



## 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 2 June – 8 June 2013



02 June 1966

**Operation HAWTHORNE begins:** 2-502 IN displaced from Pleiku to DAK TO by CV-2 aircraft and convoy.

02 June 1966

**(1st Bde, 502 Inf Actions for Presidential Unit Citation)** The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in action against a hostile force in Dak To, Republic of Vietnam, during “OPERATION HAWTHORNE”, 2 through 20 June 1966. “OPERATION HAWTHORNE” began on 2 June 1966 when the Brigade was directed to relieve the beleaguered mountain outpost of Tou Morong. The 1st Battalion (Airborne) 327th Infantry teamed up with elements of the 24th Tactical Zone Command (42d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Regiment and the 21st Ranger Battalion) to accomplish this phase of the operation. Intelligence reports received at Brigade Headquarters indicated a major enemy drive was under way to overrun the Central Highlands. At 0230 hours on the morning of 7 June 1966, an estimated North Vietnamese battalion of the 24th North Vietnamese Army Regiment savagely attacked an artillery position in the valley west of Tou Morong. The position was manned by Battery B, 2d Howitzer Battalion (Airborne), 320th Artillery; Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry; and elements of Company A, 326th Engineer Battalion. The charging enemy was able to penetrate the artillery’s perimeter. The battle that had the winner-take-all climax saw the valiant Americans secure their weapons and fire point-blank into the still charging North Vietnamese Army ranks. As dawn brought light to the exhausted warriors, 86 enemy bodies were counted, 13 of them inside the artillery position. After relieving the Tou Morong outpost, the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, moved north. Another bitter battle erupted, this time engaging all three of the infantry companies of the Battalion at one time, each in a separate fire fight. As the battle raged, the Battalion’s elite Tiger Force was hard hit and almost overrun by an estimated two companies of heavily armed, well trained North Vietnamese Army Regulars. On 7 June 1966, the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, was helilifted into a blocking position where it began to sweep south to link up with its heavily engaged sister Battalion. Throughout the battle, the enemy strength was fixed as a well trained North Vietnamese Army Regiment. Their heavy weapons were strategically placed in sturdy bunkers which were spread out along the fingers and draws of the mountainside. As the battered but courageous 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry companies regrouped and the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, continued their relentless attack from the south, a decision was made to have B-52 Bombers strike Dak Tan Kan Valley before the Brigade moved in for the final kill. “OPERATION HAWTHORNE” was one of the most viciously contested battles of the Vietnam War. Day and Night the battle raged, moving from bunker to trench line, to spider hole, to bamboo thicket, to stream bed, and finally to victory. At the conclusion of “OPERATION HAWTHORNE” the 24th North Vietnamese Army Regiment was rendered ineffective as a fighting unit, suffering 1200 casualties by body count and estimate. By comparison, friendly casualties were 48 dead and 239 wounded. A major North Vietnamese offensive to seize the North Central Highlands was blunted. Throughout “OPERATION HAWTHORNE” the extraordinary heroism, dogged determination, gallantry, and indomitable spirit with which the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, successfully accomplished all assigned missions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon all members of the Brigade who participated in this remarkable combat action. (Department of the Army; General Order #59; 21 October 1968)



02 June 1968

1-502 RIF with PF's, Bravo Company joint RIF with PF's, vic. YD7140. Found that almost all of the gates entering the village were BBT with grenades. These grenades were blown in place. As they swept through the village they received light contact and returned fire wounding 1 VC who fled. They also blew several BBT's in place but 1 PF was killed when he stepped on a 105mm BBT.

02 June 1969

Activity increased in the AO as the units reported scattered enemy contact with the Aero-Rifle Platoon of B/2-17 Cav becoming decisively engaged by a numerically superior enemy force and being reinforced later in the day by B/1-501. At 0740H, B/1-502, vic. BT182996, captured 1 NVA with an AK47 during the conduct of an area sweep. At 0915H, A/1-502, vic. BT180009, engaged 5 VC with small arms the enemy broke contact and fled leaving behind 1 VC KIA. At 1000H, D/1-502, vic. BT180002, found a grave containing 1 VC KBA, and at 1015H, C/1-502, vic. BT181001, found one grave with 1 NVA KBA. At 1230H, the Aero-Rifle Platoon, B/2-17 Cav, was inserted into an LZ, vic. BT210128 to conducted ground reconnaissance in the area. The area had been a source of ground fire throughout day with numerous reported incidents. Immediately after moving from the LZ, the platoon came under heavy fire from a well-concealed enemy force. Gunships, ARA and tube artillery were all employed in support. The supporting fires were lifted and the platoon moved forward in the assault. The platoon was met with withering fire that inflicted moderate casualties and pinned down the element. Air and artillery were employed at close range and the decision was made to insert a reaction force to extricate the trapped platoon. At 1440H, a platoon from B/1-501 was inserted into the LZ to link-up and relieve the pressure on the Aero-Rifle Platoon. At 1550H, the C&C, B/2-17 Cav, vic. BT202129, was hit by 12.7mm AA fire and forced down, seriously wounding the artillery LO aboard. The crew and aircraft were recovered without further incident. At 1700H, B/1-501 enroute to the relief of the Aero-Rifle Platoon, vic. BT202127, engaged an enemy force firing from bunkers. The company quickly returned fire and reduced the enemy bunker accounting for 2 NVA KIA and 3 IWC; the unit suffering 1 US WIA. At 1745H, B/1-501 closed into the LZ thus completing the relief and reinforcement. The situation was stabilized and the Aero Rifle Platoon became OPCON to B/1-501 for the night. The fighting had been extremely bitter through -out the afternoon and the outnumbered platoon had been pinned down a majority of the time from the well concealed and bunkered enemy. The unit had accounted for 6 NVA KIA and 1 IWC and had suffered 5 US KIA and 4 US WIA (E). Else-where in the AO, at 1400H, B/1-46, vic. BT205070, engaged an unknown size enemy force with artillery, accounting for 3 NVA KIA.

