



## 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 08 March – 14 March 2015



08 March –  
17 May 1968

**Operation Carentan II** consisted of the 2d BDE conducting RIF operations north and northwest of Hue to destroy enemy forces, base camps and installations, while the 3d BDE, 82d ABN DIV provided external security for Hue and conducted RIF operations east and south of Hue. (Operational Report of 101<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))

08 March –  
17 May 1968

### **Operation Carentan I – II**

Locations: I Corps; Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces; Song Bo River; Col Co Beach; Hue; Phuoc yen; Van Xa Lang; Xom Dong; FSB Hardcore; LZs Devil, Detroit, Geronimo, Pinky.

Type/Objective: Carentan I – II Combines Search and Destroy, Cordon and Search and Reconnaissance in Force operations into the lowlands of Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces. Note: Carentan I (8-30 March) and Carentan II (1 April – 17 May).

Units: US – 23d Infantry Division (Americal), 198<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade (2-1<sup>st</sup> Infantry), 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 82d Airborne Division (1-505<sup>th</sup> ABN, 2-505<sup>th</sup> ABN, 1-508<sup>th</sup> ABN), 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division: 1<sup>st</sup> BDE (2-327<sup>th</sup> ABN, 2-17<sup>th</sup> CAV) 2d BDE (1-501<sup>st</sup> IN, 2-501<sup>st</sup> IN, 1-502<sup>nd</sup> IN); VNAF – 1<sup>st</sup> ARVN Division; NVA/VC - 324-B NVA Division (90<sup>th</sup>, 803d and 812<sup>th</sup> NVA regiments), 4<sup>th</sup> NVA Regiment. Events: 10 April – "Battle of Thon Phuoc Dien". Companies A, B, D 2-501<sup>st</sup> IN (101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV) encounter an estimated six battalions from the 812<sup>th</sup> NVA Regiment near the small village of Thon Phuoc Dien, 12 miles southeast of Quang Tri City.

Losses: U.S. – 7 KIA, 35 WIA in the firefight. Enemy losses are reported at 66 KIA.

Events: 28 April – 4 May – While conducting a Cordon and Search of the villages of Thon Duong Son and Phuoc Yen, several elements of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division clash with a strong enemy force four miles northwest of Hue. Involved in the action are B and D 2-501<sup>st</sup> IN, 1-502<sup>nd</sup> IN, 2-1<sup>st</sup> IN, 2-17<sup>th</sup> CAV, and the 2-327<sup>th</sup> ABN versus the 8-90<sup>th</sup> NVA Regiment.

Losses: U.S. - 6 KIA, 43 WIA; NVA/VC – 314 KIA, 107 POWs

Events: 1 May – the 2-17<sup>th</sup> CAV Battles a reinforced company of NVA Soldiers 13 miles northwest of Hue.

Losses: U.S. – 2 KIA, 26 WIA; NVA/VC – 82 KIA

Events: 5 – 6 May \_ "Battle of La Chu". While conducting a Cordon and Search of La Chu, three miles northwest of Hue, companies A and D 1-501<sup>st</sup> IN, A & C 2-501<sup>st</sup> IN, 2-17<sup>th</sup> CAV and C/2-34<sup>th</sup> AR engage an NVA force of unknown size.

Losses: U.S. – 1 KIA, 18 WIA; NVA/VC – 55 KIA.



Casualties: Total for Carentan I –II: U.S. – 193 KIA, 1,190 WIA, 11 MIA; NVA/VC – 1,892 KIA, 69 POWs.

09 – 23  
March 1967

**Operation FARRAGUT V:** This operation beginning in the VC Secret Base 35 area southeast of Phan Rang, and the morning slightly northwest to the same AO used by the 2-502 in FATTAGUT III. The mission was to fix and destroy a VC Company reportedly operating in the area. This whole region is in Ninh Thuan Province.

09 March 1967

**Operation FARRAGUT V:** This operation started with an air assault to Son Hoi, a VC controlled hamlet, by elements of the STRIKE FORCE. Landing near the ocean, B Company and the Recondo Force conducted a “cordon and search” of Son Hoi, collecting 30 detainees and 1 VC POW with weapon. Then A and C Companies made a combat air assault to the south of Son Hoi, and all elements began search and destroy operations to the west. A Company received fire on the LZ, and called in gunships, resulting in 1 VC KHA with weapon. Units continued to sweep west, finding small number of old campsites but making no enemy contact.

