



STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



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Issue: 32

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

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



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



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



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

22 January 1968



Operation JEB STUART: Just prior to the TET Offensive, the units of 2BDE deployed north of I Corps to join the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Operation Jeb Stuart. Initially landing and setting up at the Phu Bai airfield, the 2nd Brigade troopers started search operations immediately and soon moved north to LZ Sally. At the outbreak of the TET Offensive, 2BDE troopers under the operational control of the 1st CAV, shared the fighting in the battle of Quang Tri and Hue, killing 94 enemies who had tried to penetrate Screaming Eagle defenses.



During the following weeks, the score of enemy killed and captured mounted as 2BDE Troopers cleaned out resistance in numerous villages between Hue and Quang Tri. The 1-502 IN BN launched a road clearing operation along Highway 1 south of Quang Tri. Villagers pinpointed an NBA battalion in an ambush site for the troopers.

Calling in artillery and gunships, the "First Strike" paratroopers blocked escape routes. As the NVA fled the bombardment, the infantrymen ripped into the enemy with withering fire. When the battle ended, 72 enemy bodies lay in front of the paratroopers' positions.

With the offensive blunted near Saigon, the 1BDE was airlifted to I Corps. In two weeks, the troopers had cleared the route following Highway 547 to the A Shau Valley. A firebase, Birmingham was established 16km from the NVA stronghold, to support the driving paratroopers, who continued to push westward through the mountains. Enemy supply routes were cut, troop movements were interrupted, and arms caches were uncovered by the onrushing troopers.



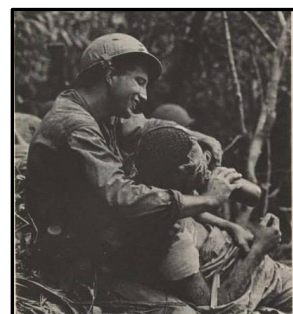
Operation Jeb Stuart ended with the TET lunar offensive nullified. In 40 days of bitter fighting over 1000 of the infiltrating NVA and VC were killed. Battles along Highway 1 and the "Street without Joy" became mourning grounds for the 812th NVA Regiment and the 324th NVA Division.

21 – 24 January 1968

The 2BDE began air and overland movement into the assigned AO; established base camp facilities, defensive positions and prepared to initiate a sweep of the area. At 0910 hours, 22 January, CG, I Field Force Vietnam issued a change of mission directing the BDE to return to Cu Chi Base Camp and prepare for immediate deployment to I CTZ. At the time of the alert, the 1-501 IN BN was enroute into the AO. They were diverted midway, returned to base camp and subsequently deployed to Hue Phu/Bai the following day, OPCON to III MAF. On 24 January at 1800 hours the responsibility for OP Attala was passed to the 11th ACR and the 2BDE began phasing back to Cu Chi. During the entire operation, there was no significant contact and negative results. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968)

22 January 1968

Operation JEB STUART: This operation covered the initial move of major elements of the 1st Cavalry Division into northern I Corps following PERSHING. It was launched as a search and destroy operation aimed at enemy Base Areas 101 and 114. It had another goal of reinforcing the Marines in I Corps. The battles associated with Tet of '68 would quickly overshadow the search and destroy nature of this operation which claimed 3,268 known enemy casualties and 119 POWS versus US losses of 291 KIAs and 1,735 WIAs. As a result of JEB STUART, the 1st Bde was near Quang Tri City just in time for Tet. The 1st Cav contributed three battalions: 2/8th, 5/7th and 2/12th Cav and the 101st Abn contributed two battalions: 1/501st and 2/501st Abn. (101st Airborne 1968 Vietnam Yearbook)



22 January 1968

The 2d BDE at the time, had just begun an air assault into the Michelin plantation area near Minh Thanh vicinity XT6367 to begin a reconnaissance in force operation in that area prior to TET. At 0910 hours, the 1-501 IN BN received its warning orders while in flight to the Brigade AO. The aircraft were diverted and returned to Cu Chi from where the battalion deployed to Hue/Phu Bai the following day. The 2BDE (-) followed immediately. The 2BDE remained OPCON to III MAF and further OPCON to 1st AIR CAV DIV until 10 March 1968. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, HQ, 101st Air Cavalry Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968)



