

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 9240

21 July 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

VITCH, RALPH A SPECIALIST FOUR Company A 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st
Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (Posthumous)

Effective month: N/A

Date action: 25 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 May 1969. Specialist Vitch distinguished himself while serving as a team leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a combat mission in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, the lead platoon of Company A came under an intense volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified enemy bunker complexes. When Specialist Vitch saw a fellow soldier wounded, he immediately rushed to his aid. Braving intense enemy fire, Specialist Vitch found that he was unable to save the fatally wounded soldier. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Vitch maneuvered on one of the bunker positions. On reaching grenade distance, he repeatedly threw grenades into the bunker, but the enemy soldiers held and continued to fire at him. He then charged the position and killed its occupants with rifle fire. He then directed his attention to the second enemy position, but before he could maneuver within grenade range he was mortally wounded by gunshot fire. His conspicuous gallantry contributed to the killing of six North Vietnamese soldiers and the capture of another. Specialist Vitch's 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:

M. H. MURLEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

Edward E. Raupp, Maj
DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

0 - Plus
11 - AVDG-AG-B
5 - AVDG-IN
2 - AVDG-AG-R

5 - CO, A/1/501st Inf
5 - CO, 1/501st Inf
5 - 2d Bde

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION:

1 - TAGO ATTN: ACPB-AC