

28 October 1967 The following Soldiers: CPL Jessie F. Greene Jr. and CPL Robert J. Reinald (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quan Tin Province, South Vietnam.

28 October 1968 A/1-502 ambushes, vic. YD7233, received SA fire; they engaged 2 VC with negative results. 1 IS WIA. B/1-502 conducted security of An Lo. C/1-502 (-) was at Phu Vang. D/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501, and C/1-502, 26 elements at FSB T-Bone, security.

28 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** C/2-502 was released from OPCON and moved into AO by foot to join A and C CO who had encountered nothing thus far.

30 October 1967 SP4 Ray E. Coln (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death as a ground casualty from Misadventure (Friendly Fire) in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

30 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/2-502 (ZD112907) had sporadic contact from 1155h to 1815h with trail watchers and delaying forces resulting in one friendly KHA and on VC/NVA KIA with one AK-47. E/2-502 OPCON to 1-327 IN at FSB Anzio. No further contacts were made.

31 October 1968 CPL John E. Urbelis (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

November

01 November 1968 A/1-502 conducted RIF operation, vic. YD6630. B/1-502 conducted security of An Lo ,mine sweep and local patrols and ambushes. C/1-502 (-) was at Phu Vang, providing security for mine sweep of highway 551, occupied strong points on POL pipeline, security of pump station and LCU ramp. D/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501. Recon/1-502 was at Apache. C/1-502 had 26 elements, at T-Bone, Negative contact.

01 November 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 2/502 moved from Camp Eagle, and deployed to FSB Bastogne, expanding the perimeter defense of the firebase. D Company stayed on Bastogne. Soon thereafter line companies began operation west of Bastogne meeting with very light and sporadic enemy opposition.

02 November 1968 The 1-502nd units continued operations in the same vic., except that D/1-502 returned to An Lo and B/1-502 went OPCON to 1/501. There was negative contact.

02 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A,C, and D 502d were moved out of the canopy by six “slicks” provided by DIV Aviation, the CP was moved back to FSB Anzio by truck, and A/2-502 took up responsibility for Bridges 1,2,3,and 4 along QL 1. E/2-502 was returned from OPCON.

02 November –
26 December 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Phase IV was conducted. At the beginning of Phase IV, the 2-502 IN did not have much to work with. A CO secured Bridges 1,2,3, and 4, while B, C, and D CO were all OPCON to 1-327. E(-) CO provided mortar support from FSB Anzio while Recon conducted search (Vic. YD915095).

02 November 1968 The following Soldiers: SGT James A. Singleton and SP4 Jacob McKie (C/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

04 November 1968 A/1-502 RIF, vic. YD6630, B/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501, C/1-502 was at Phu Vang, D/1-502 conducting security of An Lo Bridge, and Recon/1-502 was conducting security of FSB T-Bone. There was negative contact.

04 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Acting on an intelligence report the local VC had been seen (Vic. YD9610) at 0415 Recon conducted CA into the area and killed 4 VC and captured 7 wpns plus miscellaneous equipment.

04 November 1968 SP4 Herbert Williams (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

05 November 1968 A/1-502 was lifted by "hook" to FSB T-Bone. Their mission was to provide security and conduct local patrols and ambushes. B/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501. C/1-502(-) was at Phu Vang, and D/1-502 conducted security of An Lo, mine sweep and local patrols and ambushes. No contact.

05 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** C/2-502 returned from OPCON and assumed security of bridges 3 and 4. This addition of troops allowed the BN to conduct a more extensive local patrolling and ambushing program in the Company's assigned AO.

05 November 1971 SGT Leroy White Jr. (E/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 November 1966 1LT DAVID S. BODGETT (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself against an armed hostile enemy on 6 November 1966 to 9 November 1966, near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. When the Third Platoon of his company was brought under fire, Lieutenant Blodgett was given the mission of taking his platoon to reinforce the engaged platoon. Lieutenant Blodgett was aggressively pursuing the withdrawing enemy when his platoon was suddenly brought under a heavy volume of enemy fire from several enemy positions. Lieutenant Blodgett personally led the maneuver element in an attempt to outflank the enemy position, thus exposing himself to intense enemy fire on numerous occasions while directing fire. Lieutenant Blodgett continued to lead his platoon and aggressively pursued the enemy by maintaining close contact with the delaying forces. As darkness moved in, Lieutenant Blodgett placed his platoon into an ambush position until the following morning. When daylight hours arrived, Lieutenant Blodgett moved his platoon down a jungle trail approximately three hundred meters when they were again brought under intense enemy fire. When the platoon maneuvered in an attempt to outflank the enemy positions, one of the men stepped on a mine and was seriously wounded. With total disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Blodgett dashed across the minefield to his wounded comrade and personally began to administer the needed medical aid until a medic could arrive. Lieutenant Blodgett then conducted a personal search of the minefield and located several more mines which he destroyed. As Lieutenant Blodgett began to reorganize his platoon, he received word from his company commander to move to a new position. Realizing that his platoon was exhausted, Lieutenant Blodgett set a positive example by personally taking the point man position and leading his men to the new position. His unflinching courage and dauntless leadership ability brings great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 – 07 November 1968 1-502 continued normal operations with negative contact. B/1-502 returned to LZ Sally. C/1-502 returned from Phu Vang and lifted to vic. YD5815 for RIF operations.

- 07 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Recon/2-502 was moved by log ship into FSB Anzio for resupply and then moved to YD899033 for local patrols and ambushes.
- 08 November 1966 PFC Matherew D. Renfroe (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.
- 08 November 1966 PFC William L. Cyr (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Phu Yen, South Vietnam.
- 08 November 1968 1-502 had an AO extension into the sands area referred to as "the street". B/1-502 and 4 platoons of PF's, conducted a CA, vic. YD5840 and YD6040 and set up cordon with 1 platoon of tanks from which saturation patrols could be run. Naval river patrol boats were used as a blocking force, vic. YD6041 and YD5942. The C&C, drew SA fire and returned fire on suspected enemy locations with negative results. B/1-502 hit a 105 BBT injuring 2. Patrol boats detained 5 VCS but they were later classified as IC and released.
- 09 November 1966 SGT Kenneth E. Murphy (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Murphy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 9 November 1966 while serving as a squad leader with a Recon platoon on a search and destroy mission near Tuy Hoa. The unit had covered several thousand meters of terrain with negative results, until the point man finally came upon, and killed, a North Vietnamese soldier. When sporadic hostile fire was received from the left flank, Sergeant Murphy immediately led his squad in an assault on the insurgent positions. Suddenly, the entire hillside was raked by a devastating barrage, as North Vietnamese positions opened fire all around him. Seeing several soldiers fall wounded, Sergeant Murphy fearlessly ran through a hail of bullets to try and help them. Unable to reach his comrades on the first two attempts, he moved forward a third time, but was wounded in the head. Dazed, but undaunted, Sergeant Murphy succeeded in carrying one stricken soldier fifty meters to safety. When another man was hit, he again disregarded the extreme dangers to race back across the bullet-swept area. As sergeant Murphy returned with the man, he was again wounded by insurgent fire, but continued on until reaching friendly lines. Unmindful of his painful wounds, he then organized his men and led them in a fierce assault on the entrenched enemy. Dizzy from loss of blood and able to use only one arm, Sergeant Murphy gallantly crashed forward through dense foliage and personally killed three hostile soldiers with his rifle. His unimpeachable valor and boundless determination enabled his men to break out of the trap and overwhelm the insurgent force. Sergeant Murphy'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. 1376 (March 27, 1967))
- 09 November 1966 COL Frank L. Dietrich (HHC/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 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Colonel Dietrich distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during the period 9 to 11 November 1966 while commanding the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry on a search and destroy operation near Tuy Hoa. On the morning of 9 November, he was informed that contact had been made with an entrenched North Vietnamese Army battalion. Quickly assessing the situation from a command and control helicopter, Colonel Dietrich brilliantly maneuvered his troops, and by nightfall the hostile

force was surrounded. As the battle raged on into the next morning, he boldly joined his men on the ground. Unmindful of the extreme danger, he moved throughout the battlefield to assist his subordinate commanders and comfort the wounded. On 11 November Colonel Dietrich dauntlessly climbed to the top of a tree with a radio to direct the conflict. Remaining exposed in this perilous position for two hours, he courageously deployed the ground elements and supervised the broadcast of surrender appeals. As the battle progressed, he completely disregarded his safety by running across 100 meters of bullet-swept terrain, and led a successful assault on a stubborn North Vietnamese position. Then, accompanied only by his radio operator, Colonel Dietrich moved through 800 meters of dense jungle to another engaged platoon. Moving to the front, he again braved the intense insurgent fire to encourage his men forward. His unimpeachable valor and aggressive leadership under fierce hostile fire contributed immeasurably to the defeat of a determined hostile force. Lieutenant Colonel Dietrich'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. 496 (February 1, 1967))

