

The Soldier's Medal For Heroism



A compilation of decorations known to have been awarded to Artillery OCS graduates.

General Orders, citations and other source documents used to verify the awards are included.

Artillery OCS Hall of Valor



Soldier's Medal (Class Order)

| | Last Name | First | MI | Class | Yr | Date of Action |
|-----------|-----------------|----------|------|-------|------|----------------|
| COL (Ret) | Crawford | Kenneth | C | 5 | - 42 | 3/7/1959 |
| MG (Ret) | Putnam | George | W | 14 | - 42 | Unknown |
| CPT | Cella | Arthur | A | 29 | - 42 | Unknown |
| CPT | Lanier | Sidney | P | 32 | - 42 | UNK (1939-46) |
| 1LT | Anderson | Wilbur | E | 34 | - 42 | Unknown |
| 1LT | Webb | Herbert | K | 36 | 42 | Unknown |
| 1LT | Swilley | Wallace | H | 38 | - 42 | 1/3/1944 |
| MAJ | Otte | Jesse | H | 44 | - 42 | 8/6/1963 |
| 1LT | Hayes | Edward | J | 58 | - 43 | 6/27/1944 |
| 1LT | Lupke, Jr. | Walter | H | 59 | - 43 | Unknown |
| 1LT | Wallace | Finn | W | 61 | - 43 | 3/2/1945 |
| 1LT | Waters | Arthur | C | 63 | - 43 | 9/27/1944 |
| 1LT | Pratt, Jr | Gerald | S | 71 | - 43 | Unknown |
| 2LT | Stillwagon, Jr. | Charles | E | 82 | - 43 | 2/29/1944 |
| COL (Ret) | Woods | Jack | C | 169 | 45 | Unknown |
| COL | Merritt | Jack | Neil | 35 | - 53 | Unknown |
| 2LT | Allen, Jr | Vincent | H | 52 | - 54 | 5/28/1954 |
| 2LT | Vaillancourt | George | A | 52 | - 54 | 9/26/1954 |
| MAJ | Patten | John | L | 61 | - 55 | 6/20/1967 |
| LTC (Ret) | Boswell | Leonard | L | 2 | - 57 | Vietnam 1966 |
| COL (Ret) | Sorenson, Jr | Wilbert | W | 5 | - 59 | Unknown |
| CPT | Dooley | John | P | 6 | - 60 | 11/12/1967 |
| O/C | Niles | Nicholas | H | 5 | - 61 | 2/1/1961 |
| CPT | Causer | Wilburn | R | 2 | - 62 | 10/17/1967 |
| 1LT | Reed | Arthur | W | 1 | - 63 | 8/6/1965 |
| CPT | Breed | Rolla | M | 7 | - 63 | 2/28/1969 |
| 2LT | Salyer | James | D | 13 | - 64 | 1/27/1966 |
| 1LT | Wood | Billy | R | 1 | - 65 | 6/16/1967 |
| 1LT | DeBurgh | Richard | K | 2 | - 65 | 8/27/1966 |
| 2LT | Steck | William | D | 3 | - 65 | 8/17/1965 |
| 2LT | Spanik | John | P | 7 | - 65 | 10/19/1965 |
| 1LT | Brunet | Pierre | W | 3 | - 66 | Vietnam 1967 |
| COL (Ret) | Simpson | Edwin | W | 5 | - 66 | Unknown |

Artillery OCS Hall of Valor



Soldier's Medal (Class Order)

| | Last Name | First | MI | Class | Yr | Date of Action |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----|-------|--------|----------------|
| CPT | Zlotnik | Donald | E | 18 | - 66 | 7/4/1969 |
| 1LT | Bensema | George | T | 19 | - 66 | 12/26/1967 |
| 2LT | Small, Jr | Harry | C | 20 | - 66 | 10/9/1966 |
| 1LT | Dauer | Samuel | D | 24 | - 66 | 12/9/1967 |
| CPT | Woodside | Michael | Lee | 4 | - 67 | Unknown |
| CPT | Barfield | Grover | C | 22 | - 67 B | 8/19/1969 |
| LTC (Ret) | Sunderlage | Terry | A | 30 | - 67 A | Vietnam |
| CPT | Synowsky | John | A | 33 | - 67 B | 12/17/1969 |
| CPT | Triplett | Kenneth | M | 33 | - 67 B | 7/14/1972 |
| CPT | Sweeney | Richard | L | 34 | - 67 B | 1/4/1970 |
| 2LT | Watts | Freddy | J | 35 | - 67 A | 9/28/1967 |
| COL (Ret) | Elliott | James | E | 37 | - 67 B | Vietnam 1969 |
| CPT | Childs, II | Charles | L | 2 | - 68 | 9-10 Jun 72 |
| 1LT | Elrod | Robert | A | 2 | - 68 | 1/15/1969 |
| 1LT | Hunter | Duane | S | 9 | - 69 | 1/20/1971 |
| CPT | Fruitticher | Christopher | W | 15 | - 69 | 8/19/1972 |
| COL (Ret) | Dudley | Robert | M | 4 | - 70 | 2/9/1971 |
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Only awards that have been verified to date are listed
Rank shown is at the time the award was presented, if known.
If that information is not available, a retired rank is indicated.

Last updated July 24, 2022

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



LTC Kenneth C. Crawford
Class 5-42

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Lieutenant Colonel (Judge Advocate General's Corps) Kenneth C. Crawford, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy as a member of the United States Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, Georgia, in the vicinity of the village of Indian Hill, Ohio, on 7 March 1959. While driving to a temporary duty station, Colonel Crawford observed an approaching automobile swerve off of the road in front of him, go down a steep embankment, strike a tree, and burst into flame. He immediately stopped his vehicle, dismounted and ran to the scene of the burning car and without regard for his own personal safety, broke a window in the automobile to gain entrance, freed the pinned and unconscious driver, and removed him, from the flaming automobile to a place of safety. Colonel Crawford returned immediately to the burning car in an effort to determine whether anyone else was in the vehicle. When the increasing intensity of the fire precluded entering the front portion of the car, he climbed upon the trunk of the automobile, broke out the rear window and so managed to assure himself that no one else was entrapped. Colonel Crawford's prompt, heroic actions, and determination undoubtedly saved the driver's life, and reflect distinct credit upon himself and the military service.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 22 (June 10, 1959)

Action Date: March 7, 1959

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



MG (Ret) George W. Putnam
Class 14-42

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism was awarded to MG (Ret) George W. Putnam. Details of the award are not available at this time.

Source: Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Biographical information and picture

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Arthur A. Cella
Class 29-42

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Corporal Arthur A. Cella, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy, while serving with Battery C, 108th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania National Guard, in rescuing a soldier from drowning at Sandy Beach on the St. Lawrence River near Ogdensburg, New York, 14 August 1940. Upon observing a soldier in grave danger of drowning while swimming in deep water about 75 feet from a float, Corporal Cella, on his own initiative and with utter disregard of his own safety, swam from the float and with great difficulty succeeded in getting the soldier away from two men who were trying unsuccessfully to rescue him and brought him to shore, thereby saving his life. The heroism displayed by Corporal Cella on this occasion reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

Rank: Corporal

Division: Pennsylvania National Guard

GENERAL ORDERS: Decorations U.S. Army 1862 - 1926, Supplement 5 (July 1, 1940 - June 30, 1941)

Heroism performed as an enlisted man in 1940 prior to attending OCS and being commissioned as an artillery officer:

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Sidney Persee Lanier
Class 32-42

(Citation Needed):

CPT Sidney Persee Lanier is reported to have been awarded the Soldier's Medal for Heroism while serving in the Army from August 13th, 1939 to February 13th, 1946

Source: Obituary from Schaetter Funeral Home, Fredericksburg, Texas, 2017.