- 22 – 29 January 1968 HHC/1-502 IN moved from Cu Chi to Phu Bai Airfield. This move was conducted by Air Force C-130 Aircraft. The Brigade began Operation JEB STUART. During this time, we received logistical support from FSA MacDonald, located at LZ El Apso (Now Camp Eagle). Resupply was accomplished by vehicles, and adequacy depended on road conditions and clearance.
- 22 January 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** A/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, Recondo company and the TAC-CP extracted from assigned AO beginning at 0845 hours and closed SONG BE at 1545 hours. The 2-502 IN BN assumed BDE IAF upon closing. B/2-502 IN was air lifted too cold LZ vicinity TAC-CP 2-327 and became OPCON effective 1029H for a security mission. The 2-502 IN BN provided security for mini-firebase vicinity YU182238 and established a forward TAC-CP. A/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN provided security at SONG BE and conducted S&D operations in assigned AO's on a rotating basis. (HQ, 2-502 IN: Operation SAN ANGELO, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)
- 22 – 25 January 1968 **Operation CASEY:** 2BDE conducts Operation CASEY, a combined mechanized/ airmobile infantry operation in conjunction with 11th ACR in the Michelin rubber plantation. 2BDE is supplemented with supporting units, and renamed the 2nd Brigade Task Force. At the end of the operation, 2BDE is sent north to Hue.
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|-----------------|---|
| 1-501 Abn Inf. | 2d FASC Platoon, 501st Signal Battalion. |
| 2-501 Abn Inf. | 2/101st MP Co. |
| 1-502 Abn Inf. | Team/101st MI Co. |
| 1-321 Abn Arty. | 2/265 Radio Research Co. |
| A/1-11 Arty. | 34th Photo Interpretation Team |
| C/326 Eng. | Support Units, 101st Div. Support Command |
| B/326 Med. | 2/A/801st Maint. Co. |
- 22 January 1971 D/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon received small arms fire from two enemy vicinity YD473137. Negative Results.
- 23 January 1971 A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity YD506216 found one individual weapon Chicom Pistol. Last activity 2-3 days. D/1-501 IN vicinity YD466236 discovered a wire believed to be an antenna and eight fighting positions. D/1-501 IN vicinity YD470133 discovered a trail orientated north to south. Last activity 12 hours.
- 24 January –
09 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK:** Was launched by the 1-502 IN BN, D/1-501 IN and the 3-3 ARVN Regiment. Intelligence information (SLAR, Sniffer and VR missions) indicated that enemy activity had increased, and the enemy was moving personnel and equipment from rear staging areas in the A Shau Valley in a northerly direction along Route 547, and the Rao Nai River into areas near FSB Veghel (YD552030). Working in conjunction with the 3-3 ARVN Regiment, the 1-502 IN BN Task Force conducted rapid combat assaults and reconnaissance in force operations in the vicinity of FSB Veghel to locate and destroy enemy forces, installations, prevent enemy infiltration along Route 547 and provide protection for engineer reconnaissance teams along Route 547. The operation concluded on 9 February with the combined forces making little contact with enemy elements, resulting in 1 NVA KIA and a large munitions cache discovered and destroyed. (DA-Senior Officer Debriefing Report; MG Melvin Zais, CG, 101st ABN DIV; Period 19 July 1968 – 25 May 1969)
- 24 January 1971 Screaming Eagles A/1-501 IN BN discovered a large weapons cache west of Hue consisting 39 SKS Rifles, 12 AK-47 rifles, two carbines, and three submachine guns. The weapons were evacuated by the "Geronimo" troopers. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 4); Winter - Spring 1971)
- 24 January 1971 A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity YD 507215 found a weapons cache site. Results 6 SK's, 15 AK-47's. A/1-501 IN, 1st platoon vicinity YD513205 received small arms fire from 2-3 enemy 100-150 meters north east of their position. Results 2 enemy KIA, one AK-50.
- 25 January 1968 In the last days of Jan 1968, B/2-502 IN was attached to 2-327 and made a combat assault from Song Be to near the Cambodian border. We established a fire base and started receiving AK fire almost immediately. Every time that a rifle company departed the fire base they were engaged in a firefight with the NVA. On the morning of 25 Jan 1968, B/2-502 IN departed the firebase on a company size combat patrol. We moved approximately 400 meters when we made contact with the NVA and remained in contact for 2 1/2--3 hrs. 2-327's 4.2 mortars gave us excellent support during the firefight. That was probably the best volume of friendly fire that I have witnessed. On completion of the fight our casualties were 3 KIA's and approx. 15 WIA's. One interesting thing was that the NVA had new uniforms, weapons, and equipment. At that time, we didn't know that the NVA was coming in country for the Tet Offensive. (Personal account by Jimmy D. Hale)
- 25 January 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK:** The 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd ARVN Regiment begin a spoiling operation named SHERMAN PEAK and centered of FSB Veghel on Route 547, Thua Thien Province. The operation is designed to prevent any possible enemy offensive directed at Hue for Tet.