09 November 66

1LT Alden J. Holborn (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an enemy force in Vietnam. 1LT Holborn's platoon was given the mission of reinforcing a squad from the reconnaissance platoon which had become engaged with a numerically superior force. Upon reaching the enemy position, Lieutenant Holborn immediately had his platoon lay down a base of fire for the beleaguered squad. Lieutenant Holborn attempted to maneuver his platoon into position so as to make a flanking assault but encountered a heavy volume of enemy fire that inflicted four casualties. Determining that his position had become precarious, he personally supervised the evacuation of the wounded and the relocation of his platoon to a better position. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Holborn personally moved forward under enemy fire and carried a wounded comrade to a safe position. After supporting artillery fire had been called in on the enemy positions, Lieutenant Holborn's platoon attempted another assault on the enemy and successfully overran their positions. Lieutenant Holborn's outstanding display of leadership and gallantry in action is in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 November 66

1LT John A. Marshek Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an enemy force in Vietnam. First Lieutenant Marshek's platoon was on a mission to reinforce a beleaguered sister platoon which had been twice repelled from an enemy position. Upon reaching his destination, Lieutenant Marshek immediately moved the casualties to a centralized location in preparation for medical evacuation. After making a reconnaissance of the area, Lieutenant Marshek discovered that the enemy positions were well fortified with heavy machine guns and mortars. In an attempt to overrun the enemy positions, Lieutenant Marshek led his platoon in a flanking assault while the Second Platoon laid down a base of fire but the platoon was driven back by a tremendous volume of fire. Immediately Lieutenant Marshek reorganized both platoons and directed artillery fire on enemy positions to within one hundred meters of his own position. When the Artillery barrage was lifted Lieutenant Marshek personally led the two platoons in a successful assault on the enemy positions and secured the area so that the casualties could be safely evacuated. Lieutenant Marshek's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 November 66

SFC Richard F. Clemons (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an enemy force in Vietnam. SFC Clemons' unit was given the mission of blocking the escape of a known North Vietnamese Army battalion, while other elements of the battalion moved in to encircle the enemy area. While moving into position, Sergeant Clemons' unit made contact with a North Vietnamese Army "Trail

Watcher". Realizing that the enemy had been alerted to the fact that American forces were in the area, Sergeant Clemons quickly maneuvered his men forward to find the main enemy body before it could escape. After moving a short distance, Sergeant Clemons' section suddenly came under intense enemy fire from sixteen well fortified enemy positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Clemons quickly reorganized his section and led it in an assault on the enemy positions. Sergeant Clemons moved from flank to flank directing the attack and also the redistribution of ammunition. On one occasion, Sergeant Clemons personally moved into an exposed area and carried a wounded man to safety and rendered the needed medical aid. Several times during the battle, the enemy fire became so intense that small elements of Sergeant Clemons' section became pinned down. Sergeant Clemons immediately moved to the men and led them to safer positions, then personally assaulted a machine gun position, knocking it out with a hand grenade, killing one enemy soldier and wounding another. After the machine gun position had been destroyed, Sergeant Clemons continued to maneuver his section in a successful assault. Sergeant Clemons' outstanding display of leadership and his gallantry in action are in the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 November 66

1LT Ronald G. Odom (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an enemy force in Vietnam. First Lieutenant Odom, Platoon Leader of the elite Reconnaissance Platoon, was moving with his unit on a search and destroy mission. Suddenly, enemy forces in a nearby tree line opened up with a devastating volume of fire. Lieutenant Odom, realizing that he had entered the killing zone of a Viet Cong ambush, quickly and calmly issued instructions. While his men gallantly fought off the initial attack of the Viet Cong, Lieutenant Odom shielded the body of a wounded grenadier of his platoon with its own body. After placing the wounded man in a relatively safe position, Lieutenant Odom organized his forces and assaulted the entrenched enemy. When the flank of his assault became pinned down by enemy machine gun fire, Lieutenant Odom personally crept forward under heavy fire and destroyed the gun emplacement with two hand grenades. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Odom continued to lead his men up and over the enemy positions. His daring example and personal intrepidity resulted in the routing of a superior enemy force from its prepared defense. His extraordinary heroism in close combat with an armed enemy is in keeping with the highest standards and traditions of the American fighting man and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09-11 November 66

CPT Stephen Silvasy Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an enemy force in Vietnam. Captain Silvasy, on 9 November 1966, had placed his lead platoon into a blocking position to block any possible escape route of an encircled North Vietnamese Army element. Captain Silvasy decided to make a reconnaissance of potential positions so that the following platoons could be placed into position immediately upon arrival. Captain Silvasy, along with a small reconnaissance element, had just started to move across an open area when they were suddenly brought under an intense volume of enemy small arms fire. Captain Silvasy calmly continued to make his reconnaissance while under the heavy enemy fire, and as a result, the remaining platoons were able to move directly into position and effectively seal the last remaining gap in the encirclement. As the battle progressed the following day, Captain Silvasy was constantly in the forefront of the heaviest action. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Captain Silvasy constantly exposed himself to enemy fire while giving his men encouragement and inspiring them as they swept through the battle area. Throughout the battle, Captain Silvasy, even though he accompanied the forward element, maintained complete control of his four platoons on line, keeping them in contact and leaving no gaps for the enemy to slip through. On the third day of battle the company command post was situated on a mountain top. To gain better observation and maintain control, Captain Silvasy remained in the tree for several hours exposed to enemy fire. Captain Silvasy's outstanding display of leadership and gallantry in action

are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

09 November 66

SSG Walter J. Roberson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an enemy force in Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Roberson's platoon was given the mission to reinforce a platoon which had become pinned down by a numerically superior enemy force. As the platoon moved on lined Sergeant Roberson's squad assumed the right flank position. As the platoon maneuvered up the hill it was suddenly brought under fire by an enemy element on the right flank and immediately received three casualties. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Roberson moved forward under intense enemy fire and personally brought the three wounded men to safety. As the platoon aidman started to move forward he also was wounded. Sergeant Roberson without hesitation, moved forward again and brought his wounded comrade to safety. For a second time the platoon attacked the enemy positions, only to be beaten back by extremely intense enemy fire. As the advance was halted, Sergeant Roberson moved from man to man giving them encouragement and checking to see that none of them had been wounded. As Sergeant Roberson moved towards the right flank he observed that one man's weapon had jammed and at almost the same time another man had been wounded. Realizing that the right flank was in jeopardy, Sergeant Roberson charged the enemy position and laid down suppressive fire into the enemy position, enabling another squad to shift to the right flank. Sergeant Roberson personally placed the new squad into position even though he was exposed to intense enemy fire. When the order was given to move off the hill so that supporting artillery fire could be called in, Sergeant Roberson personally saw to it that not only his squad but the entire platoon had moved from the hill before he himself withdrew. When the platoon reorganized for another assault, Sergeant Roberson personally led his men in the assault and succeeded in over-running the enemy position. Sergeant Roberson's outstanding display of leadership and gallantry in action is in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 November 1966

The following Soldiers: PFC Robert J. Donovan, PFC George E. Bryant (Pictured), PFC Randle Kinney, (B/2-502 IN) and SGT David K. Deen (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Phu Yen, South Vietnam.



09 November 1968

A/1-502 continued security of FSB T-Bone. B/1-502 continued cordon with PF's and tanks. They received SA fire, vic. YD6039 with negative casualties. They returned fire with negative results. They had 1 KIA and 1 WIA from a 105mm BBT. C/1-502 conducted RIF operation, vic. YD5717. D/1-502 conducted security of AN Lo Bridge.

