



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO US Forces 96307

GENERAL ORDER
NUMBER 2931

17 May 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. IC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BENNETT, JAMES C. SPECIALIST FOUR E4 United States Army
MTC, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO US Forces 96347
Awarded: Silver Star
Date action: 5 February 1966 to 6 February 1966
Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For gallantry in action: Specialist Four Bennett distinguished himself from 5 February 1966 to 6 February 1966 while serving as a medical aidman in the Republic of Vietnam. On the night of 5 February 1966, Specialist Four Bennett's platoon found itself situated in a Viet Cong minefield and had two casualties from detonated mines. Specialist Four Bennett, with complete disregard for his safety, ran through the minefield and administered first aid to the wounded men. On the following morning when his platoon attacked the village of Canh Tinh, they received intense automatic weapons and small arms fire that wounded three men. Again, exposing himself to intense hostile fire, Specialist Four Bennett went to their assistance and administered life saving first aid. After treating the wounded men, he pulled one of the men to safety and directed the evacuation of the other two men. When another man was wounded, Specialist Four Bennett again braved the hostile fire by running forty meters directly towards a Viet Cong machine gun position to aid the casualty. Approximately five meters from the wounded man's position, Specialist Four Bennett was wounded three times in the leg. Disregarding his own wounds, he crawled to the side of the wounded man and administered first aid. When the medical evacuation helicopter arrived, Specialist Four Bennett refused to be evacuated and continued with the platoon on the operation. Four hours later the platoon seized the village. While reorganizing the platoon, three men were wounded. Although suffering from pain, he went to the aid of the wounded, and was hit twice by mortar fragments. Disregarding his wounds, he pulled a wounded man across fifty meters of open rice paddies to safety. Despite his protest, he was evacuated for medical treatment. Specialist Four Bennett's courage and devotion to duty saved the lives of seven men within a twenty-four hour period. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects 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 1918.