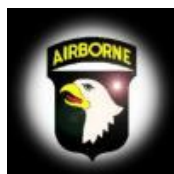




## 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 29 December 2013 – 04 January 2014



- 29 December 1944 Although the 502d had no offensive mission, the paratroopers had been involved in continuous small-scale combat with the enemy in their sector. During one such affair this day a division aidman, PFC Floyd P. Marquart, went forward under fire to help a paratrooper who had been struck in the throat by a shell fragment and was slowly suffocating. PFC Marquart performed an emergency tracheotomy with his belt knife, and then dragged the wounded man back to a place of safety.
- 29 December 1968 A/1-502 had 2 WIA from AP mines, vic. YD6334. B/1-502 and 2 PF platoons conducted CA to, vic. YD5940. They found and destroyed a BBT, vic. YD5940. In the same area they found a bunker, with ammo, magazines, and Vietnamese water purification tablets. Later they found a graveyard, vic. YD5939 with signs stating in Vietnamese, "Stay out Booby Trapped Area".
- 30 December 1968 A/1-502 secured An Lo. B/1-502 conducted RIF operation, vic. YD6040. They destroyed a 105mm round and an 8 inch round, and found small (200lb) cache of rice. At vic. YD5841 they engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 US WIA, with negative enemy assessment. D/1-502 secured T-Bone with 1 platoon ("D"-26) conducting RIF around T-Bone. Recon remained at LZ Sally as RRF.
- 30 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 2-502 Battalion returned to the canopy to continue to carry the fight to the enemy, drawing down the curtain on yet another highly successful year of combat operations.
- 31 December –  
02 January 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** 2-502 IN BN was wrapping up Operations Klamath Falls for the New Year. There were no incidents reported during the New Year Truce which began at 1800 and ended on 020600JAN68. All elements spent truce period in defensive ambush positions in their respective AO.
- 31 December 1968 1-502 continued combat operations but had negative contact. A Company found 2000lb of rice, 2 VC in graves (result of Recon's previous contact) and 5 AP mines.
- January 1968 The 2d Battalion (Abn), 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry began the new year in the III CTZ operating area in the vicinity of Cu Chi, RVN. In January, the entire Battalion was airlifted to Hue in northern I CTZ. During the remainder of the year, the Battalion operated within a 50 kilometer radius of Hue.
- Operations during the year included, reconnaissance in force, search and destroy, cordon and search, and security missions. Contact was sporadic and ranged from encounters with individuals trail watchers to engagements with reinforced platoons in well prepared defensive positions.
- During the year the Battalion was commanded by three different individuals: LTC Richard Tallman (1 Jan – 27 Apr 1968), LTC J. A. Heiter (27 Apr – 4 Nov 1968), and LTC J. C. Wilson (4 Nov 1968 - ). Also, during the year, the Battalion was reorganized from an airborne to an airmobile configuration while continuing to perform all missions assigned.



January 1968 During the first portion of January 1968, the 2d Battalion (Abn), 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry operated in the vicinity of Cu Chi, RVN and participated in both Operation Uniontown and Normandy. No significant contact was made during this period; however, numerous mines and booby traps were encountered.

January 1970 The STRIKE Force (2-502 IN) opened the New Year with a continuation of Operation Randolph Glen. FSB Rifle (YD862988) served as the base of operation for the Battalion with the maneuver Companies located in the canopy to the north and south of the firebases. Joint US/ARVN operations were to play a significant role throughout the New Year. Contacts with the enemy were initially characterized by STRIKE Force Soldiers initiating contact, with the enemy quickly disengaging. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



January 2006 MND-B Headquarters transitioned from 3rd Infantry Division to 4th Infantry Division, who determined Strike BCT to be the Division's main effort.

01 January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** Nam Hoa District made contact with an estimated 15 VC. The VC walked into the ambush of claymore and small arms. Blood stains on the ground when the VC withdrew indicated at least two casualties. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry continued Operation Randolph Glen with negative results.

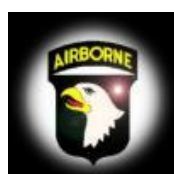
02 - 05 January 1968 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** At 1200h, Operation Klamath Falls resumed with A CO working from high ground to low ground while B & C CO, and Recondos blocked likely egress routes from the high ground. This was continued through January 5<sup>th</sup>, resulting in the destruction of approximately 12 tons of unpolished rice.

