

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

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 5189

29 August 1968

SECTION I

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

GILLEM, DONNIS J CAPTAIN INFANTRY Company C 2d Battalion  
501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383  
Awarded: The Silver Star Medal  
Date action: 13 March 1968  
Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 March 1968. Captain Gillem distinguished himself while serving as company commander with Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company C was on a combat operation in the vicinity of Hue, Republic of Vietnam and was approaching a river when it came under heavy enemy fire from a series of fortified bunkers and houses on the opposite side of the river. As one man attempted to cross a bridge over the river, he was hit and fell on the bridge. When another man moved to the bridge to help the wounded man, he became pinned down by the intense enemy fire. Completely disregarding his own safety, Captain Gillem ran to an exposed position, enabling the man pinned down to move the wounded man as he laid down suppressive fire on the enemy positions. The wounded man was evacuated as far as the river bank but could be moved no further on the ground as a veritable fusillade of enemy rounds hitting all around them impeded any further progress on land. Oblivious to the hail of enemy rounds hitting all around him, Captain Gillem ran from his position, across an open rice paddy, and down the river bed constantly exposing himself to the lethal volleys of the enemy. Upon reaching the water he inflated an air mattress, moved it through not only the water but also the unwavering enemy fire, secured the wounded man and floated him down the river to a point where he could be administered aid. Captain Gillem's steadfast courage and total dedication to his men is 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.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

W. P. TALLOW, JR  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

  
W. P. TALLOW, JR  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

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