

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 3762

02 AUGUST 1968

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced posthumously.

BELL, CHRISTOPHER H. RA PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E-3 United States Army
Co C, 2d Battalion (Abn), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div,
APO 96347

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)

Date action: Not applicable

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airborne). Private First Class Bell distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during a search and destroy mission in enemy territory. Realizing the danger of the mission Private Bell volunteered to be point man in place of his less experienced comrades. He came upon a fork in the trail, stopped the platoon and moved forward alone. He suddenly opened fire, killing an enemy soldier on the trail. The platoon was immediately pinned down by a vicious hail of enemy automatic weapons fire from at least three positions. Private Bell, trapped in front of the platoon, began placing a heavy volume of effective counterfire on the insurgents, allowing his platoon leader to deploy the lead squad. The enemy fire became so intense that the squad was soon immobilized as it tried to maneuver against the insurgents. Realizing the precarious situation that was rapidly developing, Private Bell quickly went into action. He secured hand grenades from this rucksack and began to crawl through the murderous barrage toward the enemy bunker putting out the heaviest volume of firepower. As he neared the position, he exposed himself to the fusillade to throw a grenade which destroyed the bunker and killed its occupants. The platoon was still receiving heavy automatic weapons fire, so he moved toward a second bunker and destroyed it with hand grenades. The platoon then began receiving fire from a position to its left flank, and Private Bell began moving towards the source. Once in range, he rose to throw a grenade and was struck by a burst of automatic weapons fire which knocked him to the ground. Ignoring his wound and completely disregarding his safety, he got to his feet and rushed forward. He was struck twice more by a burst from the enemy machine gun, but he continued to charge until he was close enough to throw a grenade into the bunker, destroying it. Private First Class

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Bell's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, 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, under the provision of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963, and Department of the Army message 782774, dated 19 September 1966.