09 March 1968

Screaming Eagles of the 2nd Brigade rejoined the Division after completing their phase of Operation Jeb Stuart near Quang Tri City with the 1st Air Cavalry Division. They killed 1,011 enemy during their phase of the Operation.

09 March 1968

1-502nd IN Battalion conducted a joint 3 Company assault on village complex center of mass YD6731. Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie remained in heavy contact form 0900hrs to 1445hrs. Air Strikes, artillery, naval gunfire, and organic weapons used against suspected 2 BN's of NVA in the village. Results: Friendly: 3-KIA, 17-WIA, and 2-MIA; Enemy: 35-KIA (BC) and 20-KIA (Est.). (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)

10 March 1968

A large weapons cache was discovered by A Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. (Abn), 501<sup>st</sup> Inf. It included 16 rockets or 122mm, 321mm, 321 rounds of 60mm mortars, 170 rounds of 82mm mortars, 107 RPG-7 rounds, 228 RPG-2 rounds, 24,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 2,800 blasting caps and 28 cases of TNT. Paratroopers of C Co. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. \*Abn), 501<sup>st</sup> Inf. killed 25 enemy during a contact with an NVA company. Meanwhile, Screaming Eagles of A Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. (Abn), 501<sup>st</sup> Inf. captured a weapons cache containing 16 assault rifles, 10 rounds of 60mm mortars and 15 rounds of 82mm mortars after a bitter battle resulting in seven NVA killed. During the same period, other Division forces captured 22,700 pounds of rice along the banks of the Song Bo. It was found mostly in caves.

10 – 11  
March 1968

**Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** The first significant contact was made involving Alpha, Charlie, and Recon 502d. From this time to the end of Phase I significant contacts were made by Bravo and Charlie Company on combat operations against enemy bunker positions. The terrain was mountainous with thick jungle and tall canopy in the western portion of the AO. In the north there were high barren mountain ridges.

Recondos vic. YD 741272 saw 2 VC running from a hooch, fired them up with negative results. At 1515, Redondo's Vic YD735175 received machine gun and small arms fire from an estimated company sized force. Recondos maneuvered and began to receive mortar and suspected .50 cal fires. Called in 4 gunships strikes and artillery. At 1625, A Co. began to move to relieve Recondos and received machine gun, mortar, SA, and grenades vic. YD734173 from estimated company size elements dug in. At 1800, C Co. was air assaulted from AO to vic. YD735172 to assist A Co. and Recondos. An effective link-up with Alpha and Recondos was made at 1850. All units contact broken at 1945. On 11 March A



2



Co., Recondos, and C Co. swept area of previous days contacts. Results: 4 US KHA, 32 US WHA, 6 NVA KIA, 1 Detainee CIA, 1 RPD, 1 RPG, 2 AK-47, 2 AK-47, 2 SKS CIA.

10 March 1972

The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division is withdrawn from Vietnam.

10-14 March 1991

The 502nd redeploys to Fort Campbell from Operation DESERT STORM.

10 March 2003

2nd Brigade Soldiers stay overnight at Camp Wolf until their baggage arrived and transportation was arranged for the three hour bus ride to Base Camps in Kuwait. While at Camp Wolf, Soldiers received military customs and culture training.



11 March 1968

Members of C Co. 326<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn (Abn), clearing Highway 1 north of Hue with the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn (Abn), 502<sup>nd</sup> Inf., discovered and dismantled an NVA booby trap of 11 rounds of 105mm shells buried in the road and wired for command detonation. SSG Ronald Henn, Clarksville, TN, had to take the wires out and remove the shells because exploding them in place would have blown too large a hole in the road.

12 March 1968

Paratroopers from C/2-501 IN killed 41 NVA at the close of a two-day battle three miles north of Hue.