09 November 1968

SSG Fagalii L. Leatutufu (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 November 1969

The following Soldiers: 1LT Jimmy W. Willford and CPL John E. Gurovich (D/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 November 1971

SGT Earl D. Barkley (E/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

- 10 November 1966 SP4 Otis E. Jackson (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.
- 10 November 1967 PFC Arthur L. Hawkins Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operation against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 November 1967, while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. While on a reconnaissance patrol near Chu Lai, Private Hawkins' squad came under an intense volume of automatic weapons fire from well entrenched enemy positions. With the initial bursts of fire, Private Hawkins, with complete disregard for his personal safety, rushed forward to the point element of his squad and began firing into the enemy positions. Realizing that rifle fire alone could not kill or rout the enemy from their positions, he courageously charged forward, hurling grenades. After grenading several enemy positions, he was mortally wounded by enemy fire. His heroic actions inspired his comrades to assault the enemy positions and rout them from the battle area, resulting in three enemy soldiers killed and the capture of two enemy automatic weapons. Private Hawkins' extraordinary heroism in close combat was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.
- 10 November 1967 CPL Arthur L. Hawkins Jr. (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 10 November 1968 The Phu Loc cordon ended with 28 VC identified from more than 1,300 suspects detained during the eight day operations. The Screaming Eagles rice-denial program continued to deprive the enemy of needed food supplies. C/1-501st (Assigned to 2BDE) captured 40,000 pounds of harvested rice from four separate caches eight km east of Hue. "Geronimo" infantrymen brought the rice holding to more than 456 tons.
- 10 November 1968 B/1-502 was the only unit to have contact, engaging 2 VC with SA, vic. YD6140, resulting in 2 VC POW. B/1-502 tripped a 60mm BBT, resulting in 3 WIA. The 1-502, received a new "First Strike". LCT Davis replaced LTC Carter as the Battalion Commander. General Zais, General Trung, several other generals and numerous Division VIP's attended the ceremony at LZ Sally.
- 10 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** B(-)2/502 was returned from OPCON while B CO 20 elements continued under OPCON 1-327 FSB Hickory; D CO was released from OPCON and used one platoon to secure FSB Roy while two platoons conducted local patrols to the south and west of FSB Roy; and effective 220h, C CO OPCON 1-327.
- 10 November 1969 PFC Rudy L. Baldon (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 11 November 1966 CPT JAMES M. MC FADDEN (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (2-OLC) for actions while his company was in blocking position as the remainder of the battalion drove a North Vietnamese Army battalion toward the position. As the elements of the enemy made contact with the company, a savage battle ensued which lasted through the following day. Throughout the fighting, Captain McFadden moved among his men encouraging them and pointing out targets. On several occasions he came under heavy fire while assisting in the care and evacuation of the wounded. When two of his platoons came under heavy caliber machine gun fire and the immediate situation became

serious, Captain McFadden, with complete disregard for his personal safety, led a squad forward under murderous fire and destroyed the machine gun emplacement with grenades. On many occasions throughout the battle, Captain McFadden rushed to the points of closest and most savage fighting directing, encouraging, and fighting alongside of his men. Captain McFadden's courage and superb leadership were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

11 November 1967 –
11 November 1968

Operation Wheeler/Wallowa

Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces; Que Son Valley; Nui Hoac Ridge; Hiep Duc; FSB Center; LZs Baldy, Cacti and West.

Type/Objective: Search and Destroy operation to clear the enemy out of Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces, with special emphasis on the Que Son Valley

Units: USA – 1st Cavalry Division: 2d BDE (5-7th CAV), 3d BDE (1-7th CAV, 2-12th CAV), 23d Infantry Division (Americal); 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2-1st IN, 3-21st IN, 4-31st IN); 198th Light Infantry Brigade (1-6th IN, 1-46th IN, 1-1st CAV); 101st Airborne Division: 1st Brigade (1-327th ABN, 2-327th ABN, 2-502nd ABN, A/2-17th CAV); NVA/VC – 2d NVA Division (3rd and 31st NVA regiments)

Events: 3 January 1968 Units: form the 196th Light Infantry Brigade encounter Soldiers from the 2nd NVA Division near Hiep Duc (Quang Tin Province).

Losses: U.S. 18 KIA, 100 WIA

Events: 9 February 1968 the 1-14th IN and 1-35th Infantry (3d BDE/4th Infantry Division attached to the 23rd IN Division) meet the 21st NVA Regiment near Go Noi Isan, 12 miles south of DaNang. More than 230 of the enemy are KIA.

Comment: Wheeler/Wallowa is a combination of the 1st Cavalry's Wallowa (4 October – 11 November) and the 23d IN Division's Wheeler (11 September – 11 November)

Casualties: U.S. – 682 KIA, 3,995 WIA; NVA/VC – 10,008 KIA, 184 POWs.

11 November 1968

A/1-502 conducted security of T-Bone, local patrols and ambushes in the area. B/1-502 continued operation in "street" area. They had light contact with estimated 2 VC but there were negative casualties. C/1-502 RIF from vic. YD5818, southeast to vic. YD5717. D/1-502 conducted security of An Lo Bridge. Recon/1-502 RIF from LZ Sally to YD 6124.

11 November 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: at 1945 A 30 Vic YD911102 sprung ambush and killed one VC/NVA and captured 1 AK-47 and 1 RPG-2rd; B/2-502 also assumed responsibility of Bridge 3 with its 10 Platoon; B 20 stood by at FSB Anzio as a reaction force for 1-327 Cordon.

11 November 1968

SGT David A. Knox (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 November 1970

CPL McKinley H. Harvell Jr., (C/2-501 IN) drowned when he left patrol to aid comrade vic. FSB Brick in the province Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.

11 November 1970

CPL Michael C. Jensen (D/2-502 IN) died from small arms gun fire wounds in the province Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.

12 November 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: At 2330 A 30 Ambush and killed 1 VC/NVA with an AK-50.

12 November 1968

Enemy contact increased in intensity. Division troopers killed 23 enemy, capturing eight prisoners and throwing up a cordon around the large enemy force six km southeast of Phyu Bai. The 1st BN, 327th ABN IN, the 2nd BN, 502nd ABN IN, and an ARVN unit

coordinated a precise movement to block possible escape routes while patrol boats plied coastal waters to complete the enclosure. The startled enemy forces tried to strike out and were engaged by A/1-327th IN. Five enemy were killed, and the Viet Cong began retreating to the east. Paratroopers of C/1-501st ABN IN, air-assaulted into their part to from a blocking force and immediately launched a sweep that netted sic kills and 15 prisoners.

- 12 November 1968 A/1-502 switched security missions with D/1-502, A/1-502 lifted, via "hook" from An Lo to FSB T-Bone. D/1-502 lifted, via "hook", from T-Bone, to An Lo. B/1-502 engaged 2 VC from ambush with clamor and SA fire, with negative assessment. C/1-502 from ambushes, observed movement, threw hand grenades, with negative results.
- 13 November 1966 PFC Carl L. Falck Jr. (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Phu Yen, South Vietnam.
- 13 November 1968 A/1-502 conducted security of An Lo Bridge. B/1-502 had 1 platoon of PF's lifted in via log bird to YD5939. The tanks attached to B/1-502 continued to work with unit on RIF missions. B/1-502 found 1 BBT (homemade), vic. YD6139, resulting in 4 VC KIA and 1 VC POW. Later, vic. YD6238, 2 VC KIA in bunker. D/1-502 operating in mountains, near FSB T-Bone, spotted 4 VC. They called in ARA and artillery with negative assessment. Recon/1-502 sighted a "red-filtered-light", vic. YD6121 and called in artillery with negative assessment.
- 13 November 1969 On short notice, the 2nd Brigade's 2nd BN (Ambl), 501st IN. Moves from a stand-down at Camp Sally to AO of the 1st BDE, 5th IN DIV (Mech), west of Quang Tri just below the DMZ. The enemy is composed of elements of 27th NVA Regiment which are threatening a string of 5th DIV fire bases in the area. A massive airlift via Chinook and Huey helicopters accomplishes the deployment of the battalion in less than four hours. The battalion's command post is established on Charlie Two, a 5th DIV fire base. (Rendezvous with Destiny (101st ABN DIV); Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary; Winter of 1969)
- 14 November 1968 A/1-502 while on security mission at An Lo, received 6 rounds of 60mm mortar fire with negative casualties. B/1-502 continued operation in "Street" area, vic. YD614?, resulting in 3 VC KIA and 4 VC captured, along with 1 AK47. The VC was all hiding in bunkers. D/1-502 found a cave, vic. YD6219 with 1000ft. of det-cord, 1 mine and ammo.
- 14 November 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** D/2-502 had heavy contact with a small enemy force of sappers. Two US KIA and eleven wounded, while enemy losses were unknown. The foul weather continued to affect tactical operations adversely. There were no significant firefights during the rest of the month as the Battalion relentlessly searched for enemy. The Battalion rotated each of its companies for a 24 hour Thanksgiving stand down on FSB Bastogne and OP Checkmate. ON the whole, operations were hampered severely by the weather as poor visibility hindered air support.
- 14 November 1970 The following Soldiers: CPL Michael C. Jensen and PFC Stanley H. Trygg Jr. (D/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 15 November 1968 1-502 continued normal operations with negative contact. All units are conducting classes in spare time as the Battalion is experiencing a large turnover of personnel, returning to CONURC.