02 June 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** C/2-502 while securing an LZ detonated a booby trap wounding seven men.

02 June 2006

**Operation Regular Strike.** 1-22 IN along with 3/1/6 IA conducted this intelligence driven Operation to target an IED cell in Hawr Rajab. Ultimately, the units severely disrupted the operations of the terrorists while simultaneously warning the insurgents operating in AO Regular that there are no safe havens to operate from.



02 June 2010

1st Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Commander, LTC Johnny Davis held the first security shura with the new Zharay District Governor Karim Jan. Karim Jan introduced himself to the elders of Zharay and expressed his thanks for their nomination. He stated he wants a security shura implemented in the district. Some of the rules he laid out were: members must



be on time; attend all meetings; if there are three unexcused absences the member will be dismissed. The target is to have a unified shura, working toward a common goal. Karim Jan said he wants the shura to be an example for all of Kandahar, and he asked for their continuing support. He said they will resolve their own problems, together, and there will be no need to go to the Provincial Governor for help. He finished by saying that if the shura doesn't like his job performance, he will resign. Karim Jan also stated that the shura members are servants of the people.

03 June 1968

1-502 IN continued operations. Alpha Company secured An Lo and conducted RIF with 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon of PF's at vic. YD6231. PF's attacked and killed 3 BC and had 3 WIA. Bravo Company combined operations and sweep of area resulted in 1 WIA from fire at vic. YD 7132 and 3 NVA KIA in bunkers at vic. YD7131, by H/G. Recon 1KIA, 105mm BBT.

03 June 1969

The 1-501 combat assaulted two more companies into the area, encountering light enemy resistance. At 0900H, D/1-501 conducted a CA into an LZ vic. BT203126 and initiated RIF operations to the southeast. The Aero-Rifle Platoon was extracted at the conclusion of the CA. At 0915H, A/1-501 conducted a CA into the same LZ and closed the entire unit at 0931H; the unit then conducted RIF operations to the northeast. At 1240H, B/1-501, vic. BT208128, received small arms fire from two enemy soldiers who immediately fled; the element returned fire with negative enemy assessment and suffered 1 US WIA.

03 June 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of A/2-502 at YD568119 engaged one enemy moving southwest with negative results.

04 June 1968

1-502 continued operations and road sweep. Bravo Company at CA to vi 699288 and conducted S&C operations with negative contact.

04 June 1969

Action increased sharply as the 1-501 continued to search the area. The 1-502 continued RIF to the northeast toward the 5th ARVN Regiment with negligible enemy contact. At 1455H, a HU1H from A/101 AHB vic. BT265125 was hit by an unidentified type explosive round from an undisclosed location and crashed, killing all five passengers aboard. The mysterious incident was immediately investigated but the findings were inconclusive. At 1555H, fighting erupted in the 1-501 area as B/1-501, vic. BT206124, received heavy small arms and machine gun fire from an unknown size enemy force; B/1-501 returned fire and employed air and artillery against the enemy. Simultaneously, D/1-501 vic. BT207123 received mortar and machine gun fire from a concealed enemy force; the element returned fire. The fighting continued throughout the afternoon as both



elements attempted to find and fix the well hidden enemy. Contact was broken with no decisive results; B/1-501 accounted for 1 NVA KIA and 1 IWC and suffered 1 US KIA and 1 US WIA, while D/1-501 suffered 1 US KIA and 6 US WIA. At 1745H, A/1-502, vic. BT210029, tripped an unknown type booby-trap resulting in 2 US WIA.

04 June 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon of A/2-502 killed one NVA/VC and captured an AK-50.

05 June 1944

"Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the order of the Day. 'Full victory-nothing else' to paratroopers in England, just before they board their airplanes to participate in the first assault in the invasion of the continent of Europe." Eisenhower is meeting with US Co. E, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (Strike) of the 101st Airborne Division, photo taken at Greenham Common Airfield in England about 8:30 p.m. on June 5, 1944. Lt Wallace C. Strobel is seen wearing the number 23 around his neck. Gen. Eisenhower asked Pfc. Dan McBride, F/502, if he was scared. McBride replied, "No Sir!" Ike said, "Well I am!"



05 June 1944

Paratrooper moving to their aircraft.



05 June 1944

Troopers of the 502nd boarded transport aircraft and lifted off into the evening sky.

05 June 1968

1-502 contact was light, with 2 Hoi Chanh's coming into Alpha's NDP. They had 1 AK-47 and 1 SKS.

05 June 1968

Significant contact continued in the 1-501 area as the enemy demonstrated a determination to stay and fight, though elsewhere in the AO, contact was light and sporadic. At 0815H, B/1-46, vic. BT217076 engaged one enemy soldier moving east, resulting in 1 US KIA and 1 IWC. At 1400H, B/1-502, vic. BT220015, found 1 VC KIA by artillery. At 1530H, D/1-501, vic. BT20112, discovered the remains of 1 US KIA during the previous afternoon fighting. While recovering the remains the element was hit



by a command detonated mine and began receiving small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force; the element returned fire with negative results. In the fighting, D/1-501 suffered 4 US KIA, all killed by the mine, 1 US MIA and 1 US WIA; the MIA was recovered on 16 June 1969 and reclassified as KIA.

05 June 1984

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was deployed to the Sinai, Egypt as part of the Multinational Force and Observers from July to December 1985. For outstanding service, the task force received the Army's first Superior Unit Award. TF 3-502d's return home was marred by the tragic on the morning of 12 December 1985, at 0645 local time (0515 EST), Arrow Airlines flight 1285, a DC-8-63 charter carrying 248 passengers and a crew of 8, crashed just after takeoff from Gander International Airport, Gander, Newfoundland, Canada. All on board perished as a result of the impact or the post-crash fire, which, fed by the contents of the stricken aircraft's full fuel tanks, took local fire fighters nearly four hours to bring under control and approximately thirty hours to completely extinguish. The passengers on the ill-fated charter were US Soldiers. All but 12 were members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault). 11 were from other Forces Command units and one was a CID agent from the Criminal Investigations Command. They were returning to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, home station of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, after completing a 6-month tour of duty in the Sinai with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

06 June 1944

The following Soldiers loaded up on AC No. (Tail No.) 42-10074, Chalk 10 for Operation Neptune J-Hour 0030 (In Drop Order): 1LT Jack F. Riggins, CPL Jao S. Martin, PVT John Zaika, PFC Alton F. Short, PFC John Reidy, PFC LeRoy Kent, PFC Sewell Crouch, PVT Charles S. Carton, PVT Leo Huff, PVT Joseph A. Fenimore, PVT Charles Mcamis, PVT Roy Elam, PVT Maxwell McLean, PVT Jessie L. Lackey, CPL Joseph Craney, SGT Harold E. Whites.