12 March 1969

C/1-502 assaulted an area near Fire Support Base Veghel, a U.S. position in the central valley that had been abandoned the previous year, to establish a landing zone for the battalion. Awaiting the troopers was the 816<sup>th</sup> NVA Battalion. Fighting from about 1630hrs through the night. C Company Soldiers secured the base, losing 2 KIA while killing 12 NVA. The rest of the NVA troops fled some four miles southwest to the 2,640ft. Dong A Tay Mountain, described as a "round, squat hill with a large razorback ridge flowing out of it to the north." Initially, U.S. Commanders thought the enemy force guarding the area around FSB Beghel was only squad sized, and after it was cleared thought it might be a company. But Soldiers in the field knew differently. "The first couple of nights near Dong A Tay, we could hear the ticking of generators in the background of our radio communications," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt John Eastham, Commander of 2<sup>nd</sup> Plt, B Co. "We knew then we had something big." (VFW Article (March 2008))

12 March 1991

1/320th FA Soldiers fly by C-130 transports from Rafha (TAA Campbell) to King Fahd International Airport and Camp Eagle II.

13 March 2009

Col. Arthur Kandarian replaces Col. William Hickman as the commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

14 March 1970

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2-502 (STRIKE Force) Battalion returned to the field. Maneuver Companies operated north and west of FSB Pistol (YC902902) with the Battalion CP secured by D Company located at FSB Pistol. This AO showed definite signs of recent enemy activity. One of the lift ships conducting A Company's assault struck a booby trap on the LZ wounding two Soldiers and causing minor damage to the Aircraft. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



**During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT and the 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment.**

- 1 x Distinguished Service Cross
- 8 x Silver Star Medal
- 2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 10 x Bronze Star Medal (10 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 88 x Purple Heart Medal (55 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Died of Non-Hostile wounds or injury

08 March 1968 SP4 Jacob D. Phillips (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during combat operations. (Purple Heart Citation)

08 March 1968 The following Soldiers: SP4 Williams J. Bowers (Pictured), PFC Samuel B. Hudson (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in Ap Dong Lang, 10km of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



08 March 1968 The following Soldiers: PFC Michael A. Shramko (Pictured), SGT Wayne M. Kidwell (Pictured), SP4 Rodolfo Villafranco (Pictured), PFC Sonnie Stephens (Pictured), PFC Ben H. Williams, and SP4 Craig A. Arndt (Pictured) (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in AP Dong Lang, 10km of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



08 March 1968 2LT Delmar W. Probst (D/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



08 March 1968 SP4 Danny L. Smothers (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received from fragment from a friendly mortar round while in a night defensive position on 30 December 1967 in AP Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue, in the Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam.



08 March 1968

SP4 Bernard Boney (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received from explosive device wounds when a hostile mine detonated while on combat operations in AP Dong Lang, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 March 1969

The following Soldiers: SP4 Jack E. Williams and PFC Roger W. Smelser (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from other explosive device wounds while in a night defensive position vic. of FSB Spears, 21k ENE of A Shau Valley, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



08 March 1969

The following Soldiers: PFC James M. Norman (Pictured), SP4 Earl T. Hoag (Pictured), and PFC Matthew E. Morton Jr. (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds while in a night defensive position vic. of FSB Spears, 21k ENE of A Shau Valley, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



08 March 1969

The following Soldiers: CPL Alfred E. Alvey Jr. (Pictured), CPL Roger H. Howes (Pictured), CPL Robert E. Grant, PFC David E. Theobald, SP4 John L. Motley Jr., and SP4 Leon Tisdale (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while in a night defensive position vic. of FSB Spears, 21k ENE of A Shau Valley, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



08 March 2006

LTC Thomas Kunk (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat while at approximately 0835 while traveling northeast on Route Fat Boy, the convoy LTC Kunk was in struck an IED. The IED struck the front passenger side of the vehicle, which sent shrapnel through the armor and penetrated LTC Kunk in his lower left leg.



09 March 1968

The following Soldiers: SGT Robert L. Clewlow and SP4 John E. Hood (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in Ap Duc Trong, 10km NW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



09 March 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Daniel L. Kinnard (Pictured)(HHC/1-502 IN); SP4 William Vazquez (Pictured) (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from gunshot wounds received when he engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation.



09 March 1968

SSG Leroy B. Robbins (E/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received when he engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation.