- 15 November 1969 SP4 Allen F. Grotzke (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 November 1969. Specialist Grotzke distinguished himself while serving as a fire team leader in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, near the Demilitarized Zone, Republic of Vietnam. Company B was inserted into a landing zone commanding a draw where a North Vietnamese Army bunker complex had been sighted by aerial observation. An element of the 2d Platoon moved down the draw and came under intense machine gun and small arms fire from positions not more than fifty meters away. Specialist Grotzke maneuvered his fire team along the high ground rising from the draw and flanked the bunker complex from the side and rear. Though under constant exposure to the hostile machine gun emplacement, he supervised the placing of his men in strategic rear security positions and moved forward with the remainder of the squad to eliminate the enemy position. While passing through a clearing, Specialist Grotzke and his fellow Soldiers came under fire from a second machine gun. Two of his squad members were seriously wounded. When he saw his comrade's fall, Specialist Grotzke moved out further into the clearing and directed suppressive fire at the enemy. Although action diverted the enemy machine gun, enabling the other wounded personnel to crawl to safety. In his isolated forward position, he continued to provide cover for his comrades and ceased firing only when wounded a second time. He was evacuated by helicopter along with the two wounded men whose lives he saved. Specialist Grotzke'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.
- 15 November 1969 SP4 Jeffrey J. Joseph (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with V device for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 November 1969. Specialist Joseph distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry. His platoon conducted an airmobile assault into a landing zone overlooking a draw known to contain a North Vietnamese bunker complex. Immediately upon moving down the draw, the platoon came under intense machine gun and small arms fire from positions not more than fifty meters away. Without first attempting to find suitable cover, Specialist Joseph immediately returned fire with his machine gun from an open position. Under the cover he provided, a squad of the platoon moved out in a flanking movement. This squad also drew fire while assaulting the bunkers and three men were wounded. Without hesitation, Specialist Joseph ran forward and put out suppressive fire while two of the wounded crawled to safety. Seeing the third man in the open too seriously wounded to move, he left the gun with his assistant and ran across clear lanes of fire to administer first aid. He assisted the medical aidman in carrying the man to safety under constant fire. In the next hour he contributed vitally to the efforts to save the wounded man. He applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and external massage and helped carry the wounded man to a suitable pick up site for evacuation. Specialist Joseph'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. (Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile); General Order Number 730; 01 February 1970)
- 15 November 1969 SP4 Allen F. Grotzke (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 15 November 1969 SSG William D. McGivern (D/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes (drowned or suffocated) as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 15 November 1971 The following Soldiers: SP4 Wilfred N. Poepping and PFC Robert D. Pierce (B/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

- 16 November 1967 SSG O. D. SCOTT (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 November 1967, while serving as a member of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. While conducting a search and destroy mission near Chu Lai, the point squad of Sergeant Scott's platoon began receiving heavy automatic weapons fire and was pinned down in an open field. Observing this, Sergeant Scott repeatedly exposed himself to the hail of fire in order to properly position his own men and direct their fire. Seeing that small arms fire alone was not sufficient to destroy the enemy force, Sergeant Scot, with complete disregard for his personal safety, moved to an extremely exposed position through the enemy fire to a point where he could call in and adjust friendly artillery upon the enemy position. The enemy realized that he was adjusting artillery fire upon their positions and started concentrating their fire on his position. Disregarding their fire, Sergeant Scott continued to call for and adjust fire on the enemy, inflicting many casualties. Sergeant Scott exposed himself repeatedly to the vicious enemy fire until he was killed by a short artillery round. Sergeant Scott's outstanding display of heroism and devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.
- 16 November 1967 SSG O D Scott (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death as a ground casualty from Misadventure (Friendly Fire) in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 16 November 1968 A/1-502 conducted security of An Lo Bridge. B/1-502 conducted CA from vic. YD6337 to YD6023, with negative contact. C/1-502 was lifted, via "hook", from FSB T-Bone to LZ Sally for stand-down and resupply. D/1-502 was lifted, via "hook" to FSB T-Bone and assumed security of FSB T-Bone. Recon/1-502 engaged 3 VC in sampan, resulting in 2 VC KIA and captured 1 AK47 and 1 .32 cal. Pistol. Recon/1-502 was lifted, via log bird to Omaha.
- 16 November 1968 2LT JAMES A. HUFFMAN (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 November 1968. Second Lieutenant Huffman distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Leader for Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, on a combat operation near the village of Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam. Second Lieutenant Huffman's platoon was part of a large sweep designed to drive the insurgents from their fortified positions. As the platoon moved out, it came under intense enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Huffman crawled forward through accurate small arms fire and deep mud to his forward element to assess the situation. After his assessment, Lieutenant Huffman again risked his life by inching his way across the enemy held fields to the other elements of his platoon. He personally directed the return fire of the platoon. He personally directed the return fire of the platoon. As the platoon moved forward, Lieutenant Huffman rejoined the forward element, regrouped his men on line, and effectively led a flanking attack on the enemy positions. From informants captured during the sweep, it was determined that an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese lay in ambush for the company. In spite of the increasing enemy fire and torrential rain, Lieutenant Huffman remained in position to cover the withdrawal of his platoon. Second Lieutenant Huffman'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.
- 16 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/2-502 acting on intelligence report from BN S2, picked up 6 individuals on the District Black List at YD941120; this was accomplished

with the cooperation and help of the Village Chief of Loc Bon (V), Phu Loc (D): all six were classified as VCI.

- 17 November 1968 Recon/1-502 departed Omaha to vic. YD6038, to establish blocking position. They were joined by 1 tank platoon and 1 PF platoon. C/1-502 CA'd to vic. YD6040 and started sweeping towards the blocking force. At vic. YD6038, Recon killed 1 VC.
- 17 November 1968 CPT PAUL F. WERTZ (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 17 November 1968. Captain Wertz distinguished himself while serving as Company Commander of Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, on a combat operation near the village of Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam. The company, led by the First Platoon, was engaged in a large sweep designed to drive insurgents from fortified positions. As it moved out, the Third Platoon came under heavy enemy fire. Captain Wertz immediately moved forward from his rear position to the lead element of the platoon to assess the situation. After making his assessment, Captain Wertz again moved through the heavy automatic weapons fire to the Third Platoon and personally directed its movement. Despite the heavy fire and with complete disregard for his own welfare, Captain Wertz again moved with the forward element of the platoon in order to effectively control the flanking attack on the enemy. Through informants captured during the sweep, it was determined that an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Regulars waited to ambush the company. Because of the enemy's numerical superiority and proximity, Captain Wertz chose to withdraw in order to call in effective artillery fire. Captain Wertz personally directed all elements of the company in an orderly withdrawal and in spite of the heavy enemy fire, remained in place until assured that all elements of the company had withdrawn. Captain Wertz's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.
- 17 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** At 2055 A 10 ambushed and killed one VC/NVA with AK-47.
- 18 November 1968 Operation NAM HOA I begins. The 2/501st Airborne, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne conducted this search and destroy operation with the 3d ARVN Regiment in Thua Thien Province. Casualties: Allies 6 KIA, 39 WIA; enemy 78 KIA.
- 18 November 1968 1-502 continued normal operations with negative contact. One of the tanks, OPCON to C/1-502, hit an AP mine with negative damage. C/1-502 released Recon and tank platoon from OPCON and was lifted via "hook" to FSB Birmingham. They became OPCON to 2/501.
- 18 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** C/2-502 returned from being OPCON to 1-327 and resumed security of Bridge 4 and local patrols and ambushes; Recon took responsibility of Bridge 3, while B CO moved to FSB Quick (YD905034) to secure the base for the Arty in support of a 2d BDE operation.
- 19 November 1968 A/1-502 conducted security of An Lo Bridge. B/1-502 conducted RIF operation, vic. YD6321 with negative contact. C/1-502 was OPCON to 2/501. D/1-502 conducted security of FSB T-Bone, with 1st Platoon to 1 PF company, conducted joint saturation patrols, vic. YD6724. Recon/1-502 destroyed 2 bouncing betty mines and captured 4 VC, vic. YD6140.
- 19 November 1971 CPL Richard R. Lange (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from misadventure (Friendly Fire) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 November 1965

SP5 Jose W. Suarez (A/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

20 November 1968

A/1-502 conducted security of An LO Bridge, mine sweep and local patrols and ambushes, they found 1 bouncing betty mine, vic. YD6123 and destroyed in place. B/1-502 found 2 250lb. bombs while conducting RIF operation, vic. YD6231, they destroyed it in place. C/1-502 was OPCON to 2/501. D/1-502 conducted security of FSB T-Bone, with 1st Platoon of PF's was lifted by log bird to work jointly with Recon, vic. YD6040.