attack on Hue. During the period of the operation no significant contact was made more were there signs of recent enemy activity. However, many caches were found, some of which were believed to be remaining from the TET offensive of 1968. The caches consisted primarily of ammunition and explosives. Operation SHERMAN PEAK ended on 09 February and the battalion continued to participate in Operation NEVADA EAGLE with the 2BDE. During Operation NEVADA EAGLE the 1-502 IN BN conducted training and joint operation with the RF/PS's in Quang Dien District. This proved to be quite successful and as forces proficiency increased the 1-502 IN BN was able to occupy a larger area of operations. Operation NEVADA EAGLE ended on 28 February 1969.

25 January 1969

Continuing a new Screaming Eagle series of offensives in enemy base areas, elements of the 2BDE initiated an operation aimed at cutting off enemy movement out of the A Shau along Highway 547A. Air assaults were conducted into FB Bastogne. Elsewhere in the AO, 101st Paratroopers accounted for 18 enemies' dead, one prisoner, one Hoi Chanh and four captured weapons. A/2-501 IN BN discovered a sizeable grave complex containing 16 enemy bodies in the Leech Island area. Part of D/3-506 Currahees encountered two VC on the paymaster team. They killed one of them and captured 45,000 local piasters (local money). (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1969)



25 January 1971

A/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon received small arms fire while sweeping a bunker complex vicinity YD508214. Platoon came under small arms fire and RPG fire. Results seven US KIA.

26 January 1968

2BDE Task Force establishes new CP at Hue-Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam.



26 January 1968

The 2-501 IN BN was airlifted to Hue in northern I CTZ, RVN. The Battalion CP was located in the vicinity of what was called Camp Eagle.

26 January 1969

The 2BDE operation continued with air assaults into LZ Son. In the area, the CO of the 101st AHB spotted several NVA and a 37mm antiaircraft gun. Delta Company gunships were called in, resulting in two NVA killed and the AA gun destroyed. In the 3BDE operation, C/2-502 IN discovered a cache of 24 SKS rifles, three RPDs, one RPG launcher, 30 60mm mortar rounds and 30 RPG rounds in an elaborate hut-bunker complex in the mountains west of Camp Evans. The 1BDE's operation continued near FB Quick II with light contact. The 2-502nd Recondos engaged an NVA platoon, killed two, and later found a cache of four weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1969)

26 January 1970

Operation RANDOLPH GLEN: 2-502 IN BN returned back to FSB Rifle and established the tactical operations center. The firebase was a jointly occupied firebase with ARVN and Strike Force troopers. The area of operations was split with the US responsible for the section north of FSB Rifle and the ARVN's responsible for the south. There was little evidence of recent enemy activity in the area surrounding FSB Rifle throughout the end of January and early February. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



27 January –
3 February 1968

From the First Cavalry Division's journal of 26 January 1967: 2BDE became opcon 1st Air Cav Division upon closure of 2BDE CP at LZ El Paso at 1200 hours, and assumed control of 1-501 IN BN 1-501 IN BN assisted in security of LZ El Paso with three companies while its D/1-501 IN air assaulted to [an area outside the perimeter] and conducted operations in that vicinity. 2-501 IN BN closed LZ El Paso at 1810 hours, OPCON to 2BDE, 101st Abn."

