



STRIKE

Weekly History



Est. 1941

June 05th – June 11th 2016

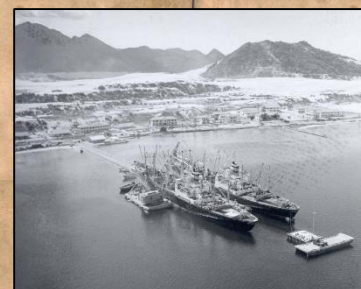
Issue: 59

Brief History of the 502nd and 2nd Brigade

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



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



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



In September 1980, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry regiment deployed to Sinai as a peacekeeping for Operation BRIGHT STAR. The unit was first U.S. forces in the region since World War II.



In 1982, Task Force 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Panama in support of Operation KINDLE LIBERTY to demonstrate U.S. ability and resolve to defend the Panama Canal in the light of spreading pro-Soviet/Cuban influence in Nicaragua and Central America.

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Egypt again in September 1982 to enforce Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel by serving on the Sinai Peninsula as part of the Multinational Force and Observers.



May 1984 through a complex "reflagging" process the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 502nd were placed under the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT). With this reorganization the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "STRIKE!"

On 5 June 1984, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Sinai, Egypt at part of Multinational Force and Observers from July to December 1985. On December 12, 1985 at 0645 the 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 of the post-crash fire.



In the late summer of 1990, the "STRIKE" Brigade moved to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield to deter a possible Iraqi invasion. On February 25, 1991 the "STRIKE" Brigade participated in the largest helicopter air assault in military history to establish FOB Cobra.

During Operation Desert Storm, the 2nd Brigade and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) cut the enemy's lines of communications, struck deep into his country, threatened a lethal strike against his capital and shut off his escape. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in March of 1991.



Between 1993 and 2001 the Brigade participated in multiple peacekeeping mission to include: Operation Safe Passage (Panama), Jungle Operations Training Center (Panama), Bosnia-Herzegovina (QRF) Stabilization Force 6 (SFOR6), Kosovo and Republic of Macedonia as part of NATO's Kosovo Force.

The STRIKE Brigade deployed to Iraq in support of OIF1 (2003), OIF 05-07 (2006) and OIF 07-09 (2007). The Brigade received multiple awards and decoration during these operations. During this period in 2004 the "STRIKE" Brigade went through another transformation. With the inactivation of 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry and reflagged as 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment and also transformed from an Infantry Brigade to a modular Brigade Combat Team with adding 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and 526th Brigade Support Battalion.



The STRIKE Brigade deployed to Afghanistan in support of OEF X-IX (2009), Security Force Advisor Team (SFAT) (2010), Security Force Advisory Team (2012), OEF XV.



STRIKE Brigade also transformed once again in 2014 with the loss of 1-320th FA which joined 2-320th FA and 3-320th FA to make the up the Division Artillery (DIVARTY) and 1-26th IN joined STRIKE Brigade.



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 are from After Action Reports, Staff Duty Logs, and Personal Accounts.

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, vicinity BT217076 engaged one enemy soldier moving east, resulting in 1 US KIA and 1 IWC. At 1400H, B/1-502, vicinity BT220015, found 1 VC KIA by artillery. At 1530H, D/1-501, vicinity 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 3rd Battalion, 502nd 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 3-502'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 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st 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 101st Airborne Division, after completing a 6-month tour of duty in the Sinai with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

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.



Slicks of 48th AHC at Dak To, June 1966



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, vicinity 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, vicinity BT260060, observed and engaged two enemy soldiers, resulting in 1 VC KIA. At 1750H, D/1-501, vicinity BT202123, received automatic weapons fire from a dug-in position resulting in 2 US WIA.

06 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 3rd 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.

06 – 24 June 1971 **Operation LAM SON 720:** The Battalion CA'd into the AO north of FB Bastogne (vicinity YD 5209), companies moving onto OP Lion (A Co.), OP Viper (B Co.), FB Bastogne (C Co.), OP King (E Co.) and D Co. securing route 547. The mission was to interdict any enemy activity such as food agents or tax collectors traveling back and forth from Hue to the Song Bo river area. Alpha and Bravo Companies closed out OP's Lion and Viper and moved off them to patrol the AO.

The AO that Battalion was assigned to patrol was one of considerable enemy activity. Though the 1/327th Infantry and the ARVN had patrolled this area for the past 2 years, the 2nd Battalion, 502d Infantry found innumerable enemy bunker complexes, high speed trails and sleeping positions. The STRIKE Force Battalion took charge and on 21 June the sniper platoon spotted and engaged 5 NVA, wounding one and capturing him a short time later. The POW was a food carrier/agent for the NVA and was carrying rice and supplies out to the area NW of FB Bastogne where he was to link up with an NVA Sapper Unit. The POW related that because of increased presence (2-502d IN) in the area the enemy units were critically short of food. The following day the Sniper Platoon found several sets of fresh footprints and a satchel charge.

During the month all the units were able to get two days at Eagle Beach for short R&R period. However, E Company spent more time there than most because of their outstanding performance. To add to the Snipers capture on 21 June, Recon Team 1, on 25 June, observed, engaged, and killed 1 NVA. SGT Rathert was leading the patrol when he spotted the NVA walking toward him on the same trail. Reacting instantly, SGT Rathert killed the NVA and began to take necessary precautions for other NVA being in the same area. However, there were no others. One AK-47 and some documents were captured and on 4 June, A Company 3rd Platoon conducted a combined operation with Regional Force companies from Nam Hoa District. (2-502d Unit History, 1971)

07 June 1966 At 0215 hours, A/2-502 IN and B/2-320 FA were attacked by an estimated NVA battalion in the vicinity of ZB 0935. Two more assaults were made at 0230 and 0400 hours with contact lasting until 0900 the of the this date. IN one enemy assault during the night, a 105mm howitzer fell into communist hands, but counterattack managed to regain lost ground. Artillery was directed against enemy positions on the hillside overlying the U.S. force, but heavy enemy small arms fire continued to pour on the Americans after the third attack was repulsed. At 0730, 2-502 IN BN was committed from reserve and conducted a helicopter assault to a landing zone in the vicinity of ZB 0844, moving southward on a multi-axis. Alpha Company engaged an estimated NVA Company at 1303 hours in the vicinity of ZB 115287 and stayed in contact until 1945 hours with what had developed into an enemy battalion. A total of twelve immediate air strikes were flown by A-1E's and F-100's dropping 11 tons of bombs. The strikes forced the enemy to break contact and allowed friendly force to reorganize. (Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report, 8 September 1966)

07 June 1967 **Operations MALHEUR II:** Operation MALHEUR II was initiated with an airmobile assault by C/2-502 IN into the western portion of BASTOGNE AO, about 30 kilometers northwest of CARENTAN BASE to establish FIRE BASE CHAMPS. Bravo Battery, 320th Artillery (105mm Howitzer) and Charlie Battery, 11th Artillery (155mm Howitzer) were moved into the fire base and used in support of the operation.

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 1967 **Operations MALHEUR II:** Operation MALHEUR II was initiated with an airmobile assault by C/2-502 IN into the western portion of BASTOGNE AO, about 30 kilometers northwest of CARENTAN BASE to establish FIRE BASE CHAMPS. Bravo Battery, 320th Artillery (105mm Howitzer) and Charlie Battery, 11th Artillery (155mm Howitzer) were moved into the fire base and used in support of the operation.

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 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** 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/1-501, vicinity 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 vicinity 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, vicinity 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, vicinity 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.

07 June 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: Twenty One 55 gallon drums were filled with thickened fule to be used as fougasse. Nineteen of the fougasse were installed around the rear area of the 1-501 and 1-502 and the Brigade CP. The other two were installed at Fire Support Base HAU DUC.

08 June 1967

Operation MALHEUR II: The 2-502 IN BN remained at CARENTAN Base and assumed the mission of Brigade Reserve. A/2-17 CAV continued to provides security for the beach logistical site, to operate OP's from the high ground in, vicinity of CARENTAN Base and to assist the Military Police Platoon, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in providing route security and convoy escort for logistical convoys moving between the beach and the airfield complex along the MSR.

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 – 11 July 1969

Operation MONTGOMERY RENDEZVOUS: Controlled by 3d Brigade in conjunction with the 3d ARVN Regiment, began on 8 June against the NVA forces in the high ground to the east of the A Shau Valley (vicinity FB Airborne) and north of the Rao Lao Valley.

Contact was sporadic until the early morning of 14 June when the Bridge command post was attacked by sappers at Fire Base Berchtesgaden, and the following day at FB Currahee received the brunt of sapper attack. The 3-5 Cavalry began armored cavalry operations in the A Shau Valley on 20 June, but contact continued to be sporadic with the NVA forces avoiding engagement. On 28 June the 4th Battalion, 1st ARVN Regiment observed a large force of NVA moving south in the open near FB O'Reilly and called in TAC Air which accounted for 37 NVA killed. Contact in the high ground north of the Rao Lao erupted with 1-506 Infantry elements and those of the 3d ARVN Regiment meeting stiff resistance on 8 July. On 13 July, 1-327 Infantry was committed to assist in the area. On 10 July the task organization was changed to support 2d Brigade operations in the Bach Ma. This operation continues with the primary mission of interdiction of the line communications of the NVA forces in the Rao Lao and A Shau Valleys. Combined totals as of 31 Julye were: 451 NVA/VC KIA, 8 NVA POW's, 231 individual and 47 crew-served weapons captured. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile); Operational Report – Lesson Learned, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) for period ending 31 July 1969; 09 December 1969)



FB Berchtesgaden



FB Currahee

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, vicinity 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, vicinity 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 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: On the morning of July 8, A/1-502 IN made a grueling march to a location about 3 km northeast of Hau Duc. There, in a fallow rice paddy, they were supposed to rendezvous with a resupply helicopter. CPT Chuck Scribner ordered his third platoon to move forward and recon the area before putting out two squads as perimeter security. As those two squads advanced, the lead squad discovered a line of commo wire. When they reported their finding, they were ordered to follow the wire, which led to a small hootch. With a man on each flank, the squad leader stepped forward and fired into the hootch, killing three NVA soldiers.

The lead squad then turned around and moved back down the trail. Suddenly they heard intense rifle and machine-gun fire. The second squad was caught in an ambush with the enemy positioned on the right side of the trail, and a pair of machine guns, one located on each side, firing directly down the trail. Enemy mortars located on higher ground supported the ambush.

Under intense fire, the ambushed squad maneuvered to form a small defensive position, and desperately fought amid a hail of mortar and RPG fire. Meanwhile, the enemy flanked the lead squad under cover of mortar fire. A fierce firefight ensued. During the confusion of battle, some of the men became separated from the squad while others fell wounded or dead. Late in the afternoon, Alpha's three dead and five wounded were evacuated by helicopter to Chu Lai. The enemy finally broke off the fighting at around 8:00 p.m. There was no radio contact with the two cut-off platoons. Thirteen men were declared missing in action.



