

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 783

25 January 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

PHILLIPS, RONALD E FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY
Company D 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star

Effective month: December 1968

Date action: 21 August 1968 through 28 August 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 21 August 1968 through 28 August 1968. First Lieutenant Phillips distinguished himself while serving as Commanding Officer of Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat operations southwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Company D was conducting a combat patrol in search of the enemy when the lead element came under heavy fire from automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. First Lieutenant Phillips quickly maneuvered his platoons against the enemy, overrunning their lead positions and mortally wounding ten North Vietnamese Army soldiers. For the next six days, First Lieutenant Phillips skillfully probed the enemy defense in an effort to pinpoint their weak positions. On 27 August 1968, he cunningly deployed his men against their final objective, an enemy occupied hill. When the initial burst of fire ripped through the lead platoon, First Lieutenant Phillips immediately seized control of the action by moving to the front of his unit, bringing up reserves, and placing personnel in defensive positions. Many men were wounded during the initial contact and needed immediate medical evacuation. First Lieutenant Phillips personally carried one of the wounded to the rear of the company and aided many other wounded men. When he returned to the front of his unit, a numerically superior force of North Vietnamese Army soldiers charged down the hillside in an attempt to overrun Company D. First Lieutenant Phillips quickly directed retaliatory fire from small arms and from helicopter gunships. The intense friendly fire devastated the enemy force and forced them to withdraw. After the contact, intelligence reports revealed that First Lieutenant Phillips' company had blocked an entire North Vietnamese Army battalion's movement toward the city of Hue. First Lieutenant Phillips' 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 9 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

L. L. MOWERY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

f. ML Mowery MAJ AGC
DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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