

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1317

20 November 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

TOOP, RICHARD V. JR. FIRST LIEUTENANT, INFANTRY, United States Army,
Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 304th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st
Airborne Division APO 96317

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 21 July 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 21 July 1967 near Duc Tho, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, First Lieutenant Toop's platoon suddenly detected enemy activity to their front. Having been previously alerted of a possible enemy battalion command post in the area, Lieutenant Toop decided to lead a small reconnaissance element forward to investigate. Lieutenant Toop led a seven man reconnaissance element through enemy outposts and several times passed within several meters of enemy positions. When Lieutenant Toop and his small element were within thirty meters of the suspected enemy command post they were detected by enemy guards and immediately brought under a heavy volume of enemy fire. Lieutenant Toop immediately directed his reconnaissance element to return fire and secure a route of withdrawal. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Toop and his machinegunner assaulted the suspected enemy command post. Although twice knocked to the ground by enemy grenades, Lieutenant Toop continued forward and succeeded in personally killing two enemy officers inside the command post. Still under hostile fire, Lieutenant Toop stripped the dead enemy officers of credentials and documents and then led his men back to the main body of his platoon. Lieutenant Toop then called for artillery and machine strikes on the enemy positions. It was later determined after a sweep of the area that one of the enemy officers Lieutenant Toop had killed had been a battalion commander. First Lieutenant Toop's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the American Division, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.