06 June 1944

Invasion of Occupied France, The liberation of France began on 6 June 1944 with the Allied forces landing on D-Day and the Battle of Normandy and ended in December.



06 June 1944

The 502<sup>nd</sup> PIR was in the first wave to depart from Membury Greenham Common on D-day. Their mission was to secure two northern causeways leading inland from Utah Beach and destroy a German coast-artillery battery (122 mm howitzer) near St. Martin-de-Varreville. In the predawn hours of D-Day, a combination of low clouds and enemy AA fire caused the break-up of the troop carrier formation. The scattering of the air armada was such that some troopers jumped while still over the English Channel and were drowned. Consequently, the sporadic jump patterns caused most of the COL Moseley's battalions to land far afield of their designated DZs. Some of the sticks landed as far away as 5 miles from the designated area. Unfortunately, during the drop, COL Moseley broke his leg and was forced to relinquish command to his XO, LTC John Michaelis. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, led by LTC Robert Cole, was responsible for securing the two



causeways. Undaunted by the confusion, LT Cole, gradually collected his men and achieved his objective.

Pvt. Doug Garrett of B/502, wrote about his first combat in Normandy: "Finding out in jig time that war was kill or be killed, it took me less than five minutes to find that out. A bullet had hit my reserve chute and felt like being hit in the stomach with a sledge hammer. I then hit the ground and pulled a .45 cal. pistol given to me by my supply SGT cousin in the Air Corps.

While I lay there, gasping, a German came out of the bushes in a dive for my throat with a razor sharp knife. It was his last dive at anybody. That .45 roared like a cannon and he was dead when he landed on top of me. I cussed him out for getting his blood on me, but then thought 'better his than mine'. I then waded into a flooded area and washed his blood off.

Then I saw 3 gliders come in, with machineguns and artillery following them to the ground. Then mortars took over. Then, I started up a road and a machinegun opened fire at me and I learned how to do the jitterbug faster than any man had ever learned it before or since. How it missed me, I'll never know. I'm just glad it did.

I only spent five days in Normandy before being seriously wounded, but it was five days of my life that I can never forget."

The rest of June found the airborne troops fighting as infantry. After regrouping, the 101<sup>st</sup> received the new objective of seizing the city of Carentan. It was during this operation that LTC Cole received the Medal of Honor for leading his Battalion in a fixed bayonet charge of the Ingouf farm house, a German stronghold defending one of the bridges over the Carentan Causeway. His XO, MAJ Stopka, led the charge on Cole's left and received the DSC. LTC Cole never got the chance to wear it since he was killed by a sniper 3 months later in Holland. MAJ Stopka was killed two weeks after receiving his medal in Bastogne. On 29 JUN, the 101<sup>st</sup> was relieved by the VIII Corps and sent to Cherbourg to relieve the 4<sup>th</sup> ID. The 502<sup>nd</sup> PIR returned to England shortly thereafter for rest and retraining.

After landing with 1-502 near Saint-Germain-de-Varreville, SSG Harrison C. Summers received orders to take fifteen men and clear buildings (later discovered as German Soldiers' barracks) designated by the BN Commander. He led the attack with only the help of one private. Five hours later he had cleared the building, leaving at least 30 soldiers dead. For his efforts, he was nominated for the Medal of Honor but received the Distinguished Service Cross.





06 June 1944

During the early morning hours of 06 June 1944, flying out of Membury and Greenham Common in the first wave to depart, the 502nd PIR headed for drop zone (DZ) A. Their mission was to secure two northern causeways leading inland from Utah Beach and destroy a German coast-artillery battery (122 mm Howitzer) near Ste Martin-de-Varreville. Paratroopers of the 502nd jumped behind the beaches of Normandy, thus becoming among the first Allied soldiers to land in Europe.

06 June 1944

PFC James Flanagan and his fellow airborne soldiers came down in the middle of the night, charged with removing any German resistance along the vulnerable causeways that led inland from the beach. They would be the prelude to the largest amphibious invasion in history. Just hours after the D-Day invasion began, PFC Flanagan, center, with other paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division, captured a Nazi flag from a command post headquarters in a farm complex near Ravenoville. The paratroopers had landed in the middle of the night to eliminate German resistance along the causeways to Utah Beach



After landing near Ravenoville, France, the first vehicle that the paratrooper saw later in the morning while mopping up near a captured farm complex was coming from the beach and carrying two men, one an International News Service photographer. It was 9 a.m., about three hours into 'the longest day' in history. The soldiers took a brief timeout so that the photographer could record the event. Flanagan, in the center, smiled while clutching the Nazi flag that had been 'liberated' from the enemy command post headquarters in the farm complex they now occupied. When this picture was wired back to the States, it became one of the most widely distributed newspaper photos taken from the events of June 6. Holding the flag, PFC James Flanagan (C Co, 1-502nd PIR); (L-R): PFC Arthur A. Justice (B Co, 1-502nd PIR), unknown, PVT Justo Correa (A Co, 1-506th PIR), PFC Arthur J. Barker (B Co, 1-502nd PIR), PVT Joe E. Ridgeway (B Co, 1-502nd PIR), PVT Norwood B Newinger (B Co, 1-502nd PIR), unknown, CPL Earl H. Butz (HQ, 3-502nd PIR), SGT Smith C. Fuller (B Co, 1-502nd PIR). (Originally published by World War II magazine. Published Online: June 12, 2006)

06 June 1944

During the early morning hours of 06 June 1944, flying out of Membury and Greenham Common in the first wave to depart, the 502nd PIR headed for drop zone (DZ) A. Their mission was to secure two northern causeways leading inland from Utah Beach and destroy a German coast-artillery battery (122 mm Howitzer) near Ste Martin-de-Varreville. Paratroopers of the 502nd jumped behind the beaches of Normandy, thus becoming among the first Allied soldiers to land in Europe.



