

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 12470

27 September 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BEAN, CHRISTOPHER J. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Headquarters and Headquarters Company
1st Battalion (Airmobile) 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (Posthumous)

Effective month: NA

Date action: 9 June 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 9 June 1969. Private Bean distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a search and clear operation in the vicinity of Tam Ky, Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, Company C was suddenly subjected to intense enemy machine gun fire from North Vietnamese Army regulars. Immediately an element of Company C began employing fire and movement tactics in an attempt at neutralizing the enemy position, but the insurgents retaliated with intense rocket propelled grenade and machine gun fire. When one man was wounded by shrapnel from an exploding grenade, Private Bean began to maneuver toward him. He then came under intense machine gun fire and was forced to seek cover. Meanwhile, the main maneuvering element of Company C initiated another assault on the insurgent positions. Behind the suppressive machine gun fire of the main maneuvering element, Private Bean crawled forward into the open to his wounded comrade. Disregarding his own safety, he subjected himself to the enemy fire as he remained in the open administering first aid to the wounded man. When the insurgent position gained fire superiority, he attempted to drag the wounded man to safety. Cognizant of the fact that his life was in jeopardy, he refused to leave the wounded man behind. A short distance from his objective, Private Bean was again subjected to intense machine gun fire and was mortally wounded. His dauntless courage and self-sacrificing spirit were an inspiration to all the men of his platoon. Private Bean'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:



DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

HUGH A. MACDONALD
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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