

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 6574

9 June 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BARSKI, ROGER J () SERGEANT Company A 2d Battalion (Airborne)
501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star

Effective month: NA

Date action: 13 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969.

Sergeant Barski distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry at Fire Support Base Airborne, in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning hours of the cited date, the base was attacked with heavy mortar fire. Simultaneously, a group of North Vietnamese sappers penetrated the perimeter, throwing satchel charges through doors and bunker apertures. The First Platoon's sector of the perimeter bore the brunt of the initial main sapper attack, and the platoon leader and platoon sergeant were seriously wounded in the initial conflict. Sergeant Barski immediately took charge and rapidly set up a makeshift defense. Suddenly an enemy mortar round knocked out the friendly mortar used to provide illumination. Sergeant Barski realized the enemy force was preparing to overrun his platoon again, and that the absence of illumination was to the advantage of the advancing enemy. Realizing his platoon would be helpless in the face of a human wave assault, he left his cover and dashed for the supply of boxed star parachute flares located in the Command Post bunker. Despite the heavy enemy mortar fire, which was landing within the entire perimeter, he managed to reach the needed flares. As he maneuvered back toward his platoon, he encountered two North Vietnamese soldiers in his path. He fired at the enemy, killing one and wounding the other. He then provided continuous illumination by hand flares until a flare helicopter arrived. The heavy enemy attack was eventually repulsed. His heroic actions, with complete disregard for his own safety, were responsible for preventing his platoon from being overrun. Sergeant Barski'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

DALE W. HAYES
DALE W. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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