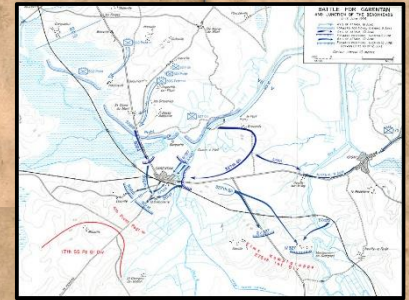
During the night, the enemy searched some of the bodies of the missing Alpha Company soldiers; some were still alive and feigned death. Toward morning the enemy recovered and buried their dead, and began to move out of the area. They left behind some snipers and a small harassment force. (Bitter Fighting In Quang Tin, Roger Ables)

08 June 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: D/2-502 returned to the STRIKE Force, while the CP, 1st and 2nd Platoon of B Company became OPCON to the 1-327th Infantry. The 2nd 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.

09 June 1944

On 9 June the 101st finished consolidating, with the 502nd PIR guarding the right flank along the upper Douve River, the 506th PIR deployed across the Carentan highway, and the 327th GIR on the left in positions along the Douve River opposite Brévands. The 501st PIR was the division's reserve. Patrols and aerial reconnaissance of Carentan indicated that the town might be lightly defended, and a plan to capture the city by a double envelopment was contrived, using the 502nd PIR on the right and the 327th GIR on the left, scheduled to jump off just after midnight 10 June. Then 502nd's mission was to force the bridges and capture high ground southwest of the town along the Périers highway (Hill 30) to block withdrawal. The 327th was to cross the Douve at Brévands, circle a mile to the east, and come in on the road west from Isigny to take the town.



09 June 1966

Operation HAWTHORNE: Around the clock air strikes were conducted at night and in poor weather through the use of "Sky Spot" radar bombing system. Ground commanders were highly appreciative of the outstanding air support received during HAWTHORNE, particularly Captain Bill Carpenter, Commander Charlie Company, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, who on this date requested and received an air strike on his enemy-overrun position. Bravo Company moved to assist Charlie Company who was engaged with another NVA Battalion at 1710 hours near ZB 144422, Alpha Company lined up with Charlie Company at 2135 hours and Alpha Company of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry who was attached to the 502d, and moved to Charlie Company's assistance, engaging an estimated reinforced NVA company at 2150 near ZB 125395.

The USAF FAC with the 1/327, Captain Burton Miller, first heard of "C" Company's situation when he visited Brigade Headquarters at Dak To around 1500 hours. Told that CPT Carpenter was in solid contact, Miller got airborne and radioed Carpenter, who told him he was in a valley bowl with enemy troops on three sides of him with only one egress, a narrow gully where he had entered the valley. Miller called for the first flight, which took 15 minutes to arrive. By the time the flight of two F-4C aircraft arrived, the ground situation had become critical. After the first pass by the F-4C's, about 100 meters away Carpenter radioed that he was being overrun. "Lay it right on top of us", he called. "They are overrunning us, We might as well take some of them too." Captain Miller later said that he realized Carpenter was in a difficult position because he was very excited and apparently nervous. Miller explained the mission to the F-4C pilots. He indicated the smoke which Carpenter had used to mark his position and told the fighters to hit at that point. The lead F-4C came in from the northeast, dropping his napalm about 40 meters short of the smoke but inside the company's perimeter. The second man dropped about 50 meters long, bracketing Carpenter's position but falling right on the edge of Carpenter's perimeter. Carpenter radioed, "That's good, okay, back it out" and it appeared that the napalm had stopped the enemy attack. Captain Miller felt that the drops on the edge of the perimeter did as much good as those inside. There were seven friendly casualties from the short round.

By this time the air was filled with F-4C's and flights were stacked three and four deep. There were nine flights in all, led in by Miller who said: "F-4's were calling other F-4's, that they knew were in the air, to contact Peacock (radio control in II Corps) and get permission to strike." "I was getting airplanes from everywhere," Miller said, "We got some birds back from TIGER HOUND, Marine birds, Navy birds, and some from Pleiku." A Navy flight with 2000 pound bombs aboard expended on the hills above Carpenter, about 500 meters away.

Around 1710 hours, "B" Company of the 2/502 Regiment engaged another Viet Cong battalion west of Carpenter and about 500 meters away as it was going to Carpenter's aid. "A" Company of 1/327 was also engaged by the enemy about 300 meters south of Carpenter's position. The Battalion Commander dropped the idea of linking Carpenter's "C" Company with "A" Company as he did not want Carpenter to abandon his position as long as the Viet Cong could carry off U.S. dead or wounded. Carpenter agreed.

Captain Miller, the 1/327 FAC, ran two strikes, one in support of both "B" Company and "A" Company, before he ran low on fuel and had to relinquish FAC control to Captain Thomas S. Hoff, the Brigade FAC. Hoff ran four more flights, in support of the two units under heavy contact, before darkness set in. During the 9th, 25 immediate and 16 preplanned TAC strikes were flown, 29 in close air support and 12 in direct air support.

The last flights were flown just after darkness, when Carpenter's position was again attacked and the F-4C's, with only ten minutes loiter time left, expended on Carpenter's perimeter. Asked by the FAC if he wanted the strikes brought in closer, Carpenter replied, "That did it fine, I believe". At 2135 hours, "A" Company of the 2/502 linked up with Carpenter's "C" Company, which had heavy casualties. The enemy force pulled back from contact with all units. (Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report; Operation Hawthorne, HQ PACAF; 8 Sept 1966)

09 June 1967

Operation MALHEUR: the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry was released as The Brigades reserve, conducted airmobile assaults from CARENTAN Base into the western portion of BASTOGNE AO and commenced search and destroy operations to the south. Two light contacts resulted in 1 US KHA, 1 US WHA; 3 VC KIA (C), 2 detainees and 1 small arm captured.



09 June 1967

Operation MALHEUR: The 2-502 IN conducted an airmobile assault into the AO west of the SONG VE Valley. Operations revealed the presence of elements of both the 1st and 2nd VC Regiment. The number of enemy contacts, initially high, declined over a period of days and intelligence indicated that the 2nd VC Regiment had withdrawn to the west while the 1st VC Regiment was reported to have withdrawn to the northwest. At the request of Province officials, the Brigade turned its attention to the evacuation of the civilian population from the SONG TRA CAU and SONG VE Valley which are highly fertile rice growing in the area from which the VC had been extracting food and taxes for many of years. (Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation MALHEUR)

09 June 1968

1-502 Alpha and Charlie Companies combined for a cordon search of an area vicinity YD7030. The cordon resulted in 2 VC KIA and a large cache containing weapons, ammo, clothing, and food. There were 23 bunkers in the area, 15 had been used recently and all destroyed. In vicinity YD7133 numerous punji pits were encountered. Charlie Company found 5 tons of rice. Delta Company and PF's continued operating with Rome plow. Their progress report show, 200 meters of hedgerow and 45 bunkers destroyed. During the day, 8 VC KIA, 6 VC POW, and 1 of the VC was a messenger who had a document from his commander stating, his men could not fight due to lack of food, weapons, and ammo. There were 5 friendly WIA from BBT.

09 June 1969

Heavy fighting broke out in the area of HILL 376 as the 1-501 clashed with determined enemy forces throughout the day; elsewhere in the AO, the tempo of activity increased as all units were engaged during the day. At 1155H, D/1-502, vicinity BT202123 engaged one enemy in a tunnel with hand grenades, killing the 1 NVA and capturing his weapon. At 1155H, Recon/1-502, vicinity BT271075, found 1 VC sleeping in a hammock; when confronted, the VC surrendered and was evacuated. At 1300H, A/1-501, vicinity BT206121, received 82mm mortar and small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force, resulting in 1 US KIA and 4 US WIA; the element returned fire with negative enemy assessment. At 1410H, D/1-501, vicinity BT208133, received small arms and mortar fire from a well-hidden enemy force; the element returned fire and maneuvered against the enemy force employing air and artillery in support. D/1-501 recorded 7 NVA KIA while suffering 1 U.S. KIA and 3 U.S. WIA in the fighting. At 1445H, C/1-501, vicinity BT202123, after having air moved into the area some five hours earlier, came under heavy small arms, automatic weapons and RPG fire from an unknown size enemy force resulting in 2 US KIA and 5 US WIA; the element returned fire, but the enemy was able to break contact without apparent casualties. At 1520H, Recon/1-501, vicinity BT202131, received a heavy volume of accurate small arms, automatic weapons and RPG fire that effectively pinned the platoon down; fighting from an untenable position, the element suffered 2 US KIA and 3 US WIA, but continued to return fire and employed air and artillery against the dug-in enemy. Contact was broken with negative enemy assessment. At 1830H, A/1-501, vicinity BT204120, found a small arms cache containing 4 AK47, 1 Mauser rifle and 1 RPG launcher.

09 June 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: Early on the morning of July 9, Bravo Company, 1/502 arrived to secure the area while members of Alpha Company began a search for their missing men. An air cavalry Loach pilot spotted Ted Brenner, Duane Scott, and John Hanie, three of the missing men. The pilot, Luther Lassiter, landed his chopper. Scott and Hanie crawled inside the cockpit while Brenner hopped onto a skid. The overloaded chopper labored to lift off, but Lassiter managed to gain altitude and fly the soldiers to Hau Duc. When Lassiter returned to the area, he rescued a fourth soldier, Julius Bray.

Troops searching on the ground found two men, Kenneth Walker and Nelson Lucas, alive but wounded. By late morning, the bodies of six soldiers were recovered. The body of the thirteenth missing man, Sgt. James Manning, was not found until the following day. (Bitter Fighting In Quang Tin, Roger Ables)

09 June 1970

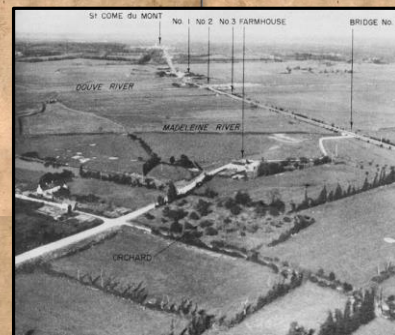
Operation TEXAS STAR: in the vicinity of YD572113, 2nd and 3rd Platoons of 2/502 engaged an enemy squad at close range. The results were one NVA/VC killed and one US WIA. A sweep found 1100lbs of rice, mortar rounds, small arms munitions and medical supplies.

10 – 15 June 1944

The Battle of Carentan between US Army Airborne Forces and the German Wehrmacht, which took place during the approach to and within the City of Carentan, France.

10 June 1944

(*Purple Heart Lane*) Leading the attack of the 502nd, the 3rd Battalion (3rd/502nd PIR) under Lt Col. Robert G. Cole found Bridge No. 2 (the Douve bridge) unrepared and the engineers assigned to the task pinned down by fire from an 88mm gun. LTC Cole sent his S-2, 1LT Ralph B. Gehauf, with a patrol across the river in a small boat. They made their way to the last bridge, which they found blocked by a Belgian gate. The patrol was able to push the obstacle aside only 18 inches, just enough for one soldier at a time to negotiate. The patrol soon came under flare illumination, mortar, and machine gun fire and eventually returned at 05:30, when the attack was postponed. Most of the fire appeared to be coming from a large farmhouse (49°18'44.6"N 1°15'37.2"W / 49.312389°N 1.260333°W / 49.312389; -1.260333 (Farmhouse)) and a hedgerow on higher ground 250 yards to the right of the highway beyond Bridge No. 4. Map



At 01:45 1st/327th GIR began crossing the footbridges over the lower Douve, and by 06:00, under cover of artillery fire, the entire regiment was across. It captured Brévands and began the three-mile (5 km) movement south and west. Company A of the 401st GIR, accompanied by the Division Assistant G-3, left the column and marched east toward Auville-sur-le-Vey to link up with the U.S. 29th Infantry Division. The 327th did not encounter serious opposition until it approached the bridges spanning the Vire-Taute Canal east of Carentan at 18:00. It went into the attack with two battalions on line and by midnight held the east bank.