09 March 1968

SP4 Nestor Vargas-Guzman (A/1-502 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart. For wounds received in action. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452)

09 March 2011



CPL Loren Buffalo (B/1-75 CAV), 20, of Mountain Pine, Arkansas earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

09 March 2011

SSG Phillips Casey (HHB/1-320 FAR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

09 March 2011

The following Soldiers: SGT Miles Hurley and SPC Jack Zimmerman (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

10 March 1967

SFC Calvin P. White (HHC/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile injuries while he was in a landing zone when friendly aircraft flew overhead and accidentally fired M-79 rounds on to his position, in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.



10 March 1968

The following Soldiers: SGT Robert Rera and SP5 Richard C. Brown (Pictured) (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



10 March 1968

CPL Stephen M. Worley (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

10 March 2006

SPC Troy Crawford (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a dismounted IED patrol an IED detonated approximately 20 feet from SPC Crawford resulting in wounds to both arms, both legs, back and buttocks.

10 March 2006

PFC Tyson Ivie (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he had penetrating shrapnel wound to his chest from indirect fire.

10 March 2008



CPL Robert McDavid (1-64 AR, 2/3 ID), 29, of Starkville, Mississippi; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). CPL McDavid died in Baghdad of wounds sustained when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device.

10 March 2008



SSG David Julian (1-64 AR, 2/3 ID), 31, of Evanston, Wyoming; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). CPL Julian died in Baghdad of wounds sustained when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device.

10 March 2008



SFC Shawn Suzch (1-64 AR, 2/3 ID), 32, of Hilltown, Pennsylvania; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). CPL Suzch died in Baghdad of wounds sustained when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device.

10 March 2008



SSG Ernesto Cimarrusti (1-64 AR, 2/3 ID), 25, of Douglas, Arizona; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). CPL Cimarrusti died in Baghdad of wounds sustained when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device.



10 March 2008



CPL Scott McIntosh (1-64 AR, 2/3 ID), 26, of Houston, Texas; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). CPL McIntosh died in Baghdad of wounds sustained when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device.

10 March 2008

SGT Robert Hutson (D/1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat while 2/D/1-64 AR was conducting a dismounted market assessment on Route Bon Jovi consisting of four M1151s. At approximately 1510, his patrol was attacked by a suicide bomber. As a result of the attack, SGT Hutson sustained a perforated ear drum and laceration to his head.

10 March 2008

SGT Jesus Roman (D/1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat while 2/D/1-64 AR was conducting a dismounted market assessment on Route Bon Jovi consisting of four M1151s. At approximately 1510, his patrol was attacked by a suicide bomber. As a result of the attack, SGT Roman sustained second degree burns to his face and shrapnel in both forearms.

10 March 2008

SPC William Ruiz (D/1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat while 2/D/1-64 AR was conducting a dismounted market assessment on Route Bon Jovi consisting of four M1151s. At approximately 1510, his patrol was attacked by a suicide bomber. As a result of the attack, SPC Ruiz sustained a perforation to his right ear, lacerated scalp and second degree burns to his right hand.

10 March 2011

The following Soldiers: SPC Andrew Pangus and PFC Matthew Deatherage (HHC/1-320 FAR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

11 March 1968



SSG Charles J. Maguire (B/2-501 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart. For wounds received in action. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452)

11 March 1968



The following Soldiers: SGT Dale J. Nuxoll, SP4 Glen I. Sakagawa, SP4 Thomas Ptak (Pictured), and SP4 Bobby J. Linville (C/2-501 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart. For wounds received in action. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452)

11 March 1968

SP4 Thomas A. Soals (E/1-501 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart. For wounds received in action. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452)



11 March 1968



SP4 Raymond G. Rocha (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 March 2011



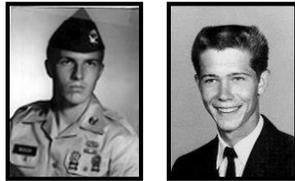
PFC Andrew Harper (I/3-2 CAV), 19, of Madsville, West Virginia; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from injuries sustained in a non-combat incident.

