Alpha Company killed 1 NVA nurse. Officer on Duty: CPT Otstott (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log, 07 September 1967)

07 September 1968

A/1-502 IN killed 1 VC and captured 2, vic. YD7030, the company found weapons cache with 26 weapons, vic. YD6234. C/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge and established local ambushes. Recon/1-502 killed 2 VC and captured 1 VC, vic. YD7334.

07 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: B/2-502 IN 1st Platoon spotted 3 to 4 NVA lying in the sun. ARA and artillery were employed resulting in three enemy killed.

08 September 1967

Operation COOK: Elements of Co "A", 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde, move to and secure a Landing Zone on a mountain top in the Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, after suspension of Operation "Cook". Members of Co "A" move to the perimeter of the Landing Zone to recon by fire the valley below the mountain after receiving sniper fire from the Viet Cong. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. Members of HQS Co hold the flag pole erect as others place rocks and dirt around the base to hold it in place on top of Ranger Hill, the units command post. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. Members of Hqs Co prepare to raise the United States flag on top of Ranger Hill, the units command post. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: A search and destroy mission conducted in the mountains of Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles' northeast of Saigon, by elements of the 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde. The United States flag flies on Ranger Hill after it was raised by members of Co "A" at their Command Post. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: Elements of Co "A", 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde, move to secure a landing zone on a mountain top in the Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles' northeast of Saigon, after suspension of Operation Cook. A UH-1D helicopter, carrying supplies and hot chow for members of Co "A", prepares to land at the Landing Zone. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: Elements of Co "A", 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde, move to secure a landing zone on a mountain top in the Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles' northeast of Saigon, after suspension of Operation Cook. PFC Michal J. Mendoza (Piedmont, California), rifleman, recons by fire, using a M-16 rifle, into a valley below the perimeter where sniper fire was received from. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: Elements of Co "A", 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde, move to secure a landing zone on a mountain top in the Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, after suspension of Operation Cook. SP4 Leo C. Pugh (Haines City, Florida), medic, and dresses the leg wound of SP4 Paul L. Gibson (Miami, Florida), rifleman, who was wounded by a Viet Cong punji stick while moving back to the Landing Zone. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: Elements of Co "A", 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde, move to secure a landing zone on a mountain top in the Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, after suspension of Operation "Cook." Members of Co "A" go through the chow line to receive their first hot meal in the past five days. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: Elements of Co "A", 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde, move to secure a landing zone on a mountain top in the Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, after suspension of Operation Cook. SSG Reyes M. Ruiz (Uvaide, Texas), PSG, serves peaches and ice cream to PFC Edward R. Horton (Charlotte, North Carolina), assistant machine gunner. This is the first hot meal the company received in five days. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: Elements of Co "A", 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde, move to and secure a Landing Zone on a mountain top in the Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, after suspension of Operation "Cook". SP4 Hendrick Greenwold (Diary, N.H. [New Hampshire]), known throughout the company for his Mohawk haircut, eats his first hot meal in the past five days. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: Elements of Co "A", 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Bde, move to secure a landing zone on a mountain top in the Quang Ngai Province, approximately 320 miles northeast of Saigon, after suspension of Operation Cook. PFC Edward R. Horton (Charlotte, North Carolina), assistant machine gunner, reads a book while waiting to be heli-lifted from the landing zone. (Photo taken by SP5 Robert C Lafoon; US Army SP Photo Detachment; PAC; Provided by Fold3.com)



08 September 1967

Operation COOK: At 1510H, Lighting struck radio/relay stations; results 2 US Killed, 6 US Injured. (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log, 08 September 1967)

08 September 1967

Operation COOK: Summary of day's events: 2/502 IN with 1 Company of Mike Forcer OPCON continues to search and destroy in assigned AO. At 1445H MIKE Force began extraction from AO terminating OPCON. Companies moved to and secured PZ's for extraction on 09 September 1967 upon termination of Operation COOK. Official on Duty: SSG Clifford C. Curliss (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log, 08 September 1967)

08 September 1968

A/1-502 captured 2 female VC, vic. YD7030. They killed 2 VC and captured 2, vic. YD65?? The VC fled, dropping 2 weapons. Blood trails were found but no bodies. B/1-502 killed 1 VC and discovered 18 individual weapons and 8 MG, vic. YD6234. Recon/1-502 killed 2 VC, vic. YD7333.

09 September 1967

Operation COOK: Summary of day's events: Operation COOK was ended and 2/502 IN was extracted and moved to Chu Lai, and preparing for new operation. Official on Duty: CPT Correll (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log, 09 September 1967)

09 September 1968

1-502 had very light contact. B/1-502 sprang an ambush on 2 VC, vic. YD6035, resulting in 2 VC KIA.

