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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 4551

11 August 1968

SECTION I

THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

GENTILE, FRANCIS J SPECIALIST FOUR (E-4)
Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2d Battalion 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383
Awarded: The Silver Star Medal
Date action: 21 February 1968
Theater: Republic of Vietnam
Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 February 1968. Specialist Gentile distinguished himself while serving as medical corpsman with Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during heavy fighting with a large enemy force several kilometers west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At the beginning of the battle Company C had three medical corpsmen attached to it including Specialist Gentile. However early in the day the two other corpsmen were wounded and put out of action, leaving only Specialist Gentile to care for the wounded of the entire company. The intensity of the fire which wounded his two comrades necessarily incurred even greater than normal casualties throughout the company, thus making his task all the more arduous and dangerous. But with the amazing energy, surpassed only by his unparalleled courage, he continually moved along the entire company front under constant and severe fire by the enemy. The company was hit by a veritable fusilade of rifle and machine gun fire from the enemy lines, this coupled with the barrage of grenades, both rifled and from M-79 grenade launchers. Even under the barrage Specialist Gentile continued to expose himself to the deadly enemy fire during the entire battle until all the wounded had been cared for. His outstanding heroism not only saved a number of lives but served to inspire those around him to greater efforts as well. Specialist Gentile's exceptional gallantry is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects 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. TALLON, JR
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

M. R. [illegible]
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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