

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 18

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 23 April 1970

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:



Private First Class *Milton A. Lee*, United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty on 26 April 1968, near the city of Phu Bai in the Province of Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam. Private *Lee* was serving as the radio telephone operator with the 3d Platoon, Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). As lead element for the company, the 3d Platoon received intense surprise hostile fire from a force of North Vietnamese Army Regulars in well-concealed bunkers. With 50 percent casualties, the platoon maneuvered to a position of cover to treat their wounded and reorganize, while Private *Lee* moved through the heavy enemy fire giving life-saving first aid to his wounded comrades. During the subsequent assault on the enemy defensive positions, Private *Lee* continuously kept close radio contact with the company commander, relaying precise and understandable orders to his platoon leader. While advancing with the front rank toward the objective, Private *Lee* observed four North Vietnamese soldiers with automatic weapons and a rocket launcher lying in wait for the lead element of the platoon. As the element moved forward, unaware of the concealed danger, Private *Lee* immediately and with utter disregard for his own personal safety, passed his radio to another soldier and charged through the murderous fire. Without hesitation he continued his assault, overrunning the enemy position, killing all occupants and capturing four automatic weapons and a rocket launcher. Private *Lee* continued his one-man assault on the second position through a heavy barrage of enemy automatic weapons fire. Grievously wounded, he continued to press the attack, crawling forward into a firing position and delivering accurate covering fire to enable his platoon to maneuver and destroy the position. Not until the position was overrun did Private *Lee* falter in his steady volume of fire and succumb to his wounds. Private *Lee's* heroic actions saved the lives of the lead element and were instrumental in the destruction of the key position of the enemy defense. Private *Lee's* conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, the 502d Infantry, and the United States Army.



TAGO 776A—May 890-475—70

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By *MW* NARA Date *03/2/01*

GO 13

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

Distribution:

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TAGO 778A

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**GPAG-PA Lee, Milton 1st Ind
(13 Apr 69)**

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumously)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 30 APR 1969

**TO: The Adjutant General, ATTN: AGPB-AB, Department of the Army,
Washington, D. C. 20310**

Recommend approval of award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumous).

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

1 Incl
nc

**W. J. DURRENBERGER
Brigadier General, GS
Acting Chief of Staff**

✓
Copy furnished:
COMUSMACV
ATTN: MACAG-PD
APO 96223

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MACAG-PD

13 APR 1959

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumously)

**Commander in Chief
United States Army, Pacific
APO 96558**

**Forwarded in accordance with Department of the Army message UNCLAS
794106 from AGPB-AC.**

FOR THE COMMANDER:

**1 Incl
Recm for Awd
PFC LEE, Milton**

**R. W. VINTON
Major, USA
Asst AG**

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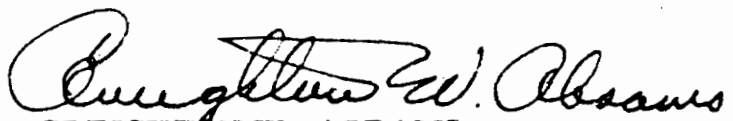
MACAG-PD LEE, Milton 4th Ind
(31 Aug 68)
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND,
VIETNAM, APO 96222 12 APR 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, Pacific. FPO 96610

1. Recommend approval of the Medal of Honor (posthumously).
2. Request this headquarters (ATTN: MACAG-PD) be advised when final action has been taken.

5 Incl
nc


CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS
General, United States Army
Commanding

