

HEADQUARTERS
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96350

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 73

24 January 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

ODOM, RONALD G FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY United States Army Head-
quarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, APO
San Francisco 96347.

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 9 November 1966


Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Gallantry in action: First Lieutenant Odom, Platoon Leader of the elite Reconnaissance Platoon, was moving with his unit on a search and destroy mission. Suddenly, enemy forces in a nearby tree line opened up with a devastating volume of fire. Lieutenant Odom, realizing that he had entered the killing zone of a Viet Cong ambush, quickly and calmly issued instructions. While his men gallantly fought off the initial attack of the Viet Cong, Lieutenant Odom shielded the body of a wounded grenadier of his platoon with his own body. After placing the wounded man in a relatively safe position, Lieutenant Odom organized his forces and assaulted the entrenched enemy. When the flank of his assault became pinned down by enemy machine gun fire, Lieutenant Odom personally crept forward under heavy fire and destroyed the gun emplacement with two hand grenades. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Odom continued to lead his men up and over the enemy positions. His daring example and personal intrepidity resulted in the routing of a superior enemy force from its prepared defenses. His extraordinary heroism in close combat with an armed enemy is in keeping with the highest standards and traditions of the American fighting man and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of USARV Message 16695, 1 July 1966 and paragraph 27, AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:


WILLIAM H. JAMES
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

LINTON S. HOATWRIGHT
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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