06 – 20 June 1966

Phase II of Operation Hawthorne consisted of a double envelopment of the enemy located in the ridges northeast of TOU MORONG by the 1/327 Inf and 2/502 Inf. Operation Hawthorne was one of the most viciously contested battles of the Vietnam war. Once the battle was joined, the fighting was



continuous. Day and night the battle raged, moving from bunkers to trench line, to spider hole, to bamboo thicket, to stream bed, and finally - to victory. At the conclusion of Operation Hawthorne, the 24th NVA North Vietnamese Army Regiment was rendered ineffective as a fighting Unit., suffering over 1200 casualties by body count. By comparison, friendly casualties were 48 dead and 239 wounded.

06 June 1968

1-502 continued operations with Delta working with Rome plow. Contact was light, capturing 1 VC, 10,000 pounds of rice, 1 SKS, and 2 VC KIA, and 1 WIA but escaped.

06 June 1969

Activity increased throughout the AO as all units reported enemy contact. At 1020H, A/1-502, vic. BT218054, observed two NVA; the point element engaged the enemy force killing 1 NVA, inducing the other to rally to the government cause and capturing one weapon. At 1650H, D/1-502, vic. BT260060, observed and engaged two enemy soldiers, is resulting in 1 VC KIA. At 1750H, D/1-501, vic. BT202123, received automatic weapons fire from a dug-in position resulting in 2 US WIA.

06 June 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of A/2-502 began receiving sniper fire at coordinates YD567118. The platoon took one WIA. ARA was employed with unknown results. Later in the day a member of the Platoon detonated a booby trap and was wounded.

07 – 10 June 1966

**Operation HAWTHORNE:** 2-502 Inf was released as I FFORCEV reserve and immediately deployed in an airmobile assault to envelop the enemy's northern flank. Heavy contact was made with the enemy almost continuously as the 1-327 Inf and 2-502 Inf sought to dislodge the NVA forces from entrenched position in the dense bamboo jungle. (Operation After Action Review; Operation HAWTHORNE; 22 July 1966)

07 June 1968

1-502 continued sear of villages in the AO, capturing 1 VC, 10,000 lbs of rice, 1 SKS, and 2 VC KIA and wounding one more who escaped.

07 June 1969

Bitter fighting continued in the 1-501 area as all three companies were in significant contact while the 1-46 recorded sporadic contact in its operations to the west. At 0800H, D/-501, vic. BT202123 received automatic weapons fire from an unknown size enemy force; the element returned fire, but was pinned down by the volume and accuracy of the fire. A brigade LOH reconnaissance team flew into the area to assist the ground unit and was subjected to heavy ground fire, resulting in one aerial observer being slightly wounded. Contact was broken that morning with D/1-501 suffering 1 US KIA and 2 US WIA during the fighting. At 0450H, B/1-501 vic. BT209119 received heavy small arms fire from an enemy bunker position on the side of trail; the element returned fire and maneuvered against the stubborn enemy. During the fighting, B/1-501 lost 3 US KIA and 3 US WIA and accounted for 1 NVA KIA and the capture of an enemy RPG launcher. At



1250H, D/1-501, vic. BT202122, received small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force in tow locations, suffering 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA; the element returned fire with negative assessment. At 1320 H, A/1-501, vic. BT205123, received small arms and 82mm mortar fire from an unknown size enemy force; the element returned fire and maneuvered against the enemy force. During the afternoon of fighting A/1 -501 suffered 2 US KIA and 10 US WIA and accounted for 6 NVA KIA and 3 IWC. In the 1-501 area the enemy fought tenaciously against the attacking force; fighting from fortified and prepared positions, the NVA were able to extract a considerable toll from the dogged, yet determined troops of the 1-501 as they methodically drove the enemy from the battlefield.

- 08 June 1968 1-502 had heavy activity with all units reporting at least light contact. The BN killed 4 VC, captured 4 VC and 2 M-16, 1 AK-47, 1 Czech MG and ammo. US Troops had three slightly wounded by shrapnel. Two of the VC captured was in a sampan hauling rice down the river. They said that VC used this method quite often.
- 08 June 1969 Fighting continued into the fifth day in the area of HILL 376 as the 1-501 again met determined enemy resistance while elsewhere in the AO contact was light. At 0345H, A/501, vic. BT206124, detected movement outside the unit NDP, and engaged with claymores; the enemy returned RPG fire. A first light sweep confirmed 1 NVA KIA and 1 IWC. At 1210H, a and D/1-501, vic. BT202123, received small arms, light machinegun and grenade fire from an unknown size enemy force; the element returned fire and employed air and artillery against the enemy. The fighting continued until 1840H with the units accounting for 2 NVA KIA and 1 IWC, while suffering 1 US MIA and 9 US WIA.
- 08 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** D/2-502 returned to the STRIKE Force, while the CP, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon of B Company became OPCON to the 1-327<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon of A Company found three graves with NVA/VA killed by air strikes. Also a cache was found with an RPD machine gun, AK-50's, 9mm pistol, ammunition and satchel charges plus 150 pounds of rice.