The Douve Bridge was still not repaired when 3rd/502nd PIR returned at noon. The paratroopers used engineer materials at hand to improvise a footbridge and began their attack shortly after 13:00. Moving single file down the causeway and advancing by crouching and crawling, the point of the 400-man battalion reached Bridge No. 4 at about 16:00, with most of the unit past Bridge No. 3. Under artillery and mortar fire, and then sniper and machine gun fire as they got within range, casualties among the 3rd/502nd PIR became heavy. Nightfall ended the advance but not the casualties, when an attack at 23:30 by two low-flying German Ju 87 Stukas strafing the causeway killed 30 men and knocked I Company completely out of the battle. The severe casualties suffered by the 3rd/502nd PIR, estimated at 67% of the original force, resulted in the nickname "Purple Heart Lane" applied to that portion of the Carentan-Sainte-Mère-Église highway.

10 June 1967

Operation MALHEUR: One company of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d infantry discovered 14 VC KIA (C) and one individual weapon as a result of one of the enemy contacts on 9 June. In addition, 4 detainees were apprehended from a cave where they had been hiding. A second company contacted an estimated VC Company size force armed with at least one heavy machine gun. The unit pulled back and called in heavy artillery fire and gunships. Results of the contact were 4 US KHA, 32 US WHA; 1 US MHA and loss of 1 M-60 machine gun and 1 M-79. Two other light contacts resulted in 1 VC KIA (C) and 1 detainee apprehended.

10 June 1968

Division forces seized two rice caches totaling more than 37,000 pounds in two locations. The first was captured by B/2-17 CAV, 12 Miles southeast of Hue. The nine tons of rice were bagged and evacuated to Phu Tu District Headquarters. Paratroopers from C/1-501 IN took a second cache of 9 ½ tons from area 6 ½ Miles northwest of Hue.

10 June 1968

1-502 Alpha and Charlie Companies continued sweep of cordon established 9 June while Delta Company continued Rome plow operations. Delta requested and received an air strike vicinity YD6931. Alpha and Charlie had light contact, capturing 7 VC, 5 tons of rice while they had 1 Friendly KIA and 4 WIA. The Rome plow destroyed another 36 bunkers. The PSYOPS plane flew over the AO making leaflet drops and loud speaker broadcasts.

10 June 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: On company at a time of STRIKE Force was extracted to the rear for a 4 day stand down.

10 June 1969

Activity slackened around HILL 376 as the 1-501 continued to search the battlefield while the 1-46 continued to move north in the direction of HILL 376 to block any enemy forces attempting to withdraw from or reinforce the contact area. At 0620H, Recon/1-502, vicinity BT272071, engaged and 3 NVA. At 0900H, A/1-501, vicinity BT205121, found 1 NVA KIA by artillery. At 1000H, A/1-501, vicinity BT204119, found two AK47 and another NVA KIA by artillery. At 1053H, C/1-502, vicinity BT222093, found a grave containing the remains of 1 VC KIA. At 1620H, D/1-501, vicinity BT202124, received 4-5 rounds of sniper fire, lightly wounding 1 US; the element employed artillery accounting for 1 NVA KIA. At 1825H, B/1-502 and C/20320 Arty received 8 rounds of 82mm RR fire resulting in 8 US WIA; the element returned fire to the suspected enemy locations with negative assessment.

11 June 1944

(LTC Cole's Charge) During the night German fire subsided. Company H crept through the opening in the obstacle, and when it did not suffer any casualties, at 04:00 Company G and the Headquarters Company followed, taking cover on both sides of the highway. Scouts in the point nearly reached the main farmhouse in the morning twilight when they were cut down by German fire. LTC Cole immediately called for artillery support, but the German fire did not cease. At 06:15, using a smoke screen for concealment, LTC Cole ordered his executive officer, Major John P. Stopka, to pass word to the battalion that it would have to charge the German positions to eliminate them.



Using a whistle to signal the attack, Cole led a bayonet charge that overwhelmed the defenders in savage close combat, for which Cole was later awarded the Medal of Honor. At first only a small portion of the battalion, approximately 20 men, charged, but Stopka quickly followed with 50 more. The attack picked up impetus as the other paratroopers observed it in progress and joined it, crossing a ditch. Overrunning the empty farmhouse, men of Company H found many German fallschirmjäger dug in along the hedgerow behind it. Companies H and G killed them with hand grenades and bayonets but at severe cost to themselves.

The survivors of 3rd/502nd PIR set up defensive positions and requested 1st Battalion 502nd PIR continue the attack LTC Patrick F. Cassidy's battalion, however, also took serious casualties from mortar fire and could only strengthen LTC Cole's defensive line, taking up positions from the 3rd Battalion command post in the farmhouse to the highway. During a 2-hour truce at mid-day in which U.S. forces attempted to negotiate for removal of casualties, Company C 502nd moved forward from Bridge No. 4 into a cabbage patch between the second and third hedgerows. Company A 502nd moved up just behind Company C and extended its line across the highway. Fighting at the cabbage patch during the afternoon often took place at extremely close range with the contending forces on opposite sides of the same hedgerow.

Except for the noon truce, which FJR6 also used to resupply and reorganize, the American forces repelled repeated attacks. The final one nearly succeeded in overwhelming the 3rd/502nd PIR at 1830, gaining all but the final hedgerow between it and the Douve River. However, LTC Cole's artillery officer, able to overcome jamming of his radio, called down a concentration of VII Corps Artillery so close that several Americans were also killed. The overwhelming violence of the 5-minute barrage rolled back the last German counterattack.

Patrols from the 327th had discovered a partially destroyed footbridge over the Vire-Taute Canal at the point where it connected with the Douve, northeast of the city. The bridge was repaired by 10:00, and a company each of the 2nd (Company G) and 3rd battalions (Company A 401) crossed and attacked down the forested banks of the boat basin (Bassin à Flot), but like the 502nd, were stopped a half mile (1 km) short of Carentan by machine gun and mortar fires that artillery could not suppress.



FJR6, nearly out of ammunition, withdrew during the night, leaving only a small rear guard. A Luftwaffe parachute resupply drop that night seven miles (11 km) to the southwest arrived too late to help. The 17th SS Panzergrenadier Division (General Major der Waffen-SS Werner Ostendorff), on the road toward Carentan since D-Day, had been delayed by air attack and lack of fuel. By nightfall on 11 June only a few advanced elements had reached the division's assembly areas. (Picture is painting of "Strike Attack; LTC Coles Charge" from Mr. James Dietz; The Art of James Dietz

11 June 1966

The U.S. forces reported that the whole valley seemed to have enemy units in it and started moving back to allow air strikes and artillery to break the enemy's "bear hug" tactic which made air strikes difficult. The three companies in the valley moved up the slopes of a mountain plateau, moving through dense jungle with litters of wounded and dead. Air strikes were flown in support of "A" and "B" Companies of the 2/502d and the Provisional Company from Phan Rang, which command terrain on the high grounds above the withdrawing companies. "A" and "C" Companies of the 2/502d were extracted to Dak To. (Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report; Operation Hawthorne, HQ PACAF; 8 Sept 1966)

11 June 1967

Operation MALHEUR: Seven light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 1 US KHA; 2 VC KIA (C), capture of 1 individual weapon and apprehension of 152 detainees (refugees).

11 June 1967

Operation MALHEUR: at 0900H, B/2-502 IN encountered an unknown size enemy force in fortified positions along a steep ridge line vicinity coordinates BS609460. At 111000H June 1967 the enemy was attacked with CS gas grenades. The initial drop at 1000 hours showed lapse conditions which caused the CS cloud to rise. Subsequent passes were made further down the sides of the ridge to allow the CS cloud to drift up to the ridge. The target was covered and the enemy abandoned their positions. Total amount of M7A3 CS grenades used were 400.

11 June 1968

1-502 cordon operations was completed with 6 VC KIA, 1 Hoi Chanh, 9 ½ tons of rice were discovered. Also a directive came out on this day from Brigade that said all elements operating independently would have compass, map, radio, and strobe light. Alpha had 1 Friendly WIA.

11 June 1969

Activity decreased in the LAMAR PLAIN AO as the 1-501 continued to search in the area of HILL 376 while 1-46 continued RIF south of the area to interdict any enemy movement to and from the area. At 0340H, C/1-501, vicinity BT203118, observed one enemy soldier moving along a trail; the element engaged the enemy accounting for 1 NVA KIA. At 1305H, C/1-501, vicinity BT203112, engaged two enemy with small arms, resulting in 2 NVA KIA. At 2010H, B/1-501, vicinity BT207106, engaged two enemy soldiers with small arms, killing one.

11 June 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: A/2-502 found one enemy killed by artillery. At YD572112 the Company found a hand crank generator, Chinese aiming pole lights, a tool kit for 82mm mortars and AK-47 ammunition.

11 June 1971

Troopers from C/1-502 IN, while on a routine patrol in the jungles near FB Veghel, discovered two large enemy huts with adjoining underground bunkers containing 20 B-40 rockets and one 60mm mortar aiming sight. Nearby the infantrymen found six freshly dug enemy graves.



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 502nd IN Regiment or those assigned to the Brigade during operations.

1 x Medal of Honor
 8 x Distinguished Service Cross
 40 x Silver Star Medal (18 x Posthumously)
 2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
 29 x Bronze Star Medal (26 x Posthumously)
 1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
 199 x Purple Heart Medal (188 x Posthumously)

05 June 1969



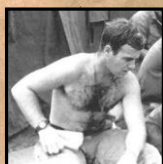
SP4 Lawrence P. Mulvey (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a command detonated mine 9 km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

05 June 1969



SP4 William H. Ayers (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a command detonated mine 9 km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

05 June 1969



SP4 Robert P. Ruttle Jr. (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a command detonated mine 9 km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

05 June 1969



PFC Kevin R. Crowe (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a command detonated mine 9 km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

05 June 1969

SGT John W. Horan (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a command detonated mine 9 km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

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 1970

The following Soldiers: PFC James W. Murray and SP4 Albert W. Carroll (B 1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 6936; 19 June 1970)



07 June 1944



PVT Jack L. Crouse (B/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed during the invasion of German Occupied France.

07 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PFC Raymond T. Hoffman (A/502nd PIR); PVT J. T. Morris, (B/502nd PIR); PVT Albert R. Estes, PVT Edward Gorecki (F/502nd PIR); SGT Norwood A. Cumming (H/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death when killed during the invasion of German Occupied France.