5

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RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD		DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HEROISM <input type="checkbox"/> MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE <small>(AR 672-5-1)</small>		PREPARE TO REACH APPROVING AUTHORITY IN DUPLICATE. 31 August 1968
THRU: CG USARV ATTN: AVHAG-PC AFO 96375	TO: DA ATTN: ACPB-AC Washington, D. C.	FROM: (Unit) Commanding Officer 2nd Bn (Abn) 502nd Inf APO US Forces
PART I - STATUS AT TIME OF RECOMMENDATION		
1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME	2. SERVICE NO.	3. GRADE
LKE, Milton		PFC E3
4. BRANCH (OF MOS IF WO)	5. LEGAL RESIDENCE (Number, Street, City, and State)	
Army 11B1P		
6. ORGANIZATION	7. RECOMMENDED AWARD	8. POSTHUMOUS AWARD
Co B, 2/502, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div	Medal of Honor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
9. NAME, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN		
Mrs. Ruth Garrison.		
PART II - STATUS AT TIME OF ACT OR SERVICE		
10. SERVICE NUMBER	11. GRADE	12. BRANCH (OF MOS IF WO)
	PFC E3	Army 11B1P
13. ORGANIZATION		
Co B, 2/502, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div		
14. HAS ALL SERVICE BEEN HONORABLE SUBSEQUENT TO THIS ACT OR SERVICE (Do not penalize on reverse side)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
15. IF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THIS ACT OR SERVICE, INDICATE TYPE OF AWARD RECOMMENDED, BY WHOM, WHEN, ACTION TAKEN, AND HEADQUARTERS		
N/A		
16. OTHER U. S. DECORATIONS RECEIVED (Include date and authority) (Do not list service medals; list medals decorations only when same period as this recommendation.)		
N/A		
17. DID YOU HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACT OR SERVICE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
PART III - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM		
18. WERE YOU AN EYE WITNESS TO THE ACT	19. IF CERTIFICATE IS APPROVED BY EYE WITNESSES OR PERSONS HAVING PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS AND NOT INCORPORATED, GIVE REASONS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
20. PERSONS IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY WHO ASSISTED IN ACT OR SHARED IN SAME HAZARD		
a. FULL NAME	b. SERVICE NO.	c. GRADE
Raymond W Crago		SPlt E4
d. UNIT		
Co B, 2nd Bn (Abn) 502nd Inf		
21. IF ANY OF ABOVE PERSONS HAVE BEEN AWARDED OR RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR MERIT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACT, GIVE NAME AND TYPE OF AWARD		
Raymond W Crago Bronze Star Medal with V Device		
CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED:		
22. a. LOCATION (Grids: YD 57020)	b. INCLUSIVE DATES	c. TIME OF DAY
Province: Thua Thien Republic of Viet Nam	26 April 1968	0730
d. CHARACTER AND CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND WEATHER		
Mountainous, Steep and Thickly Vegetated. Steady Rain, Low Hanging Clouds, Cold. Only defined trails permitted travel. Poor Light. Large trees, overhead canopy.		
23. DESCRIBE ENEMY CONDITIONS (Force, Position, Fire, Observation, Capabilities, and Actions) what the enemy was doing and what it did as the result of the act.		
Enemy morale was good. Bunkers were placed to achieve interlocking fields of fire and snipers in trees provided overhead harassment. Contact always started at forty meters from the enemy. (Approximate). Fire power was tremendous. Machine guns, light automatic weapons coupled with M77 rockets. Enemy killed total of ten (10). The enemy resisted strongly, but fled when friendly troops gained superior fire power from positions within the complex.		

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24. UNIT MORALE, CASUALTIES AND MISSION: INDICATE WHAT THE UNIT WAS DOING AT TIME OF ACT
 Friendly moral continued to be at a high level even though intense enemy fire produced 4KHA and 26 WHA. Search and destroy mission. Friendly troops were assaulting on the enemy bunkers.

25. WHAT WERE COMRADES WHO WERE IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY DOING - HOW DID THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACT
 Remaining troops were forced to take cover from intense enemy automatic weapons fire until PFC Lee drew all enemy attention on himself. Then others were again able to move to different positions.

PART IV - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE

26. UNIT, HEADQUARTERS, OR SECTION IN WHICH DUTY WAS PERFORMED
 Company B, 2nd Bn (Abn) 502nd Inf

27. INCLUSIVE DATES FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED
 26 April 1968

29. NOW IN SAME OR RELATED ASSIGNMENT
 NO TO BE REASSIGNED ON OR ABOUT
 TO BE RETIRED ON OR ABOUT
 TO BE RELIEVED FROM AD ON OR ABOUT

28. SERVICE COMPLETED YES
 TO BE COMPLETED ON OR ABOUT DEROS N/A

PART V - TO BE USED FOR ALL RECOMMENDATIONS

30. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF DEED OR ACT ACHIEVEMENT PERFORMED OR SERVICE RENDERED

FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM: WAS ACT VOLUNTARY? DESCRIBE WHY ACT WAS OUTSTANDING AND IF IT WAS MORE THAN WAS NORMALLY EXPECTED. EXPLAIN HOW. IF IN AERIAL FLIGHT, DESCRIBE TYPE AND POSITION OF AIRPLANE, CREW POSITION OF INDIVIDUAL, AND ALL UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE: TITLE AND DUTIES OF ASSIGNMENT, INCLUDING CHARACTER OF SERVICE DURING PERIOD FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED (Give complete description of technical or specialized positions, including dates of assignment and relief); WHAT DID THE INDIVIDUAL DO THAT MERITS THE AWARD? WHY WAS THIS OUTSTANDING WHEN COMPARED TO OTHERS OF LIKE RANK AND EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR POSITIONS?