09 September 1968

A sweep of the flooded coastal plain by troopers from the 2nd Brigade gathered 15 detainees. Airborne infantrymen aboard choppers were able to remove stranded suspects on the coastal plain, as "Bess" left the area in watery confusion.

10 - 20

September 1968

The first of the soft cordon operations was conducted on the peninsula of Vioh Loc, a long time VC stronghold. The operation began with the 2-54 and 3-5L ARVN BN's occupying blocking positions west of Vinh Loc Island from YD 940204 to ZD 026110 on 10 Sep to drive the enemy across the water into Vinh Loc (D). Simultaneously, D/1-501 Inf conducted RIF operations near TD 9424 to force the enemy towards the southwest and into Vinh Loc (D). At first light on 11 Sep, 3/7 ARVN Cav Trp moved from Col Co Beech (TD 8632) southeast and occupied a blocking position to block the escape routes to the northwest from the island. At 0700 hrs 1-501 Inf and 1-54 ARVN Bn's combat assaulted into seven separate LZ's. As the combat assault was in progress, the 3/7 CAV TRP swept down from its blocking position and linked up with the 1-54 ARVN BN. As the 1-501 Inf moved off their LZ's, PF platoons were lifted from the Vinh Loc (D) headquarters and joined the US infantry companies. All units then attacked rapidly to the south in their zones, using the Special Branch Forces and NPPF teams for search, interrogation and identification of the suspects detained. (Operational Report of 101st Airborne Division for Period Ending 21 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))



10 September 1968

A/1-502 continued RIF, vic. YD6630, finding 5 tons of rice, killing 1 VC in a bunker and capturing 2 VCS. A/1-502 engaged 5 VC, vic. YD6730 from ambush, with Negative results. C/1-502 moved to FSB Mongoose, OPCON to 1/501. D/1-502 moved to An Lo Bridge to assume bridge security.



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

1 x Distinguished Service Cross
1 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)
5 x Bronze Star Medal (5 x Posthumously)
2 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
2 x Soldiers Medal (1 x Posthumously)
11 x Purple Heart Medal (11 x Posthumously)
2 x Died of Non-Hostile Injury or Illness

05 September 1965



SGT Lawrence E. Jackson (C/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from head injuries while on combat patrol when the patrol was ambushed by hostile force a Military Region and Province Unknown, Republic of Vietnam.

05 September 1966

PFC Mack A. Knight (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to chest and abdomen received in hostile ground action in the Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam.

05 September 1966



PFC Russell B. Walker (HHC/2-502 IN) died from accidental homicide in the Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 September 1967



SFC Ray A. Archuletta (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death of gunshot wounds received from hostile automatic weapons fire while on combat operation near Duc Pho in the Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 September 1967



CPL Ronald P. Cherrstrom (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death of gunshot wounds received from hostile automatic weapons fire while on combat operation near Duc Pho in the Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 September 1968



SP4 George R. Dorchak (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit which resulted in his death when he drowned during a river crossing while on combat operation and was classified as MIA and later classified as KIA on 27 September 1968 in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 September 1966

PFC Tommy Morales (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to the chest received during a firefight in Phu Tuan 20k from Tuy Hoa in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



08 September 1967



SP4 Curtis E. Cothran (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit. SP4 Cothran died while he was struck by lightning while putting up radio antenna in the Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 September 1967



PFC William K. Elliott (HHC/2-502 IN) died while he was struck by lightning while putting up radio antenna in the Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 September 1968



SGT Michael P. Whelan (E/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when a grenade he was preparing to throw detonated prematurely in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

09 September 1970

SGT Wilford A. Young (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit. SGT died when he was struck by rotor blade from helicopter crash land in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

09 September 1970

1LT Thomas E. Hart (C/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

09 September 1970

The following Soldiers: SGT Richard M. McGowan and SP4 Felton R. Hooper (C/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam.

10 September 1966



PFC Alfred L. Stonehouse (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to left leg and back received when he walked in front of ambush attack and was shot by friendly force fire in the Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 September 1968



PFC Alan J. Meisheid (A/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile booby trap in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 September 1968



SP4 Patrick D. Fay (B/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile booby trap in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 September 1968



PFC Daniel L. Carr (C/1-501 IN) Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile booby trap in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

07 September 1967



SFC Ray A. Archuletta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (2-OLC) (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action on 7 September 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Archuletta distinguished himself as his platoon was moving a wounded man to a landing zone to be extracted when they were suddenly brought under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. Seeing his machine gunner wounded, Sergeant Archuletta ordered his evacuation while he rushed forward with complete disregard for his own safety and in spite of the enemy fire to provide covering fire. As the wounded man was too heavy to be carried by the medic, Sergeant Archuletta again moved through the fire and helped carry him to the safety of a nearby wood line position. Nearing the wood line, Sergeant Archuletta was seriously wounded and in one last valiant effort he ordered the medic to take the wounded man to safety as he stayed behind and expended his ammunition to provide the covering fire. The outstanding gallantry, devotion to his fellow soldier, and his intense dedication to duty displayed by Staff Sergeant Archuletta 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, Americal Division, General Order Number 894; 18 October 1967)