07 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Pershing D. Auman (A/502nd PIR) and PVT Lewis C. Bacon (502nd PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when killed during the invasion of German Occupied France.

07 June 1944

PVT John R. Baas Jr. (C/502nd PIR) was awarded 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/502nd PIR); PVT John F. Reidy (HQ/2-502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death near Sainte-Mère-Église, France during the Invasion of German Occupied France.

07 June 1944

The following Soldiers: SGT Carl J. Sparks, CPL John M. Lapikas (A/502nd PIR); PFC John P. Lesko (C/502nd PIR); PVT Joseph D. Hill, PVT Joseph B. Hudak, PVT Julio T. Rodriguez (502nd PIR) (MIA) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received from actions during the invasion of German Occupied France which resulted in them being missing in action.

07 June 1944

The following Soldiers: 1LT Bernard G. Bucior (C/502nd PIR) and PVT Robert E. Jesper (RHQ/502nd PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received from actions during the invasion of German Occupied France which resulted in them being missing in action. (Pictured L-R)



07 June 1944

PFC James D. Hogue (HQ/1-502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wounds received 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/502nd PIR) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death when they were killed near Turqueville, France during the invasion of German Occupied France.

07 June 1944

SGT Emile W. Tanguay (HQ/2-502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) 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) was awarded was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from a gunshot wound to the head, chest, left thigh and left foot received while in a hostile ground action during an attack on LZ lima Zulu, 16km Northeast of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 June 1966



PFC David L. Dodson (A/2-502 IN) was awarded was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wounds to the head and gunshot wound to the chest, right thigh, and right shoulder received while in a hostile ground action during an attack on LZ lima Zulu, 16km Northeast of Dak To City 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, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 8362; 7 July 1969)

07 June 1969



SGT Ryamond T. Talburt (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for mliitary merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death 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 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, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 8681; 11 July 1969)

07 June 1969



SP4 Michael P. Callahan (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for mliitary merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death 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 1969



SGT Frederic H. Davis (A/1-501 IN);) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for mliitary merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death 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 1969



SGT Michael W. O'Leary (A/1-501 IN); was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for mliitary merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death 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 1969



CPL James Rundle Jr. (B/1-501 IN); was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for mliitary merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death 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 1969



CPL John S. Lewis (E/1-501 IN, Recon Platoon) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for mliitary merit and for wounds received which resulted in his dearth 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 1969



PFC Stephen E. Larsen (E/1-501 IN, Recon Platoon) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple 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 Thomas E. Baumgardner Jr. (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when a mine detonated and a hostile force was encountered 8km West of Phuy Loc in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. SPL4 Baumgardner was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

08 June 1944



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

On 8 June, 1944, near Houesville, France, he received a suicidal order from LTC Cole to lead his platoon in an attack across open ground toward three MG42 positions which were cross-firing.

Lt Dulaney told his men that he was going to charge the nearest German MG position by himself, and: "There's not a damn man to follow, unless I make it." Dulaney charged across the exposed ground and about 2/3 of the way across the field was struck down by German bullets. His platoon Sgt, Ralph Casas, ran out and flopped down beside the lieutenant. He placed him on his back and crawled back to safety with him. During this evacuation from the battlefield, the lieutenant was struck 2 or 3 more times by bullets. Lt Dulaney received the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, and the Silver Star Medal.



08 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Dewitt Harris (HQ/1-502nd PIR); PFC Norman Cournoyer (C/502nd PIR); (D/502nd PIR); SSGT Davis H. Vaughan, PFC Frank A. McLaughlin, PVT Adrian J. Pelletier (H/502nd PIR) was awarded 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.

08 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Robert I. Haseltine Jr. (D/502nd PIR); PFC Ray E. Sanders (H/502nd PIR) was awarded 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. (Pictured L-R)



08 June 1944

PFC Frank W. Gray (HQ/3-502nd PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart. PFC Gray was wounded near Blossville, France and later died of wounds; during the invasion of German Occupied France.

08 June 1944

SGT Thomas W. Kent Jr. (G/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed near Hauville, France during the invasion of German Occupied France.

08 June 1944



PFC Delbert L. Troutman (H/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed near Hauville, France during the invasion of German Occupied France.

08 June 1944

2LT Frank Schell (D/502nd PIR) was awarded 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 while at a landing zone when the area came under attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. SP4 Williams was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

08 June 2006

SPC Valtito Samuel (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds 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 struck 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 wounds received which resulted in his death from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy vehicle during combat operations in Baghdad.

09 June 1944

1LT Le Roy Bone (HQ/502nd 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 Soldier near St. Martin de Varreville, France after stalking him up a hedge row on D-Day.

09 June 1944

T/4 Andrew Kalonsky (HQ/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed on D-Day by the German enemy after having broken his leg on the jump.

09 June 1944



PFC Sewell W. Crouch (HQ/2-502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed during the invasion of German Occupied France.

09 June 1944

PVT Arthur D. Mueller (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed during the invasion of German Occupied France.

09 June 1966



1LT James H. Baker Jr. (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 multiple fragmentation wounds during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966



PFC Will P. Barton II (B/2-502 IN); was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to his left leg and neck during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966



PFC Lawrence J. Deisher (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 gunshot wounds to left side of chest received during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.



09 June 1966



PFC Joseph R. Ellman (C/2-502 IN) was awarded was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of severe wounds to his left arm and both legs received during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966



PFC Edward T. D. Frodsham (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 gunshot wounds to forehead, left shoulder and right side received during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966



PFC Edward Garcia (C/2-502 IN) was awarded was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of napalm burns of entire body incurred when he was hit by napalm during friendly forces air strike on a hostile position during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966



SFC Robert Hanna (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from reasons not reported and was missing following the engagement during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam. Remains have been recovered.

09 June 1966



SGT George A. Morningstar (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from reasons not reported and was missing following the engagement during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam. Remains have been recovered.

09 June 1966



PFC Melvin Reeder (A/2-502 IN) was awarded was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of gunshot wounds to the right side received during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966



PFC James E. Shuyler (HHC/2-502 IN); was awarded was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to left lower leg and metal fragment wounds to the right knee received during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966

PFC Walter Williams Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the left shoulder and neck received during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1967

SP4 James C. Martin Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when hit by fragments from a hostile grenade 11km SE of Minh Long Airfield in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.



09 June 1968



SP4 Nathaniel Cummings (B/2-501 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 fragment from hostile anti-tank round in the Thua Tien Province, South Vietnam. SP4 Cummings was admitted to a Naval hospital where he later expired.

09 June 1969



SP4 Christopher J. Bean (HHC/1-501 IN); was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds on Hill 376 east of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1969

1LT Waldemar J. Geiger (A/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 on Hill 376 east of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1969



PFC Donald O. Hartman (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds on Hill 376 east of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1969



SGT Terry G. Rada (D/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 on Hill 376 east of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1969

SGT Daniel T. Thurston (HHC/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 on Hill 376 east of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1969



SP4 Gary J. Winkler (HHC/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 on Hill 376 east of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1969



SGT William D. Bushard (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from friendly fire, 105mm Airburst by supporting artillery fire directed at enemy while at NDP 10 KM E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1969



PFC Larry R. Gilbertson (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from friendly fire, 105mm Airburst by supporting artillery fire directed at enemy while at NDP 10 KM E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.



09 June 1969

SGT William D. Sparks (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from friendly fire, 105mm Airburst by supporting artillery fire directed at enemy while at NDP 10 KM E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 2003

SPC Steven Clark (B/311 MI BN) receives the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Mosul, Iraq. This would be the first of four Purple Hearts SPC Clark receives while assigned to 2BCT. SPC Clark's convoy was ambushed by 6 to 10 Iraqi insurgents using AK-47's and PK belt fed machineguns. More than 20 rounds found their mark on SPC Clark's M998 HMMWV, one striking SPC Clark's ITRT Toughbook Panasonic Computer and another striking SPC Clark in the left shoulder. Despite his injuries, SPC Clark drove the remaining 2 miles to the nearest Forward Operating Base to receive medical treatment. Several of the insurgents were later captured by elements of 2-502 IN.

09 June 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Jonathan Jackson, SGT Rafael Machuca and PFC Kevin Murphy (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their unit with a rocket propelled grenade.

10 June 1944

The following Soldiers: CPL Nick F. Sherman (HQ/1-502 PIR); PVT James W. Heacock (HQ/3-502nd PIR); T/4 Louis P. Perko (A/502nd PIR); PVT Robert G. Hester, PVT Robert W. Hickson (B/502nd PIR); T/5 Nicholas J. Neises, PFC Joseph D. Toscano (F/502nd PIR); T/5 Willard Morss (G/502nd PIR); PFC David R. Killian, PFC George M. Fatzer, PFC Alfred C. Hatcher, PVT Hobart J. Eaton, PVT Joseph Goldberg, T/5 James O. Brune, T/4 Walter F. Hoppe, T/5 Roy R. Land, PFC William K. Peden Jr., PFC Joseph S. Rakas, PFC Paul P. Raupach (H/502nd PIR); SGT Jerry A. Boffo, SGT Jerry A. Hoffo, PVT Eugene O. Gaukel, SGT Joseph A. Miller, PFC Emmitt T. Nix, PFC Stanley W. Tkaczyk, 1LT Benny J. Klemantovich, 1LT John P. Painschab (I/502nd PIR); CPL Robert L. MacDonald (502nd PIR) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death in Normandy, France.

10 June 1944

PFC Rudolph L. Stalzer (E/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed as his Battalion was advancing on enemy gun emplacement near Carentan, France.

10 June 1966



PFC Michael T. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from reasons not reported and was missing following the engagement during hostile ground action on NGOK Run Ridge, 20km N-NE of Dak To City in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam. Remains have been recovered.

10 June 1966

SGT Elmer F. Johnson (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in connection with military operations against a hostile force. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Order No. 391; 13 Aug 1966)

10 June 1967



SGT Henry J. Wilhelmi Jr. (B/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 hostile automatic weapons fire when patrol was ambushed 16km SW of Mo Duc Airfield in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

10 June 1968



PFC Larry T. Miller (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds when came under hostile attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



11 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Jerome T. Nowak (RHQ/502nd PIR); T/5 Robert L. Dawson, PVT Hugo Bibry, PVT James Nilo, T/5 Robert L. Dowson, PVT DeWitt Harris, PFC Allan Johnson, CPL George R. Adams, PVT Abarham L. Axlerod (HQ/1-502nd PIR); CPL Earl H. Butz, PVT William S. O'Quinn, PVT Paul S. Edmondson, PFC Peter J. Kalasausky, CPL William B. Evans, PVT James R. Pace (HQ/3-502nd PIR); PVT William J. Darcy (G/3-502nd PIR); SGT Johnny R. Flores, SGT Charles J. DeRose, PFC Donald E. Cary (A/502nd PIR); CPL William J. Burt, PVT Ralph C. Cavalier, PVT Clarence E. Black Jr., PVT Anthoney Foglia, PVT J. T. Morris, PFC Thomas J. Milewski (B/502nd PIR); PFC Harry T. Dandorf, PVT Herman C. Jones, T/5 Frank A. Willard, PFC Willie F. Craig, CPL John E. Whitlock, PFC Anthony E. Marcozzi, PVT John L. Davis, PFC Harry T. Dandorf (C/502nd PIR); PVT Carl A. Deyak, PFC Joseph Bobb, PVT Douglas H. Gorman (G/502nd PIR); PFC John H. Kaufman (Pictured), PFC Frank J. Kocyon, PFC Nathan E. Loving, T/5 Robert J. Marois, T/5 James A. Middleton, PVT Smith J. Etling, PFC Lawrence T. Riley, PVT John H. Funk, PFC Frank J. Kocyan (H/502nd PIR); PVT John C. Norton, CPL Cornelius W. Owens (Pictured), PVT Edward R. Sowder (Picture) (I/502nd PIR) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed during the Battle for Carentan, France. (Pictured from L – R)



11 June 1944

CPL Arthur L. McDaniel (RHQ/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was with the advancing element of the 3rd Battalion on the advance to Carentan, when he was killed by the burst of a German 88mm Shell.

