

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 770

28 September 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

ARNOLD, STEVEN L. CAPTAIN, INFANTRY, United States Army, Company
A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Di-
vision APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star (1st Oak Leaf Cluster)

Date action: 25 August 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 25 August 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Captain Arnold, Company Commander, was directing a search and destroy operation conducted by platoon size forces of his company. Upon initial contact with the enemy, one of the men in Captain Arnold's element was wounded. Captain Arnold immediately called in a Medevac ship. When the helicopter approached the landing zone, furious automatic weapons fire broke out and downed the Medevac ship. It was now determined that the company was engaged with a dug-in North Vietnamese reinforced company. Captain Arnold with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to the murderous hail of enemy fire to secure the downed helicopter and treat the wounded. He remained in an exposed position to supervise care of the wounded and call in gunships. He was constantly in the open, under fire, as he maneuvered and directed his platoons to repel the enemy assault. For six hours, he tirelessly performed his duties while under fire. That evening Captain Arnold moved to the forward edge of his defense perimeter to personally check on measures which were taken to prevent a counter attack. At this time, the perimeter came under extremely heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire. On the initial mortar barrage, Captain Arnold received shrapnel fragments in the face and both eyes. He continued to command his unit however, and refused to be evacuated. His fearless courage and professional leadership resulted in many of his men's lives being saved and ultimate victory for his company. Captain Arnold's outstanding display of gallantry and his intense 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.