07 September 1967



PFC Ronald P. Cherrstrom (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private Cherrstrom distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 7 September 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. While on a search and destroy mission, Private Cherrstrom's squad was approaching a landing zone to evacuate a wounded comrade when they were suddenly brought under heavy volumes of enemy automatic weapons fire. Private Cherrstrom, with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed forward through the withering hail of enemy fire and fell to the ground in an exposed area in order to place effective fire on the enemy positions. He then called to the rest of his squad to fall back to a safer position while he covered them with his machine gun fire. Enemy automatic weapons fire swept his position, but he courageously and calmly continued to place very effective fire into the enemy positions, killing two enemy Soldiers and knocking out one of the automatic weapons positions. While still placing effective fire into the enemy positions another enemy automatic weapons opened fire on him from his flank and mortally wounded him. Private Cherrstrom's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 2007; 29 September 1967)

08 September 1966

SGT Burrwood Yost, Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Yost distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 8 September 1966 while serving as squad leader during a search and destroy mission near Tuy Hoa. As the last helicopter of the platoon landed, the whole unit received intense hostile fire from three sides. Sergeant Yost observed a partially concealed, friendly machine gun, whose ammunition lay 50 meters away. Calling for suppressive fire, with complete disregard for his safety, Sergeant Yost ran across the 50 meters of open terrain to deliver the ammunition. Later, while receiving intense hostile fire, he organized a fire team that was cut off from its leader. During this action he dove for an incoming grenade and hurled it into the open where it exploded harmlessly, an action which he subsequently repeated three times. He then jumped up and charged a machine gun position 50 meters away and succeeded in killing the surprised Viet Cong. Sergeant Yost repeatedly threw grenades into the hostile emplacements while receiving hostile fire. This enabled the platoon to drive the Viet Cong out of their entrenched positions. Later, while in pursuit of the insurgents, Sergeant Yost led his squad to within very close range of a prepared hostile force before being detected. To clarify the positions of the Viet Cong, Sergeant Yost called to the insurgents to draw their fire. Instructing his machine gunner to lay down a base of fire, Sergeant Yost threw grenades into the enemy positions, forcing them to withdraw. Sergeant Yost'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. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 6752 (December 10, 1966))



08 September 1967

CPT Ward L Jones (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Soldiers Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy. Captain Jones distinguished himself by heroic action and personal bravery on 8 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. After being informed that four men from the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry had been struck by lightning and were in extremely critical condition, Captain Jones immediately volunteered to go in to administer professional medical attention. The Medevac helicopter would not go in because of the very hazardous weather conditions of heavy thunderstorm, thick fog and zero visibility. Shortly thereafter, Captain Jones learned that the pilot of the command and control helicopter had volunteered his professional services in order to save the lives of the injured troopers. When the pilot had landed his helicopter on the hastily prepared landing zone, Captain Jones immediately jumped out and went to assist in the loading of the wounded men, to ensure that they were properly cared for. Immediately after lifting off, the area was once again struck by lightning and Captain Jones was asked to come back again after he had administered the needed medical attention to the injured men enroute to the hospital. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Captain Jones, without hesitation again offered his services and made the journey through the severe weather conditions and was instrumental in saving the lives of four men. Captain Jones' heroic actions in the face of danger were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon



himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, Americal Division, General Orders Number 793; 4 October 1967)

09 September 1970

SP4 Wilford A. Young (C/1-502 IN) earned the Soldiers Medal (Posthumously) for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 09 September 1970. Specialist Young distinguished himself while serving as a radio telephone operator in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during resupply operations in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. After guiding a resupply helicopter into the landing zone, Specialist Yong quickly unloaded the aircraft, knowing there were hostile Soldiers in the area. As the helicopter began to ascend, Specialist Young noticed supplies caught on one of the skids and realized that they might throw the aircraft off balance. He immediately rushed forward to warn the pilot of the hazard and was mortally wounded by the rotary blade. His action averted a possible helicopter crash. Specialist Young's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 11898; 26 January 1970)



ACRONYMS

AD: Americal Division
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
CO: Company
CP: Command Post
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross
DZ: Drop Zone
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
ROK: Republic of Korea
SA: Situational Awareness
SIGINT: Signal Intelligence
SSM: Silver Star Medal
STRIKE Force: 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry
SVA: South Vietnamese Army
TF: Task Force
TOC: Tactical Operations Center
USAV: United States Army Vietnam
WIA: Wounded in Action
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action
WNHA: Wounded by Non-Hostile Action
"V": Valor
VC: Viet Cong