Date: Unknown

General Orders: Not available

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



MAJ Wilbur E. Anderson
Class 34-42

MAJ Anderson was awarded the Soldier's Medal and the Bronze Star.

U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985

National Guard > 1956

ANDERSON, Wilbur E Maj Kans 01171431 B-Kans 22 Aug 15 SM BSM
Enl 1 Jul 40 to 22 Dec 40 F-23 Dec 40 to 14 Oct 42 2 lt FA
15 Oct 42 to 1 lt AUS 8 Dec 45) (AUS inact status 1 lt FA
9 Dec 45 to 16 May 48) 1 lt FA 17 May 48 maj Arty 20 Dec 54

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Herbert K. Webb
Class 36-42

CPT Webb was the recipient of the Soldier's Medal, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart during World War II.

U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985

National Guard > 1951

WEBB Herbert K Capt Tenn B-Tenn 27 Aug 15 SM BSM
PH (NGUS Arty capt 27 Oct 51 01172706)--Enl (F-17 Jul
41 to 28 Oct 42) (F-2 lt FA 29 Oct 42 1 lt 1 Nov 43 capt
16 Apr 45 to 23 Dec 45) (ORC FA capt 30 Sep 45 to 26
Oct 51) capt Arty 23 Aug 51

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



**1LT Wallace H. Swilley, Jr.
Class 38-42**

1ST LT. WALLACE H. SWILLEY, JR., for action near Pentano, Italy, on 3 Jan 44. An ammunition stack belonging to his battery was struck and set afire by an enemy shell. After seeing his men had taken shelter in foxholes, he rushed to the fire and aided in extinguishing the flames with water taken from a nearby ditch. His quick thinking and prompt, courageous action prevented an even more dangerous fire and explosion. Home address: Box 181, High Springs, Fla.

From the December 1944 issue of the Field Artillery Journal – “Soldier’s Medal”

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



MAJ Jesse H. Otte
Class 44-42

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Major (Field Artillery), [then Captain] Jesse H. Otte, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy while serving with the Missouri National Guard at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, on 6 August 1963, while attending annual active duty training. When Major Otte witnessed the crash of a light Army aircraft within the proximity of his location, he rushed to the downed plane to render assistance and saw its engine in flames. With complete disregard for his own personal safety and ignoring the danger of gasoline explosion, he unhesitatingly approached the burning aircraft to participate with others on the scene in extracting the pilot. Despite the intense heat and smoke filled cabin, he assisted in freeing the aviator from the safety harness and carrying him away from the burning aircraft moments before it was entirely engulfed in flames. Major Ott's prompt and heroic action in this emergency is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 28 (August 24, 1964)

Action Date: August 6, 1963

Rank: Major

Division: Missouri Army National Guard

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



1LT Edward J. Hayes
Class 58-43

First Lieutenant *Edward J. Hayes*, O1179884, Field Artillery, United States Army. For heroism at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, on 27 June 1944. While engaged in hand-grenade practice a soldier pulled the pin and released the lever arming the grenade. Becoming excited, he neither dropped nor threw it. After an unsuccessful attempt to get him to throw it Lieutenant *Hayes*, at the risk of his life, grasped the man's wrist and whirled his arm so as to fling the grenade out of the pit. The grenade exploded before clearing the parapet, seriously wounding the lieutenant and the trainee.

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



**1LT Walter H. Lupke, Jr.
Class 59-43**

From the Field Artillery Journal Page 862, December 1944:

1ST LT. WALTER H. LUPKE, JR., for safely disposing of a live bomb which had missed its mark and fell into the lap of an enlisted man in a pit from which targets were operated. Knowing that an explosion was imminent, Lt. Lupke ran up the parapet, picked up the bomb and threw it out, whereupon it instantly exploded. Home address: 2211 Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne, Ind.

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



1LT Finn W. Wallace
Class 61-43

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Finn W. Wallace (ASN: 0-1181180), United States Army, for heroism involving voluntary risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy while serving with Battery C, 77th Field Artillery Battalion. When an M-5 tractor hauling a trailer loaded with high explosives became ignited near Kobscheid, Germany, on 2 March 1945, Lieutenant Wallace fearlessly assisted in uncoupling the trailer and preventing serious damage to personnel and equipment. Although realizing the burning tractor was also loaded with explosives and that his own life was endangered he worked with cool courage to protect the lives of his men and valuable government property. Lieutenant Wallace's heroic actions and unswerving devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.

General Orders: Headquarters, 3d U.S. Army, General Orders No. 153 (June 25, 1945)

Action Date: 2-Mar-45

Rank: First Lieutenant

Company: Battery C

Battalion: 770th Field Artillery Battalion

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



1LT Arthur C. Waters, Jr.
Class 63-43

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Arthur C. Waters, Jr. (ASN: 0-1181796), United States Army, for heroism near ***, France, 27 September 1944. When two trucks, one of which was loaded with ammunition, collided near ****, the ammunition was set afire and burned fiercely. Lieutenant Waters, who arrived on the scene immediately after the accident, rushed to the vehicles, assisted the occupants of the burning truck to safety, extinguished two soldiers' burning clothes and sent the men to an aid station. Then, at his own initiative and although he had to make his way through exploding ammunition, he returned to the danger zone and evacuated other injured infantrymen. Completely disregarding his personal safety, he finally went back to the burning vehicle for a third time and conducted a further search to assure himself that all personnel had been cleared from the area. Lieutenant Waters' heroism and loyalty to his comrades-in-arms reflect credit upon his character as an officer.

General Orders: Headquarters, 35th Infantry Division, General Orders No. 48
(October 29, 1944)

Action Date: September 27, 1944

Rank: First Lieutenant

Division: 35th Infantry Division

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



LT Gerald S. Pratt, Jr.
Class 71-43

The Times Tribune (Honesdale Pennsylvania) July 19, 1945

HONESDALE OFFICER IS AWARDED SOLDIER'S MEDAL IN GERMANY

Lieut. Gerald S. Pratt Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Pratt of 311 Fourteenth Street, and husband of Mrs. Ruth Stanton Pratt, Honesdale, serving with the 106th Infantry Division in Bad Ems, Germany, has been awarded the Soldiers' Medal for risking his own life in order to save one of his men from a burning truck in a convoy. Lieutenant Pratt, ammunition train commander with the 590th Field Artillery Battalion, was proceeding by truck convoy from Kermo, France, to area adjacent to Port Louis, France, when the lead truck hit some German mines, igniting it with a cargo of ammunitions and grenades. He rescued one man from the vehicle and at the risk of his life returned to see if there were any more men in it.

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



2LT Charles E. Stillwagon, Jr.
Class 82-43

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Second Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Charles E. Stillwagon, Jr. (ASN: 0-1185257), United States Army, for heroism on the San Antonio River, near Merle Ranch, Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, on 29 February 1944. A field artillery battalion was fording the river, which was in flash flood, waist deep and very swift, using a high line to assist in crossing. A soldier in full equipment, upon reaching midstream, fell, lost his hold on the life line, and was swept downstream over boulders and through brush. Lieutenant Stillwagon, without regard for personal safety and at the risk of his life, plunged into the stream, made his way to the soldier, and held his head above water. Seizing the end of a rope thrown to him from the bank, he tied it around the soldier and assisted him to shore using the rope as a lifeline.