ON 26 APRIL 1968, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MILTON LEE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY AT THE RISK OF HIS OWN LIFE, ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY, WHILE SERVING AS RADIO TELEPHONE OPERATOR OF THE THIRD PLATOON, COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION (AIRBORNE) 502D INFANTRY, IN THE PROVINCE OF THUA THIEN, REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM. AS THE COMPANY'S LEAD ELEMENT, THE THIRD PLATOON, CLIMBED STEADILY UPWARD THROUGH EXTREMELY DENSE JUNGLE GROWTH, IT APPROACHED THE BEGINNING OF A WELL-TRAVELED, MAN-MADE TRAIL. UNKNOWN TO PFC LEE'S PLATOON, A NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR FORCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY REGULARS, IN CONCEALED AND FORTIFIED POSITIONS, WAS LYING IN WAIT. THE ENEMY BUNKER COMPLEX WAS ARRANGED IN A ZIGZAG LINE FORMATION ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE TRAIL TO PROVIDE THE ENEMY SUPERIOR INTERLOCKING FIELDS OF FIRE. SNIPERS WITH LIGHT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS IN TREES WERE ALSO PLACED IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS TO ACHIEVE A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE COMBINATION OF ENEMY DEFENSES. ENEMY WEAPONS, FRESH FROM NORTHERN FACTORIES, ENCOUNTERED BY PFC LEE'S PLATOON ON THAT FATEFUL DAY INCLUDED RPG ROCKET LAUNCHERS WITH TELESCOPIC LENSES, .30 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS, LIGHT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, AND VARIOUS TYPES OF HAND GRENADES. PFC LEE'S PLATOON APPROACHED THE AMBUSH SITE AND WAS ALLOWED TO PASS THE FOREMOST ENEMY BUNKERS UNMOLESTED TO BETTER INSURE THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE ENEMY'S FIENDISHLY

31. DESCRIBE EFFECTS OR RESULTS
 Total victory and the saving of four men's lives.

32. RELATED POSITION OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION TO PERSON BEING RECOMMENDED
 1LT. Thomas Lakomia Jr (Platoon Leader)

33. IF APPROVED, FORWARD AWARD FOR PRESENTATION TO
 Mrs. Ruth Campion,
 (Grandmother)

34. INCLOSURES (Include proposed citation, sketches, and eye witness statements when required.)
 Narrative Description
 Citation (Proposed)
 Eyewitness Statement
 Map

35. TYPED NAME, GRADE, BRANCH, AND TITLE OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION
 Thomas Lakomia Jr. U.S. Army
 First Lieutenant Infantry

36. SIGNATURE


REVERSE SIDE MAY BE USED FOR DRAFT OF PROPOSED CITATION, AND CONTINUANCE OF ABOVE ITEMS, IF NECESSARY.

