

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 298C

17 March 1970

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

TO 439. The following AWARD is announced.

GROTZKE, ALLEN F SP4 11B20 Co B 2d Bn (Amb) 501st Inf (WACNBC) APO SF 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (Posthumous)

Date of service: 15 November 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 25 July 1963.

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 November 1969. Specialist Grotzke distinguished himself while serving as a fire team leader in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, near the Demilitarized Zone, Republic of Vietnam. Company B was inserted into a landing zone commanding a draw where a North Vietnamese Army bunker complex had been sighted by aerial observation. An element of the 2d Platoon moved down the draw and came under intense machine gun and small arms fire from positions not more than fifty meters away. Specialist Grotzke maneuvered his fire team along the high ground rising from the draw and flanked the bunker complex from the side and rear. Though under constant exposure to the hostile machine gun emplacement, he supervised the placing of his men in strategic rear security positions and moved forward with the remainder of the squad to eliminate the enemy position. While passing through a clearing, Specialist Grotzke and his fellow soldiers came under fire from a second machine gun. Two of his squad members were seriously wounded. When he saw his comrades fall, Specialist Grotzke moved out further into the clearing and directed suppressive fire at the enemy. Although wounded at this time, he continued to maneuver forward. His courageous action diverted the enemy machine gun, enabling the other wounded personnel to crawl to safety. In his isolated forward position, he continued to provide cover for his comrades and ceased firing only when wounded a second time. He was evacuated by helicopter along with the two wounded men whose lives he saved. Specialist Grotzke'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.

BY THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:



H. A. THOMAS
LTC, USG
Adjutant General

HUGH A. MACDONALL
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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