12 March 1968

PFC Paul T. Arambula (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds 3km North of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 March 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Richard L. Dunlap and PFC Bernd Bachleda (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds 3km North of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



12 March 1968

SGT William A. Jones (C/2-501IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple metal fragment wounds received when he was hit by fragmentation from a hostile booby trap while on combat operations 3km North of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 March 1969



The following Soldiers: CPL John A. Ramirez (A/1-502 IN); SP4 Paul J. Peoples (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 March 1971



SSG Benjamin E. Slagowski (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



12 March 2006

PFC James Cooley (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat when he was wounded by an IED while conducting combat operations. He suffered a facial injury requiring stitches.

13 March 1968



PFC Leon J. Atteridge Jr. (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 March 1968



SP4 Ruben N. Tackett (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 March 1969

SP4 Douglas W. Bice (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds 300 meters N of FSB Veghel in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 March 1969



SP4 Craig S. Mettling (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds 300 meters N of FSB Veghel in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 March 1970



The following Soldiers: SP4 Robert H. Goosen (Pictured) (A/2-501 IN); SP4 Benjamin F. Jackson (E/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 March 1971

SGT Neal S. Crowder (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

14 March 1968



SP5 William W. McConnell (HQ/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



14 March 1971



PFC Alvin Adikai Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a military vehicle during military operation when a mine detonated 4 KM S-SW of Cam Lo Village in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

14 March 2006

SGT Jeffery Redman (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat while manifesting for the exfil at 2300 during Operation Glory Light in Sadr Yusufiyah indirect began to fall. SGT Redman received shrapnel to both legs. SGT Redman was attached to Mitt team.

14 March 2006

PFC Thomas Henry (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat while manifesting for the exfil at 2300 during Operation Glory Light in Sadr Yusufiyah indirect began to fall. PFC Henry had a piece of shrapnel from a mortar round lodged in the front of his neck. PFC Henry was attached to Mitt team.

14 March 2006

The following Soldiers: SFC Anibal Torresrios, SSG Christopher Dorsey, SSG Jeremy Short, SGT Jeff Triplett, SGT Eric Lawson, SPC Jeremy Young, PFC Jeremy Rhodes, PFC Ryan Jennings, PFC Hemchand Massiah, PFC Travis Weiner, PV2 William Power, earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when at approximately 1835 at Patrol Base Warrior, 2/C/2-502 IN dismounted their vehicles and two mortar rounds landed within 25 meters as they were moving into the C2 building. The explosion from both mortars injured 22 personnel total, including 15 U.S. casualties and 7 IA casualties.

14 March 2006

SPC John Barnes (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat as a result of enemy or hostile action.

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

08 March 1968

SGT Thomas R. Gdovin (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 March 1968, while serving as a Squad Leader with 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in support of operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Gdovin's squad had become the company's lead element during and attack on enemy forces when they received intense automatic weapons and rocket fire. The lead Soldier in the formation was severely wounded and was unable to move in an area open to enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin placed the squad into defensive positions and suppressed the enemy fire. He then left the defensive position and with complete disregard for his own personal safety and advanced across open terrain toward the wounded Soldier, exposing himself to intense enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin then reached the wounded Soldier and under continued fire, brought him back to the safety of the squad's position, where he was further evacuated. Sergeant Gdovin's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the



09 March 1968

SP4 Richard J. Hagan (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 March 1968. Specialist Hagan distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner with the 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry at AB Xuan Tuy, Republic of Vietnam. Company C was conducting a combat operation when it came under intense automatic weapons fire from well-fortified enemy bunkers inside a village. In the early moments of the battle, the squad leader and the platoon



sergeant for 2d Squad, 1st Platoon were both seriously wounded. Specialist Hagan's squad, being without leadership, began to lose ground and the outcome of the battle seemed inevitable. At this point, Specialist Hagan, without regard for his own safety, crawled approximately forty meters through open terrain, to a more suitable vantage point. Specialist Hagan set up a heavy volume of suppressive fire with his M60 machine gun, enabling the wounded men of his platoon to be pulled to a secure position. Specialist Hagan then turned his machinegun over to his assistant, Private First Class Miller, and began to place accurate fire on the enemy bunker with an M79 grenade launcher. After exhausting his supply of M79 ammunition, he called to the rear for M72 Light Antitank Weapons. The platoon medical aidman brought the weapons forward and gave them to Private First Class Miller, who prepared them for firing and handed them to Specialist Hagan. Specialist Hagan fired seven accurate hits with the M72's, destroying the enemy bunker. As a result of Specialist Hagan's actions the enemy was defeated and withdrew, leaving numerous casualties behind. Specialist Hagan's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