20 November 1968



SP4 ARTHUR J. HERINGHAUSEN JR. (F/58 LRP) (Official Records Show he was Assigned to B/1-502 IN at time of Death); was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 November 1968. Specialist Four Heringhausen distinguished himself while serving as a member of a Long Range Patrol on combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1130 hours, the twelve man team heard voices of an approaching North Vietnamese unit and immediately set up an ambush. As the enemy moved into the kill zone the ambush was sprung, and Specialist Heringhausen poured a steady volume of M-16 fire into the area. The result of this action by the team was a body count of nine enemy killed with no friendly casualties. After this action the team moved 110 meters away for concealment, and the decision was made to extract the team. As the first man moved toward the pick-up zone he was seriously wounded by enemy automatic weapons fire. Specialist Heringhausen immediately laid down a heavy volume of suppressive fire, so that the injured man could be pulled back into the hastily established perimeter. In doing so, Specialist Heringhausen continuously exposed himself to the enemy fire by firing from a kneeling position in order to make his fire more effective. As a medical evacuation helicopter arrived and was pulling the wounded man through the thick jungle canopy on a jungle penetrator, the enemy attacked with an estimated platoon sized element. Again with complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Heringhausen knelt in an exposed position to deliver automatic fire until the enemy assault was broken. Just as the enemy was retreating, a large Chinese Communist Claymore Mine exploded sending fragments into his body, killing him instantly. Through his valorous efforts the lives of many of his fellow soldiers were saved, and heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy. Specialist Four Heringhausen'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.

20 November 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: B/2-502 closed out Quick at 1200h; took security of Bridges of 1, 2, and 3 from A CO and Recon who were moved to FSB Anzio and put on a 15 Minute stand-by alert for 2d BDE.

21 November 1968

A/1-502 sent their 26 element to FSB Panther, OPCON to 2/501. B/1-502 conducted RIF to FSB T-Bone and assumed security mission of T-Bone. C/1-502 was OPCON to 2/501. D/1-502 conducted RIF to vic. YD6418. Recon/1-502 killed 6 VC and captured 4 VC, 1 French MG, 2 AK47's, and 1 M-79, documents and ammo, vic. YD6630.

21 November 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: C/2-502 conducted a log bird CA to secure FSB Quick after releasing Bridge 4 to Recon. A VC turned himself in to Recon on Bridge 4; he was carrying an AK-47 w/2 Magazines; he agreed to take US units to his VC base in the hills southeast of Quick.

21 November 1972

PVT Rubert G. Humphreys (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received on 20 September 1970 which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket and mortar wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

22 November 1968 A/1-502 lifted from An Lo via "hook" to vic. YD7133. Recon/1-502 and D/1-502 , 36 element, security of An Lo Bridge. B/1-502 received 2 platoons of PF's to assist in RIF operation, vic. YD6125.

22 November 1970 CPL Roger L. Ritschard (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

23 November 1967 CPT Robert L. Lee Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile injuries as a ground casualty in the Ninh Thuan Province, South Vietnam.

23 November 1968 D/1-502 found Battalion sized base camp, vic. YD6318, with 60 bunkers, 20% of which had overhead cover. The area looked like a platoon sized element had used the bunkers in the last 24 hours. Recon/1-502 and PF's captured 2 VC, vic. YD6630. One of them identified 12 VC supply personnel. They are being checked now.

23 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A CO followed the lead of VC that turned himself in on 21 November, but he got lost therefore negative results.

24-25 November 1968 D/1-502 was the only unit to have contact. They engaged 3 VC, vic. YD6218, resulting in 3 VC KIA.

24 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/2-502 was moved to Bridge 1, B CO took Bridge 2 and 3, C CO took Bridge 4, D CO took FSB Roy.

25 November 1965 The following Soldiers: SGT James H. Lewis, SP4 Rudy M. Sagon, SP4 Charles E. Boston, and SP4 Robert R. Bohler (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

25 November 1968 Enemy contact continued light, as Nevada Eagle accounted for seven enemy killed and 28 weapons captured. A combined forces sweep by the 3rd AVRN and elements from the 2nd Brigade revealed a large cache, including three crew-served machine guns. (Rendezvous with Destiny (101st ABN DIV); Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary; Winter of 1968-69)

25 November 1968 1LT John M. Walsh (B/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat on 25 November 1968. First Lieutenant Walsh distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader with Company B, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, while on a combat operation south of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Company B was moving up very steep and thickly vegetated hills when the lead element encountered sniper fire from its front and sides. First Lieutenant Walsh immediately began leading his platoon in an assault, firing his M-16 rifle and shouting his commands to his element leaders. First Lieutenant Walsh led his men through the assault without sustaining any injured troopers and mortally wounded three North Vietnamese Soldiers. When the lead element reached the enemy position, they discovered trails of blood leading up the mountain. The element followed the blood trails up the mountain into a small, platoon sized base camp. There the men found thirty-seven SKS rifles and three AK-47 rifles. Lieutenant Walsh organized a search of the area and discovered numerous documents. Then he ordered the destruction of the enemy food supplies and buildings. First Lieutenant Walsh'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. (Headquarters, 101st ABN Division; General Orders Number 229; 10 January 1969)

25 November 1986 PFC Thomas L. Gates (B/2-501 IN) died from wounds received on 09 April 1970 from small arms gunfire wounds during combat action in the A Shau Valley, 24 Mile W-SW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

26 November 1968 A/1-502 was lifted via "hook" to FSB T-Bone and conducted RIF to vic. YD6219. B/1-502 conducted security of T-Bone with local patrols and ambushes. C/1-502 was released from OPCON to 2/501 and lifted from FSB Birmingham to LZ Sally. D/1-502 had contact at YD6120 with 1 VC, with negative assessment. D/1-502 later moved via "hook" to AN Lo Bridge and assumed mission of securing bridge.

27 November 1968 D/1-502 engaged 1 VC, vic. YD6218 while on RIF operation. Results: 1 VC KIA. Later in the day, they found 5 graves (results of earlier contact in area) Recon/1-502 and PF's, killed 4 VC and captured 1 VC and 5 weapons, vic. YD6536.; C/1-502 was OPCON to 2/501.

28 November 1967 PFC Gary B. Jones (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

28 November 1968 A/1-502 conducted security of An Lo Bridge. B/1-502 conducted security of T-Bone, with B16 OPCON to 2/501. C/1-502 was OPCON to 2/501. D/1-502 killed 2 NVA, and captured 1 AK47 and 3 magazines and found 5 graves vic. YD6218. Recon/1-502 conducted RIF from vic. YD6433 to AN Lo.

28 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** C/2-502 closed out FSB Quick and took control of Bridge4 from Recon/2-502.

29 November 1968 D/1-502 was the only unit to have contact with 1 man KIA by sniper. D/1-502 searched the area thoroughly but the enemy had fled.

29 November 1968 SGT William R. Hofstrom (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Star 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, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Hofstrom distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 November 1968 while on a search and clear operation south of Hue. On reaching the base of a hill, his element came under heavy enemy automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire. When the point man and the platoon leader were wounded in the initial volley, Sergeant Hofstrom braved the barrage to pull them to safety. Realizing that the unconscious platoon leader was gagging on his own tongue, Sergeant Hofstrom immediately rendered first aid to prevent his strangulation and then carried him to the safety of a hill crest. He then immediately ran back through the fusillade to retrieve the point man. When both men were safe, he organized the remaining men to remove additional casualties and manned an M-60 machine gun to cover their efforts. Sergeant Hofstrom'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. 3078 (August 12, 1969))

29 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** While crossing a river, B/2-502 10 Platoon had one man drown vic. YD913085.

29 November 1968 The following Soldiers: CPL Jesus E. Gomez Jr. and PFC Heriberto Blanco (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

- 29 November 1968 The following Soldiers: SP4 Terryl G. Partsafas and SP4 Vestif T. Driggers (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 30 November 1968 D/1-502 was the only unit to make contact, they engaged 3 VC vic. YD5640. The enemy fled leaving their rifles and equipment. They sighted 5 more VC but all were out of SA range.
- 30 November 1971 SP4 Harry M. Vandiver Jr. (D/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile illness or disease as a ground casualty in the Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam.

December

- 01 December 1968 A/1-502 conducted RIF to vic. YD6220, they engaged 3 NVA resulting in 2 NVA KIA and 1 NVA captured, along with 2 AK47, and 1 French MG. A/1-502 was OPCON to 2/501. B/1-502 conducted security of FSB T-Bone with B/1-502, 26 element, OPCON to 2/501. C/1-502 moved by vehicle from LZ Sally to secure An Lo Bridge. "First Strike", while flying over AO saw a VC. The VC turned out to be wounded and "First Strike" captured and evacuated via log to 326 med. (This POW furnished intelligence very useful in future mountain operations)
- 01 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Lam Dong, Binh Thuan Provinces. Task Organization: A/2-502, B/2-502, C/2-502, Recondos. Battalion Control: 3(-) A/326 Eng, C/2-320 Arty (DS), Mortar Platoon (DS), IPW, 181 MI Detach. The following three changes were made in the task organization during Operation KLAMATH FALLS. (1) ARVN interpreters joined the Battalion and were assigned one to each company after the operation began. (2) 1-327 assumed OPCON A/2-502 effective 091400H Dec. and released OPCON of A/2-502 effective 111030H Dec. (3) 1-327 assumed OPCON A/2-502 effective 111153H Dec and released OPCON A/2-502 effective Dec. Mission: The 2d BN (ABN) – 502d Inf conducted airmobile assaults from Bao Loc into SW portion of assigned AO and prepared to conduct airmobile assaults and subsequent S&D operations to locate and destroy the 145th, 186th, or 482d VC BN's and the MR-6 Headquarters. (AAR 11JAN1968)
The Battalion personnel strength at the beginning of Operation was as follows:
Authorized: 778
Assigned: 798
Present for Duty: 737
Not present for duty: 61
- 01 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** Phase I; Beginning 010830H Dec 67, 2-502 air assaulted into multiple LZ's and conducted operations to search for and destroy enemy installations and forces, initially in the SW portion of the assigned AO. Emphasis was placed on careful search of all likely sites, particularly draws. Initial air assaults were preceded only by Tac Air and gunship preps.
The Air Assault of the Battalion was executed and the TAC CP location was changed after initial CP elements were on the ground because of unsuitability of terrain for Arty. The TAC CP area was closed at 011745H Dec. The entire insertion was unopposed.
- 01 December 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** C/2-502 engaged and killed 2 VC/NVA at 2000h Vic. YD977010; also captured 2 AK-47's and misc. equipment.