**During this week, in the span of 71 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, 501<sup>st</sup> IN (Vietnam) and the 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment (\*See STRIKE HISTORY NOTE).**

6 x Distinguished Service Cross Medals (3 x Posthumously)  
 16 x Silver Star Medals (6 x Posthumously)  
 14 x Bronze Star Medals (1 x Posthumously)  
 131 x Purple Heart Medals (127 x Posthumously)  
 8 x MIA

- 02 June 1967 CPL Daniel W. Harrison (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously). CPL Harrison died from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds in the Thuan Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 02 June 1968 The following Soldiers: SFC William W. Hence and PFC Audron L. Smith (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds during a cordon at Trung Phuong-Vinh Phu 10 Miles East of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



02 June 1968 CPL Edward L. Sizelove (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds during a cordon at Trung Phuong-Vinh Phu 10 Miles East of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 June 1968 PFC Thomas J. Harbour (C/1-501 IN) was awarded 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.

02 June 1970 CPL Daniel W. Harrison (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

03 June 1966 PFC Melvin T. Nishiyama (C/2-502 IN) was awarded was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

03 June 1968 SP4 Nickolas Szawaluk (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds during a cordon at Trung Phuong-Vinh Phu 10 Miles East of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

03 June 1968 SGT Luis A. Lopez-Ramos (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile rocket wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

03 June 1969 SP4 Fletcher J. Nowlin Jr. (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received on 21 May 1969 from small arms gun fire wounds in the vicinity of hill 270, 6 KM E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

04 June 1966 PFC Denton W. Crocker Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

04 June 1969 SP4 Roy P. Gargus (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arm gun fire wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

04 June 1969 CPL Gary W. Silman (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.



05 June 1969

The following Soldiers: SP4 Lawrence P. Mulvey (Pictured), SP4 William H. Ayers (Pictured), SP4 Robert P. Ruttle Jr. (Pictured), PFC Kevin R. Crowe (Pictured), and SGT John W. Horan (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from a command detonated mine 9 km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



05 June 2003

PFC Branden Oberleitner (B/2-502 IN), 20, of Worthington, Ohio; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from rifle fired grenade in Fallujah, Iraq while he was returning from a dismounted patrol.

05 June 2006

SGT Brian Guzman (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from a perforated right eardrum from an IED blast.

06 June 1944



MAJ J.W. Vaughan (502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) He had been an officer of the 101st Airborne since its inception in August 1942. Major Vaughan was among the many from his division who were mis-dropped into the darkness of the Normandy terrain during the early morning operations of D-Day on June 6, 1944. He was eventually able to band together with others from his unit. The objective of Major Vaughan's unit was to secure four roads leading to Utah Beach. Approximately one mile from Ste. Mere Eglise, they intercepted an enemy column that was transporting supplies via horse drawn wagons. Major Vaughan, who was the S-4 officer, was commanded to secure the wagons. In the darkness, with his .45 drawn, Vaughan walked to the back of the train. A burst of fire erupted, and Vaughan was killed. Major Vaughan was the highest ranking officer of the 502nd PIR to lose his life during the invasion on June 6, 1944.

06 June 1944

2LT Lloyd Evers (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously). 2LT Evers was wounded at St. Martin de Varreville on D-Day by a German Soldier, he was later killed while being evacuated to the U.K. for treatment of his wounds.

06 June 1944

PVT David Ginsburg (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously). PVT Ginsburg was killed as he left the door of the plain to jump on France near St. Germain de Vannerville, France.

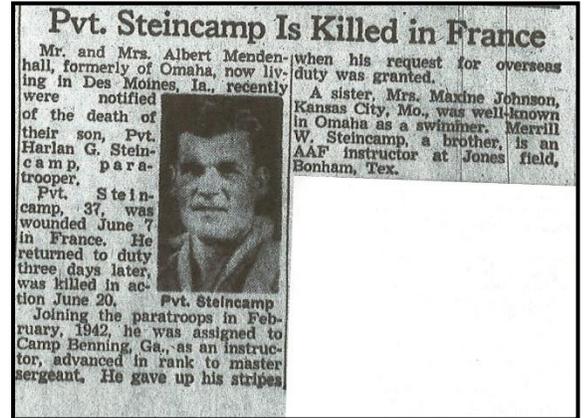
06 June 1944

PVT Albert L. Cobb Jr. (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously). PVT Cobb was killed by the German Force after being evacuated to the beach from Brandeville, France.



06 June 1944

PVT Harlan G. Steincamp (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (1-OLC) (Posthumously). PVT Steincamp was wounded at Bandenville, France and was evacuated to the beach for treatment of his wounds when he was killed by the staffing of enemy.



06 June 1944

PVT Gaetano F. Spiriti (HQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed by shrapnel wounds after landing by Parachute near Le Ham, France.

06 June 1944



The following Soldiers: SGT Ira G. Fern, CPL James V. Dalto, PFC Charles P. Matkovich, PFC Robert A. Lanton, PVT Buckley L. Wells Jr. (HQ/1-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Warren H. Bircher, (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Alex G. Takacs, PVT James Novak, PVT Floyd E. Osborne (HQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); SGT Daniel A. Steinbach, PFC Clarence W. Stovall, PFC Joseph G. Bachulak, PVT David P. Ruby, PVT Philip P. Stands, T/4 William W. Whitlock (A/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); SGT Sterling Peterson, SGT Jack A. Pinson, CPL John J. Bilque, PVT Jack W. Runkel (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); SGT Donald C. Tedford, PFC Edwin E. Funk (C/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); SSG William H. Monroe (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); 2LT Edward L. Briant, CPL Stephen L. Matesich (Pictured), PFC Robert D. Cassel (Pictured) (F/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Billy C. Campbell (G/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Herman Addleson, PVT Edgar N. Nuanes, PVT Roy J. Sherrod (I/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); SSG Elbon S. Jennings, PFC Joe Gonzales (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Joseph A. Fenimore (HQ/2-502 PIR), CPL William B. Evans (HQ/3-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths during the invasion of German Occupied France. (Pictures from T-B)

06 June 1944

SSG William C. Thurston (HQ/1-502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death by German Enemy during the Parachute Invasion of the Cotentin Peninsula in German Occupied France.

06 June 1944

CPT Richard L. Davidson (A/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed as he left the door of his airplane and landed in the English Channel on the Invasion of France, his body was found washed up on the shore of the Normandy Beach.

