

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

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 4051

2 May 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SORGE, JOHN D.  
(Airborne) 502d Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

FIRST LIETENANT Company A 1st Battalion

Awarded: The Siler Star

Effective month: N/A

Date of Service: 19 March 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged in military operation against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 March 1969. Lieutenant Sorge distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader on a reconnaissance in force operation near the A Chau Valley, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Company A, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, was conducting a reconnaissance in force along a narrow mountain ridge when a North Vietnamese Army force, entrenched in bunkers overlooking the company, opened fire with automatic-weapons, machine guns and rocket propelled grenade. His platoon was in the lead and planned down by a numerically superior enemy force in a well concealed bunker complex. Lieutenant Sorge immediately deployed his forces and provided a base of fire. After assessing the situation, he directed a heavy volume of fire on the key enemy bunkers and maneuvered other elements within twenty meters of the enemy positions. When he realized that his element was not strong enough to overrun the prepared positions, he directed artillery and mortar fire and called for a resupply of ammunition. Disregarding his own safety, he moved his men forward so that the wounded could be evacuated, and for five consecutive hours held his ground immediately outside the enemy bunkers, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy forces. Lieutenant Sorge'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.

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