

HEADQUARTERS
I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96350

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 209

7 March 1968

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

FRENCH, DAVID PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 United States
Army 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, APO San Francisco 96347.

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 6 October 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Gallantry in action: Private First Class French distinguished himself on 6 October 1967 while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. While on a search and destroy mission, Private French's platoon was pinned down by an extremely heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from a well entrenched and concealed enemy bunker. Realizing the need for immediate action, Private French, with complete disregard for his own safety, began to maneuver through the vicious enemy fire to within hand grenade range of the enemy bunker. As Private French neared the enemy position, a volley of hand grenades were thrown at him in an attempt to stop his progress. Instantly, Private French picked up the grenades nearest him, tossing them back at the enemy bunker in an effort to knock it out. As he neared the enemy bunker, a grenade exploded within five feet of him, knocking him to the ground with fragment wounds of the face, neck and chest. Although bleeding profusely from his painful and serious wounds, he once again, with complete disregard for his own safety, charged through the murderous enemy fire, and succeeded in destroying the enemy bunker with a series of hand grenades. Private French's outstanding display of gallantry in action and devotion to duty are within the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of USARV Message 16695, 1 July 1966 and paragraph 27, AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:



GERALD L. OVERSTREET
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Adjutant General

GEORGE S. BLANCHARD
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