General Orders: War Department, General Orders No. 56 (July 12, 1944)

Action Date: February 29, 1944

Rank: Second Lieutenant

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



COL (Ret) Jack C. Woods
Class 169-46

Colonel Woods rose through the military ranks with service in a variety of positions in Heidelberg and Mannheim, Germany; Ft. Lewis, Washington; Ft. Bliss, Texas; Ft. Sill, Oklahoma; Korea; Ft. Meade, Maryland; Ft. Leavenworth Kansas; the Pentagon, Vietnam; Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida; and Stuttgart, Germany. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Soldier's Medal for his heroic actions in Vietnam. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Published in The Washington Post on September 25, 2013

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



COL Jack Neil Merritt
Class 35-53

(Citation Needed) - SYNOPSIS: Colonel (Field Artillery) Jack Neil Merritt, United States Army, was awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy of the United States in his efforts to rescue a downed pilot, while serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

Action Date: Vietnam War

Rank: Colonel

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



2LT Vincent H. Allen, Jr.
Class 52-54

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Second Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Vincent H. Allen, Jr., United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy as a member of Headquarters 548th Field Artillery Battalion, at Lake Ozark, Missouri, on 28 May 1954. Lieutenant Allen, along with his wife and ten other passengers was aboard a boat after there had been heavy storms in the area on the date of the accident. The boat was about 10 minutes out from the dock when a storm struck with great fury causing the boat to capsize in some two or three hundred feet of water. Fully aware of the treacherous tide and the danger that the twisting boat might lurch against him, Lieutenant Allen dived under the capsized boat and broke open a compartment securing life jackets. It was necessary for him to dive under the capsized boat three or four times. He would return to the surface, distribute the life jackets to those survivors still on top of the water and once again dive under the capsized boat for additional life jackets. He further assisted in aiding some of the passengers to a position on top of the capsized boat. After rendering all possible assistance at the immediate scene he advised the survivors that he was swimming ashore to get help. Shortly thereafter the storm subsided and Lieutenant Allen and his wife were picked up a few yards from shore by a rescue boat returning to the dock after picking up other survivors at the scene of the accident. Lieutenant Allen's prompt, brave, and thoughtful action was undoubtedly a major factor in saving the lives of survivors reflecting great credit on himself and the military service.

Department of the Army General Orders No. 43 - June 24, 1955

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



2LT George A. Vaillancourt
Class 52-54

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Second Lieutenant (Field Artillery) George A. Vaillancourt, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy while serving as officer in charge of a troop movement between the Islands of Hokkaido and Honshu, Japan, on 26 September 1954. The TOVA MARU heavily laden with passengers and cargo, was buffeted by merciless, high velocity winds and floundering in raging, turbulent sea. When the ferry began to list, Lieutenant Vaillancourt sought the services of an interpreter and personally brought his men from assigned quarters below deck to the 2d Class Salon area, where life belts were issued to them. Throughout a harrowing 4-hour period, Lieutenant Vaillancourt's calm steadying influence proved a source of inspiration and courage to both the troops under his command and to the civilian passengers. His selfless concern for others and keen sense of humor prevailed during the final terrifying moments before the ship capsized, and he was last seen issuing vivid instructions and aiding fellow passengers. Lieutenant Vaillancourt's intrepid leadership and consummate devotion to duty minimized panic and afforded greater opportunity for escape from the ill-fated vessel, reflecting distinct credit on himself and the military service.

Department of the Army General Orders No. 11 - February 08, 1955

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 283

20 August 1967

AWARD OF THE SOLDIERS MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

PATTEN, JOHN L. 04 010 380, MAJOR, ARTILLERY, United States Army,
2d Howitzer Battalion (105 Towed), 320th Artillery, 1st Brigade, 101st
Airborne Division APO 96374

Awarded: Soldiers Medal

Date action: 20 June 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. Major Patten distinguished himself by heroic action and personal bravery on 20 June 1967, at Carenta Base near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Upon being informed that a fire at the ammunition supply point was endangering his battalion ammunition dump, he immediately secured a vehicle and rushed to the burning dump. Stopping his vehicle some 500 meters from the exploding ammunition to insure the safety of his driver, he continued on into the area. Major Patten immediately recognized the imminent danger of the entire ammunition storage area exploding with tremendous destructive force. With complete disregard for his own safety, he rushed from tent to tent clearing the troops and warning all of the impending danger. Major Patten then went to a parking area about 200 meters away and cleared that area of enmassed troops as the fire had started to explode heavy howitzer shells and small arms ammunition. He personally directed many vehicles, to include gas tankers, from the area. Within minutes of his action, and while only he, five men, and two vehicles remained, the ammunition dump erupted in a tremendous explosion expelling rockets and fragments over the entire area. The concussion was so great as to knock Major Patten and his men to the ground and collapse sand bag bunkers 2,000 meters away. While rockets and fragments fell around him, Major Patten led the men from the danger area and successfully cleared the beach of all personnel he could see. As he moved back, he stopped all vehicles from entering the danger area and directed a roadblock be emplaced to insure no one would enter the burning, exploding inferno. By his strong determination, leadership, keen judgement, and personal courage he was directly responsible for the saving of many lives and preventing considerable equipment from being destroyed. Major Patten's heroic actions 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.

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Leonard L. Boswell
Class 2-57

Soldiers Medal To Iowa Captain

(The Tribune's Iowa News Service)

DAVIS CITY, IA.—An Iowa Army captain in Viet Nam has won the Soldiers Medal for rescue of an Air Force pilot downed in the sea 20 miles off Pleiku.

He is Leonard L. Boswell, operations officer with the 52nd Aviation Battalion at Pleiku. Word of the honor was received this week by his wife, Darlene, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin D. Boswell.

The citation states that Captain Boswell in a helicopter was alerted to the fact that an Air Force pilot had ditched in the sea.

Lacking survival equipment to drop to the pilot or winch equipment to lower to him, Boswell dipped the helicopter, partly submerged it, hauled the pilot aboard and returned to base.

From the Des Moines Tribune May 13, 1966

Note: The location of the downed pilot was 20 miles offshore not 20 miles from Pleiku, which was located about 80 miles inland in the Vietnam Central Highlands.

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



COL (Ret) Wilbert W. Sorenson, Jr.
Class 5-59

(Citation Needed):

COL (Ret) Wilbert W. Sorenson, Jr. was awarded the Soldier's Medal for Heroism while serving in the U.S. Army.

Source: Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Biographical Information

Date of Action: Unknown

General Orders: Not available

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT John P. Dooley
Class 6-60

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Captain (Field Artillery) John P. Dooley (ASN: OF-104411), United States Army, for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force: Captain Dooley distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 12 November 1967 near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam while serving as a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate). When a fire broke out in the ammunition of a 4.2-inch mortar emplacement Captain Dooley immediately entered the emplacement and at the risk of his life, started to put out the fire. He poured water on the burning ammunition to prevent the possibility of an explosion of the warheads. Not heeding the hot warheads, he then separated the ammunition to reduce the possibility of any large scale explosions. Through his courage Captain Dooley prevented a large explosion of more than fifty rounds of 4.2-inch mortar ammunition. Captain Dooley's heroic 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.

General Orders: Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, General Orders No. 77
(February 3, 1968)

Action Date: November 12, 1967

Rank: Captain

Company: Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Battalion: 3d Battalion (Airborne)

Regiment: 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate)

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



Nicholas H. Niles
Class 5-61

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Private First Class Nicholas H. Niles, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy as a member of Company A, United States Army Language School, Presidio of Monterey, California, at Carmel Beach, California on 5 February 1961. While engaged in recreational activity on the beach, Private Niles heard a call for help, and saw a person struggling in the heavy surf approximately 100 yards offshore. Despite the fact that he was aware of the powerful and treacherous waves, Private Niles, together with two comrades, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, plunged into the chilling waters and swam out against the strong current in an effort to save the drowning man. Upon reaching the victim and realizing the hopelessness of bringing him ashore through the swiftly moving surf, Private Niles and another of his fellow rescuers swam back to shore for additional help. Numb by the cold water and completely exhausted by the turbulent undertow, he finally managed to reach the shore, where he immediately informed other arriving rescuers of the location of the two men who were being swept quickly out to sea. The courageous and unselfish heroism which Private Niles displayed by assisting in this dangerous emergency is in the most cherished traditions of the United States Army and reflects the utmost credit upon himself and the military service.