06 June 1944

The following Soldiers: SSG James R. Trisler and SGT John R. Flores (A/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths during their parachute drop on the invasion of German Occupied France. Their bodies were found on the beach of Normandy.

06 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Eugene O. Lambert, PVT John T. Lyell (A/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received when they were was killed at Foucarville, France where they and a few other members of his company had gathered to make their way to the assembly area during the Invasion of France.



06 June 1944 The following Soldiers: SGT Bartow R. Theall, PFC Birchard G. Steele (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); 1LT George M. Eberle (F/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed at Audouville-la-Hubert, France during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

06 June 1944 PFC Birchard G. Steele (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while serving with the army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action in Normandy, France. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, and VCCG XVIII Corp, 30 August 1944.

06 June 1944 SGT Bartow R. Theall (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while serving with the army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action in Normandy, France. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, and VCCG XVIII Corp, 30 August 1944.

06 June 1944 The following Soldiers: SGT William J. Lang, PFC Durward L. Burton, PVT James A. Ryan Jr., PVT James W. Vanzandt (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed near Turqueville, France, during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

06 June 1944 PVT James A. Ryan Jr. (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for action during combat during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

06 June 1944 The following Soldiers: PFC Robert Z. Snead, T/5 Calvin W. Curtis (C/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed near Beuzeville-Au-Plain, France, during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

06 June 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT Delmer D. Linaburg, PVT Calvin C. Gist (Pictured) (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed near Mezieres, France, during the Invasion of German Occupied France.



06 June 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT Edward J. Weeks (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Charles A. Hickson (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed near Ravenoville, France, during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

06 June 1944 The following Soldiers: PFC Edward J. Sullivan (G/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed near St. Martin de Varreville, France, during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

06 June 1944 CPL James N. Barba (G/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed near Sainte-Mère-Église, France, during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

06 June 1944 PFC Louis C. Westphal (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed near Pommenauque, France, during the Invasion of German Occupied France.



07 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PFC Raymond T. Hoffman, PVT Pershing D. Auman (A/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT J. T. Morris, PVT Jack L. Crouse [1] (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Albert R. Estes, PVT Edward Gorecki (F/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); SGT Norwood A. Cumming (H/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Lewis C. Bacon (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths during the invasion of German Occupied France.



07 June 1944

PVT John R. Baas Jr. (C/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed near Ravenoville, France; during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

07 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PFC Lester J. Davis (G/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT John F. Reidy (HQ/2-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths near Sainte-Mère-Église, France; during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

07 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Robert E. Jesper (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) (Pictured); SGT Carl J. Sparks, CPL John M. Lapikas (A/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); 1LT Bernard G. Bucior (Pictured), PFC John P. Lesko(C/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Joseph D. Hill (Pictured), PVT Joseph B. Hudak, PVT Julio T. Rodriguez (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) (MIA) earned the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death during the invasion of German Occupied France. (Pictures from L-R)



07 June 1944

PFC James D. Houge (HQ/1-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed by a German Sniper at Ravenoville, France where he and a small group were holding out until they were reached by their unit.

07 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Rosalio E. Ramirez, CPL Henry H. Ruurs (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed near Turqueville, France; during the invasion of German Occupied France.

07 June 1944

SGT Emile W. Tanguay (HQ/2-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed near St. Martin de Varreville, France; during the invasion of German Occupied France.

07 June 1966

PFC Terry F. Huston (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 June 1966

PFC David L. Dodson (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam.



07 June 1969

SP4 Raymond T. Talburt (B/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for meritorious service in ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, General Order Number 8362; 7 July 1969)

07 June 1969

SP4 Michael P. Callahan (B/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for meritorious service in ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, General Order Number 8681; 11 July 1969)

07 June 1969



The following Soldiers: SGT Frederic H. Davis (Pictured), SGT Michael W. O'Leary (A/1-501 IN); SGT Ryamond T. Talburt, SP4 Michael P. Callahan, CPL James Rundle Jr. (B/1-501 IN); CPL John S. Lewis, PFC Stephen E. Larsen (E/1-501 IN, Recon Platoon) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for mliitary merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from mulitple fragmentation wounds in the vicinity of Hill 376, 12 KM W-SW of Tam Ky Airfield, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

07 June 1970



CPL David L. Womble (E/1-501 IN) was awarded 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.

07 June 1971



SP4 Thamos E. Baumgardner Jr. (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Poshtumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 June 1944

Lt. Jack F. Dulaney (I/502) earns the Silver Star for leading his platoon against three MG-42 MGs, receiving multiple wounds near Houseville, France.

08 June 1944

PFC Frank W. Gray (HQ/3-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for action during the invasion of Geraman Occupied France.

08 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Dewitt Harris (HQ/1-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PFC Norman Cournoyer (C/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Robert I. Haseltine Jr. (Pictured) (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); SSGT Davis H. Vaughan, PFC Frank A. McLaughlin, PVT Adrian J. Pelletier, PFC Ray E. Sanders (Pictured) (H/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death when they were killed during the invasion of German Occupied France. (Pictures L-R)



08 June 1944

PFC Frank W. Gray (HQ/3-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death near Blosville, France and later died of wounds; during the invasion of German Occupied France..

08 June 1944



The following Soldiers: SGT Thomas W. Kent Jr. (G/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PFC Delbert L. Troutman (Pictured) (H/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed near Hauville, France; during the invasion of German Occupied France..

08 June 1944

2LT Frank Schell (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed near Audouville-la-Hubert, France while trying to contact his unit during the invasion of German Occupied France.

08 June 1971

SP4 Hiawatha H. Williams (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (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 June 2006

SPC Valtito Samuel (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received during combat actions.

08 June 2006

2LT Scott Cassidy (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an IED strikes his vehicle. It is the first of three purple hearts he will earn in 3 months.

08 June 2006

SPC Vincent Flores (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during combat actions.