02 January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** The 2d Brigade and Battalion Commanders met the Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry Commander on FSB Arsenal to discuss the progress of the firebase. Alpha Company located unexploded bomb vic 775025. An EOD team was requested and sent. Delta Company 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon found a VC/NVA mortar position. It was 8 feet in diameter designed for an 82mm mortar. Location was 779106. Charlie Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon located a spider hole and 3 fighting positions at 793071 that were recently built.

03 January 1945 The 19th SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment of the Hohenstauffen Division attacked 2d Bn north of Longchamps, Belgium which resulted in the capture of 40 Paratroopers, mostly for Fox Company.

03 January 1968 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry conducted combat assaults. The 1<sup>st</sup> lift went Airborne at 0807hrs and the last lift completed at 0917hrs. Alpha and Bravo discovered numerous Booby-Traps and fresh sign. Delta made heavy contact. The Battalion set up for night defensive position. All NDP sites were mortared during the night. U.S. Casualties (slight) 23 WIA; (Evac) 13 WIA. (1-502 IN Historical Supplement)

03-05 January 1968 2d Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry conducts 2nd Brigade's first airmobile operation in Vietnam; combining air, gunship, and artillery support on a search and destroy mission into the Filhol woods, discovering a new enemy base camp.

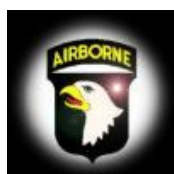


- 03 January 1968 1-502 IN Battalion conducted combat assault. 1st lift airborne 08:07hrs. Last lift completed at 0917hrs. Bravo and Alpha discovered numerous Booby-Traps and fresh sign. Delta made heavy contact. Battalion set up for night in company (+) NDP's. All NDP's mortared during the night. Casualties: (slight) 23 WIA (Evac) 13 WIA. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)
- 03 January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry trained 35 PF's at location 755128, Alpha Company 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon found a bomb 10 to 13 inches in diameter in about 1 foot of water located 801017, Delta Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad found a spider hole 1'x2'x3' with no recent signs of use. The hole was located at 781173.
- 03 January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** C/2-502 initiated contact when two NVA's were killed in an ambush and 2 AK-47's were captured. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 04 January 1968 During early morning hours, the NPD of A & D/1-502 IN BN received rockets in their perimeter. During daylight hours Battalion conducted search and destroy operations. Charlie made heavy contact and was supported by gunships and artillery. Charlie had 10WIA. Bravo moved to support Charlie and came under heavy contact. 7 KIA, 1 WIA. One man discovered MIA. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)

**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.**

3 x Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Posthumously)  
 6 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
 2 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor  
 3 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
 121 x Purple Hearts (106 x Posthumously)  
 1 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

- 29 December 1944 PFC Floyd P. Marquart (C/1-502d PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action during combat action while performing medical aid to a fellow paratrooper.
- 29 December 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT James G. Eisenberger, PVT Ernesto D. Silva (H/502d PIR); PVT Benigno G. Salazar, PFC Claude A. Wilson (I/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths in Belgium, Germany.
- 29 December 1966 SP4 Charles Williams (C/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 Province not reported, South Vietnam.
- 29 December 1967 The following Soldiers: 2LT Jon Cappaert (Pictured), PSGT Joe L. Johnson, SGT Frank H. Henderson, and CPL Robert O. Graham (A/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes in the result of metal fragment wound received when hit by fragments from friendly mortar being fired in support of training mission while on training mission on night defensive perimeter in the Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam.



30 December 1967

PFC William N. Lockett (A/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes in the result of metal fragment wound received when hit by fragments from friendly mortar being fired in support of training mission while on training mission on night defensive perimeter in the Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam.

31 December 1944



The following Soldiers: PVT John D. Kleinfelder (A/502d PIR); CPL Milton S. Lowery Jr. (B/502d PIR); 2LT George W. Manhardt, CPL George C. Dages, PFC William F. Haddick Jr. (C/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths in Belgium, Germany.