01 December 1969 –

30 April 1970

The following Soldiers: PFC James Evans, SGT Gordon J. Forrester, PFC Gary Gaglead, SP4 John Gillilano, SP4 Darwin A. Grow, SP4 Sterling Lawrence, SP4 Ernest M. McDaniel, SP4 Thomas North, PFC James O. Riley, SP4 David R. Schmidli, SP4 Mickey Shackelford, PFC Wayne R. Smyly, SP4 James C. Thompson, SGT John E. Upton (A/2-501 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division; General Order Number 5079; 7 May 1970)

02 December 1966

PFC Samuel Piscopo Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 2 December 1966 near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Piscopo distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action and personal bravery as he and two companions were moving into an observation post when they unknowingly walked into an enemy position and were immediately assaulted with a tremendous volume of enemy fire. In that initial burst of fire, one man was wounded and lay in a exposed area. Private Piscopo, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposing himself to the brutal enemy fire, rushed to the aid of his wounded comrade and pulled him to a relatively safe area. The situation was worsened by the destruction of the wounded man's weapon and the ineffectiveness of the other's grenade launcher due to the close-in fighting involved. The enemy Soldiers, not receiving any return fire, started to move toward the three men in a attempt to possibly retrieve weapons and equipment. Private Piscopo, observing that the enemies were approaching is position, jumped to his feet, and with disregard for his own safety, fearlessly assaulted the advancing ranks of the enemy. Even through receiving intense automatic weapons fire from the startled enemy, Private Piscopo remained in his exposed position dauntlessly engaging the enemy. His determined effort killed two enemy Soldiers and wounded another. As the remaining two Viet Cong began to withdraw and flee from the battle area, he gave chase for a short distance, wounding one of them. As a result of Private Piscopo's courage and determination, the live of two Americans were saved, two enemy Soldiers killed, two wounded, and three weapons captured. Private Piscopo's impeccable display of valor, his resolute determination and devotion to duty, and his unselfish concern for the life of a fellow Soldier while engaged in close combat against a numerically superior force are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

02 December 66

SSG George T. Royster (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in Action in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Royster, after having placed his men into an ambush position, observed approximately twenty-five enemy soldiers approaching from an unexpected direction. Immediately, Sergeant Royster moved his men from their initial position to a more advantageous position. Once Sergeant Royster's men were positioned he maintained strict fire discipline until the enemy was within five meters of his position. When the ambush was triggered, Sergeant Royster moved from position to position giving his men encouragement and exposing himself to murderous enemy fire while pointing out enemy targets. Sergeant Royster moved through bullet swept area time and time again in order to improve his evaluation of the situation. After having determined that only nineteen of the twenty-five enemy soldiers were killed, Sergeant Royster, in a determined effort, charged from his covered area firing his rifle and throwing grenades in a one man assault. Although the enemy was determined and placed murderous fire on Sergeant Royster, he relentlessly assaulted the enemy position, personally killing four enemy soldiers. Sergeant Royster's actions and leadership resulted in his ambush element killing twenty-three of the enemy. Sergeant Royster's outstanding display of leadership and gallantry in action are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

02 December 66

SP4 John E. Maldon (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in Action in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Maldon and four of his comrades were given the mission of securing a river crossing site for the remainder of their company. As the small element approached the river crossing site, they encountered an

estimated squad size element of enemy soldiers hiding among some large rocks in a river bed. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Maldon charged one of the enemy positions firing his weapon and killing two enemy soldiers. He continued to move forward through a murderous volume of enemy fire and charged another enemy position. As Specialist Maldon neared the enemy, he acquired a hand grenade and threw it into the position killing two more enemy soldiers and wounding another. Specialist Maldon continued to advance on the remaining enemy positions placing suppressive fire into them, thus enabling his four comrades to assault the enemy positions successfully. As a result of Specialist Maldon's actions, four enemy soldiers were killed, several were wounded and four enemy weapons were captured, including a heavy machine gun. Specialist Maldon's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

- 02 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** A/2-502 Vic AN752502 at 1540H engaged 8VC in black pajamas with weapons. The action resulted in 6 VC KIA (C), 2 VC's and 2 individual weapons captured with no friendly casualties.
- 02 December 1968 A/1-502 engaged 2 VC, vic. YD6220, resulting in 2 VC KIA, 2 AK47, 2 rucksacks and equipment and documents captured. B/1-502 conducted security of FSB T-Bone with local patrols and ambushes. A/1-502, 26 element and B/1-502, 16 elements, was OPCON to 2/501. C/1-502(-) conducted security of An Lo. D/1-502 and C/1-502, 16 element, Recon/1-502, 1 tank platoon and 2 PF platoons (OPCON to "D") established a cordon, center of mass, vic. YD595390. Several BBT's were encountered, resulting in C/1-502, 16 platoon leader KIA and 2 PF WIA. 2 VC were KIA. 1 VC captured with 2 AK47. The cordon also found 1 60mm mortar, 1 RPG, a MG and approx. 700lbs. of rice.
- 02 December 1968 SP4 Arthur Williams Jr. (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from Artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 02 December 1968 1LT Barry Weissman (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 03 December 1968 A/1-502 conducted RIF, vic. YD6220. They received sniper fire from the northwest. The fire was returned with negative assessment. A/1-502, 26 elements, OPCON to 2/501. B/1-502 security of T-Bone. C/1-502 conducted security of An Lo Bridge. D/1-502 with Recon, platoon of tanks and PF's continued cordon operations. They found 1 fresh VC grave (KIA by artillery) and 1 bouncing betty mine. PF's killed 2 VC and captured 1 weapon, vic. YD6338.
- 03 December 1968 SGT Jorge B Otero (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism on 03 December 1968. Platoon Sergeant Otero distinguished himself while serving as the Platoon Sergeant in the Reconnaissance Platoon of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, in Quang Diem, Republic of Vietnam. While on combat operations in the sand dunes along the coast, the platoon came under heavy small arms and machine gun fire from camouflaged enemy positions and was pinned down. Platoon Sergeant Otero located on source of enemy fire and began moving toward the bunker. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Platoon Sergeant Otero ran fifty meters through enemy fire until he was close enough to destroy the enemy bunker with hand grenades. Through his courage, he contributed to the success of the mission, which resulted in two enemy killed, one enemy captured, four weapons captured and no friendly casualties. Platoon Sergeant Otero's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon

himself, the unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 922).

03 December 1968



1LT John F. Hay (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 December 1968. Second Lieutenant Hay distinguished himself while serving as the Reconnaissance Platoon Leader of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, in the District of Quang Dien, Republic of Vietnam. While on a combat operation in the sand dunes along the coast, the platoon came under heavy small arms and machine gun fire and was pinned down in a crossfire. Lieutenant Hay, with complete disregard for his personal safety, attempted to locate the enemy positions. Having located these positions, he moved from position to position, coordinated the supporting fire of his men and maneuvered on the enemy bunkers. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission, which resulted in two enemy killed, one enemy captured, four weapons captured and no friendly casualties. First Lieutenant Hay'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 1039, 31 January 1969)

03 December 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Recon/2-502 engaged 8 VC/NVA at 2330h (YD986013) and killed 2 and captured 2 AK-47's.

