



HEADQUARTERS
TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96374

OFFICIAL ORDER
NUMBER 658

13 September 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

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

PATTERSON, JOSEPH H. B. SERGEANT E5, United States Army,
Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st
Airborne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star 13

Date of action: ~~15~~ August 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Patterson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action and personal sacrifice as he was leading his squad down a jungle trail and was ambushed by an enemy element of undetermined size. Sergeant Patterson immediately maneuvered his squad into a position to gain fire superiority. While directing the effective fire into the ranks of the onrushing Viet Cong, he detected several enemy soldiers moving forward to his immediate front, two of them were carrying a rocket launcher. The insurgents quickly set up a defense position. Realizing that any maneuver he might make against the enemy was ineffective, Sergeant Patterson courageously exposed himself to the intense enemy small arms fire in an attempt to hurl a grenade into their stronghold. Seeing his grenade fell short, Sergeant Patterson, with complete disregard for his own safety, leaped from his covered position and charged the enemy through a hail of fire; he tossed a grenade into the enemy positions which killed two of them and caused the others to flee. While making his way back to his squad, he was mortally wounded. Sergeant Patterson's display of unquestionable valor and his extreme dedication to duty while engaged in close combat were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflected the highest degree of credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 7 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL: . . .

ROBERT H. MUSSER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

Matthew W. Irvin
MATTHEW W. IRVIN
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General