

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 7220

29 June 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

ROEHM, THOMAS L
Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

SERGEANT Company A 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st

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 Roehm distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was in the process of fortifying Fire Support Base Airborne, in the mountains west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the base was hit by a combination mortar barrage and sapper assault launched by elements of three North Vietnamese battalions. Sergeant Roehm directed the activities of his squad against the advancing insurgents, successfully thwarting repeated enemy attempts to overwhelm his position. The platoon's Command Post bunker was then hit with multiple mortar rounds. Sergeant Roehm rushed to the battered Command Post position, ignoring the rounds exploding all around him. He applied life saving first aid to the wounded members of the group until the platoon medical aidman arrived. He then attempted to establish communication with the company Command Post but the platoon radios had been damaged beyond repair in the mortar strike. He then maneuvered to nearby Company E, where he realized that he was the only noncommissioned officer left in the sector. He immediately began to reorganize the remnants of the area's perimeter defense. He personally led his men against the sappers who had penetrated the perimeter, killing several of the enemy with his M-16 rifle. After reestablishing security in his sector, he assisted in the defense of the rest of the fire base by picking up a strobe light and directing the fire of the friendly gunships, moving openly through the enemy fire in the process. Late in the action, he personally directed the evacuation of the wounded personnel. Sergeant Roehm'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:

M. H. MURLEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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