03 December 1969

President Richard Nixon awards three Medals of Honor to former Screaming Eagles. Receiving the award in person at the White House ceremonies is SFC Webster Anderson, a former member of A Btry, 2nd BN (AMBL), 320th AR. Two awards are made posthumously to relatives of SSG Chester Sims, D Co. 2nd BN (AMBL) 501st INF and SP4 Dale Wayrynen, B Co. 2nd BN (AMBL), 502nd IN. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary, Winter 1969)

03 December 1969

"Operation Nevada Eagle" Fifteen enemy were killed, three prisoners taken and seven weapons captured in action throughout the AO. A/1/501 engaged six enemy, killing five and capturing another plus four weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary, Winter 1969)

03 - 16 December 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: There was very little contact as the enemy continued to avoid engagements. 2-502 Battalion continued reconnaissance in force operation in Company and Platoon size elements west of FSB Bastogne. The NDP of Recon Platoon was hit by 82mm mortar fire with no casualties. Several sensors were activated during the 3-16 December along with a few enemy sighting. Artillery was fired on suspected enemy location with unknown results.

04 December 1966

PFC Lawrence D. Mungin III (B/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

04 December 1968

D/1-502 found 2 RPG rounds and 2 AP mines. Shortly after noon the cordon was terminated. Recon conducted move via "hook" from vic. YD5034 to Omaha. From Omaha, they conducted CA to vic. YD6928.

04 December 1969

A Div Arty aerial recon craft spotted three enemy bodies during a day of light contact. FB Brick, on Leech Island, was closed with the extraction of the Delta Raiders of 2/501. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary, Winter 1969)


05 December 1967

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: Phase II: The battalion's orientation was directed to the south on as wide a front as possible effective 05 Dec. The TAC CP/2-502 was displaced to the south effective 09 Dec to support the companies push south against the 1-327 IN elements in an attempt to squeeze the enemy in between. Phase III: The

battalion was displaced to the NE in an air assault on multiple landing zones with the companies oriented mainly on terrain rather than on specific intelligence of enemy units. Emphasis was placed on thorough search with the companies broken into sub-elements.

Effective 1000H, B/2-502 and C/2-502 reoriented to the south to cut trails and streams on as wide a front as possible in reaction to intelligence indicating this area as a route of egress.

- 05 December 1968 1-502 IN continued normal operations. D/1-502 was the only unit to make contact. They engaged 2 VC vic. YD5934, resulting in 1 VC KIA and 1 AK47 captured. Recon was lifted back to LZ Sally from vic. YD6829, by log bird.
- 05 December 1969 Six enemy were killed and six weapons captured in the AO. Two night ambushes, one near FB Boise by the 2/502 Recondos, and the other near Jeanne by D/1/502, were successful, with three enemy killed. Company A of the 1st Battalion Geronimo's captured two enemy after engaging an unknown size force near Sandy. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary, Winter 1969)
- 06 December 1968 A/1-502 (-) moved from vic. YD6120 to FSB T-Bone. A/1-502, 36 elements was lifted via "hook" from LZ Sally to T-Bone. A/1-502 replaced B/1-502 as T-Bone security. B/1-502 RIF from T-Bone to vic. YD6519. While moving into their NDP B/1-502 observed movement vic. YD6417 and called in artillery. A first light assessment proved negative. C/1-502 conducted security of AN Lo Bridge. C/1-502 16 element with 1 platoon of PF's, conducted RIF to vic. YD6132 where they set up a blocking position for 2 platoons of PF's that conducted a CA to vic. YD6134, then swept towards blocking positions. There was negative contact. D/1-502 conducted RIF operations, vic. YD64537. Recon at LZ Sally as RRF for Bde.
- 06 December 1970 SGT George E. Bailey (A/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile vehicle loss or crash as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 07 December 1967 PVT James A. McKenzie (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Binh Thuan Province, South Vietnam.
- 07 December 1968 A/1-502 secured FSB T-Bone and conducted local patrols and ambushes. B/1-502 conducted day and night ambushes, vic. YD6518. C/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge, security for mine sweep, and conducted local patrols and ambushes. Company "D" conducted RIF to vic. YD6040. They engaged 2 VC resulting in 1 VC WIA and 1 M-26 and rucksack captured. Recon remained at LZ Sally.
- 07 December 1969 Operation RANDOPH GLEN began. FSB Rifle (YD862988) served as the base of the operations for the "STRIKE Force Battalion" (2-502 IN) with the maneuver companies located in the canopy to the north and south of the firebase. Joint US/ARVN operations were to play a significant role throughout the following New Year.
- 08 – 09
December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** A/2-502 was air assaulted into an AO in the SE portion of the BN AO. The TAC CP was relocated by air on A Co. LZ on 09DEC. The southern boundary was extended in coordination with 1-327 IN. A Co. was detached and 1-327 IN assumed OPCON. All landings were unopposed and no contact was made.
- 08 December 1967 The following Soldier: SGT David A. Tanner and PFC Victor A. Mazitis Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from misadventure (Friendly Fire) in the Lam Dong Province, South Vietnam.

- 08 December 1968 Although Recon/1-502 was the only unit to make contact (they engaged 1 VC at their NDP with negative results), the Battalion conducted several unit moves by "hook". C/1-502 moved from An Lo to vic. YD6922. D/1-502 moved from vic. YD6139 to An Lo. Recon moved to vic. YD6139 from LZ Sally.
- 08 December 1968 SSG Jorge B. Otero (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (2-OLC) for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 December 1968. Platoon Sergeant Otero distinguished himself while serving as the Reconnaissance Platoon Sergeant of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, in Quang Dien District, Republic of Vietnam. While on a night operation, an ambush was sprung by the First Squad approximately two hundred meters from the platoon command position. While the Command Group was controlling the action and directing artillery support, it received heavy enemy sniper fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Platoon Sergeant Otero moved through the enemy fire, a distance of approximately one hundred and fifty meters, in a successful attempt to flank the enemy. From this position, Platoon Sergeant Otero routed the enemy by placing a heavy, accurate volume of fire on the enemy position. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission, which resulted in two enemy killed and no friendly losses. Platoon Sergeant Otero'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 1710, 21 Feb 1969; Amended General Order Number 3316, 25 March 1970)
- 08 December 1968 1LT John F. Hay (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 December 1968. First Lieutenant Hay distinguished himself while serving as the Reconnaissance Platoon leader of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, in Quang Dien District, Republic of Vietnam. While on a night operation, the first squad of the reconnaissance platoon initiated an ambush approximately two hundred meters from the Command position. Lieutenant Hay immediately began directing illumination and tried to establish radio contact with the first squad leader in order to take command of the situation. Finding that his radio was not operating, Lieutenant Hay moved into the open and began shouting orders and directing the action. The brightness of the illumination and his shouting orders clearly marked his position and snipers fire was directed toward him. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Hay remained in this position for five minutes, directing his platoon until the action was completed. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission, which resulted in two enemy killed and no friendly losses. Lieutenant Hay'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.
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- 08 December 1969 PFC Joseph E. Hardee (D/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile Burns as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 09 December 1965 SGT GENE HAWTHORNE (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself from 9 December 1965 to 10 December 1965 while serving as patrol leader of a squad size element during a reconnaissance mission in "War Zone D", Republic of Vietnam. After successfully infiltrating into Viet Cong territory, Sergeant Hawthorne's patrol was to remain in place until they were covered by the forward movement of friendly troops. Despite the skill and experience of the patrol, they were discovered after several hours and engaged by a Viet Cong platoon. Sergeant Hawthorne and his patrol immediately switched their M-16 rifles to automatic and repelled the

attack. After two more encounters with the insurgent troops, Sergeant Hawthorne was seriously wounded in both arms by fragments from a booby trap that killed one of his men. After unsuccessfully persuading his men to leave him behind, he directed his assistant in the formation of a defensive perimeter. Sergeant Hawthorne continued to direct his assistant through two more vicious attempts to destroy the patrol. Realizing that his patrol had been out down to three effective fighting men, Sergeant Hawthorne demanded that he be placed in a firing position. Although he was only semi-conscious and could only see a few meters ahead, Sergeant Hawthorne, with complete disregard for his personal safety, held his positions throughout the last assault and delivered deadly fire into the attacking Viet Cong. Summoning the last of his strength, he pinpointed the patrol's position for an artillery battery and helped his assistant adjust the incoming rounds by the sounds of the bursts. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, the insurgents were forced to withdraw, and a Viet Cong regimental base camp was discovered and subsequently destroyed. Sergeant Hawthorne's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically 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.

09 December 1965

SGT ROBERT E DRAKE (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself from 9 December 1965 to 10 December 1965 while serving as assistant patrol leader of a squad size element during a reconnaissance mission in "War Zone D", Republic of Vietnam. After successfully infiltrating into Viet Cong territory, Sergeant Drake's patrol was to remain in place until they were covered by the forward movement of friendly troops. Despite the skill and experience of the patrol, they were discovered after several hours and engaged by a Viet Cong Platoon. While moving to a more tenable position, the patrol leader was wounded and became too weak to effectively direct the patrol. Sergeant Drake immediately assumed command and formed a defensive perimeter. On the following morning, as he was preparing to extricate his patrol with two wounded and two dead, the Viet Cong launched another assault. Sergeant Drake immediately set up another defensive perimeter and personally prevented a breakthrough on the left flank. When the forward observer was killed, Sergeant Drake, with complete disregard for his personal safety, crawled 30 meters to the radio and called for suppressive artillery fire. At least six times during the course of action, Sergeant Drake exposed himself to direct fire as he maneuvered around the perimeter to distribute ammunition and treat casualties. Through his courage, determination, and outstanding leadership, the insurgents were forced to withdraw, and a Viet Cong regimental base camp was discovered and subsequently destroyed. Sergeant Drake's extraordinary heroism against a numerically 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.

