

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1837

25 March 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR
(POSTHUMOUS)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BOWMAN, JOHN D. III SERGEANT E5 United States Army
Co A, 2d Bn 502d Inf, 173d Abn Bde (Sep), APO US Forces 96250

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 9 February 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Sergeant Bowman distinguished himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as a member of a company whose mission was to relieve the pressure on friendly elements that were pinned down by a numerically superior Viet Cong force in the vicinity of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1700 hours, while his platoon was maneuvering along a tree line, they were attacked by an entrenched and well camouflaged Viet Cong force. As the platoon advanced, it came upon an open area. Realizing that his men must cross the hazardous area to assist the other elements and unite the company, Sergeant Bowman rallied his men and personally led them across the open area. While leading his men, Sergeant Bowman was mortally wounded. His courageous actions, which had forced the Viet Cong to concentrate their fire on him, enabled the platoon leader to maneuver a squad to the flank and overrun the insurgent position. As a result three Viet Cong were killed and a machine gun was captured. His inspiring leadership while receiving intense hostile fire, and devotion to duty at the cost of his life, contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant Bowman'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.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1916.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

RICHARD J. SEITZ
Brigadier General, US Army
Chief of Staff

DONALD G. MOFFAT
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adj General