

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 79

6 July 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced posthumously.

HUDGENS, JOHN W. RA

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3, United

States Army, B Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 25 February 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile enemy on 25 February 1967 near Song Mao, Republic of Vietnam. After landing on a landing zone the third platoon of B Company 502d (Airborne) Infantry had moved approximately eight hundred meters when they became heavily engaged with a numerically superior enemy element estimated to be a reinforced enemy platoon. Private Hudgens exposed himself to the enemy fire in an effort to place more effective fire into the enemy positions. Both the squad leader and the fire team leader being wounded, Private Hudgens began to direct the fire of his fire team. Private Hudgens along with one of his comrades assaulted two enemy positions. When his comrade was seriously wounded, Private Hudgens continued forward with complete disregard for his own personal safety and knocked out both enemy positions, killing two enemy soldiers. Private Hudgens then dragged his wounded comrade through seventy-five meters of bullet swept terrain to a safe area. Private Hudgens again with complete disregard for his own personal safety crawled through fifty meters of vicious enemy fire to direct the fire of a machinegunner by personally pointing out an enemy machinegun position. While returning to his position Private Hudgens was struck in the knee and wounded. Refusing medical aid Private Hudgens crawled to the perimeter where he was wounded again while distributing ammunition to his men. Again with complete disregard for his own personal safety Private Hudgens refused to be evacuated and crawled to the most forward point of the perimeter where he succeeded in killing another enemy soldier who was attempting to throw a grenade into a friendly position. Private Hudgens' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect 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.