10 March 1968

SP5 Danny Dennard (HHC/2-502) 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 (Airmobile). Specialist Five Dennard distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 March 1968 as a medic with a Recon force near Hue. When contact was made, Specialist Dennard raced through the bullet-swept terrain, crossing the enemy's field of fire, to treat and evacuate two wounded comrades. Returning to the battle after taking them to the landing zone, he maneuvered to within fifty meters of the hostile trench line and evacuated to within fifty meters of the hostile trench line and evacuated four more casualties. Carrying an ammunition resupply on his way back to the contested area, he saw another wounded trooper. While attempting to get to the man, Specialist Dennard was knocked to the ground by an enemy grenade and wounded in the head. Disregarding his wound, he rushed to the man's side and treated him before tending his own injury. He then continued to the front lines to distribute the desperately needed ammunition. When another soldier was wounded during an effort to recover the bodies of two men who had been killed by enemy fire, Specialist Dennard fearlessly exposed himself to the communist' barrage to treat him and bring him to safety. A second assault was attempted and another man was wounded. He rescued his stricken comrade and carried him three hundred meters to the evacuation site, also helping a casualty whom he discovered along the way. Specialist Dennard then joined in a third assault, which again proved futile and produced another casualty. After treating the man he took part in a final charge which overran the



enemy fortifications. Knowing that if he allowed himself to be evacuated his unit would be left without a medic, he refused to board the ambulance helicopter and remained with his comrades at their night position, going without treatment until the following morning. Specialist Five Dennard'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. 513 (February 13, 1969)

10 March 1968

PFC Edwin E. Tubbs (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 March 1968. PFC Tubbs distinguished himself while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, in the vicinity of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. During a combat operation, Private First Class Tubbs' platoon came under intense automatic weapons and mortar fire, the platoon medical aid man was mortally wounded. Realizing the importance of this loss to the platoon, Private First Class Tubbs immediately assumed the responsibilities of the medical aid man. Private First Class Tubbs continuously exposed himself to fire as he moved from position to position administering professional first aid to the wounded. Although painfully wounded in the neck and bleeding profusely, Private First Class Tubbs, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged through an intense barrage of enemy fire, personally assaulting an enemy bunker and killing the two enemy Soldiers with rifle fire. The neutralization of this fortified position alleviated much of the pressure on the rest of his platoon. Private first Class Tubbs' outstanding display of gallantry in action 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.



10 March 1968

LTC Howard H. Danford (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force on 10 March 1968 in Province of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. Contact began when Company A of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, encountered an enemy force utilizing automatic weapons, RPG rockets, mortars, and hand grenades in fortified bunkered positions. The contact continued most of the day and ammunition was a dire necessity. Lieutenant Colonel Danford organized an immediate ammunition resupply and escorted its insertion into the engaged Company A. When over the contact area, the enemy fire power was recognized to be extremely heavy. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he gave the order to descend. Though his helicopter received heavy enemy automatic weapons fire, his determination and courage enabled the seriously needed ammunition Company A was able to fight their way into the enemy complex and route a numerically superior force, and partially disable them for immediate future aggression. Lieutenant Colonel Danford's outstanding display of gallantry in action and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and United States Army.



10 March 1968

SP5 Lee C. Pugh (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 March 1968. Specialist Five Pugh distinguished himself while on a combat operation in the vicinity of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. The company to which Specialist Pugh was attached as senior medic became heavily engaged with an enemy force of unknown size in fortified positions. In the initial assault on the enemy positions the company suffered a number of serious casualties, including one of the platoon medics. Specialist Pugh, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, moved up to the forward positions and on three occasions charged through a heavy barrage of enemy fire in his efforts to treat the wounded and drag them back to safety. Although sustaining several wounds from mortar fragments, Specialist Pugh again rushed through the intense hail of fire from the enemy counterattack, needless of personal consideration, persistent in his treatment of the other wounded members of his company. Specialist Pugh's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

