

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

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 7833

21 October 1968

SECTION I

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

HAGAN, RICHARD J. [REDACTED] SPECIALIST FOUR (E-4)  
Company C 1st Battalion 502d Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star Medal

Effective Month: September 1968

Date Action: 9 March 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 March 1968. Specialist Hagan distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner with the 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry at Ab Xuan Tuy, Republic of Vietnam. Company C was conducting a combat operation when it came under intense automatic weapons fire from well fortified enemy bunkers inside a village. In the early moments of the battle, the squad leader and the platoon sergeant for the 2d Squad, 1st Platoon were both seriously wounded. Specialist Hagan's squad, being without leadership, began to lose ground and the outcome of the battle seemed inevitable. At this point, Specialist Hagan, without regard for his own safety, crawled approximately forty meters through open terrain, to a more suitable vantage point. Specialist Hagan set up a heavy volume of suppressive fire with his M60 machine gun, enabling the wounded men of his platoon to be pulled to a secure position. Specialist Hagan then turned his machinegun over to his assistant, Private First Class Miller, and began to place accurate fire on the enemy bunker with an M79 grenade launcher. After exhausting his supply of M79 ammunition, he called to the rear for M72 Light Antitank Weapons. The platoon medical aidman brought the weapons forward and gave them to Private First Class Miller, who prepared them for firing and handed them to Specialist Hagan. Specialist Hagan fired seven accurate hits with the M72's, destroying the enemy bunker. As a result of Specialist Hagan's actions the enemy was defeated and withdrew, leaving numerous casualties behind. Specialist Hagan's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force 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 established 9 July 1918