December 1944



PFC Edward M. Hunt (502nd PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with the 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action during the Christmas week siege of Bastogne, Belgium, in December 1944.

December 1944



The following Soldiers: CPL Fleury W. Sikora (RHQ/502d PIR) PVT George P. Klader, PVT Harry D. Reeves, PVT Roy E. Ruffin, PFC Elmer E. Shaffer, PFC Wilfred H. Taylor, PFC Donald L. Weber (HQ/1-502d PIR); T/4 Richard R. McClelland (HQ/2-502d PIR); PVT Charles W. Cordell, PVT Edward L. Fulmer, PFC Solomon J. Lischin (C/502d PIR); PVT Alton W. Gjersten, CPL Robert D. Loveless, PVT Daniel Mullane, SGT LeRoy Willey (D/502d PIR); PFC Forrest W. Armentrout [1], SGT William F. Carberry, PFC William I. LeFort, PFC Shelley H. Mullis, PFC Virgil E. Pyton (E/502d PIR); SGT Theodore C. Blazine, SGT Garson W. Durham, PFC Emerson Fuller, CPL Clarence Greeninger, PVT Virgil L. Larkins, PFC Joseph Loniewski (F/502d PIR); PFC George F. Fender, CPL Duane M. Lewis, PFC Rufus G. Rushton (G/502d PIR); 2LT Edward J. Setlock, PVT Charles H. Frankenfield, PVT Willard C. Hyde, PVT Leon F. LeClerc (H/502d PIR); PVT Joseph M. Burke, S/Sgt Troy W. Norris, PVT Jack R. Plumb (I/502d PIR); PVT Carrol F. Gomez (SVRC/502d PIR); 2LT Julius Smolarsky, PVT Joseph P. O'Neill, PFC George A. Blanchard, PFC Ralph J. Blohm, PVT Robert F. Fryear, PVT William F. Mowson, PFC Eugene L. E. Reid, PVT Edward F. Rosenberger, PVT Jack R. Seaman, PFC Harold C. Skipton (502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

31 December 1966



PFC Jarel W. Ayers (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 while on a security patrol in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

31 December 1968

PFC Robert M. Sullivan (C/2-502 IN) died from pneumonitis, chronic glomerulonephritis, congestive heart failure, uvular heart defect, individual was admitted to a military hospital, in Japan, evacuated to Washington D.C. where he later died.





31 December 2010



SGT Michael Beckerman (HHC/2BSTB), 25, of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

31 December 2010

The following Soldiers: 1 LT Lewis O'Hern, SPC Seth Mattox and PFC Daryl Burden (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

01 January 1945

The following Soldiers: PFC Woodrow W. Atchison and PVT Frederick E. Leisner (C/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), PVT Glenn E. Treloar (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

01 January 2006

SPC Curtis Crawford (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was conducting a change out at BP1. He was facing north with Routes Slipknot to his rear. The sniper round came from the west. Sniper round appears to have missed the front IBA plate and entered the Soldier's left side of his chest.

01 January 2006

SPC Jared Feldman, (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he suffered hearing loss due to an IED. He was determined to be clinically deaf in right ear and 30-40% deaf in left ear.

02 January 1945

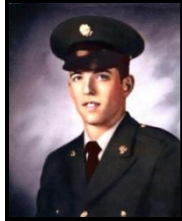
CPL Frank L. Spaulding (F/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

02 January 1967



The following Soldiers: 1LT Larry D. Earls, PFC Walter L. Goshorn, and PFC Wilbur L. Kohr (Pictured) (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

02 January 1967



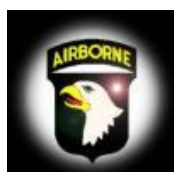
The following Soldiers: SP4 John H. O'Brien, PFC Elmer L. Juckett III, PFC Dennis G. Nicola, and PFC Norman W. Vincent (Pictured) (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths from Multiple fragmentation wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

02 January 2006

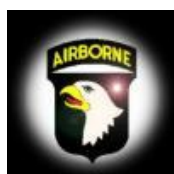
SGT Jacob Alexander (B/2-502 IN (MiTT Team 4)) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was on a combat patrol when an IED exploded. He sustained an injury to his upper right thigh.