11 June 1944



1LT Homer J. Combs (B/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while his Battalion was advancing across the Causeway into Carentan, France under terrific enemy Artillery and Machine Gun Fire.

11 June 1944

SGT Robert E. Jourdan (RHQ/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death when he was killed by enemy fire on the Causeway at Carentan, France while carrying ammo to the front lines.

11 June 1944



2LT Ralph S. Magri (E/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed during the Battle for Carentan, France while leading his Platoon in a Battalion attack on a German Machine Gun emplacement.

11 June 1944

CPL James V. Dalto (HQ/1-502 PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed on the Causeway into Carentan, France by German 88mm Shrapnel.

11 June 1944

The following Soldiers: 1LT Ernest O. Harris, PFC Jack N. Mershonne, PVT James A. Dodson, PVT Abner R. Cole, PVT Albert J. Kushmerick (HQ/3-502nd PIR); PVT William A. Cooper (C/502nd PIR); PFC Sidney L. Howard (H/502nd PIR) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death when they were killed at Carentan, France while their companies were attacking Enemy Machine Gun emplacements.

11 June 1944

SGT John P. Durka (HQ/2-502 PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed at Carentan, France while the aid station in which he was working on the front line was under very heavy enemy fire. (Further research and accounts show that SGT Durka was killed by a Mortar Shell while picking up a wounded Soldier near Bridge 4.)

11 June 1944



The following Soldiers: SGT Robert E. Jourdan (RHQ/502nd PIR); S/SGT John P. Durka (HQ/2-502nd PIR); PVT Paul S. Edmondson, PFC Peter J. Kalasausky (HQ/3-502nd PIR) 1LT Homer J. Combs (Pictured) (B/502n PIR) were awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for action during the Battle of Carentan, France.

11 June 1944



The following Soldiers: CPL Albert J. Kushmerick, PVT Abner R. Cole (Pictured), PVT William S. O'Quinn (HQ/3-502nd PIR); 1LT Homer J. Combs (B/502nd PIR); PVT William A. Cooper (C/502nd PIR) were awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for action during combat during the Battle of Carentan, France.



11 June 1967



SSG Darrel F. Gaskins (HHC/2-502 IN) were 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 Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

11 June 1967



SGT James R. Hicks (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hit by fragments from a friendly short artillery round directed at a hostile force in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

11 June 1967



CPL Robin P. Milovich (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hit by fragments from a friendly short artillery round directed at a hostile force in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

11 June 1967



CPL Joseph L. Parks (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hit by fragments from a friendly short artillery round directed at a hostile force in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

11 June 1968



PFC George W. Large (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. PFC Large was admitted to a military hospital in Vietnam, placed on the VSI list and later transferred to a military hospital in Japan still on the VSI list and then evacuated to Walter Reed General Hospital where he later expired.

11 June 1968



SP4 Herbert N. Stehle (B/1-502 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 while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in firefight 1km N-NW of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. SP4 Stehle was admitted to a Naval Hospital Ship and placed on VSI list and later expired.

11 June 1968



PFC Toby E. Collins (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile booby trap in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 June 1969



SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action in South Vietnam. (Purple Heart Certificate)



11 June 1970	CPL John L. Davis (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
11 June 2006	1LT Paul Fisher (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel lacerations to the right hand, left elbow, and head when a VBIED detonated.
11 June 2006	SSG Jason Zimmerman, (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from a laceration to the neck caused by shrapnel from a VBIED detonation.
11 June 2006	SGT Jerrod Osborne (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel lacerations and a burn to the right elbow from a VBIED detonation.
11 June 2006	SGT Matthew Vanderveer (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel laceration to the right elbow and small puncture wounds to the face from a VBIED detonation.
11 June 2006	SPC Stephen Smith (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from a superficial one-inch-long laceration and smaller lacerations with puncture wounds to the left arm when a VBIED detonated.
11 June 2006	The following Soldiers: SGT Bryan Guzman (HHC/2-502 IN); SGT Leslie Toussaint (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in result of action in combat against a hostile force.



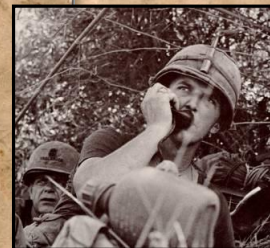
STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

07 June 1944

CPT Cecil Simmons (H/502nd 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 were 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. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 5754; 20 September 1966)

07-11 June 1966

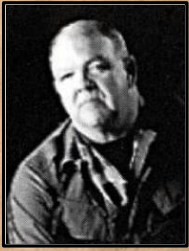
PFC Peter S. Griffin (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving as a Fire Team Leader with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. During this period Private First Class Griffin's unit was engaged in continuous military operations involving conflict with an armed enemy force near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. The acts of extraordinary heroism repeatedly displayed by Private First Class Griffin while engaging a numerically superior enemy force in close combat with both rifle fire and hand grenades contributed immeasurably to the prevention of the unit positions being overrun and the defeat of the enemy forces. Particularly noteworthy were his actions on the final night of conflict when unit members were hit after being ambushed by the enemy forces and he carried a severely wounded comrade throughout the night until contact was made with friendly forces. Private First Class Griffin's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army. (DA, HQ, 101st ABN, General Orders Number 14; 11 April 1997)

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. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number; 15 September 1966)



09 June 1966



CPT Walter R. Brown (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. During the period 9 June 1966 to 11 June 1966, Captain Brown, the company commander of Company A, had the mission of reinforcing a company that was surrounded by a Viet Cong battalion near Dak To. Upon receiving the mission, Captain Brown immediately assembled his company and began the 3,000 meter move through darkness and treacherous terrain to the battle area. As his company reached the top of the mountain overlooking the beleaguered company, it received intense hostile fire. With complete disregard for his safety, Captain Brown led a squad to the flank of the insurgent positions and initiated an assault that killed nine Viet Cong and forced the remainder of the insurgents to flee. During the assault, Captain Brown charged a machine gun emplacement and personally killed three Viet Cong. Although the situation was extremely tense, Captain Brown positioned himself with the lead element and continued to advance toward the stricken company. Upon entering a valley, the lead element again received Viet Cong fire from the surrounding high ground. While the rest of the company continued forward, Captain Brown maneuvered his machine guns into a position where they placed suppressive fire on the insurgents. As his unit reached the perimeter of the beleaguered company, the rear element was attacked by a determined Viet Cong force and one trooper fell seriously wounded. Captain Brown immediately raced 30 meters down the slope to the wounded trooper and carried him to safety. He then assumed command of the perimeter and positioned his men to repel the repeated Viet Cong attacks. Throughout the next 30 hours, Captain Brown continuously exposed himself to carry ammunition, call in air strikes, and adjust artillery fire. During a mortar attack on 10 June 1966, Captain Brown moved about the battlefield helping move wounded soldiers from exposed positions. Working against superior odds, he organized his company and rallied his men to successfully fight their way through the Viet Cong encirclement. Although confronted with the arduous task of transporting 45 litter casualties over rough terrain to an evacuation point 1,000 meters away, he never relented from his determined efforts to accomplish his mission. While moving toward the landing zone, they were again hit by a Viet Cong element. Despite the fact that he was wounded by a grenade explosion, Captain Brown ordered a charge that overran the insurgent position. After reaching the landing zone, he returned down the mountain to help his comrades carry the litter patients to the extraction point. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Captain Brown's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 5896 (October 3, 1966))

09 June 1966



1SG Walter J. Sabalauski (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. First Sergeant Sabalauski distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during the period 9 to 11 June 1966 while participating in a blocking operation near Dak To. When the Viet Cong occupied jungle suddenly erupted with intense hostile fire from three directions, First Sergeant Sabalauski, realizing that the company commander could not possibly control all the elements in the thick bamboo growth and 50 foot canopies, rallied and directed the beleaguered troops in an attempt to gain fire superiority. With complete disregard for his safety, First Sergeant Sabalauski dashed from position to position and repeatedly exposed himself to muster his unit and quell the hostile fire. As the Viet Cong assaulted the perimeter, First Sergeant Sabalauski quickly organized an assault line and delivered suppressive fire onto the fanatical Viet Cong. After dashing to the rear of the perimeter and observing that the insurgents were surrounding his company, he exposed himself and screamed orders to form a tight defensive perimeter. Although artillery was called in as close as 25 meters from the friendly force and air strikes devastated the jungle around the perimeter, the determined Viet Cong continued to advance. When the company commander called in air strikes on his own position as a last resort, First Sergeant Sabalauski remained on his feet to control the beleaguered paratroopers. For 30 hours, he continued to dash from one side of the perimeter to the other to direct and encourage his men. Although he was wounded himself, First Sergeant Sabalauski aided his wounded comrades, comforted the dying, and continued to direct his men. When reinforcements arrived and a hasty perimeter was again set up, he fearlessly moved forward of the perimeter and retrieved a dead comrade. After a 1,000 meter move to an evacuation point, First Sergeant Sabalauski personally supervised the extraction of the wounded and dead. Through his courage and outstanding leadership throughout the long and perilous battle, he contributed immeasurable to the defeat of the determined Viet Cong. First Sergeant Sabalauski'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. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 5821 (September 27, 1966))



09 June 1966

CPT William S. Carpenter Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Captain Carpenter distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during the period 9 June 1966 to 11 June 1966 while serving as Commanding Officer of an infantry company engaged in a blocking mission near Tou Morong Outpost. As Captain Carpenter's company advanced, the lead platoon suddenly received intense fire from an estimated two companies of Viet Cong. Captain Carpenter immediately deployed the company to continue its forward progress, but it soon became pinned down by extremely heavy hostile fire from three directions. After Captain Carpenter organized a hasty defense, it became apparent that the insurgent force was at least of battalion size. The insurgents launched a determined frontal attack and were successful in overrunning one platoon. Realizing the severe consequences if the enemy forces were able to penetrate the entire company area, Captain Carpenter ordered supporting jet aircraft to drop napalm directly on the company's position. The napalm bombs hit the top of the trees in the center of the company position and detonated 25 feet above ground. As a result, the fiery napalm carried directly into the charging insurgents and passed over most of the friendly troops. The skillfully directed air strike completely subdued the Viet Cong attempt to overrun the company. As the insurgents withdrew, Captain Carpenter repeatedly exposed himself to the hostile fire to reorganize his command and direct supporting artillery fire. Throughout the remainder of the three-day battle and in the face of almost overwhelming odds, Captain Carpenter continued to direct and inspire the company to repulse three additional determined assaults by the enemy battalion. Through Captain Carpenter's heroic actions and courageous tenacity, his company was spared numerous casualties and was able to withstand the repeated attacks of the Viet Cong battalion until reinforcements arrived. Captain Carpenter's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 4125 (August 14, 1967))



09 June 1966

MAJ Arthur E. Taylor Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as aircraft commander of a helicopter on a reconnaissance mission in support of a friendly ground force conducting a combat operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. Major Taylor voluntarily accepted the hazardous mission of flying directly into a Viet Cong infested area at low level to locate and pinpoint hostile emplacements. Immediately upon entering the operational area, Major Taylor's pilot began evasive flight maneuvers. Major Taylor then began communicating with his ground elements, issuing orders and relaying emergency requests to his command post. Suddenly, four hostile .50 caliber machine guns opened up on the aircraft. Undaunted by the hostile fire which engulfed the helicopter, Major Taylor, with complete disregard for his safety, spotted the Viet Cong machine gun emplacements and radioed their locations to ground elements. He instructed the friendly force in the vicinity on recommended routes of advance to the insurgent positions. His professionalism and courage, under intense hostile fire while flying in adverse weather conditions was instrumental in defeating the Viet Cong force. Major Taylor'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.