08 June 2006



**SFC Clarence D. McSwain (2-502 IN)**, 31, of Meridian, Mississippi; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy vehicle during combat operations in Baghdad.

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

03 June 1966

SGT Darrell E. Sharp (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 3 June 1966 while serving as a squad leader during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While providing security for an artillery battery, Sergeant Sharp's unit was attacked by a Viet Cong force using mortar weapons. When directed to attack the insurgent positions, Sergeant Sharp led his squad through intense Viet Cong fire up a steep ridge. As the troopers advanced forward, the platoon sergeant was wounded by a hand grenade. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Sergeant Sharp immediately assumed command of the platoon. During the ensuing battle, he killed two Viet Cong and threw a hand grenade into an insurgent emplacement, destroying the bunker and killing two more Viet Cong. As a result of his aggressive actions, the Viet Cong were taken by surprise and the two friendly squads successfully withdrew. After administering first aid to his wounded platoon sergeant, Sergeant Sharp led his squad back to the platoon sector and resumed his assigned duties. Through his



courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant Sharp'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.

04 June 1969

1LT Paul D. Wharton (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 4 June 1969. Lieutenant Wharton distinguished himself while serving as the Artillery Forward Observer in Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), during a search and clear operation near Tam Ky, in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Wharton left his covered position to go to the aid of a rifle squad which was sustaining heavy casualties from intense automatic weapons and from mortar fire. Openly and willingly subjecting himself to the enemy fire, Lieutenant Wharton ran across an open area swept by machine gun fire to reach the beleaguered squad. Upon reaching the squad, he rallied the men, directed them to return fire, treated the wounded and then led the squad back to the company perimeter. Having accomplished this, he again exposed himself to adjust artillery fire on the enemy, thus allowing the wounded to be evacuated. Lieutenant Wharton'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.

06 June 1944

SSG Harrison C. Summer (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 6 June 1944, in France. While leading a patrol, Staff Sergeant Summers was wounded. However, though wounded, he continued the fight and accounted for nine of the enemy. Later, on 11 June 1944, when his Platoon Leader became a casualty, Staff Sergeant Summers assumed command of the platoon. When their ammunition became exhausted he, despite intense enemy fire, made repeated trips across an open field. This replenishment of the ammunition enabled his platoon to continue in the advance. The daring, leadership and complete disregard for his own safety displayed by Staff Sergeant Summers 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, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 31 (July 1, 1944))

06 June 1944

1LT Ernest O. Harris (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 6 June 1944. First Lieutenant Harris' 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, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 80 (1944))

06 June 1944

SGT Bailey Harrison (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company D, 2d Battalion, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 6 June 1944, in France. While leading his squad, Sergeant Harrison was wounded. However, he refused to be evacuated and continued to lead his squad across one hundred and fifty yards of open country in the face of extremely heavy enemy fire. Despite his painful wounds, he continued to fire as he moved forward and dislodged the enemy from a prepared position, inflicting heavy casualties and successfully leading his squad to a point from which their fire forced the enemy to withdraw. The valor, courage and aggressiveness displayed by Sergeant



Harrison reflects great credit on himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.(Headquarters, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 31 (July 1, 1944))

06 June 1944



CPT Frank L. Lillyman (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer, 101st Pathfinder Company (Provisional), 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 6 June 1944, in France. Riding in the leading plane of the Pathfinder Element, Captain Lillyman was one of the first Allied soldiers to make a parachute jump in the airborne assault on the Normandy, France. Although under incessant enemy fire from the time he landed, Captain Lillyman assembled his Pathfinder Group, located the drop zones and directed the setting up and operation of homing devices for the guiding of the following waves of parachute troop planes to the correct drop zones. When attacked by the enemy forces Captain Lillyman led his men in the successful defense of this vital area and provided cover for the landing of the follow-up wave of parachute troops. Captain Lillyman's inspiring leadership, 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. (Headquarters, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 31 (July 1, 1944))

06 June 1944

CPL James N. Barba (G/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company G, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 6 June 1944 in France. Corporal Barba'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, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 58 (1944))

06 June 1944



1LT George M. Eberle (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 6 June 1944, in France. First Lieutenant Eberle'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, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 48 (1944))

06 June 1944

Lt. Rance Cotton (1-502 Mortars) earns the Silver Star for gallantry in action in singlehandedly routing a German force and capturing thirteen POWs through his aggressive actions near Haut Fornel, France.

06 June 1944

Pfc. Benjamin Shaub (F/502) earns the Silver Star for his actions in taking the Audoville Battery of 105mm howitzers. Shaub single-handedly charged the gun crews, routing them and allowing the position to be taken.

06 June 1944



PFC EDWARD J. WEEKS (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while serving with the army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in paragraph 4 section I, Circular 66, Headquarters First United States Army, 18 May 1944, for gallantry in action against the enemy in Normandy, France.



07 June 1944

CPT Cecil Simmons (H/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in action. On 7 June 1944 he was in command of his company in the vicinity of Houseville, France. During the hours of darkness and without a chance for previous reconnaissance, he was ordered to attack a firmly entrenched enemy force. Leading his company in the attack, he was able to hold the enemy until the remainder of the battalion could attack from the flank and drive the enemy from the area. On the following day, his company was subjected to a counterattack by the enemy. Exposing himself to enemy fire in order to direct and encourage his men, Major Simmons was able to withstand the counterattack and drive the enemy back. His conduct was in accordance with the highest standards of the military service.

07 June 1969



SP4 Michael P. Callahan (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 June 1969. Specialist Callahan distinguished himself while serving as a team leader in Company B, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during the conduct of a search and clear operation near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, the lead element of Company B was attempting to capture a North Vietnamese Army soldier who gave the pretense of surrender. While capturing the insurgent, the company came under heavy enemy machine gun fire from a nearby position. Realizing that the hostile emplacement must be silenced, Specialist Callahan began to place suppressive fire on the insurgents. Encouraging his men to do likewise, he remained in the open while attempting to gain fire superiority as another element of the company was maneuvering to outflank the insurgents. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Callahan continued to divert the enemy fire, thus providing cover for the main maneuvering element. It was during this courageous act that he was mortally wounded by hostile machine gun fire. His outstanding leadership and courage were a major factor in saving many of his men from injury or possible death. Specialist Callahan'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.