02 January 2006

1LT Joseph Presutto (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was on a combat patrol when an IED exploded. He took shrapnel all over his body.



- 02 January 2006 1LT Daniel Psoinos (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was on a combat patrol when an IED exploded. He took shrapnel all over his body.
- 03 January 1945 SGT Richard A. Willburn (E/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.
- 03 January 1945 The following Soldiers: 1LT William O. Dwyer Jr. (Hq2/E/502nd PIR), PFC Donald R.B. Driskill, CPL Chester Kalinowski, PFC Louis J. Martinez, PFC Randall A. Powless, PVT Walter H. Sanderson, PFC Roland J. Stuart (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), PVT George F. Nordberg, SGT Richard A. Willburn (E/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), 2LT Napoleon T. Lavallee, 1LT Robert M. Wolfe, PVT Philip L. Beard, PFC Floyd M. Mabb, SSgt Clarence P. Simmons (F/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), 1LT Edward G. Tyree, CPL Frank J. Pilwallis, PFC Leonard E. Bruce (I/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), PVT Arthur W. Fischer (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.
- 03 January 1968 SGT Thomas R. Gdovin (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat in South Vietnam.
- 03 January 2006 SSG Jesse Runyon (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a cordon and search of an area, an IED emplaced on the objective exploded injuring SSG Runyon. His injuries included multiple fragmentary penetrations.
- 03 January 2006 SGT Christopher James (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a cordon and search of an area, an IED emplaced on the objective exploded injuring SGT James. His injuries were back lacerations and fragmentation to the face.
- 03 January 2006 SPC Paul Rains (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a cordon and search of an area, an IED emplaced on the objective exploded injuring SGT James. His injuries were a head injury requiring CT scan.
- 03 January 2006 SGT Michael Julian (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while he was on patrol outside of Gator Swamp Patrol Base when his patrol came under small arms fire. Soldier received a gunshot wound to the arm.
- 03 January 2006 SPC Neil Tardiff (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while he was on patrol outside of Gator Swamp Patrol Base when his patrol came under small arms fire. He received a gunshot wound to his neck.
- 04 January 1944 PFC Lawrence B. Chesney (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Holland, France.
- 04 January 1945 The following Soldiers: T/4 Ernesto G. Burciaga, PVT Daniel H. Clute (HQ3/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), PVT John C. Ballard Jr., PVT Raymond M. Breen (A/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), 1LT James F. Toy III (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), 1/Sgt John Wollen (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), PVT Chester B. Gupp, PVT Leonard M. Rice (E/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), 2LT Anthony C. Nardo (H/502d PIR); PFC Jack K. Williamson, and PVT Nick Wolcoff (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.



04 January 1968



The following Soldiers: CPL Meredith A. Gabriel (Pictured) and CPL Thomas McCray (C/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for action in combat in South Vietnam.

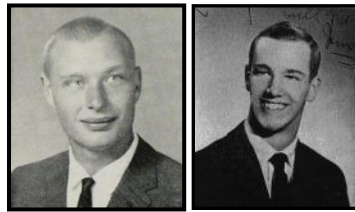
04 January 1968



The following Soldiers: CPL Meredith A. Gabriel, CPL Wayne H. Kelman, CPL Thomas McCray, SP4 James W. Roy III (Pictured) (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam.

04 January 1968

The following Soldiers: 2LT George M. Wisham Jr. (Pictured), SSG Richard L. Long (Pictured), SSG David L. Simon, and PFC Eugene F. Sweet Jr. (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



04 January 1969

PFC Steven A. Wessel (D/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes from Air Loss, Crash-Land-Helicopter-Noncrew in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. On this day an OH-6 (tail number 67-16363) from A Battery, 377th Artillery was employed in providing artillery spotting in support of the 1st Bn, 321st Arty. At about 1630, after two hours on mission, the pilot - 1LT Kenneth L. Fountain of Savannah, Georgia - landed his aircraft at Fire Support Base T-Bone, contacted his base operations, and advised them that weather conditions made it unlikely he would be able to return to Camp Eagle. 1LT Fountain was directed to remain overnight at FSB T-Bone if the weather had not cleared by 1800.