09 June 1966



SGT George A. Morningstar (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a squad leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon suddenly received intense hostile fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force, Sergeant Morningstar exposed himself to estimate the situation. Since an insurgent machine gun was greatly endangering his platoon, Sergeant Morningstar singlehandedly assaulted the position. With complete disregard for his safety while receiving hostile fire, he ran forward, killed two Viet Cong and destroyed the emplacement. When another machine gun placed intense fire on his platoon, Sergeant Morningstar ran to a position within fifteen meters of the Viet Cong and killed two more insurgents. As he assaulted this position, he was mortally wounded. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Sergeant Morningstar'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 5278; 9 August 1966)

09 June 1966



LTC Henry E. Emerson (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star medal while serving as a battalion commanding officer during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While Lieutenant Colonel Emerson was communicating with his ground elements from his command and control aircraft, he suddenly received intense hostile fire. After the source of fire was located, he immediately relayed their positions to his ground elements. Although his aircraft was constantly receiving intense ground fire, he continued to advise and direct his element leaders for eight hours until the Viet Cong force was defeated. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Lieutenant Colonel Emerson'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.



09 June 1966



PFC James E. Shuyler (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while serving as a medic during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his company received intense hostile fire from a large Viet Cong force, Private First Class Shuyler immediately exposed himself and rushed to the aid of a wounded comrade. As more soldiers were wounded, he moved from man to man and administered first aid. While caring for one of the stricken soldiers, Private First Class Shuyler was wounded in the leg by the Viet Cong fire. Although profusely bleeding, he gave himself an injection of morphine and carried out his mission. When he was wounded a second time, he continued to render medical advice as he lay on the battlefield. Private First Class Shuyler later died from his wounds. Private First Class Shuyler's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 June 1966



PFC Joseph R. Ellman (C/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a radio-telephone operator for the company commander during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his company received intense hostile fire from well-fortified Viet Cong positions, Private First Class Ellman exposed himself to better his communications with higher echelons and subordinate leaders. Although he was critically wounded during the ensuing battle, Private First Class Ellman continued to operate his radio for ten hours. When the Viet Cong launched another attack, Private First Class Ellman maintained radio contact and remained with his company commander until he was mortally wounded. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Private First Class Ellman's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 June 1966



1LT James Baker (C/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a platoon leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon suddenly received intense hostile fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force, First Lieutenant Baker ran to the head of the column and calmly issued instructions to his men. Observing that a Viet Cong machine gun was greatly endangering his platoon, First Lieutenant Baker personally directed suppressive fire on the insurgent bunker. Although completely exposed to the hostile fire, he led an assault and inspired his platoon to defeat the Viet Cong force. As First Lieutenant Baker was preparing to assault another position, he was mortally wounded. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. First Lieutenant Baker's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 June 1966

PFC Lawrence J. Deisher (A/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a member of a squad on a combat operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his squad was engaged by a large Viet Cong force, Private First Class Deisher while exposed to the hostile fire, killed two Viet Cong. He continued to place suppressive fire on the insurgents to enable his squad to move to good defensive positions. Because of the numerical superiority of the Viet Cong force and intense hostile machine gun fire, the squad was pinned down. Private First Class Deisher, with complete disregard for his safety, moved forward under the supporting fire of his squad and assaulted to within fifteen meters of the hostile machine gun emplacement. He killed two Viet Cong with a well-placed hand grenade before he was mortally wounded by a burst of hostile fire. Private First Class Deisher's unimpeachable valor 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.



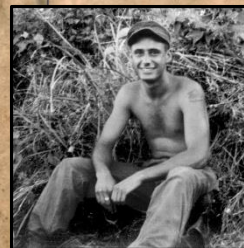
09 June 1966

1LT Louis F. Sill Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as commanding officer during a company search and destroy operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. In an attempt to locate freshly used trails, the company was moving along three principle routes in Viet Cong infested jungle. During the movement, it received intense hostile small arms fire from several camouflaged positions. Upon being informed by a second element that they too were subjected to intense hostile fire, First Lieutenant Sill immediately moved with the remaining elements to their location. He then skillfully directed artillery and air strikes on the Viet Cong emplacements. After moving through the bullet swept area to a good vantage point, First Lieutenant Sill personally maneuvered his remaining platoon to better positions on a hill. During the course of action, the Viet Cong began to increase their fire. At this time, First Lieutenant Sill again called for artillery fire to within distances of less than one hundred meters from his position. He then moved from the maneuver element to the heavily engaged platoon, directed sub-elements to fire and maneuver and assisted in the evacuation of casualties. With complete disregard for his safety, he continued to move about the battlefield directing supporting fire and leading his men in several assaults against the Viet Cong positions. He also directed and supervised the clearing of a landing zone from which his wounded troops could be evacuated. First Lieutenant Sill's calm and exceptionally cool demeanor under hostile fire was an inspiring example to his men and contributed immeasurably to the successful operation which resulted in the death of nine Viet Cong and the capture of six weapons. 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.



09 June 1966

SP4 Michael Baldinger (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal when his company had been surrounded by a North Vietnamese Army battalion and was in danger of being overrun. The company had suffered heavy casualties and many of the wounded were in extremely serious condition. Specialist Baldinger, the medic, kept up with a tireless struggle to save the lives of his comrades. When the water was exhausted and none was immediately available, Specialist Baldinger ran forward, undaunted by the withering fire that engulfed the battlefield, and secured two canteens from a dead Viet Cong. While he was returning with the water, a grenade exploded near him and threw him violently to the ground. With complete disregard for his own life, he jumped up and continued his mission. Specialist Baldinger's gallant actions saved the lives of at least 25 men and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, reflecting great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



09 June 1966

SFC Robert Hanna (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. After evacuating a severe heat casualty through dense jungle terrain, Platoon Sergeant Hanna returned to the battalion command post. Without stopping for rest, he volunteered to return to his platoon which was located two kilometers away. Shortly after joining his unit, the platoon suddenly received intense hostile fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force. Although he was fully exposed to the Viet Cong fire, Platoon Sergeant Hanna fearlessly moved to the head of the column in an effort to ascertain the situation. Observing that the Viet Cong had excellent fortified positions and fields of fire, he immediately organized his platoon and directed fire and maneuver movements. When Platoon Sergeant Hanna personally led an assault to within fifteen meters of a Viet Cong emplacement, his platoon leader was mortally wounded. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Platoon Sergeant Hanna delivered suppressive fire onto the insurgent positions, killing one and wounding several others. While moving to the aid of a wounded comrade, Platoon Sergeant Hanna was mortally wounded by Viet Cong fire. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the eventual defeat of the Viet Cong force. Platoon Sergeant Hanna's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



09 June 1966

SGT Thomas M. Delamater (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Delamater distinguished himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a Squad Leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When a Viet Cong soldier was observed moving along a trail toward his squad, Sergeant Delamater killed him. While exchanging fire, two hand grenades exploded in his position. Although shaken up by the exploding grenades, Sergeant Delamater placed effective fire on the insurgents and aided his comrades to form a tight defensive perimeter. As the battle raged, Sergeant Delamater repeatedly exposed himself outside of the perimeter, carried his wounded comrades to safety, helped the medics administer first aid and made litters to carry the wounded. When the main body withdrew, Sergeant Delamater and the rest of his platoon remained in position for approximately two hours to protect the perimeter before withdrawing to a landing zone 800 meters away. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant Delamater's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 June 1966

PFC Walter Bray (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while on a search and destroy mission, Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry was moving down a jungle trail when they suddenly became engaged with an estimated enemy squad to their direct front. Two men were wounded in the initial burst. At about the same time, an enemy squad in the rear of the friendly platoon began firing upon them. Private First Class Bray observed that his two wounded comrades were in an area exposed to crossfire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Bray rushed through the withering hail of enemy fire to his wounded comrades and pulled one of the men to a covered position. Upon the arrival of the medical aidman, Private Bray unhesitatingly moved back through the bullet swept area in an attempt to retrieve the second wounded man. As Private Bray neared his wounded comrade, he was fired on from a nearby enemy position. Quickly, he grabbed a grenade and charged forward throwing the grenade into the enemy position, destroying it. Private Bray then continued forward to his wounded comrade, and as he started to pull him to safety, he was struck by fragments from a grenade. Disregarding his wounds, he pulled his comrade to safety. Refusing medical aid, Private Bray returned to his position in the perimeter and continued to fight until the enemy was forced to withdraw and flee the battle area. His actions resulted in the saving of two wounded comrades, the killing of two enemy soldiers, and the capture of one weapon. Private Bray's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 June 1966

2LT William D. Jordan (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a platoon leader during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. During a vicious battle with elements of an insurgent regiment, Second Lieutenant Jordan repeatedly exposed himself to intense hostile fire as he moved about the battlefield rallying his troops. Second Lieutenant Jordan led an assault in an attempt to dislodge the Viet Cong force from their entrenched positions, but was unsuccessful because of the large number of insurgent troops. However, this assault disrupted the Viet Cong long enough to allow the remainder of this company to maneuver against the hostile force. Later that day, his company received intense hostile fire from a large Viet Cong force. With complete disregard for his safety, Second Lieutenant Jordan maneuvered his men, pointed out targets, and assisted his wounded comrades. When air strikes were called in, Second Lieutenant Jordan fearlessly exposed himself while establishing a hasty defensive perimeter. Through his courage and outstanding leadership throughout the fierce battle, he inspired his men to fight with determined aggressiveness and contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Second



Lieutenant Jordan's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 June 1966