Rank: Private First Class

GENERAL ORDERS: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 20 (June 16, 1961)

From the Lawton Constitution June 1, 1961

Sill Man Given Soldier's Medal

A soldier now working toward an Army commission in the Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill was awarded the Army's highest honor for heroism during time of peace Wednesday by Maj. Gen. L. S. Griffing, U. S. Army Artillery and Missile School commandant and Center commander.

Candidate Nicholas H. Niles was awarded the Soldier's Medal and praised for "courageous and unselfish heroism" for his gallant attempt to save a drowning man at Carmel Beach, Calif., in February. He was then a member of Company A, U. S. Army Language School at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif.

Gen. Griffing added his own congratulations to the citation and remarked, "This is the first time I have had the opportunity to present anyone with this medal."

Candidate Niles, then Private First Class, was playing football on the Carmel beach with two buddies when he heard a call for help and saw someone struggling in heavy surf about 100 yards offshore.

"The waves at Carmel beach are treacherous and 'Danger' and 'No Swimming' signs are posted all around," the 22 year-old soldier explained.

Completely disregarding the danger, Niles plunged into the chilling water with two companions and

swam out against the strong current in an effort to save the drowning man. Reaching the victim and seeing that bringing him back through the swiftly moving surf was impossible, Niles and one of his buddies swam back for help. Niles finally staggered onto the beach, numbed by the cold water and completely exhausted by the undertow. He immediately began to inform other arriving rescuers of the location of the two men who were being swept out to sea.

Niles' companion was saved but the swimmer was swept out to sea and drowned.

The quality of courage displayed by Candidate Niles in this emergency "is in the most cherished traditions of the U. S. Army, and reflects credit upon himself and the military service," the citation read.

The Carbondale, Penn., soldier, scheduled to graduate from OCS in August, has been stationed at Fort Sill since February.

Entering the Army in March, 1960, Niles completed basic combat training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and was assigned in July to the Language School at the Presidio, where he studied German.

A graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire, the blond, blue-eyed officer candidate attended Cornell Uni-

versity in Ithaca, New York.

The athletic, 6 feet 4-inch soldier swam on the swimming team and was interscholastic track champion for two years at Exeter. He also played football and went out for track at Cornell.

A self-taught piano player, he was good enough to tour Europe with a seven-piece Dixieland band during the vacation of his sophomore year at Cornell. He and the other band members played the World Fair in Brussels, Belgium, and Army Service clubs in Germany.

Candidate Niles is the son of Dr. and Mrs. John A. Niles, Jr., of Crystal Lake, Penn., a community near Carbondale. Dr. Niles is a surgeon for the Guthrie Clinic in Sayre, Penn.

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Wilburn R. Causer
Class 2-62

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Captain (Field Artillery) Wilburn R. Causer (ASN: OF-102829), United States Army, for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force: Captain Causer distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism on 17 October 1967 while in the pursuit of his duties on an official visit to Hieu Xuong district headquarters. When word was received that an Air Force O1E had crashed west of the headquarters, Captain Causer and the officers at district headquarters immediately departed by vehicle for the scene of the crash. By the time he reached the aircraft, it was burning due to a ruptured wing fuel tank. A large group of Vietnamese nationals were forming at the scene and several were unsuccessfully attempting to extract the trapped pilot. At this point, Captain Causer, without regard for his own life, rushed to the burning aircraft to assist in releasing the unconscious pilot who was trapped in the twisted wreckage. During this period, Captain Causer was in danger from the flames and live ammunition and rockets only five feet away from the burning aircraft. Once the pilot was free, Captain Causer obtained a fire extinguisher and continued to expose himself in an attempt to extinguish the fire. When the extinguisher was exhausted, he continued his efforts by throwing sand on the burning aircraft. Captain Causer then assisted in keeping an estimated one thousand Vietnamese civilians away from the crash site in the event the aircraft exploded. Captain Causer was instrumental in the evacuation of the pilot and control of the civilians. Demonstrating courage, determination and devotion to duty of the highest order, Captain Causer, without hesitation, placed the life of his fellow man above his own. Captain Causer's actions have been in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

General Orders: Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, General Orders No. 29
(January 16, 1968)

Action Date: October 17, 1967

Rank: Captain

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



1LT Arthur W. Reed Class 1-63

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Arthur W. Reed (ASN: OF-102607), United States Army, for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy. First Lieutenant Reed distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 6 August 1965, in the city of Nha Trang, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1515 hours, Lieutenant Reed, while having his boots repaired in a local Vietnamese repair shop was thrown to the floor of the shop by a violent explosion. Running from the store, Lieutenant Reed saw three or four buildings destroyed and in flames. Part of the fuselage of a B-57 bomber was lying in the street and wounded and badly burned Vietnamese civilians were staggering from adjacent buildings. Realizing that the crashed bomber was on a mission and had not dropped all of its ordnance, Lieutenant Reed with total disregard for his own safety, rushed to the aid of the injured and carried a badly burned woman from the debris. He then quickly searched the burning structures for other trapped and wounded people. Upon entering one of the buildings, Lieutenant Reed was again thrown to the floor by the explosion of another bomb. Again disregarding his personal safety, he continued his rescue work and evacuated two small children. Realizing that hundreds of people were in imminent danger, Lieutenant Reed quickly mobilized the U.S. personnel in the area to remove the Vietnamese from danger. After insuring that all others were safely out of the area, Lieutenant Reed was injured by an exploding bomb and evacuated to the hospital. Lieutenant Reed's unselfishly humanitarian and heroic 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.

General Orders: Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam, General Orders No. 689
(September 20, 1965)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96370

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 4544

15 April 1969

AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BREED, ROLLA M. 05406364 CAPTAIN AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY
United States Army, Troop D, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division,
APO 96370

Awarded: Soldier's Medal

Date action: 28 February 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism not involving actual combat with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Captain Breed distinguished himself by valorous actions on 28 February 1969 while serving as Operations Officer, Troop D, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, on a combat mission near Mo Cay. After his helicopter had been disabled by enemy fire, Captain Breed skillfully crash landed it with minimum injuries to the personnel on board. The door gunner, however, had his foot trapped in the wreckage and the craft burst into flames on impact. Captain Breed braved intense heat and the danger of imminent explosion to help free the trapped crew man and pull him to safety. Captain Breed's heroic actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 9th Infantry Division and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

IRA A. HUNT, JR.
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

W. L. Yonushonis
W. L. YONUSHONIS
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



2LT James D. Salyer
Class 13-64

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Second Lieutenant (Field Artillery) James D. Salyer (ASN: 0-5418759), United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy as a member of Headquarters and Service Battery, 6th Battalion, 92d Artillery, 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, on 27 January 1966 at Close Combat Range Number One when a live grenade simulator failed to clear a log obstacle and landed within five feet of a Basic Combat Trainee. Lieutenant Salyer, without regard for his personal safety, immediately ran into the assault course and dragged the basic combat trainee from the live grenade. Lieutenant Salyer then threw himself on top of the man in order to protect him from the blast. As a result of Lieutenant Salyer's prompt and heroic action, the soldier was saved from death or serious injury. Lieutenant Salyer's action was in the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 16 (April 4, 1967)

Action Date: January 27, 1966

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Company: Headquarters and Service Battery

Battalion: 6th Battalion

Regiment: 92d Artillery

Division: 2d Armored Division

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 288

21 August 1967

AWARD OF THE SOLDIERS MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

WOOD, BILLY R. 05 118 853, FIRST LIEUTENANT, ARTILLERY, United States Army, 174th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) APO 96355, 14th Combat Aviation Battalion APO 96374

