

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: AWO 968137
By: [Signature] NARA Date: 5/19/07HEADQUARTERS
TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96374GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 416

28 August 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SPEARS, BOBBY E. , SPECIALIST FOUR E4, United States Army,
Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Air-
borne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 18 May 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Spears distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while machine-gunner with a small patrol as it moved along a jungle trail and was suddenly engaged by hostile fire. On the initial brutal burst of enemy fire the pointman was wounded and lay in an exposed area. Disregarding his own safety, Specialist Spears rushed through the hail of enemy fire to reach his wounded comrade and pulled him to safety. He then returned to the area of battle and returned heavy fire to the insurgent positions. As the acuteness of the hostile fire increased, Specialist Spears picked up his machine-gun and charged through heavy enemy fire and grenades to assault an enemy bunker. Upon closing on the bunker, a grenade wounded him; disregarding his wounds, he valiantly continued forward and killed two enemy soldiers. Without hesitation or regard for the intensity of fire, he continued to expose himself to the enemy and assaulted a second bunker. He destroyed that bunker and killed two more insurgents. When ordered to pull back, Specialist Spears remained behind in an exposed position giving covering fire for the withdrawing platoon. Only after the wounded were evacuated and his platoon pulled back to a safe area did Specialist Spears' rejoin his unit and allow himself medical aid. Through Specialist Spears' aggressive determination and courageous actions, the life of one individual was undoubtedly saved, two enemy bunkers destroyed, and at least four enemy killed. Specialist Four Spears' outstanding display of unquestionable gallantry; his perseverance, resolute and personal determination while engaged in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.