11 March 1968

SSG Charles J. Maguire (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 March 1968. Staff Sergeant Maguire distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with Company B, 2d Battalion, and 501st Infantry. As Company B moved on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, Staff Sergeant Maguire was leading the point squad in its advance. Quite suddenly, the company came under very heavy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire. Fully realizing his precarious situation, Staff Sergeant Maguire quickly moved his squad to a more advantageous position when he could organize them and place effective fire on the enemy. When Staff Sergeant Maguire saw a man fall under the tremendous barrage of fire, he dashed across forty meters of bullet-swept rice paddy and started administering first aid despite the battle raging all around him. While treating the man, a rocket propelled grenade exploded very close to Staff Sergeant Maguire and he and three other men were quite seriously wounded. In spite of his painful wound, Staff Sergeant Maguire refused to be evacuated and moved back to continue directing his element in the close-in combat that threatened to become hand to hand fighting. Only when he was out of ammunition could his comrades persuade Staff Sergeant Maguire to move to the rear for medical attention. Though the enemy fire still was sweeping every sector of the company area, he started moving to the aid station, some one hundred meters to the rear, through a hail of bullets. On his way, Staff Sergeant Maguire stopped to help another man to the aid station that was unable to move himself. His heroic actions and selfless devotion to his men mark him as a truly remarkable soldier. Staff Sergeant Maguire's exceptionally valorous 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.



12 March 1968

CPT Dennis J. Gillem (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (3-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 March 1968. Captain Gillem distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry. Company C was on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, when the left flank sustained intense enemy fire. The greatest portion of the fire was coming from two bunkers to the company's front, and the enemy fire was a highly effective interlocking sectors type fire. When the bunker on the left was eliminated, the bunker on the right began to put out an even greater and deadlier base of fire upon the left flank element, inflicting a growing number of casualties. Captain Gillem completely ignoring the voluminous amount of enemy fire hitting around him, assaulted the enemy bunker with only a forty-five pistol and hand grenades, disregarding his own safety. With only destruction of the enemy position in his mind, Captain Gillem succeeded in neutralizing it an enabling his company to proceed to the successful end of their operation. Captain Gillem'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 7793)



12 March 1968

1LT Gary C. Bridges (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 12 March 1968. First Lieutenant Bridges distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry. Company c was on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam when the left flank sustained heavy enemy fire from strongly fortified positions. Immediately, First Lieutenant Bridges maneuvered his platoon form his company's right flanks to the enemy's respective left flank. When First Lieutenant Bridges saw that the attack was losing momentum, without hesitation or regard for his own life, he immediately volunteered to take a small group of men on an extremely hazardous two-fold mission. First, he led the small group across a river which meant wading through mud and water up to his chest to extract a wounded man, sniper fire intensifying as he went. Secondly, having picked up the wounded man, First Lieutenant Bridges directed his small group in an attack to hit yet another side of the enemy position. Moving from each of his group's positions, Fist Lieutenant Bridges, ignoring the increasingly heavy enemy fire which was flying around him, gave encouragement and direction to each of his men calmly and fearlessly. His determination and courage during the operation were instrumental in his company's completion of the mission. First Lieutenant Bridges' disregard for his own safety and calm determination in the face of a larger enemy force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United State Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division; General Order Number 5246; 29 August 1968)



13 March 1968

CPT Dennis J. Gillem (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 March 1968. Captain Gillem distinguished himself while serving as company commander with Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company C was on a combat operation in the vicinity of Hue, Republic of Vietnam and was approaching a river when it came under heavy enemy fire from a series of fortified bunkers and houses on the opposite side of the river. As one man attempted to cross a bridge over the river, he was hit and fell on the bridge. When another man moved to the bridge to help the wounded man, he became pinned down by the intense enemy fire. Completely disregarding his own safety, Captain Gillem ran to an exposed position, enabling the man pinned down to move the wounded man as he laid down suppressive fire on the enemy positions. The wounded man was evacuated as far as the river bank but could be moved no further on the ground as a veritable fusillade of enemy rounds hitting all around them impeded any further progress on land. Oblivious to the hail of enemy rounds hitting all around him, Captain Gillem ran from his position, across an open rice paddy, and down the river bed constantly exposing himself to the lethal volleys of the enemy. Upon reaching the water he inflated an air mattress, moved it through not only the water but also the unwavering enemy fire, secured the wounded man and floated him down the river to a point where he could be administered aid. Captain Gillem's steadfast courage and total dedication to his men is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



