

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

ORDERS
6809

15 June 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BURNETTE, WICK L PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Company E 2d Battalion (Airborne)
501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star

Effective months: NA

Date action: 13 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 May 1969. Private Wick distinguished himself while serving as a mortar gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat support operations in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base Airborne was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Regulars. The enemy force consisted of an infantry element, mortar section, and sapper squads. Waves of insurgents stormed the perimeter from two sides and immediately penetrated the barbed wire and defensive positions of the bunker line. Enemy soldiers combed the fire base, hurling satchel charges and engaging in hand to hand combat with men in night defensive positions and mortar crews. A satchel charge exploded beside Private Burnette, amputating his leg below the knee. Despite the loss of his leg, he continued to engage the enemy with his weapon. Maintaining a heavy volume of fire, he blocked the path for the enemy to pass his position and gave the mortar crews enough time to assemble and prevent the mortar section from being overrun. He continued to pinpoint the locations of the attacking enemy to his fellow soldiers, even though in great pain and steadily weakening from loss of blood. Private Burnette'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 and the Congress, approved 25 July 1963.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

M. R. MURLEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

DALE H. HAYES
LTC, APO
Adjutant General

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