The 1-501 IN BN took over its sector of the perimeter that evening, and the 2-501 IN BN went into its position the afternoon of the 27th. That day, A/1-501 IN and B/1-501 IN conducted company-sized heliborne assaults and extractions in areas near LZ El Paso – seeking enemy contact in operations or six or seven hours' duration. The 1-502 IN BN, OPCON to the Cav's 1st Bde, was on "base security" at LZs Sharon and Betty, near Quang Tri to the north.

On 28 Jan, the First Cav decided to move the 1-501 IN BN and our brigade CP to LZ Jane, south of LZ Jane, relieving the 1/5 Cav Bn there. On 29 Jan, we were ordered to make this move the next day, a day earlier than planned. (We were lucky, if we had moved as planned, Tet 1968 would have caught us at LZ El Paso.) The 2-501 IN BN would join us at LZ Jane but meanwhile it would move to the Cav's new base at Camp Evans, to perform perimeter security.

The 1-501 IN BN, A/1-321, and Bde HHC with our signal and MP platoons left EZ El Paso by truck convoy in the early morning 30 January. They traveled through Hue and up Highway 1. SFC Timothy O'Connor of the 1-501 IN BN has written in his book, "Blood Brothers," "There were numerous villages along the way... (It was Tet, the Chinese New Year)



and the people... were having a good time. When we reached Hai Lang we turned left... and came to a large sized hill... LZ Jane. Each company was assigned a sector of the perimeter. I called the platoon together and told them that 'Charlie is watching us so let's dig our bunkers deep.'"

The massive NVA/Viet Cong countrywide offensive known as Tet 1968 began that night, attacking Saigon, 36 of the RVN's 43 province capitals, 64 of its 242 district towns, and field positions throughout the countryside, including LZ Jane. From the brigade journal: "LZ Jane began receiving mortar & RPG fire at approximately 0405 (31 Jan) ... At 0427, units reported enemy activity to their front, enemy tried to penetrate the 1-501 IN BN perimeter. By 0455, elements reported all quiet. 1-501 IN BN had 6 WIA. 14 NVA KIA and 3 NVA POW, 11 individual weapons and 1 RPG-2 launcher captured. Negative further activity." The 1/501 had been ready. There was more to come.

We were told that the 1-502 IN BN, securing LZs Sharon and Betty, had not been attacked that night. It went immediately into action. On 1 February, A Co, with a D Co platoon and the recon platoon, was sweeping the area between the two LZs, in a four-hour fire fight, supported by the Cav's gunships, it killed 35 and captured 2 NVA, captured an 82mm mortar, two .50 cal. and one light machine gun and many individual weapons. Four men had been killed, including A Co's commander, Captain Holland, and first sergeant. The 1-502 IN BN continued with sweeps and ambushes.

The Tet Offensive caught the 2-501 IN BN with its move to Camp Evans only partially completed and with the rest of the battalion yet to move because of poor flying weather, intensive enemy anti-aircraft fire, and low C-47 availability. (By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)

- 27 January 1968 The 2-501 IN BN (2d BDE), went into its positions and that day A/1-501 IN and B/1-501 IN conducted company-sized heliborne assaults and extractions in areas near LZ El Paso – seeking enemy contact in operations for six or seven hour durations. The 1-502 IN OPCON to CAV's 1st BDE was on "Base Security" at LZ's Sharon and Betty, near Quang Tri to the North.
- 27 – 31 January 1968 HHC/1-502 IN moved to LZ El Paso by road convoy. This greatly reduced many of our logistical problems. LZ El Paso came under 60mm mortar fire the morning of the 31st. B/326th MED BN, reported 4 killed in the action and 4 wounded in the action. Counter mortar fire engaged the enemy position with unknown results.
- 27 January 1969 Screaming Eagle offensive continued, with 11 enemy killed and one prisoner captured. The 2-502 IN BN killed six enemy while 1-327 IN BN troopers killed two enemy near FB Anzio. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1969)
- 27 January 1971 The 1-501 IN BN had a routine Medevac. One man had a cut on his face.
- 28 January 1968 1st CAV moved 1-501 IN BN and 2BDE CP to LZ Jane, relieving the 1-5 CAV BN there.
- 28 January 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** A/2-502 IN while OPCON to 2-17 CAV vicinity YU104076 exhumed two graves resulting in 2 VC KIA. At vicinity YU122065 A/2-502 IN engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in 1 NVA KIA and capturing 2 AK-47 assault rifles.
- 28 January 1969 Three contacts by 2-502 IN BN in the 1BDE operation were reported, with two enemy killed. The point man of C/2-502 IN engaged five VC, who fled leaving behind two weapons. Elsewhere in the AO, seven enemies were killed. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1969)
- 28 January 1971 The 1-501 IN BN moved to FB Arsenal but due to bad weather only one half of the move was completed. A/1-501 IN OPCON to 1-502 IN BN.



