

U.S. ARMY  
TASK FORCE OREGON (DIVISION 1)  
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL E. GARDNER  
MIL-158 704

19 September 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BENNETT, THOMAS K. , SERGEANT FIRST CLASS US, United States Army, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 18 May 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. The first platoon of Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, while moving along a jungle trail, suddenly became engaged with an undetermined number of enemy soldiers in well-fortified and well-concealed bunkers. Sergeant Bennett quickly reorganized his platoon, maneuvered his squads into position and established his security elements. Sergeant Bennett, seeing that his platoon had received several casualties, immediately and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, rushed through the withering enemy fire and began pulling the wounded men to covered positions. After pulling the first man to safety, Sergeant Bennett returned through the vicious enemy fire five different times to bring wounded men to safety; each time he was within twenty meters of the enemy positions. During this time Sergeant Bennett also directed the fire of his platoon by exposing himself to the enemy fire while pointing out enemy positions. Later in the battle, Sergeant Bennett received a report that more casualties had been sustained at the other end of his platoon's positions. Again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Bennett moved through the heavy enemy fire across the entire front of his platoon's positions and began pulling the wounded to safe positions and giving them medical aid. Sergeant Bennett's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great 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 5 July 1918.