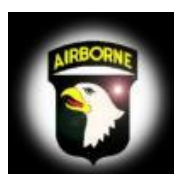
At 1800 Fountain decided to remain overnight at T-Bone. Since his aircraft was on a pad outside T-Bone's night defensive perimeter he fired it up with the intention of doing a low hover uphill to a pad within the NDP. PFC Steven A. Wessel was allowed to board as a passenger for the short flight. As Fountain moved uphill in the gathering darkness he apparently lost sight of the ground and may have developed vertigo. In any case his aircraft hit the hillside some 35 feet below the crest, rolled on its right side, exploded, and burned. Both Fountain and Wessel were killed in the crash.

04 January 2006

PFC Anthony Stout (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting an IA checkpoint, a civilian earthmover struck a pressure plated IED causing it to detonate. PFC Stout was approximately 20 meters from the blast and received shrapnel wounds to the face, right arm, and right leg.

04 January 2006

PFC Timothy Wilson (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting an IA checkpoint, a civilian earthmover struck a pressure plated IED causing it to detonate. PFC Wilson was approximately 20 meters from the blast and received shrapnel wounds to his left leg.



04 January 2008

CPL Matthew Engel (A/2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while Beast Iron Claw was on a route clearance patrol along Route Tampa when the Husky was engaged by an EFP. CPL Engel was driving the Husky. CPL Engel took shrapnel to the left arm and was CASEVACed to Riva Ridge Medical Facility.

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

29 December 1944



PFC Floyd P. Marquart (C/1-502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as a Medical Aidman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 29 December 1944. Private First Class Marquart's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, Third U.S. Army, General Orders No. 100 (May 11, 1945))

31 December 1966

1LT Clarence D. Long (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action while 1LT Long's platoon had just moved to the vicinity of the weapons platoon to receive a resupply and assume a defensive position during the forty-eight hour New Years truce. As the second helicopter to arrive delivered the resupply, the landing zone was hit by numerous rounds of mortar fire. This was immediately followed by an intense volume of automatic and small arms fire. Lieutenant Long was supervising the unloading of the helicopter when the first rounds fell. He shouted for his men to take cover in a ditch and to return the fire. Lieutenant Long ran back and forth along the ditch exposing himself repeatedly to direct the fire of his men. One of his troops was hit by a burst of automatic weapons fire and was lying exposed to enemy fire in the middle of the landing zone. Lieutenant Long, with complete disregard for his personal safety, ran forward firing his M-79 at enemy positions until he reached his fallen comrade. With the help of a non-commissioned officer, he moved the wounded man to cover. He then ran across an open area to put his machine gun teams into action in better positions. When the initial fire was suppressed, he called for artillery fire and directed gunship strikes. He also requested an air strike and exposed himself to sniper fire to better observe and adjust the strike. After the battle Lieutenant Long reorganized the two platoons and supervised the evacuation of the wounded. Lieutenant Long's outstanding gallantry in action and avid devotion to duty are within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

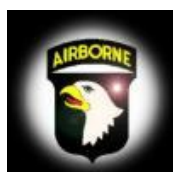
31 December 2010



SPC John Benninghofen (B/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when distinguishing himself with heroism, valor, and exceptionally meritorious service during an enemy IED strike while assigned as a platoon medic with 3rd platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

At 0738 hours, 3rd platoon initiated movement up into Sartak village, a known nest of IED emplacements and insurgent activity, in order to conduct battle damage assessment on a compound. 3rd platoon reached the target compound around 0918, and they began to conduct BDA. On or around 1045 1LT O'Hern was gravely wounded by a dismounted IED. SPC Benninghofen, with complete disregard for his own safety, unhesitatingly moved toward the explosion and began treating 1LT O'Hern before the blast site was cleared and secured.

He made an initial assessment and prioritized patients, immediately providing medical attention to 1LT O'Hern. SPC Benninghofen instantly emplaced a tourniquet on each of 1LT O'Hern's legs, while simultaneously providing expert direction on the emplacement of the third tourniquet to 1LT O'Hern's right arm, thus stemming the massive blood loss.





