

HEADQUARTERS
 AMERICAN DIVISION
 APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
 NUMBER 1417

27 November 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

ORVOLD, THEODORE S. FIRST LIEUTENANT, INFANTRY, United States Army, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 13 August 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Orvold, a platoon leader, was participating in an airborne assault made by his company. The landing zone was hit, and as the platoons began to move away from it, they were brought under murderous small arms, automatic weapons, and machine-gun fire from a North Vietnamese Army battalion. One of the platoons was pinned down by the initial burst of fire, and suffered several casualties. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Orvold personally led his platoon into the intense enemy fire, relieved the pressure and allowed the platoon to recover its wounded and withdraw to a covered area. Lieutenant Orvold moved to within ten meters of the enemy's position, personally assaulting the position with hand grenades and bursts from his rifle. His individual aggressiveness and personal courage resulted in the death of four of the enemy, and the silencing of a machinegun and several other automatic weapons. As the platoon began to move back to the perimeter, Lieutenant Orvold observed one of the wounded to his front who was under fire from other enemy positions. Again, without regard for his own safety, he moved through the heavy enemy fire and recovered the wounded man. Once in the perimeter, Lieutenant Orvold moved among his positions, directing fire and maintaining fire discipline. Throughout the night, which was filled with enemy attempts to overrun the perimeter, Lieutenant Orvold constantly exposed himself to fire while he rallied his men, directed fire, and adjusted artillery. His personal aggressiveness in battle and his superb leadership were instrumental in the ultimate victory won by his company. First Lieutenant Orvold's unquestionable valor was 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.