

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY, PACIFIC  
APO San Francisco 96358

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 173

29 July 1966

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. TC 320. The Distinguished Service Cross is AWARDED posthumously to:

LANE, FAMOUS L SPECIALIST FOUR E-4 United States Army

Date action: 20 April 1966

Theater: Not applicable

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against armed hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam. On 20 April 1966, Specialist Lane, a member of Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, was on a hazardous night "Recondo" patrol in a Viet Cong infested area near Phan Thiet, Republic of Vietnam. Approximately an hour after the "Recondo" patrol's departure from the company's perimeter, the point man detected a large Viet Cong force moving towards the small patrol and a hasty ambush was quickly established. Specialist Lane, a machine gunner, sprinted from the rear of the column and without hesitation placed his machine gun in position on a small slope, fully realizing that the position afforded him no protection. In the initial burst of deadly fire Specialist Lane killed five Viet Cong soldiers. The insurgents were forced to withdraw to a treeline area, in the face of Specialist Lane's extremely effective and devastating fire. His deadly accurate fire was instrumental in the success of the hasty ambush against a numerically superior Viet Cong force. The determined insurgents concentrated a withering volume of fire on the patrol from the treeline areas as the hostile element maneuvered to each flank of the friendly forces. With phenomenal courage, profound concern for his fellow troopers, and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Lane remained on the slope and concentrated effective suppressive fire on the insurgents when the patrol was forced to withdraw to a protective cover to the rear. By remaining calm and maintaining a sound presence of mind, Specialist Lane successfully disorganized the insurgents and forced them to withdraw. While attempting to reload his machine gun the Viet Cong force poured automatic weapons fire into his position and Specialist Lane was mortally wounded. His extraordinary heroism and supreme sacrifice were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.

(GO 173, HQ USARPAC, 1966)