

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 3066

3 April 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

TOWNS, GRADY L JR. SERGEANT Company D 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st
Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (First Oak Leaf Cluster)

Effective month: N/A

Date action: 11 May 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 May 1968. Sergeant Towns distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. On the evening of the cited date, Sergeant Towns led a ten man patrol from the company's night defensive perimeter to set up an ambush along a well-used trail leading out of the mountains. After the patrol had been in position for approximately four hours, Sergeant Towns observed movement to his front and counted thirty North Vietnamese troops walking down the trail in file formation. Seeing that his men were already alerted, he waited until the last possible moment to allow a large number of the enemy to enter his killing zone. The ambush was initiated when one of the enemy discovered a Claymore mine and attempted to cut the wire. In the fighting which followed, Sergeant Towns remained in an unprotected position to direct the fire of his men against the numerically superior enemy force. When the enemy discovered the friendly ambush position, they maneuvered around to the flanks. Sergeant Towns immediately ordered his men to withdraw, while he remained behind under the increased volume of hostile fire to give covering fire for his element. Without regard for his own safety, he continued to fire upon the enemy until all of his men had safely withdrawn. Sergeant Towns' 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.

FOR THE COMMANDER.

OFFICIAL:



DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

L. L. MOWERY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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