Awarded: Soldiers Medal

Date action: 16 June 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy. First Lieutenant Wood distinguished himself by heroic action and personal bravery on 16 June 1967, near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Wood, the aircraft commander of a UH-1D helicopter, was just taking off from a pick-up zone when the helicopter to his rear exploded and burned. He immediately landed his aircraft and took up a fire extinguisher and, with complete disregard for his personal safety, ran to the burning aircraft and attempted to extinguish the fire which was rapidly enveloping the engine and cargo compartments. As the fire continued to spread, he entered the inflamed passenger and crew compartments and began pulling the occupants from the aircraft. He returned time and time again until all passengers and crew had been removed to safety. As he was carrying the last person to safety, the ammunition inside the burning aircraft began exploding. In spite of this, he returned to his own aircraft and hovered in a position between the burning helicopter and the wounded; whereupon, after all the wounded were loaded, he rushed them to an aid station. Through Lieutenant Wood's courage and determination, all personnel were removed from the burning aircraft and evacuated to a medical facility when time was of the essence. Due directly to his quick thinking and exceptional bravery, the lives of several persons were undoubtedly saved. Lieutenant Wood's heroic actions and unselfish concern for the lives of his fellow soldiers 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.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926;

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



1LT Richard K. Deburgh
Class 2-65

By direction of the President under the provisions of USARV message 16695, 1 July 1966 and paragraph 30, AR 672-5-1, the Soldier's Medal is awarded to First Lieutenant (Artillery) Richard K. Deburgh (O-5418869), United States Army, for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force: First Lieutenant Deburgh was serving as an artillery forward observer with the 8th Airborne Battalion, Vietnamese Airborne Division, during a search and destroy mission along the In Puch River, Pleiku Province. During a river crossing operation, three Vietnamese soldiers were swept away by the swift current to a point 200 meters downstream. The distressed soldiers were able to cling to rocks in the river's mid-stream just above a rampaging waterfall. Lieutenant Deburgh hurried to the scene and immediately set about to rescue the trapped soldiers. From along the river bank he fashioned two long bamboo poles and with his Reconnaissance Sergeant holding one end of the pole and himself the other, he unhesitatingly plunged into the river's swift current. Steadying himself with one pole, he extended the second bamboo pole to the soldiers. One by one he pulled them to safety. Lieutenant Deburgh, without hesitation, placed the lives of his fellow men above his own as he succeeded in saving the three Vietnamese soldiers from drowning. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army.

General Orders: Headquarters I Field Force Vietnam, General Orders No. 571 (18 December 1966)

Date of Action: 27 August 1966

Rank: First Lieutenant

Company: Battery B

Battalion: 3rd Battalion

Regiment: 6th Artillery

Division: I Field Force Vietnam

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



2LT William D. Steck
Class 3-65

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Second Lieutenant (Field Artillery) William D. Steck, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy while participating in a Service Test conducted by the United States Army Artillery Board at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on 17 August 1965. Lieutenant Steck was standing at the rear of a 105-mm. Howitzer M-102 when it was fired and the projectile malfunctioned, severing the tube of the Howitzer and igniting the additional ammunition on the ground. Although the initial explosion caused the immediate deaths of two individuals, severe leg injuries to another, and knocked a third person to the ground in a stunned condition, Lieutenant Steck unhesitatingly moved forward to assist in the rescue effort. Despite the extreme hazard, he displayed complete disregard for his own safety, moved toward the burning ammunition and another project out which detonated, and succeeded in pulling a soldier from a position on top of the burning ammunition to an area of safety. Lieutenant Steck's heroic conduct, prompt actions, and deep concern for the safety of his fellow soldiers are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 2 (January 12, 1966)

Action Date: August 17, 1965

Rank: Second Lieutenant

SECTION I

AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL

2. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SPANIK, JOHN P 05419155 SECOND LIEUTENANT ARTILLERY United States
Army, Battery C, 2d Battalion, 33d Artillery, 1st Infantry Division
Awarded: Soldier's Medal
Effective Month: December 1965
Date of action: 19 October 1965
Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For heroism not involving actual conflict with an
armed hostile force. Lieutenant Spanik distinguished -
himself by heroic action on 19 October 1965, in the
Republic of Vietnam. While serving as a forward
observer, he participated in a search and destroy
operation in the area of Ben Cat, South Vietnam.
During this operation the company initiated a crossing
of the Soui Ba Lang River. The point selected was a
narrow but natural sand bar 3 to 4 feet below the
surface of the swift flowing river. As the mortar
platoon radio operator attempted the crossing, the

GO 78

Cont'd

HQ 1ST INF DIV APO SF 96345

26 Dec 65

combined weight of his personal equipment and pack
radio, together with the perilous footing, caused him
to slip into the swift current. Seeing him being
pulled beneath the surface, Lieutenant Spanik reacted
immediately. Although hampered by his own heavy equipment,
he unhesitatingly plunged into the stream after the drowning
soldier, rescued him from the deep water, and pulled him
to shore. Demonstrating courage and determination of the
highest order. Lieutenant Spanik placed the life of his
fellow soldier above his own. Lieutenant Spanik's actions
are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United
States Army and reflect great credit upon him, and the
Military Service.

Authority:

By direction of the President under the provisions of
Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926, and USARPAC
Message 16300, dated 17 August 1965

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:



CHARLES R. THOMAS
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

W.M. GLASGOW JR
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



1LT Pierre W Brunet
Class 3-66

|  STEADFAST and LOYAL | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Silver Star | |
| PFC Lawrence G. Gerken | Co B, 1st Bn, 8th Inf |
| SP4 Lester B. Fleegle | Co C, 1st Bn, 8th Inf |
| LTC Gordon J. Duquemin | HHC, 2nd Bde, 4th Div |
| SSG Garfield Gist | Co A, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf |
| PFC Bruce C. Henry Jr. | HHC, 1st Bn, 35th Inf |
| SP5 Robert H. Sherman | Co B, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf |
| SSG Hector Garcia | Co A, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf |
| PSG Jose T. Francisco | Co C, 1st Bn, 8th Inf |
| CPT James T. Scott | HHC 3rd Bde, 4th Div |
| PSG Paul T. Ingram | Co C, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf |
| SGT James L. Smith | Co B, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf |
| SGT Larry G. Jumper | Co B, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf |
| SSG Cleveland Lewis | Co C, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf |
| SSG Ronald J. Irvan | Co B, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf |
| PSG Karl W. Hoopes | Co C, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf |
| PSG Paul O. Cox | Co C, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf |
| 1LT Gerald L. LaMotte | HHC, 1st Bn, 14th Inf |
| SGT Michael J. Scott | Btry C, 6th Bn, 29th Arty |
| PFC Rudy G. Torrez | Co A, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf |
| SSG Benjamin W. Taylor | Co C, 1st Bn, 14th Inf |
| Posthumous Silver Star | |
| PFC Edward C. Hultquist | Co B, 1st Bn, 8th Inf |
| CPT Joseph Caudillo | Co C, 1st Bn, 35th Inf |
| SP4 Fred W. Carpenter | Co B, 1st Bn, 35th Inf |
| PFC Victor J. Ruggero Jr. | Co A, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf |
| PSG Barry J. Short | Co A, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf |
| CPT Ralph B. Walker | Co B, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf |
| SP5 Gary D. Little | Co A, 1st Bn, 69th Armor |
| PVT Steven J. Churchill | Co B, 1st Bn, 8th Inf |
| Distinguished Flying Cross | |
| CW2 Bernardo S. Peaz | Co A, 4th Avn Bn |
| WO1 David E. Seanor | Trp D, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav |
| WO1 John W. Grow | 155th Aslt Hel Co, 52nd Avn Bn |
| CPT John A. Betz | 155th Aslt Hel Co, 52nd Avn Bn |
| MAJ William H. Tausch | HHC, 1st Bn, 8th Inf |
| MAJ Russell D. Nelson | 119th Aslt Hel Co, 52nd Cbt Avn Bn |
| CPT Donald M. Frierson | Trp D, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav |
| CWO Richard P. Sellers | Trp D, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav |
| Soldier's Medal | |
| SSG Harold L. Brown | Btry A, 5th Bn, 16th Arty |
| 1LT Pierre W. Brunet | Btry A, 5th Bn, 16th Arty |
| SGT Keith A. Quilhot | Btry A, 5th Bn, 16th Arty |
| CPT Douglas M. Englund | HHC, 4th Inf Div |
| Posthumous Soldier's Medal | |
| SSG Herman R. Cull | Co A, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf |
| CPT James C. Powers | Co C, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf |

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



COL (Ret) Edwin W. Simpson
Class 5-66

(Citation Needed):

COL (Ret) Edwin W. Simpson was awarded the Soldier's Medal for Heroism while serving in the U.S. Army.

