

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 8567

10 July 1969

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

POWELL, RICHARD A SPECIALIST FOUR Company E 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st
Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Effective month: NA

Date action: 13 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Specialist Powell distinguished himself while serving as a mortar gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base Airborne, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army soldiers. The insurgents fought through the perimeter and spread throughout the fire base throwing satchel charges and high explosives. Despite enemy automatic weapons fire and shrapnel from exploding mortar rounds, Specialist Powell continued to fire illumination rounds over the fire base. He was thrown from his mortar tube three times by explosions, but each time he returned to the mortar tube and kept his mortar crew operating flawlessly, despite the early morning darkness which hindered visibility. Although he was wounded by shrapnel and could no longer operate the mortar tube, his determination to keep the mortar position operational supplied the fire base with almost continuous illumination throughout the attack. His efforts contributed immeasurably to the successful defense of the fire base. Specialist Powell'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.

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of Executive Order 11046.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

M. H. MURLEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

for M. H. Murley MAJAGC

DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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