

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 9231

21 July 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

JOHNSON, LOUIS SPECIALIST FOUR Company B 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (Posthumous)

Effective month: NA

Date action: 30 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 30 May 1969. Specialist Johnson distinguished himself while serving as an automatic rifleman for Company B, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. On the night of the cited date, Company B was conducting ambush patrols near Dong Ap Bia Mountain on the western border of the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Johnson's platoon moved into an ambush site along a trail and began its wait. At approximately 2215 hours, several North Vietnamese troops were spotted moving toward their position. When the enemy troops were within range, the element's claymore mines were detonated, killing four of the North Vietnamese. Several troopers were sent out to check the results of the ambush and were immediately taken under fire by other enemy troops. Under automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire, the ambush platoon was pulled back to the main company night defensive position. Upon arriving at the night defensive positions, it was determined that several troopers had been left behind during the ambush withdrawal. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Johnson volunteered to lead a relief force back in an attempt to locate the missing men. The relief element quickly moved out with Specialist Johnson in the lead. Several minutes later they made heavy contact with the enemy force which was attempting to prevent the rescue of the missing men. Specialist Johnson immediately began to lead the maneuver elements in an effort to knock out the enemy machine gun fire which was severely endangering the members of his fire team. While moving to an advantageous position, he was struck in the chest by shrapnel from an enemy rocket propelled grenade and mortally wounded. Specialist Johnson'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 provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

M. H. MURLEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

Edward A. Hayes, Maj
DALE H. HAYES
Maj, AGC
Adjutant General

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