13 March 1971

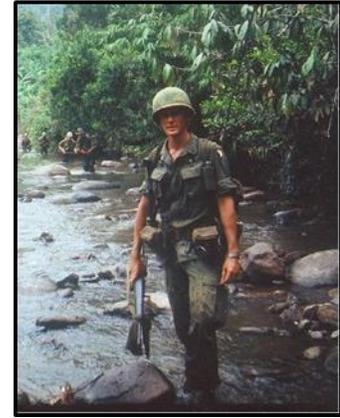


LTC Arthur C. Dister Jr. (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Colonel Dister distinguished himself on 13 March 1971 while serving as Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, on a combat operation in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. When Lieutenant Colonel Dister's helicopter, preparing to land at his company's field location, came under intense hostile fire, he detected numerous enemy positions. Jumping from the craft, Lieutenant Colonel Dister moved to an open area, and despite the extreme danger, called for an directed artillery fire on the enemy emplacements. Although seriously wounded, he remained exposed to the hostile onslaught and continued directing the artillery attack until he could be medically evacuated. Lieutenant Colonel Dister's gallantry in action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



14 March 1969

SP4 Robert L. Eppers (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 14 March 1969. Specialist Eppers distinguished himself while serving as a radio telephone operator in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Eppers was directing the landing of resupply helicopters on a mountain fire support base when he suddenly spotted a firing device half buried in the landing zone. Quickly waving a helicopter off to an alternate landing zone while another helicopter prepared to land, he resolutely uncovered the device and the two attached mortar rounds, disarmed them, and then continued to direct the incoming aircraft. His swift and courageous reaction to the danger averted possible casualties and prevented the destruction of incoming aircraft. Specialist Eppers' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 4986, 20 May 1969)



**\*STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502<sup>nd</sup> in different brigades of the 101<sup>st</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade with 1-327<sup>th</sup> and 2-327<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

December 1967, 2nd Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft to the Republic of Vietnam. Over the next five years, soldiers of the "Ready to Go" Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The President of Vietnam personally decorated the colors of the Brigade three times, twice with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and once with the RVN Civic Action Honor Medal. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April, 1972.

In 1984, with the reorganization of the Combat Arms Regimental System, the 2nd Brigade became the parent headquarters for the 1st, 2nd, and 3d Battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. With this reorganization, the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "Strike."



## ACRONYMS

AO: Area of Operations  
ARA: Aerial Rocket Artillery  
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal  
ARVN: Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA))  
BDE: Brigade  
BN: Battalion  
BSM: Bronze Star Medal  
BBT: Booby Traps  
CA: Combat Assault  
CANOPY: Heavily Wooded Terrain  
CO: Company  
CP: Command Post  
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross  
DZ: Drop Zone  
FSB: Fire Support Base  
HQ: Headquarters  
IED: Improvised Explosive Device  
IN: Infantry  
KBA: Killed by Air or Artillery  
KHA: Killed by Hostile Action  
KIA: Killed in Action  
KNHA: Killed by Non-hostile Action  
LZ: Helicopter Landing Zone  
MI: Military Intelligence  
MOH: Medal of Honor  
MP: Military Police  
NDP: Night Defensive Position  
NVA: North Vietnamese Army  
OBJ: Objective  
OP: Observation Post  
PAVN: People Army of Vietnam  
POW: Prisoner of War  
PT: Popular Forces  
PZ: Helicopter Pick-up Zone



Recon Platoon: Reconnaissance Platoon  
RIF: Reconnaissance in Force  
ROK: Republic of Korea  
SA: Situational Awareness  
SIGINT: Signal Intelligence  
SSM: Silver Star Medal  
STRIKE Force: 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SVA: South Vietnamese Army  
TOC: Tactical Operations Center  
WIA: Wounded in Action  
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action  
WNHA: Wounded by Non-hostile Action  
"V": Valor  
VC: Viet Cong