SPC Benninghofen continued to treat and stabilize 1LT O'Hern for transport to the HLZ. SPC Benninghofen's heroic actions in the face of danger and at risk to his own life without question saved 1 LT O'Hern's life. SPC Benninghofen quickly relayed accurate reports to SGT Tyndall in order to set the conditions for the 13-line MEDEVAC report, the patient status for the MEDEVAC flight crew, and for the establishment of the HLZ.

SPC Benninghofen's actions that day were above and beyond the call of duty. SPC Benninghofen's calm demeanor, clear guidance and expertise were exemplary and resulted in 1LT O'Hern being successfully stabilized and evacuated from the battlefield and directly resulted in saving the life of the critically injured Soldier, 1LT Larkin O'Hern.



01 January 1945

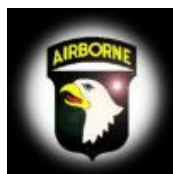
PFC Gordon G. Griffith (A/502 PIR) earned the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against an armed enemy while serving with Company A, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against the enemy on or about 1 January 1945. Private First Class Griffith's outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Department of the Army; General Order No. 2; 03 Feb 1976)

02 January 1967

1LT Larry D. Earls (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously); First Lieutenant Earls had placed his platoon into a defensive perimeter. Approximately three hours later, a numerically superior determined enemy element viciously attacked the defensive perimeter with such ferocity that six of Lieutenant Earls' men were instantly killed. Realizing the possibilities of being overrun by the enemy, Lieutenant Earls, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged forward to the area where the action was heaviest and began to reorganize his platoon. Being constantly exposed to murderous enemy automatic weapons fire and a heavy barrage of enemy hand grenades, Lieutenant Earls moved from position to position giving his men encouragement and pointing out enemy targets. On several occasions while rallying his men, hand grenades landed near him and his men and again Lieutenant Earls braved the murderous enemy fire and personally picked up the enemy grenades and threw them back at the enemy. Having reorganized his platoon, Lieutenant Earls gave the order to assault the fanatical enemy element. His inspired men assaulted the superior enemy forces with such determination that the enemy ranks were broken and they were forced to make a hasty withdrawal. Had it not been for Lieutenant Earls' tremendous display of courage and professionalism in the face of a numerically superior enemy force many more casualties would have resulted. Lieutenant Earls' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

03 January 1945

T/5 Warren E. Cobbett (D/502d PIR) earned The Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as a Medical Aidman with Company D, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 3 January 1945, in Belgium. On that date, positions of Company D, 502nd Parachute Infantry near Longchamps, Belgium, were assaulted by a strong force of German tanks supported by artillery. Although heavy casualties were suffered the men held their positions on a bald, snow-covered slope, and it was on that completely exposed terrain that Technician fifth Grade Cobbett fearlessly braved enemy fire to evacuate and give aid to the wounded. He obtained a quarter-ton truck and although it was not marked with the medical insignia he boldly drove it among the enemy tanks in order to reach overrun positions. By his absolute fearlessness Technician Fifth Grade Cobbett saved many lives and inspired his comrades to hold fast and deny infantry support to the enemy tanks. His intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army.



03 January 1945

SGT Lester T. Ulrich (502 PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in actions. On 3 January 1945 his company was occupying a defensive sector on the regimental main line of [unk] near Longchamps, Belgium when it was attacked by fourteen enemy tanks and a company of enemy infantry. As the tanks and infantry approached a heavy concentration of army mortar and artillery fire has landed on the company positions pinning every man in his foxhole. The tanks, firing directly at the foxholes, hit and instantly killed the platoon leader. Without hesitation, Sergeant Ulrich assumed command of the platoon. Realizing that the platoon positions were about to be overrun, Sergeant Ulrich left the comparative safety of his foxhole supporting his [unk] [unk] direct their fire by his gallant leadership the enemy attack was repulsed, and the defensive line remained intact. In repelling the enemy attack, his platoon disabled the tanks and accounted for fifty enemy killed. His determination to destroy the enemy and his disregard for his own safety aided immeasurably in halting the enemy attack. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service.

03 January 1945

SGT William F. Carbery (E/502d PIR) was awarded The Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company E, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 3 January 1945. Sergeant Carberry's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, Third U.S. Army, General Orders No. 100 (May 11, 1945))

**\*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."