SGT Robert Williamson (A 2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Williamson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 9 June 1966 in the Republic of Vietnam. While conducting an airmobile assault, Sergeant Williams's company was dropped on a landing zone. As the helicopters started to unload the troops, they began to receive sporadic enemy fire and were soon engaged in a heavy fire fight. As the men started to move off of the landing zone, Sergeant Williamson realized that his company was in an enemy mine field and that if the wounded were not removed immediately an extremely serious situation could develop. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Williamson dashed through the heavy fire and began to pull the wounded men to safety. Numerous times Sergeant Williamson moved through the heavy fire and the mine field until all the wounded had been evacuated. Only after the last wounded man had been pulled from the mine field did Sergeant Williams allow himself to be given medical aid and evacuated. Sergeant Williamson's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1ST BDE, 101ST ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1639; 12 August 1967)

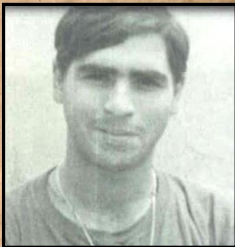
09 June 1967

SP4 James C. Martin (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 9 June 1967 near Duc Pho in the Republic of Vietnam. Serving as a platoon point man, Specialist Martin was moving down a jungle trail when he detected voices to his front. Quickly alerting the platoon, he moved forward with his squad in an attempt to pinpoint the location of the voices. Approaching the suspected enemy position, he was spotted by four enemy soldiers who fired upon the squad with automatic weapons wounding one member. Realizing the precarious situation that could develop, Specialist Martin, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged forward through the enemy fire; throwing grenades and firing his weapon, he assaulted the position. Specialist Martin, by his courageous action, destroyed the position killing all four enemy soldiers and capturing four automatic weapons before being mortally wounded. Specialist Martin's unquestionable valor in close combat against numerically superior hostile forces, his determination, and intense devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force OREGON, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO, General Order 148; 29 August 1967)

09 June 1969

PFC Christopher J. Bean (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 June 1969. Private Bean distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a search and clear operation in the vicinity of Tam Ky, Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, Company C was suddenly subjected to intense enemy machine gun fire from North Vietnamese Army regulars. Immediately an element of Company C began employing fire and movement tactics in an attempt at neutralizing the enemy position, but the insurgents retaliated with intense rocket propelled grenade and machine gun fire. When one man was wounded by shrapnel from an exploding grenade, Private Bean began to maneuver toward him. He then came under intense machine gun fire and was forced to seek cover. Meanwhile, the main maneuvering element of Company C initiated another assault on the insurgent positions. Behind the suppressive machine gun fire of the main maneuvering element Private Bean crawled forward into the open to his wounded comrades. Disregarding his own safety, he subjected himself to the enemy fire as he remained in the open administering first aid to the wounded man. When the insurgent position gained fire superiority, he attempted to drag the wounded man to safety. Cognizant to the fact that his life was in jeopardy, he refused to leave the wounded man behind. A short distance from his objective, Private Bean was again subjected to intense machine gun fire and was mortally wounded. His dauntless courage and self-sacrificing spirit were an inspiration to all the men of his platoon. Private Bean's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101ST ABN DIV, General Order Number 12470; 27 September 1969)

09 June 1969



SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 June 1969. Specialist Saitta distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, at Fire Support Base Currahee, in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. The fire base came under an intense mortar attack Specialist Saitta was in the aid station when he received word that an allied unit had received injuries from a direct hit on a bunker. He assembled some first aid material and in the middle of the attack, ran across the entire fire base to recover the wounded men. After bringing the casualties to the aid station, he again moved through the intense mortar fire to attempt to find other injured personnel. While running across open ground, he was seriously wounded by an exploding mortar round, but after hasty self first aid, he continued to treat other wounded individuals and refused to be evacuated. After the cessation of incoming rounds, he again refused to be evacuated and assisted in the treatment and evacuation of others at the aid station. He remained at the aid station throughout the night and finally consented to be evacuated in the morning when he was assured that no other wounded personnel remained to be treated. Specialist Saitta's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



09 June 1969

MAJ Jerome A. Bruschette (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 June 1969. Major Bruschette distinguished himself while serving as Operation Officer for the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. During the early morning hours on the cited date, Viet Cong soldiers launched a massive mortar attack against Fire Support Base Currahee, Republic of Vietnam. The accuracy of the enemy fire forced all personnel in the vicinity to take cover, leaving many of the wounded laying in the open. Major Bruschette resolutely left the Battalion Tactical Operation Center and moved through the intense mortar fire to carry the wounded soldiers to safety. The barrage, which consisted of more than 50 rounds, continued for approximately two hours and during the entire time Major Bruschette risked his life moving from bunker to bunker to pull out the wounded and assist them to the aid station or to the safety of the operations bunker. As he pulled the wounded in, he used his body as a shield until such time as he was able to get the man to a safe area. In one instance, he moved through the barrage to the artillery fire center which had taken a direct hit, pulled out the wounded, and then directed medical aidman to the position. He reestablished the artillery unit's chain of command and organized the evacuation procedures. Major Bruschette'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.



09 June 2010



SGT Christopher Kenzel (B/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for unequivocally distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States, as a team leader for 1st squad, 3rd platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, JCOF Fitzpatrick, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On this date at approximately 0715 his platoon conducted a reconnaissance of a known enemy fighting position in Pashmul, Afghanistan.

SGT Kenzel's squad was conducting a reconnaissance in vicinity of target reference point 25. SGT Kenzel was on point leading the patrol south on Route Summit. As SGT Kenzel and his team neared target reference point 25, two enemy gun positions located approximately 35 meters to their west erupted in a near ambush initiated by PKM machine gun fire from two prepared, covered, and concealed firing positions. With rounds impacting and passing within inches of him, SGT Kenzel, completely exposed to the enemies' machine gun positions, advanced across 35 meters of broken ground through a hail of withering machine gun fire.



His three-man team, observing the immediate and unflinching actions of SGT Kenzel, began an assault on the two prepared machine gun positions. SGT Kenzel, leading the assault, approximately 25 meters ahead of the nearest friendly element, reached the prepared positions the enemy combatants were using. SGT Kenzel immediately jumped over a low wall used by the enemy and continued to engage and pursue the enemy.

SGT Kenzel, continuously exposed, maneuvered and engaged the enemy combatants from within five meters before overrunning their positions, displacing them from their two prepared machine gun positions and forcing them to break contact to grape fields to the west. The team's immediate violence of action was led by SGT Kenzel under a hail of heavy machine gun fire, and the resulting assault through two prepared enemy ambush positions undoubtedly saved the lives of his men and demonstrated the unmatched heroism and valor of a combat leader.

His unmatched courage under fire, inspirational leadership, selfless service, and dedication to duty are unquestionable and an embodiment of the warrior ethos. The immediate unflinching actions of SGT Kenzel faced with seemingly insurmountable odds inspired his men and resulted in the defeat of a determined, prepared enemy executing a text book near ambush.

10 June 1944

Technician Fifth Grade (T/5) Jack Rudd (502nd 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 the 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces in France. T/5 Rudd advanced with the leading riflemen on every occasion during the attack on the [UNK]. He continually exposed himself to heavy enemy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire to administer first aid and to evacuate wounded personnel. On a number of occasions, with complete disregard for his own safety, he moved through intense artillery barrages to carry away wounded comrades. The gallantry, fortitude and devotion to duty displayed by T/5 Rudd 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.



10 – 11 June 1944

1LT Ralph Gehauf (3/502 S-2) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. On 10-11 June 1944 in the vicinity of Carentan, France, LT Gehauf volunteered to reconnoiter a forward route through enemy positions across the Douve River. During the night he succeeded in crossing four bridges along the route under enemy fire. After crossing the fourth bridge he and his patrol were pinned down by enemy fire. Sending three messengers back to the battalion with information as to the location and strength of the enemy in the locality, LT Gehauf and the remaining men in the patrol continued to collect information regarding enemy machine gun positions and other enemy emplacements. The following day when his battalion was ordered to attack, LT Gehauf led the battalion column in the assault and, despite heavy enemy fire, was able to cross the bridges. Although pinned down a second time, he directed artillery fire on enemy installations which he had spotted the previous night. By directing effective artillery fire, LT Gehauf enabled his battalion to infiltrate across the river and successfully attack with the bayonet the following morning. During this attack, LT Gehauf was wounded and forced to be evacuated. His outstanding courage, initiative, and inspiring leadership were in accordance with the highest standards of military service.

10-11 June 1944



PFC Everett A. Brown (A/502nd PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while he participated in actions clearing St. Martine de Varreville as well as the battle for the village of Carentan. For his actions PFC. Brown was also awarded a Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action in France. PFC Brown, with complete disregard for his personal safety, charged across open terrain exposed to enemy fire in order to bring flanking fire to bear on the enemy. After reaching a position from which he could effectively fire his weapon against the enemy, he expended all his ammunition in an attempt to repulse the attack. When he found that he could not be resupplied, he crawled over open terrain under continuous and intense enemy fire and secured ammunition from his fallen comrades. He then returned to his position, and again delivered effective fire on the enemy. Despite the danger involved, he moved to a new position and delivered flanking fire thereby confusing the enemy and helping to break up the counterattack. He displayed outstanding courage and initiative throughout the attack. His conduct was in accordance with the highest standards of the military service."

10 June 1966

SGT Elmo A. Tacuban (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 10 June 1966 while serving as a squad leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While maneuvering through the dense jungle terrain, Sergeant Tacuban's squad received intense Viet Cong fire. Sergeant Tacuban immediately deployed his men and, with complete disregard for his safety, led them forward in a daring assault which killed one Viet Cong and captured on machine gun. He then reorganized his squad and continued toward the objective. Suddenly, the Viet Cong opened fire and severely wounded Sergeant Tacuban and four of his comrades. Nevertheless, he continued to direct his squad and deliver suppressive fire onto the insurgent troops. Only after all of his wounded comrades were evacuated did Sergeant Tacuban move to the rear. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant Tacuban's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

10 June 1966

CPT Walter B. Wesley (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 10 June 1966 while leading a provisional company to reinforce two companies near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead element received intense Viet Cong fire, Captain Wesley immediately exposed himself and deployed two squads to assault the insurgents from the flanks. As they continued to move, they again received intense fire from well-concealed Viet Cong positions. Observing that most of the leaders of one platoon had been wounded, Captain Wesley, with complete disregard for his safety, moved forward through the hostile fire to reorganize his elements. He then skillfully adjusted suppressive artillery fire and air strikes on the insurgent positions. Later that day, Captain Wesley remained exposed to the intense Viet Cong fire and directed the evacuation of the battle casualties. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades and contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Captain Wesley'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.