Source: Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Biographical Information

Date of Action: Unknown

General Orders: Not available

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, XXIV CORPS
APO San Francisco 96349

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 290

8 March 1971

AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

ZLOTNIK, DONALD E CPT 1193 Battery B, 5th Battalion, 4th
Artillery, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) (WANLAA), APO 96477

Awarded: Soldier's Medal

Date of action: 4 July 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President under provisions of the Act of
Congress, 2 July 1926

Reason: For heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam: Captain Donald E. Zlotnik, 371-42-0265, Field Artillery, United States Army, distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life on 4 July 1969 while serving as commanding officer of a fire support base in the northern part of South Vietnam. A fire broke out in a bunker housing ammunition for the nearby howitzers, and was not detected until it had enveloped the entire structure. Two men attempting to extinguish the flames became trapped in the burning structure. Captain Zlotnik arrived at the scene and saw the projectiles in the bunker glowing brightly from the intense heat. Despite the danger that the howitzer ammunition might explode at any moment, and with complete disregard for his own safety, he unhesitatingly entered the burning bunker to rescue the two men. He extracted both men from the bunker, although both of them had been rendered unconscious by smoke inhalation and had to be revived. Captain Zlotnik then led the fire fighting party. He personally entered the flaming bunker several times to remove smoldering ammunition. He continued to lead the fire fighting team in this heroic manner until the fire was successfully brought under control. By his courageous action and humanitarian regard for his fellow man, in the dedication of his service to his country, Captain Zlotnik has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



1LT George T. Bensema
Class 19-66

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) George T. Bensema (ASN: 0-5420648), United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy. First Lieutenant Bensema distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 26 December 1967 at Phu Cat Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, while serving as a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery. Upon observing a CH-47 helicopter crash on landing, Lieutenant Bensema rushed to the scene of the crash. Despite the great danger caused by leaking aviation fuel and a burning engine he climbed inside the crashed aircraft, thereby covering his own clothing with highly flammable aviation fuel, and assisted in the removal of injured personnel. After the removal of all the seriously injured, Lieutenant Bensema, still at the risk of his life, remained in the immediate vicinity of the aircraft assisting medical personnel in evacuation of the injured. Lieutenant Bensema's heroic 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.

General Orders: Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, General Orders No. 131
(February 17, 1968)

Action Date: December 26, 1967

Rank: First Lieutenant

Company: Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

Battalion: 7th Battalion

Regiment: 13th Artillery

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



2LT Harry C. Small Jr.
Class 20-66

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Second Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Harry C. Small, Jr. (ASN: 0-5424135), United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy on 9 October 1966 in San Raphiel Reef, Utah. Upon returning to Gibson Site, Utah, after a reconnaissance mission on the evening of 9 October 1966, Lieutenant Small heard a man's cries for help. He stopped his vehicle and searched until he discovered a member of Service Battery, 2d Battalion, 79th Artillery, stranded on a ledge about 200 feet off the ground. A mountain lion was crouching on a ledge above the stranded individual. Sending his driver for help and reassuring the stranded man that the lion would not attack unless provoked, Lieutenant Small took charge of rescue operations. Lieutenant Small talked to the exhausted panic-stricken victim and quieted him so that he could be rescued. When help arrived, he ordered an armed enlisted man to watch the mountain lion and shoot only if necessary. Then Lieutenant Small accompanied by two fellow officers, climbed the other side of the mountain to rescue the stranded individual. By lowering a rope Lieutenant Small descended to a ledge 100 feet below from which a rope could be dropped to the ledge on which the individual was stranded. By his assured manner and calm insistence Lieutenant Small persuaded the terror-stricken individual to tie the rope to his waist so that he could be pulled to the higher ledge. At great peril, Lieutenant Small then climbed the sheer rock cliff to the summit from which the stranded individual was hauled to safety. By his quick thought and heroism, Lieutenant Small saved an individual's life. In doing so he unhesitatingly risked his own personal safety. One slip were hesitation could have resulted in a 400 foot plunge to the rocks below. His courageous action and efforts were in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 38
(September 18, 1967)

Action Date: October 9, 1966

Rank: Second Lieutenant

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96266

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 360

3 May 1968

AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

DAUER, SAMUEL D 05424444 (SSAN:) FIRST LIEUTENANT ARTILLERY
United States Army BATTERY I (SEARCHLIGHT) 29TH ARTILLERY APO 96266

Awarded: Soldier's Medal

Date action: 9 December 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

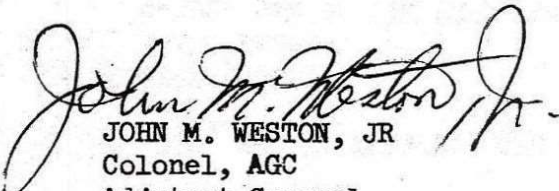
Reason: First Lieutenant Dauer distinguished himself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force on 9 December 1967 while serving with Battery I (Searchlight), 29th Artillery, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Lieutenant Dauer was serving at Fire Support Base Grant when a fire broke out in the tall elephant grass during air-lift operations. The blaze was fanned to a roaring inferno by the rotor wash created by an incoming helicopter, resulting in extensive equipment damage almost immediately. The ammunition dump was then ignited by the rapidly spreading fire, hurling shrapnel throughout the area. Lieutenant Dauer quickly surveyed the situation and with complete disregard for his own safety, entered the most hazardous area of the fire to direct personnel to safety and evacuate equipment. With intense determination and dedication, he labored to accomplish his mission, and on one occasion, drove a blazing truck out of the danger area. Upon reaching a secure area, he dismounted from the vehicle and personally extinguished the fire. He then immediately raced back into the holocaust to evacuate the remaining equipment and insure that all personal were out of the area. His exemplary courage and tireless efforts contributed significantly to saving valuable government equipment and the lives of many United States soldiers. First Lieutenant Dauer's personal bravery was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

