

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 15088

22 December 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 32C. The following AWARD is announced.

GOURLEY, DONALD F Jr FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY Company C 1st Battalion
(Airmobile) 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star

Effective month: NA

Date action: 21 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Lieutenant Gourley distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry. Company C was ordered to attack a heavily fortified enemy hill near Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Gourley promptly organized his platoon and deployed it in preparation for the attack. A large open rice paddy lay between his position and the objective. Immediately upon initiating the attack, his platoon received intensive fire from enemy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades. Lieutenant Gourley immediately began to move his platoon forward employing fire and maneuver. Noting the reluctance of his troops to subject themselves to the enemy's fire and cross the open rice paddy, he left his covered position and moved up and down the line directing and encouraging his men. He led his platoon across the rice paddy toward the enemy position. Upon reaching the base of the enemy held hill, the insurgents began a heavy barrage of hand grenades, which inflicted numerous casualties. Lieutenant Gourley led the assault on the enemy positions, and the 2nd platoon broke through the first line of enemy entrenchments and continued to ascend the hill. Upon reaching the crest of the hill, his platoon again came under intense fire from additional enemy positions. With the ammunition supply becoming rapidly depleted, Lieutenant Gourley moved from position to position redistributing the remaining ammunition. He then led the final assault to the top of the hill, eliminating the final pockets of enemy resistance. At this time the reserve platoon of his company came under attack and Lieutenant Gourley's platoon was ordered to withdraw from the hill and reinforce another platoon. Remaining behind with a small force, he covered his platoon as it evacuated its casualties and withdrew to reinforce the second platoon. The enlarged unit was able to repel the enemy attack. At this time Lieutenant Gourley realized that one of his men was missing. Having determined that the man was lying wounded about a third of the way up the initial objective, he moved to the open location of the wounded man and brought him safely back. Lieutenant Gourley'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.