10 June 1967



SP4 Henry J. Wilhelmi Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile enemy on 10 June 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam, Specialist Wilhelmi, along with an eight-man reconnaissance element of the 3d Platoon, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry came under fire from entrenched enemy soldiers. As the intensity of the enemy fire increased, several members of the reconnaissance element were wounded. Specialist Wilhelmi seeing his wounded comrades laying in an exposed area rushed through the withering fire with complete disregard for his own personal safety, and dragged the wounded comrade for thirty meters through the bullet swept area to safety. Though wounded now himself and bleeding profusely, Specialist Wilhelmi returned through the murderous enemy fire and moved another wounded man, approximately twenty meters to safety. As he returned through the devastating enemy fire for yet a third wounded comrade, Specialist Wilhelmi was struck down by the enemy fire and killed. Specialist Wilhelmi was instrumental in saving the lives of the two men he carried to safety and because the enemy fire was concentrated on him, the rest of his element was able to maneuver to a safe defensive position. Specialist Wilhelmi's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO, General Orders Number 127; 22 July 1967)



10 June 1967

SSG Mines Elmore Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 10 June 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance patrol on a jungle trail, Staff Sergeant Elmore detected an enemy ambush. He quickly alerted his men and at the same instant, the ambush was triggered. The volume of fire indicated that the small patrol was faced with a numerically superior enemy element. Sergeant Elmore directed his men to pull back and regroup. In the initial burst of fire seven men were wounded, including Sergeant Elmore. Disregarding his painful wound, Sergeant Elmore crawled through the vicious enemy fire and began to extract the more seriously wounded personnel to safety. As he moved back into the bullet swept area, he was hit in the side and wounded a second time, though dazed and bleeding, he directed his group to pull further back, while he provided the covering fire. Not until the last man in his squad reached safety, did Sergeant Elmore pull back with the remainder of the group. Though weak from loss of blood, Sergeant Elmore struggled valiantly and re-organized his squad into a perimeter, all the while, exposing himself to hostile fire. Certain that all of his men were safe and the wounded had been given proper medical treatment, Sergeant Elmore then allowed himself to be treated. As a result of Sergeant Elmore's actions, two enemy soldiers were killed and the lives of several members of his squad were saved. His truly heroic actions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO, General Orders Number 434; 30 August 1967)

10 June 1967

SSG John P. Wetherwax (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Wetherwax distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 June 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Wetherwax's platoon became engaged with an estimated fifty-man enemy element. In the initial stages of the fire fight, heavy casualties were inflicted on his element. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Wetherwax moved through the withering enemy fire to pull his wounded comrades to safety and administer medical aid to them. During the heavy fire fight Sergeant Wetherwax continually exposed himself to the vicious enemy fire while directing the fire of his platoon. When the platoon medic was wounded, he immediately began treating the wounded and prepared a landing zone so they could be safely evacuated. Sergeant Wetherwax's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 1735)

11 June 1944



LTC Robert G. Cole (3-502nd IN) was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty on 11 June 1944, in France. LTC Cole was personally leading his battalion in forcing the last 4 bridges on the road to Carentan when his entire unit was suddenly pinned to the ground by intense and withering enemy rifle, machinegun, mortar, and artillery fire placed upon them from well-prepared and heavily fortified positions within 150 yards of the foremost elements. After the devastating and unceasing enemy fire had for over 1 hour prevented any move and inflicted numerous casualties, LTC Cole, observing this almost hopeless situation, courageously issued orders to assault the enemy positions with fixed bayonets. With utter disregard for his own safety and completely ignoring the enemy fire, he rose to his feet in front of his battalion and withdrawn pistol shouted to his men to follow him in the assault. Catching up a fallen man's rifle and bayonet, he charged on and led the remnants of his battalion across the bullet-swept open ground and into the enemy position. His heroic and valiant action in so inspiring his men resulted in the complete establishment of our bridgehead across the Douve River. The cool fearlessness, personal bravery, and outstanding leadership displayed by Lieutenant Colonel Cole reflect great credit upon himself and are worthy of the highest praise in the military service. LTC Cole was later killed in action on 19 September 1944 in Holland.

11 June 1944



MAJ John P. Stopka (3-502 IN) earned The Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in combat on 11 June 1944, near Carentan, France. MAJ Stopka's battalion was engaged in a fierce battle with a numerically superior enemy force for the possession of a causeway leading into Carentan. During the night, the battalion had infiltrated across the last four hotly contested bridges. At about 0530 the battalion came under heavy enemy automatic weapons, mortar and artillery fire, causing casualties at an alarming rate and making the battalion position extremely precarious. Rather than withdraw, the battalion commander issued an order to assault the enemy position with fixed bayonets. MAJ Stopka, from his position across the road from the battalion commander, was able to coordinate the efforts of the two companies in the assault, but only by exposing himself continuously to the heavy enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, MAJ Stopka disseminated the order to the two companies under his control. When the signal for the assault was given, he was the first man to get to his feet and move forward across the road into the open field in front of the enemy positions. MAJ Stopka's actions in the face of the enemy and his complete devotion to duty exemplify leadership of the highest order and his conduct set an example to the officers and men under him, inspiring them with the aggressiveness and determination necessary to rout the enemy from their strongly held positions. His actions reflect great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States.

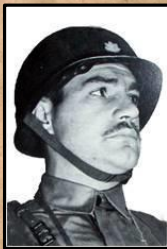
11 June 1944



1SG Kenneth Ned Sprecher (H/3-502 IN) earned The Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company H, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 11 June 1944, in France. While his company was pinned down by intense enemy machine gun fire, 1SG Sprecher's Company Commander was knocked unconscious from a mortar shell. Under the heavy enemy fire, 1SG Sprecher reorganized the company and personally led a bayonet charge upon the enemy thereby gaining the objective. 1SG Sprecher's fearless 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))



11 June 1944



LTC Patrick F. Cassidy (1-502 IN) earned the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 11 June 1944, in France. LTC Cassidy's battalion was committed to the assault of Carentan. To accomplish the mission, it was necessary to cross a narrow bridge. When the battalion was held up at the bridge, LTC Cassidy came up to the bridge and despite intense machine gun and mortar fire directed a movement across. He then led his battalion in an assault up a narrow causeway, continually exposing himself to heavy enemy fire. When his artillery liaison officer became a casualty, he, through his command radio net, directed artillery fire upon a German machine gun nest that was holding up the advance. LTC Cassidy's outstanding 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))

11 June 1944

1SG Hubert Odom (G/3-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company G, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 11 June 1944, in France. Under intense enemy machine gun fire, 1SG Odom led four men in an attack on an enemy machine gun position, personally silencing the gun which was greatly endangering the flank of the assault wave and covering the only entrance across a bridge to the objective. 1SG Odom's 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. (Headquarters, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 31 (July 1, 1944))

11 June 1944

1SG William Odom (B/502nd PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action on 11 June 1944, 1SG Odom's battalion was committed to the support of a bridgehead in an assault against Carentan, France. Although wounded by an enemy rifle grenade, he refused to be evacuated and began the reorganization of men to close gaps in the line through which the enemy was attempting to infiltrate. 1SG Odom made his way through open terrain, covered by enemy fire, to the supporting unit, requesting help in closing a large gap on the left flank of his battalion. The bravery displayed by 1SG Odom added materially to the success of his unit and is in keeping with the highest standards of the military service.

11 June 1944



CPT Fred A. Hancock (502nd PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for action during a battle for Carentan, France. CPT Hancock led his company against a strong enemy force across open terrain to take up positions about 75 yards from enemy prepared positions. CPT Hancock moved about placing his platoon in position to establish a line enabling them to repulse any possible enemy counterattack. He continually exposed himself to intense enemy fire, disregarding his own safety to establish this position and refused to pull back. Wounded by an enemy grenade, he refused medical attention and continued to hold his line against the enemy counterattack, inflicting heavy casualties upon the enemy. CPT Hancock's display of leadership, courage and disregard for his own safety were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service.

11 June 1966



PFC Melvin Reeder (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) distinguished himself on 11 June 1966 while serving as a member of a company extracting wounded to a landing zone near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward the landing zone, Private First Class Reeder, with keen alertness, detected a well concealed Viet Cong ambush consisting of a reinforced Viet Cong squad. Realizing that his company was carrying many litter patients and was unaware of the ambush, Private First Class Reeder, although completely exposed, shouted a warning to his comrades and immediately concentrated a heavy volume of fire on the insurgents. His extremely effective fire forced the Viet Cong to concentrate all their fire power on him. This enabled his fellow soldiers to seek cover. With complete disregard for his safety, Private First Class Reeder engaged and neutralized two hostile emplacements and killed four Viet Cong before he was mortally wounded by a burst of hostile fire. Through his heroic actions, Private First Class Reeder was directly responsible for saving the lives of his comrades and the wounded personnel. His unimpeachable valor 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.

11 June 1967

CPT Ward L. Jones (HHC 2/502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. Captain Jones distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action and personal bravery while engaged in operations against a hostile force on 11 June 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam while serving as battalion medical platoon leader. That morning, Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, having been engaged with hostile forces for an extended period of time and with ten casualties, pulled back on a hill as an artillery preparation was being planned to soften up the dug-in North Vietnamese soldiers. Shortly after the company perimeter had been established, they were brought under a hostile barrage of approximately twenty rounds from indirect fire weapons which inflicted an additional twenty-two wounded and killed three. Upon hearing of this, Captain Jones volunteered to go to the aid of the wounded. Seeing that no landing zone was available for the helicopter and that small arms fire was taking place in close proximity to the wounded, Captain Jones, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety, dropped a nylon rope from the helicopter and without aid of a snap link or gloves climbed down the rope, fully exposed to the enemy fire, for a distance of eighty feet to the ground. Captain Jones worked feverishly over his comrades for a period of two hours administering professional medical attention to the wounded and comforting the dying. Captain Jones' heroic and decisive actions undoubtedly saved the lives of many wounded soldiers. Captain Jones' outstanding display of courage, profound dedication and devotion to duty while exposed to hostile fire are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO, General Orders Number 550; 5 September 1967)



ACRONYMS

AD: Americal Division
AO: Area of Operations
ARA: Aerial Rocket Artillery
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal
ARVN: Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA))
BDE: Brigade
BN: Battalion
BSM: Bronze Star Medal
BBT: Booby Traps
CA: Combat Assault
CANOPY: Heavily Wooded Terrain
CO: Company
CP: Command Post
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross
DZ: Drop Zone
FSB: Fire Support Base
HQ: Headquarters
IED: Improvised Explosive Device
IFFV: I Field Force Vietnam
IN: Infantry
KBA: Killed by Air or Artillery
KHA: Killed by Hostile Action
KIA: Killed in Action
KNHA: Killed by Non-Hostile Action
LZ: Helicopter Landing Zone
MI: Military Intelligence
MOH: Medal of Honor
MP: Military Police
NDP: Night Defensive Position
NVA: North Vietnamese Army
OBJ: Objective
OP: Observation Post
PAVN: People Army of Vietnam
POW: Prisoner of War
PF: Popular Forces
PZ: Helicopter Pick-up Zone
Recon Platoon: Reconnaissance Platoon
RIF: Reconnaissance in Force
ROK: Republic of Korea
SA: Situational Awareness
SIGINT: Signal Intelligence
SSM: Silver Star Medal
STRIKE Force: 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry
SVA: South Vietnamese Army
TF: Task Force
TOC: Tactical Operations Center
USAV: United States Army Vietnam
WIA: Wounded in Action
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action
WNHA: Wounded by Non-Hostile Action
"V": Valor
VC: Viet Cong

