

HEADQUARTERS
 AMERICAL DIVISION
 APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
 NUMBER 1347

23 November 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

CLIFFORD, ROBERT A., FIRST LIEUTENANT, INFANTRY, United States Army, Company C, 2d Battalion, (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 16 May 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 16 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Clifford was assigned the mission of giving assistance to a beleaguered patrol by extracting their casualties and maintaining contact with the enemy until reinforcements could arrive. Upon arriving at the battle scene, Lieutenant Clifford immediately made an evaluation of the situation and maneuvered his platoon into position in order to place suppressive fire into the enemy position. While placing his men into position, Lieutenant Clifford observed a wounded man who was laying in an area exposed to heavy enemy fire. On two different occasions, men were wounded attempting to pull the injured man to safety. Lieutenant Clifford directed his men to give him covering fire while he, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged through the bullet swept area to where the wounded man lay, picked him up and carried him to a safe position and administered the needed medical aid. On numerous occasions, he exposed himself to the enemy fire while directing the fire of his platoon by pointing out enemy positions. Lieutenant Clifford then called for artillery and supporting fire in order to evacuate the wounded. During the evacuation Lieutenant Clifford and his platoon were brought under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire, forcing the medical evacuation helicopter to take off before the wounded could be loaded. Immediately, Lieutenant Clifford deployed part of his platoon and personally directed their fire into the enemy positions. He remained exposed while directing the suppressive fire into the enemy positions until the casualties had all been evacuated. As a result of Lieutenant Clifford's courageous actions, the lives of numerous men were saved and his men inspired to such a degree that the mission was successfully accomplished. First Lieutenant Clifford'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 Americal Division and the United States Army.