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.

2 x Silver Star Medal
2 X Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)
3 x Bronze Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)
2 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
11 x Purple Heart Medal (10 x Posthumously)
2 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness
32 x Air Medal
26 x Combat Infantry Badge

22 January 1968



PFC Jerry D. Wells (B/1-501 IN) died of Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty as the result of drowning which occurred while he was swimming in the South China Sea in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam

23 January 1969



SP4 Bruce H. Rawling (C/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Rawling was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on VSI list, and later expired in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 January 1966



PFC Richard A. Sullivan (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of a gunshot wound to the head incurred when hit by hostile sniper fire while on combat operation during hostile ground action in the Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1968



SSG James B. Anderson (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds received while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969

The following Soldiers: SGT David A. Edwards, SP4 George H. Keathley, SP4 Willie King, PFC Robert L. Carter, PFC Michael L. Malin, 1LT Donald C. Murnock, SP4 Ethen D. Smith, SP4 Terry L. Chinn, PFC Thomas W. Coss, PFC Earl J. Perry Jr., SSG Charles B. Payne Jr., SGT Cleodis Smith, PFC Santiago Numez, PFC Joseph C. Addison, PFC Guy E. Daugherty, SP4 John W. Mandez, SP4 David L. Pryse, SP4 Dennis H. McGill, PFC Richard M. Sam, PFC Darrell K. Johnson, SSG Clifton H. Cathcart, SP4 Robert E. McAferty, SP4 David L. Reese, SP4 Thomas D. Shobe, SGT Mark W. Dugger, SGT Thomas R. Hancock, PFC Edward L. Resavy, SP4 Francis L. Grue, SGT Willie C. Dozier, SGT Larry E. Johnson, PFC Vincent P. Fenequito, 1LT Peter A. Fekete (B/1-502 IN) earned the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division, General Order Number 1423; 9 February 1969)

25 January 1969

CPL Alvin R. Narcisse (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack 13km south of Phu Bai Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969

SP4 Fernando L. Lozano (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack 13km south of Phu Bai Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



25 January 1969

PFC Frank D. Smitherman (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack 13km south of Phu Bai Airfield, while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969



SP4 Ralph L. Glover (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack 13km south of Phu Bai Airfield, while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969

SP4 Ralph E. Johnson (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 deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack 13km south of Phu Bai Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969



SGT Steven T. Kiel (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while at a defensive position when area came under hostile attack 13km south of Phu Bai Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969



SP4 Anderson D. Bolton (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack 13km south of Phu Bai Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1970

The following Soldier: PFC Ryamond Armstrong, PFC Robert C. Banwart, PFC Murl D. Boston, SP4 Scott A. Brindley, PFC Glen A. Brown, PFC Holly E. Dickerson, PFC Hector Dominguez, PFC James F. Dowling, PFC Donald W. Garey, SP4 Lideran C. Garrett, PFC Roy D. Garrett, PFC Darwin A. Grow, PFC Embritch Harris, 1LT David A. Hockett, PFC Coy J. Hubbard, PFC Celester Jones, PFC Ronald J. King, PFC Marchall T. Morgan, SP4 Joseph Nester, PFC Samuel Niemann, PFC John R. Overton, PFC David R. Schmidli, PFC Joseph Stevens, PFC Richard A. Takos, SGT John E. Upton, PFC Alan L. Wentworth (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. (HQ, 101s ABN DIV; Special Orders Number 27, 27 January 1970)

26 January 1969

SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained in combat in the Republic of Vietnam. (Purple Heart Medal Citation)

27 January 1971

SP4 Calvin E. Milam (A/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Unit History)