09 December 1968

Recon/1-502 was the only platoon to have contact. They sprung an ambush on 1 VC at vic. YD6139, resulting in 1 VC KIA. Another ambush at vic. YD5939 killed 2 VC with small arms.

10 December 1968

On this day we lost the "Street" section of our AO to the 3/5 Cav., for an 8 day operation. Recon/1-502 and C/1-502, 26 element, went OPCON to 3/5 Cav. For 4 days (10-13). D/1-502 was the only company that had contact when they engaged 3 VC, vic. YD6124, with negative results.

11 December 1967

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: A/2-502 returned to BN's control in the morning and the afternoon was again released to 1-327 IN OPCON.

11 December 1968

Operation PHU VANG IV begins. It is the continuation of the PHU VANG series where the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division returned the 1/501st Airborne to team with the 54th ARVN Regiment to conduct further cordon and search operations aimed at

preventing the main force and local VC units from regrouping in the area east and southeast of Hue. Casualties: US 2 KIA, 12 WIA; enemy 75 KIA, 99 POW.

- 11 - 12 December 1968 A/1-502 secured T-Bone. B/1-502 conducted RIF operations, vic. YD6118. They engaged 5 VC while operating in this area, but the VC fled with negative assessment. C/1-502(-) is OPCON to 1/501. C/1-502, 26 element, is OPCON to 3/5 Cav. C/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge. Recon/1-502 is OPCON to 3/5 Cav.
- 11 December 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** PF's took control of Bridge 3 from B/2-502, two squads of E/2-502 were air lifted into FSB Quick as security for an Arty raid by C/2-320 Arty from 0750-1410h.
- 11 December 1971 1LT Philip S. Gallagher III (E/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile illness or disease as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 12 December 1965 SSG Pete A. Valasquez (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 12 December 1965 while serving as a squad leader in an airborne infantry battalion on a search and destroy operation in Ben Cat, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Valasquez was assigned to the lead platoon of the battalion. At approximately 0915 hours while advancing through dense jungle terrain, one squad in the platoon came under fire from an estimated Viet Cong squad. Hearing the initial burst of fire, Sergeant Valasquez quickly moved his squad to the front to assist the squad under fire. Upon reaching the area, the insurgent squad had slipped back into the jungle leaving several trails of blood. Without hesitation, Sergeant Valasquez led four of his men along the trail of blood in relentless pursuit of the insurgents. As they stopped off the small trail, six Viet Cong opened fire from concealed positions with automatic weapons and hand grenades. Sergeant Valasquez was wounded four times, but he quickly turned to his men and directed their fire on the insurgents. As the fire fight progressed, a grenade wounded him for the fifth time and he fell to the ground unconscious and shortly afterwards died from his wounds. Throughout the brief but ferocious battle, Sergeant Valasquez placed the welfare of his men and the accomplishment of the mission above his personal safety. His leadership, devotion to duty, and gallantry were an inspiration to his men. Sergeant Valasquez's gallant 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.
- 13 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** The battalion was air assaulted into the new AO to the NE. Four LZ's were used. Recondos received several rounds of automatic weapons fire on their initial insertion but no casualties were taken and no subsequent contact was made. A/2-502 began working from the high ground west into the valley area. B Co. moved east towards the valley and C Co. maintained the initial LZ with patrols working out from a base.
- 13 December 1967 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division deploys to the Republic of Vietnam from Campbell Army Airfield.
- 13 December 1967 – 20 November 1968 SGT Ronald J. Ymbras (1/502d IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of this extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United State Mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to

duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service. (HQ; 101st ABN DIV; General Order No: 9860; 26 November 1968)

- 13 December 1968 A/1-502 secured T-Bone with platoon RIF, vic. YD6222. This RIF utilized 2 scout dog teams. A "hook" was utilized to move one 4.2 and one 81mm mortar and crew to Apache for practice firing and was then lifted via "hook" to T-Bone. B/1-502 RIF operations with day and night ambushes, vic. YD6218. C/1-502 (-) is OPCON to 1/501. D/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge. Recon/1-502 is OPCON to 3/5 Cav.
- 13 December 1968 PFC Salvatore A. Rowe (B/1-502 IN) died from other Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 14 December 1965 SSG Pete A. Valasquez (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.
- 14 December 1968 A/1-502 secured T-Bone with 1 platoon on local RIF operations. The unit concentrated on rebuilding and improving fortifications of T-Bone and unit training. Unit training is being stressed in all units as the turbulence of personnel has been a point of concern for the Battalion Commander. B/1-502 conducted RIF, vic. YD6188. They found a bunker complex (negative signs of recent use), vic. YD6117 and destroyed it. C/1-502 (-) released from 3/5 Cav. and returned via "hook" to LZ Sally. D/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge. Recon/1-502 released from OPCON to 3/5 Cav. and returned to LZ Sally, via "hook" to be RRF.
- 14 December 1970 PFC Richard L. Maynard Jr. (D/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 14 December 1970 SP4 William J. Odstrcil (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received resulting in his death from hostile injury while missing as a passenger aboard a "Dust Off" helicopter out of Camp Eagle and one of five men who died when the UH-1 Huey was lost. Four of the men were from the Air Ambulance Platoon, 326th Medical Battalion, 101st Airborne.
- 15 December 1965 SGT James W. Grey (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.
- 15 December 1967 2nd Brigade's colors arrive at Cu Chi base camp, Republic of Vietnam.
- 15 December 1968 A/1-502 secured FSB T-Bone and conducted local patrols and ambushes. C/1-502, 26 elements was OPCON to A/1-502. They conducted RIF operation from LZ Sally to vic. YD6020, while concluding RIF they heard a SA shot. On investigation, they found freshly cooked rice alongside the trail, vic. YD6121 and later 3 VC. The VC fired on B/1-502 (negative casualties), fire was returned and the VC fled and gunships were called in on suspected locations. Upon searching the area, negative bodies were found, but they did find 3 hooches which contained various gear, ammo, propaganda material and personal effects. Two blood trails were also found. B/1-502 followed the blood trails with negative results. C/1-502 is OPCON to 1/501. D/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge. D/1-502, 16 element, CA'd to vic. YD6019 and became OPCON to B/1-502. Recon/1-502 moved by vehicle from LZ Sally to An Lo where they utilized a super contact team.
- 15 – 16 December 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A combined operation with the 13th Coastal Group, Phyu Loc District HA S2 section k, the BDE MP's, A/2-502 30, C/2-502 20 & 30, and

BN S2 Interrogation Center. The operation was directed toward the large number of sampans moving in the Dam Cau Hai Bay recently. The enemy has been known to use this method of transporting troops and supplies. The concept of the operation was to sweep the Bay at midnight and during the early morning hours with the Coastal Group PBR's and the ARVN Junks acted as a blocking force along the N-S grid lines ZD06. All personnel and sampans were herded into collection point at Bach Thach (H) (ZD038025). Land blocking psns were established to preclude anyone escaping by land at the following locations: A 30 (ZC040025); C 20 & C30 (YC987070) to (ZC0103). The operation started 152030 Dec with a sweep from NW to SE of the Bay (Neg results): a second sweep was conducted 160445Dec resulting in 11 sampans and 52 detainees. 26 Adults were classified as curfew violators. A Medcap was conducted in conjunction with the interrogation. Trained PRU's from Hue were flown in to the JIC on the morning of 16 Dec. The operation was concluded that afternoon.

On 15DEC, C/2-502 took responsibility of Bridge 4 and Recon was released from their OPCON, and was given the mission of securing FSB Roy (ZC057029).

- 16 December 1968 B/1-502 had light contact, vic. YD6119 which they engaged 3 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA and 2 VC WIA. B/1-502 had 1 US slightly wounded. C/1-502 (-) returned to LZ Sally from OPCON to 1/501 via "hook" from FSB Sandy. Recon/1-502 platoon with 2 platoons of PF departed An Lo to RIF, vic. YD6131. C/1-502, 26 elements, conducted Eagle flight from LZ Sally to vic. YD6238. Gunship escort engaged 2 VC with negative results.
- 16 December 1968 PFC James M. Ludwig (B/1-502) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from misadventure (friendly fire) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 16 December 1970 SGT Val C. Robinson (D/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile injury as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.