

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 3322

22 April 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

LEWIS, PERRY A RA () SPECIALIST FOUR, Company A 2d Battalion
(Airborne) 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star

Effective month: N/A

Date action: 20 July 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 July 1968. Specialist Lewis distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner with the Third Platoon, Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a combat patrol in the densely vegetated mountains west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Lewis' platoon was in the lead position, and, because of the thick vines and dense underbrush, was forced to cut a trail with machetes in its search of a reported North Vietnamese Army base camp. Near the top of a slope the lead element came under an intense barrage of automatic weapons fire. The two lead men were shot immediately and, as the rest of the platoon sought cover, several more men were injured on punji stakes cleverly placed by the enemy in selected positions. Specialist Lewis was pinned down by the enemy fire. However, observing two of his comrades wounded, Specialist Lewis began crawling forward to aid the fallen men. He fired into the thick underbrush where the enemy was hidden. On several occasions the incoming fire was so intense that Specialist Lewis was forced to stop and conceal himself behind the sparse ground cover, but never did he try to return to safety. After several minutes of slow crawling he reached the first wounded man. Seeing that the man was in desperate need of medical attention, Specialist Lewis, with complete disregard for his own safety, began crawling and carrying the injured man to safety. The platoon began to pull back in order to employ helicopter gunships and volunteers were called forward to remove equipment from the front. Specialist Lewis volunteered and began the long crawl toward the forward area. An enemy machine gun was moved to within thirty meters of his position and subjected him and the friendly positions to steady fire. Specialist Lewis and one other man crawled through the heavy fire and destroyed the enemy position before retrieving the platoon's equipment, which contained valuable ammunition and Claymore mines. Specialist Lewis' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with 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, of the United States under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963.

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DA, HQ, 101st Abn Div APO SF 96383

12 Apr 65

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

L. MOWERY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

For Mr. M. L. M. AGC
DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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