07 June 1966

PFC David L. Dodson (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 7 June 1966 during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. As the left flank of his company withdrew from a large Viet Cong force, Private First Class Dodson remained behind to provide fire cover for his comrades. Although in an exposed position, he placed suppressive fire on the approaching insurgents and killed five Viet Cong. When the insurgents continued to advance closer he totally ignored the intense hostile fire and held the Viet Cong back until his comrades successfully withdrew to defensive positions. As he started back to join his company, Private First Class Dodson was fatally wounded. Through his courage and determination, he allowed his unit to withdraw with a minimum number of casualties. Private First Class Dodson'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. (HQ, U.S. Army, General Order Number 4989; 25 July 1966)

07 June 1966

SGT James G. Moffitt (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 7 June 1966 while serving as a squad leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While his squad was providing security for an artillery battery, a large Viet Cong force suddenly opened fire on the squad. Although he was receiving intense hostile fire from four sides, Sergeant Moffitt, with complete disregard for his safety, began to maneuver his men out of the encirclement. During the ensuing battle, he personally killed three Viet Cong. After successfully rejoining his company, Sergeant Moffitt skillfully deployed his squad along the defensive perimeter, formed an assault line, and charged the insurgent positions, forcing the Viet Cong to withdraw. As the insurgents disappeared into the jungle, he returned with his men to their original positions. Through his courage and outstanding



leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the attacking Viet Cong. Sergeant Moffitt'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.

07 June 1966

PFC Jerry F. Huston (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 7 June 1966 during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. As the left flank of his company withdrew from a large Viet Cong force, Private First Class Huston remained behind to provide fire cover for his comrades. Although in an exposed position, he placed suppressive fire on the approaching insurgents and killed five Viet Cong. When the insurgents continued to advance closer, he totally ignored the intense hostile fire and held the Viet Cong back until his comrades successfully withdrew to defensive positions. As he started back to join his company, Private First Class Huston was fatally wounded. Through his courage and determination, he allowed his unit to withdraw with a minimum number of casualties. Private First Class Huston'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. (HQ, U.S. Army, General Order Number 4989; 25 July 1966)

07 June 1966

SGT Jerry L. Johnson (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself during the period 7 June 1966 while serving as platoon sergeant of a platoon on a combat operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Johnson's unit was to provide security for an artillery battery which was receiving intense hostile fire. Upon contact with the insurgents, Sergeant Johnson immediately deployed his men to form a defensive perimeter. During the ensuing fire fight, Sergeant Johnson personally killed three Viet Cong with hand grenades. When the right side of the perimeter was in danger of being overrun, Sergeant Johnson, with complete disregard for his safety, braved hostile machine gun fire as he moved to within five feet of a Viet Cong emplacement before destroying the bunker with hand grenades. He then skillfully directed artillery fire on the remaining insurgents. Shortly after this, he exposed himself to hostile fire while leading a squad onto a hill occupied by the Viet Cong. In the assault, he killed two more Viet Cong. Through his heroic efforts, he inspired his men to press their attack and take the hill. On 9 June 1966, Sergeant Johnson again risked his life as he led his platoon forward to help another embattled company. While moving up a hill toward the besieged company, he halted his platoon and crawled to within three meters of a hostile machine gun position. When the insurgent fired at Sergeant Johnson, he promptly returned the fire, killing the Viet Cong. Sergeant Johnson's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

07 June 1966

1LT Karl L. Beach (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) while distinguishing himself on 7 June 1966 while serving as executive officer during a company combat operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. First lieutenant Beach's company was to provide security for an artillery battery. The company had successfully counterattacked and repelled a large Viet Cong force. The determined Viet Cong attacked his troops on three separate occasions and each time was repulsed by the equally determined American soldiers. During the vicious battle, First Lieutenant Beach repeatedly exposed himself to intense hostile mortar fire. Despite this, he maintained his command post as close to the Viet Cong concentration as possible so that his subordinate leaders could readily reach him. His skillful use of artillery and deployment of troops, enabled his unit to withstand six hours of repeated hostile attacks. During the course of action, his command post was attacked by a squad of Viet Cong employing rifle grenades, machine guns and automatic weapon fire twenty meters to his left flank. First Lieutenant Beach unhesitatingly returned the fire while directing his command group and



completely disrupted the Viet Cong attack. On another occasion, he spotted a Viet Cong squad advancing on an artillery position and motor park. First Lieutenant Beach immediately opened fire on the insurgents and successfully defended against them. Throughout the fierce battle, he was continuously moving from position to position, encouraging his men and directing their fire. Through his courageous efforts, First Lieutenant Beach was most instrumental in the successful operation. His extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong 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.

07-11 June 1966

PFC Peter S. Griffin (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, in the Republic of Vietnam, from 7 to 11 June 1966. His actions, without regard for his own safety, reflect great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

07 June 1966

SSG Tyrone J. Adderly (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 7 June 1966 while serving as squad leader during an attack on the company perimeter by a large Viet Cong force near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0230 hours, the company received intense hostile mortar fire. Simultaneously, a numerically superior Viet Cong force assaulted the position. Staff Sergeant Adderly, with complete disregard for his safety, braved the hostile fire to better ascertain the situation. Realizing that the insurgents had breached the perimeter to his left and that his squad was receiving hostile fire from two directions, Staff Sergeant Adderly quickly moved his men into better positions with excellent fields of fire. Throughout the night he continued to expose himself to the insurgent fire as he moved among his men, directing their fire, aiding wounded and distributing ammunition. On one occasion, he personally led an assault on the attacking Viet Cong, killing four Soldiers himself. Through his outstanding leadership and personal bravery, his squad of only seven men was able to repulse a Viet Cong force five times their size. Staff Sergeant Adderly's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong 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

### **\*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."

