

HEADQUARTERS  
 AMERICAN DIVISION  
 APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS  
 NUMBER 1404

27 November 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

FITCH, JOHN E. RA SERGEANT E5, United States Army, Company  
 A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne  
 Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 25 August 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 25 August 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. While moving to an area where a firefight had previously taken place, Sergeant Fitch's squad was suddenly brought under automatic weapons fire from an enemy element of undetermined size and pinned down. On the initial burst of enemy fire, Sergeant Fitch's machinegunner was wounded and immediately pulled to safety, but his machinegun was left behind. Almost immediately, Sergeant Fitch observed an enemy assault team moving towards the machinegun in an attempt to retrieve it. With complete disregard for his safety, Sergeant Fitch charged through the heavy enemy fire to the location of the machinegun, only a few yards from the enemy element, and placed the weapon into action. As the enemy element continued to advance, Sergeant Fitch opened fire and successfully beat the assault team back, killing three enemy soldiers and forcing them to withdraw. Shortly thereafter, his squad was hit again by the enemy element. Sergeant Fitch directed his squad to move to better defensive positions while he personally remained behind and delayed the enemy's advance by placing suppressive fire into the ranks of the oncoming enemy element. Sergeant Fitch'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.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:



JOHN H. BATTS

MAJ, AGC

Acting Adjutant General

ROBERT H. MUSSER  
 Colonel, GS  
 Chief of Staff