J. D. MITCHELL
Colonel, GS
Acting Chief of Staff

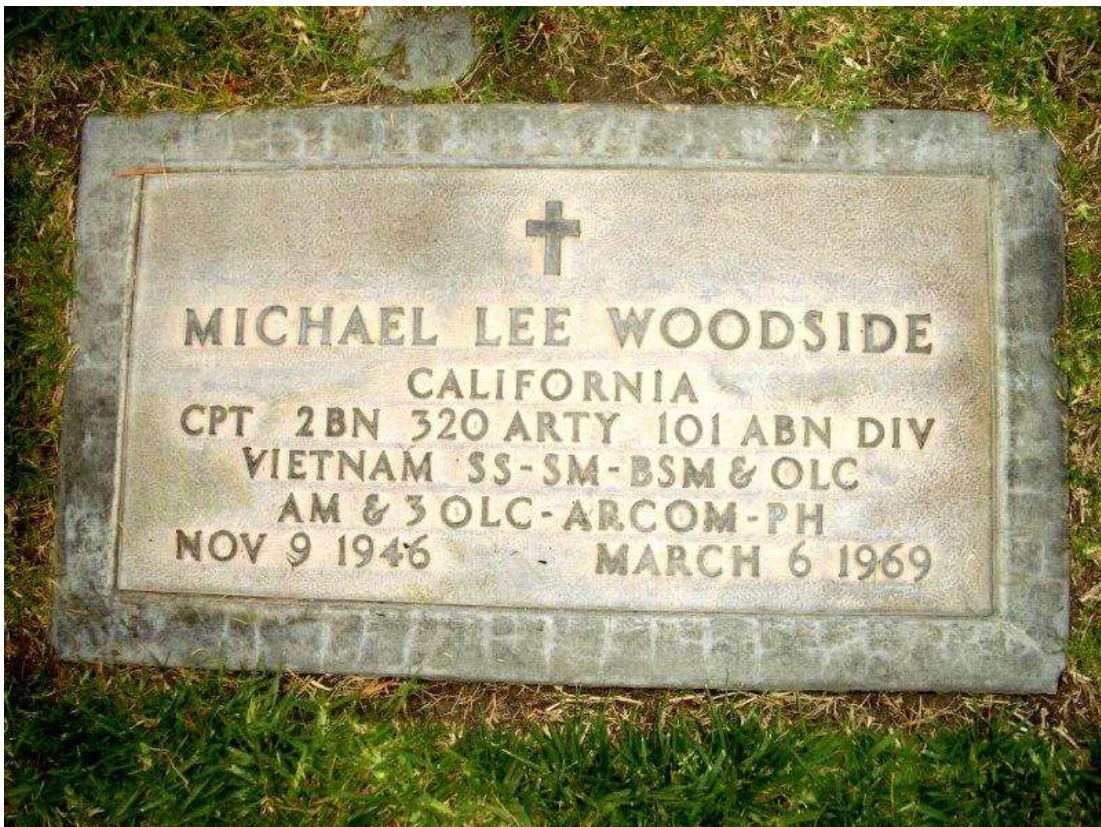

JOHN M. WESTON, JR
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Michael Lee Woodside
Class 4-67

In addition to the Silver Star, awarded for valor in combat, Captain Woodside received the Army's highest award for personal courage in a non-combat situation: he was awarded the Soldier's Medal for entering a burning village and rescuing three Vietnamese children.



The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Grover C. Barfield
Class 22B-67

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Captain (Field Artillery) Grover C. Barfield, United States Army, for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy on 19 August 1969 while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, 321st Artillery, 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date a United States Air Force F-4 Phantom jet aircraft caught fire and plummeted into a populated area after the pilot and observer ejected to safety. Arriving on the scene, Captain Barfield took immediate action. He requested dustoffs and directed two of his men to establish a landing zone near the wreckage. He then supervised loading the casualties, assisted the Army of the Republic of Vietnam District Forces in directing traffic, and set up a security force around the downed aircraft. Despite an official warning that there was a probability of more explosions, Captain Barfield, disregarding his own safety, continued to search the area for survivors until he was satisfied that all the injured personnel had been evacuated. Captain Barfield'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.

General Orders: Headquarters, II Field Force Vietnam, General Orders No. 2804 (October 17, 1969)

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



**LTC Terry Alan Sunderlage
Class 30A-67**

(Citation Needed) - SYNOPSIS: Lieutenant Colonel (Field Artillery) Terry A. Sunderlage, United States Army, was awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action, the Bronze Star With "V" device for heroic action and the Soldier's Medal for heroism serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam.

Action Date: Vietnam War

Source: DD214 (November 1988)

Rank: LTC

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT John A. Synowsky
Class 33B-67

By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926, AR 672-5-1 and USARV Reg 672-1, dated 1 July 1969, the Soldier's Medal is presented to Captain (Field Artillery) John H. Synowsky for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy force: Captain Synowsky distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as aircraft commander of a helicopter gunship supporting allied ground forces near Lai Khe. While engaging enemy gun emplacements, another helicopter was hit many times causing the tail rotor to come off. The fire team broke contact and Captain Synowsky escorted the crippled helicopter away from the battle area in an attempt to reach a secure area. Shortly after, the damaged aircraft went out of control and crashed. Captain Synowsky radioed for armed helicopter cover and medical evacuation helicopters and chose a landing site for his aircraft. The stricken craft crashed and rolled to the left, trapping the crew inside. After landing Captain Synowsky and his co-pilot raced to the wreckage. He assisted one aviator from the aircraft and led him a safe distance away from the aircraft. He then raced back to the wreckage, crawled into the inverted cockpit, and shut off the fuel valve and engine. He then assisted his co-pilot in extricating the other aviator. After carrying the injured man to a clearing, he returned to his aircraft and directed the incoming armed helicopters and medical evacuation helicopters. He then returned to the injured men and assisted in loading them aboard the medical evacuation helicopter. His courageous and selfless actions in landing in an unsecure area and extracting the injured crew from an aircraft liable to explode at any time, saved the lives of two fellow soldiers. His 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.

Unit: 334th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter)

Date of Action: 17 December 1969

General Orders: Headquarters, 1st Aviation Brigade General Orders No. 1962 (31 March 1970) Captain (Field Artillery) John H. Synowsky

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Kenneth M. Triplett
Class 33B-67

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Captain (Field Artillery) Kenneth M. Triplett, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy on 14 July 1972. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Captain Triplett has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army. [This award supersedes award of the Army Commendation Medal awarded under the provisions of paragraph 7, AR 672-5-1, as an interim award.]

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 13 (January 17, 1973)

Action Date: July 14, 1972

Rank: Captain

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Richard L. Sweeney
Class 34B-67

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926, the Soldier's Medal is awarded to Captain (Field Artillery) Richard L. Sweeney United States Army, for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. Captain Sweeney distinguished himself by heroism on 4 January 1970, while serving near Phuoc Vinh, Republic of Vietnam. Spotting a burning helicopter, the command and control helicopter landed immediately. Captain Sweeney raced to the burning aircraft and assisted in pulling the severely injured doorgunner from the crash site. After the injured gunner was evacuated, he remained at the wreckage site until a rescue team arrived to secure the area. His actions were instrumental in saving the badly injured doorgunner. His concern for the welfare of his fellow soldiers and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

General Orders: Headquarters 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) General Orders No. ***
(20 February 1970)

Date of Action: 4 January 1970

Rank: Captain

Company: Headquarters Company

Battalion: 5th Battalion

Regiment: 7th Cavalry

Division: 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



2LT Freddy J. Watts
Class 35A-67

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Second Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Freddy J. Watts (ASN: 0-5430229), United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy as a member of Headquarters, 272nd Aviation Company, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on 28 September 1967. Lieutenant Watts, while traveling near Geraldine, Alabama, came upon the scene of an accident where a truck had crashed through a bridge and plunged 60 feet into Town Creek. As a result of recent heavy rains, the creek was approximately 20 feet deep with strong swift currents. Lieutenant Watts, without hesitation, jumped into the rain swollen creek and assisted a State Trooper in removing the two occupants to the top of the truck which was loaded with gasoline, further adding danger to the rescue operations. At this time another State Trooper paddled a small boat to the truck and after loading the two men into the boat, it capsized in the treacherous water. One of the State Troopers became tangled in a rope tied to the boat and was pulled under the swift water. Lieutenant Watts, with complete disregard for his safety, dived under the water, untangled the officer and moved him to the safety of the creek bank and gave him artificial respiration. Later, Lieutenant Watts entered the swift currents again and assisted in removing the other men to safety. Lieutenant Watts, through his voluntary risk of life, was instrumental in saving the lives of two men. This courageous act in complete disregard for his safety reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 50
(September 26, 1968)

Action Date: September 28, 1967

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Company: 272d Aviation Company

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT James E. Elliott
Class 37B-67

Source: Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Biographical Information and Spokane Chronicle December 15, 1969

Capt. James E. Elliott, son of M.Sgt. and Mrs. J. Hellinger Hall, E330 North, recently won the Soldier's Medal for valor for his rescue of several crew members from the wreckage of a burning helicopter in South Vietnam.