28 January 1966



SP4 Thomas R. Devlin (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes from multiple gunshot wounds to body. He was on night combat operation as point man when encountered friendly patrol. The point man of that patrol opened fire and hit him in the Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

24 January 1966

SFC Robert R. Wightman (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. SFC Wightman distinguished himself on 24 January 1966 while serving as acting platoon leader during a mission to relieve an element of an ambushed patrol near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Platoon Sergeant Wightman's platoon was moving to join its parent unit when his rear security squad was ambushed. He immediately led his men through flooded rice paddies back toward the beleaguered squad. As he and his men neared the pinned down element, the Viet Cong fire became more intense. After skillfully deploying his platoon to give him fire support, Platoon Sergeant Wightman, with complete disregard for his personal safety, moved aggressively through heavy Viet Cong fire and directed the evacuation of the wounded to a nearby landing zone. When heavy Viet Cong fire forced away the incoming medical evacuation helicopter, Platoon Sergeant Wightman immediately called for tactical air support. As the aircraft approached the battle area, Platoon Sergeant Wightman skillfully directed effective air strikes and maneuvered his force against the insurgent troops. Promptly after the air strikes, he led his men in an aggressive attack, destroyed the insurgent positions, and routed the Viet Cong. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, fire superiority was regained over the insurgent troops and the casualties of the beleaguered squad were successfully evacuated. Platoon Sergeant Wightman's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 2916; 16 May 1966)

24 January 1971

SSG Terrel O. Kimber (A/1-501 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Kimber distinguished himself on 24 January 1971 while serving as a squad leader during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance-in-force mission, Sergeant Kimber's squad encountered a well-camouflaged enemy bunker. After an unsuccessful attempt at destroying the emplacement, Sergeant Kimber came under small arms fire. Employing fire and movement tactics with his squad, Sergeant Kimber successfully destroyed the enemy position. Staff Sergeant Kimber's heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2233; 16 March 1971)

26 January 1969



SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 26 January 1969. Specialist Saitta distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, near the city of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. During a search and clear mission, Specialist Saitta's 032403 platoon came under intense enemy automatic weapons fire. In the initial burst of fire, one man was seriously wounded. Specialist Saitta, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved forward with another soldier through the intense enemy automatic weapons fire to the location of the wounded man lying in the direct line of enemy fire. Crawling through the intense enemy automatic weapons fire, he reached the second wounded man, who was in an open area. On several occasions, Specialist Saitta used his body as a shield to protect the wounded Soldier from the enemy fire. After administering first aid to him, he carried the wounded Soldier to the rear of the area and was instrumental in completing his successful evacuation. Specialist Saitta's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 3991; 30 April 1969)

27 January 1966

1LT David C. Johnson (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. 1LT Johnson distinguished himself on 27 January 1966 while acting as company commander in a search and destroy operation of a suspected Viet Cong base camp in the village of Phu Qui, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Johnson was maneuvering his company to attack the Viet Cong village when they received intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified hostile positions. Lieutenant Johnson from his position saw that half of his left flank platoon was pinned down by hostile fire on open terrain. Realizing their extreme danger, Lieutenant Johnson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, ran one hundred meters across the bullet swept rice paddies to the beleaguered platoon. While completely exposed to the intense hostile fire, he ran from man to man and personally directed them in a fire and movement assault. Lieutenant Johnson's aggressive fighting spirit inspired his men to increase their efforts and was most instrumental in overrunning the Viet Cong force. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 2083; 5 April 1966)

28 January 1970

SGT Jesse Gomez (C/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 28 January 1970. Sergeant Gomez distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, near Fire Support Base Rifle, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Gomez's squad was serving as lead squad for the Third Platoon when it encountered a squad of enemy Soldiers. The two lead men placed effective fire upon the enemy position, causing them to flee rapidly. Sergeant Gomez immediately reorganized heavy automatic weapons fire; he quickly identified the enemy location and directed his men in placing effective suppressive fire upon it. His timely and effective action prevented many friendly casualties and resulted in the capture of one wounded insurgent, four AK-47 rifles and other enemy equipment. Sergeant Gomez's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 3050; 20 March 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
RF: Regional 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
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