Elliott, a helicopter pilot with the 13th Aviation Battalion at Soc Trang, rescued the men from a helicopter that had crashed during takeoff.

The 23-year-old native of Spokane is a 1964 graduate of Gonzaga Prep and attended the University of San Francisco until



James E. Elliott

June 1966. He entered the Air Force in September 1966 and was commissioned in 1967 at Officers' Candidate School, Ft. Sill, Okla.

While in "boot camp," Elliott was named outstanding basic trainee. He was sent to Vietnam last January and is expected home Jan. 17. From here he will be assigned as an instructor to Ft. Rucker, Ala.

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



CPT Charles L. Childs
Class 2-68

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Captain (Air Defense Artillery) Charles L. Childs, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy on 9 and 10 June 1972. By his courageous action, humanitarian regard for his fellow man, and dedication of service to his country, Captain Childs has reflected great credit on himself and the United States Army.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 13 (January 17, 1973)

Action Date: June 9 & 10, 1972

Rank: Captain

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



1LT Robert A. Elrod
Class 2-68

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Robert A. Elrod (ASN: 0-5431113), United States Army, for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force. First Lieutenant Elrod distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 15 January 1969, while serving as a forward observer with Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Armor, on a search and destroy mission in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Elrod distinguished himself in an effort to save the crewmembers of a burning armored personnel carrier which hit an anti-tank mine. After crossing a deep creek bed the armored personnel carrier struck the anti-tank mine causing the vehicle to explode and burst into flames. With complete disregard for his own safety Lieutenant Elrod dismounted the tank on which he was riding and rushed to the aid of the wounded crewmembers of the burning vehicle. The initial explosion had caused the vehicle's fuel tank to rupture and ignite causing a large amount of machine-gun and mortar ammunition to explode before Lieutenant Elrod could reach the burning vehicle. In spite of the intense fire and exploding ammunition Lieutenant Elrod attempted to extinguish the flames. When the attempt to extinguish the fire had failed, Lieutenant Elrod began to evacuate the wounded crewmen from the vicinity of the burning vehicle for medical aid. Lieutenant Elrod discovered that one crewman was missing after the explosion. He began a thorough search of the creek bed and observed the hand of a crewmember protruding from the water. Pulling the wounded soldier from the water and dragging him to solid ground Lieutenant Elrod insured that medical aid was immediately administered. Lieutenant Elrod supervised the administration of first aid and did all that was possible to comfort the wounded crewmen. Lieutenant Elrod's heroism action were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

General Orders: Headquarters, XXIV Corps, General Orders No. 281 (April 5, 1969)

The Soldier's Medal for Heroism



1LT Duane S. Hunter
Class 9-69

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to First Lieutenant (Air Defense Artillery) Duane S. Hunter, United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy in the rescue of two companions following a boating accident near Fort Barry, California, on the morning of 20 January 1971 Lieutenant Hunter, accompanied by two other officers, was participating in an oil spill cleanup and waterfowl rescue following the collision of two oil tankers in San Francisco Bay. The three officers were hurled into the icy waters when an unusually large wave capsized their boat. They began fighting the icy breakers and treacherous currents in an attempt to reach the shore. Lieutenant Hunter struggled to safety, but his companions, encumbered by heavy clothing and severe bodily bruises inflicted by the overturning boat, were unable to overcome the treacherous surf. On seeing their extreme plight, Lieutenant Hunter responded without hesitation and with total disregard for his safety, twice plunging back into the frigid waters to pull his companions to the shore, despite his own exhaustion and numbness. This courageous action and humanitarian regard for his fellow man, reflected great credit on him and the United States Army.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 9 (January 27, 1972)

Action Date: January 20, 1971

Rank: First Lieutenant

HEADQUARTERS
SECOND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE COMMAND
APO San Francisco 96318

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 255

14 October 1972

AWARD OF THE SOLDIERS MEDAL

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

FRUITTICHER, CHRISTOPHER W.
96499 FA

CPT HQ SRAC (W08V-03-D) ADV TM 41 APO SF

Awarded: Soldiers Medal

Date of Action: 19 August 1972

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of AR 672-5-1.

Reason: For heroism not involving actual conflict against an armed enemy:

Captain Fruitticher distinguished himself by heroic action on 19 August 1972 while serving as the Asst S3/Artillery Advisor, for Advisory Team 41, Second Regional Assistance Command, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. On this date Captain Fruitticher was assisting the VNAF and American helicopters at Kontum Airfield that were evacuating refugees from the Ben Het Border Ranger Camp. Captain Fruitticher was advising the Province Control Team who were controlling the refugees that were arriving at Kontum Airfield from Ben Het. A VNAF CH-47 landed at the airfield with 60 refugees aboard, and was in the process of off loading when the CH-47 lifted into the air about 150 feet spinning and tilting. As the chinook descended a VBAF UH-1 with refugees aboard attempted to maneuver away from the CH-47. The UH-1 was struck and crashed causing extensive damage. The CH-47 crashed into a bunker 50 feet from the VNAF UH-1 and burned. The passengers from the VNAF UH-1 were thrown under the aircraft as it crashed. The UH-1's engine was still running and out of control. The crew members were unable to stop the engine, and fearing it would explode evacuated the area. Captain Fruitticher disregarding the intense heat from the burning CH-47 and the possibility of the UH-1 exploding, aided SFC Gato in pulling a small badly injured child, from underneath the aircraft to safety. Because of Captain Fruitticher's courageous act at the risk of his life, a small child was saved. Captain Fruitticher's heroic action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

J.F. MATTESON
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

M.J. GOSTELY
1LT, AGC
Assistant AG

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5352

29 June 1971

AWARD OF THE SOLDIERS MEDAL

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

DUDLEY, ROBERT M. 1LT 1193 C Btry 5th Bn 4th Arty 1st Bde
5th Inf Div (Mech) (MANFCO) APO SF 96383

Awarded: The Soldiers Medal

Date of service: 9 February 1971

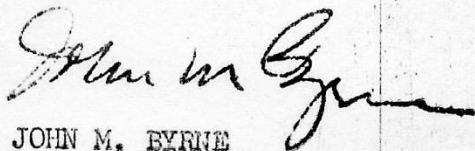
Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926.

Reason: For heroism not involving conflict with an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Dudley distinguished himself on 9 February 1971 while serving with an artillery unit in the Republic of Vietnam. The battery had just moved to a new location near the Laotian border, to offer artillery support for allied forces involved in Operation Dewey Canyon II, when Lieutenant Dudley observed a fire erupt in a nearby tank. When the tank crew was unable to extinguish the fire, Lieutenant Dudley rushed to the vehicle with a fire extinguisher and despite the threat of an explosion, climbed on top of it. With the assistance of several extinguishers brought to him, he put out the blaze, thus preventing the possible loss of several lives and valuable ammunition. Within minutes after this incident the battery came under enemy mortar attack. Lieutenant Dudley's efforts proved instrumental in enabling the battery to return direct artillery fire on the enemy locations and successfully completing the mission. First Lieutenant Dudley's heroic 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.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:



JOHN M. BYRNE
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

GEORGE C. VINEY
Colonel, SG
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