PFC, Japan

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CLASSIC PLAN IN AN ILLUSTRATED ENEMY AMERICAN COMPANY. SUDDENLY, AND WITH DEADEN ACCURACY, THE ENEMY INITIATED THE ASSAULT WITH A HEAVY VOLUME OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. THIS FIRE, COUPLED WITH RPG ROCKET EXPLOSIONS AND OVERHEAD SNIPER ACTIVITY, SEVERELY MAULED PFC LEE'S PLATOON. FIFTY PERCENT CASUALTIES WERE TAKEN IN THE INITIAL BURST OF ENEMY FIRE. THE REMAINDER OF THE COMPANY ALSO REPORTED HEAVY CASUALTIES. PFC LEE, WITH COMPLETE CALMNESS, RELAYED RADIO TRANSMISSIONS BETWEEN THE COMPANY COMMANDER AND HIS PLATOON LEADER, WHILE MOVING TO THE SQUAD WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, PFC LEE STEADILY INFORMED THE SQUAD LEADERS OF THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION AND RELAYED SWIFT AND PRECISE MANEUVER ORDERS FROM THE PLATOON LEADER. ARRIVING AT THE LOCATION OF THE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, PFC LEE IMMEDIATELY ASSISTED IN THE APPLICATION OF BASIC LIFESAVING STEPS TO SEVERAL MEN. HE THEN MOVED TO THE FOREMOST POINT OF CONTACT TO PROVIDE COVERING FIRE WHILE OTHERS CARED FOR THE WOUNDED. DUE TO THE IMPENETRABLE WALL OF JUNGLE GROWTH ON BOTH SIDES OF THE TRAIL, WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ENEMY KILLING ZONE HAD TO BE ACCOMPLISHED ONLY BY MOVING BACK ALONG THE ROUTE OF ENTRANCE, WHICH WAS NOW BLOCKED BY A FURIOUS HAIL OF ENEMY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. UNABLE TO WITHDRAW, SEVERAL MORE MEN WERE WOUNDED AND FELL IN EXPOSED POSITIONS. REGARDLESS OF THE INTENSE HAIL OF ENEMY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE AND EXPLODING RPG ROCKETS IMPACTING WITHIN INCHES OF HIM, PFC LEE QUICKLY MOVED FORWARD AND PHYSICALLY ASSISTED THESE MEN TO A SAFER LOCATION. WHEN THE COMPANY HAD SUFFICIENTLY CARED FOR ALL ITS WOUNDED, A GENERAL ASSAULT ON THE ENEMY POSITION BEGAN. MOVING ON THE FORWARD LINE OF ASSAULT FOR THE DURATION OF THE BATTLE, PFC LEE MAINTAINED CLOSE RADIO CONTACT WITH ALL SUB-ELEMENTS AND WAS QUICK TO RELAY PRECISE AND INTERPRETABLE COMMANDS FROM HIS PLATOON LEADER. UNDER CONTINUOUS ENEMY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE FROM ABOVE AS WELL AS BELOW, PFC LEE AND THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF HIS PLATOON FIGHT FEVERISHLY FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR HOURS, AND AT LAST SUCCESSFULLY BREAKING THROUGH THE ENEMY FRONT PERIMETER. AT THIS TIME ONLY FIVE MEN FROM PFC LEE'S PLATOON WERE ABLE TO CONTINUE, PFC LEE BEING ONE OF THE FIVE. WHILE RAPIDLY MOVING ON THE TRAIL TOWARD THE ENEMY BUNKER, PFC LEE MOMENTARILY OBSERVED FOUR ENEMY VIETNAMESE ARMY SOLDIERS WITH AN RPG ROCKET LAUNCHER AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, LYING IN WAIT. THE LEAD MAN OF THE FIVE AMERICANS, BEING TOTALLY UNABLE TO CONCEAL HIS POSITION, CONTINUED FORWARD, REALIZING THE PERIL THAT AWAITED HIS COMRADES, AND AT THE SAME TIME WEIGHING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATIONS AGAINST THAT OF SAVING THEIR LIVES. PFC LEE INSTANTLY SURRENDERED HIS RADIO TO THE NEAREST MAN AND WITH UTTER DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY CHARGED THE ENEMY POSITION. SUDDENLY THE ENEMY FORCE CONCENTRATED A FURIOUS BARRAGE OF COMBINED RPG ROCKET AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE ON PFC LEE, INSISTED WITH THE DUE NECESSITY OF DESTROYING ALL IMMEDIATE DANGER TO HIS PLATOON. PFC LEE HALTED HIS CHARGE ONLY WHEN HE HAD DESTROYED ALL OCCUPANTS OF THE ENEMY POSITION. FOUR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND ONE RPG ROCKET LAUNCHER, COMPLETE WITH ORDNANCE, WERE CAPTURED. UNKNOWN TO PFC LEE, THE ENEMY DEFENSIVE PERIMETER SURROUNDING THE COMBINE BUNKERS HAD BEEN PENETRATED BY HIS COURAGEOUS ASSAULT. THE POSITION NOW OCCUPIED BY PFC LEE PROVIDED AN UNOBSCURED VIEW OF SEVERAL ENEMY POSITIONS. THE ENEMY BUNKERS TO PFC LEE'S IMMEDIATE RIGHT AND LEFT HAD, AT THIS TIME, CONCENTRATED THE FULL WEIGHT OF THEIR FIRE POWER ON HIS REMAINING PLATOON MEMBERS. ACCEPTING THE FACT THAT HE HAD NO HIGH GROUND WITHIN THE ENEMY STRONGHOLD, AND THAT HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAPITALIZE ON THE ADVANTAGE TO ASSIST HIS PLATOON, PFC LEE MOVED FORWARD, EMPLOYING FIRE AND MOVEMENT TECHNIQUES. HE SWIFTLY APPROACHED HIS CHOSEN OBJECTIVE, TO BRING THE SWIFT ONSLAUGHT. ENEMY ELEMENTS INSTANTLY OBSERVED BY PFC LEE SUDDENLY Poured A DEADLY HAIL OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE, NORMALLY WOUNDING HIM. ALTHOUGH COMPLETELY EXPOSED AND FORCED TO CRAWL, PFC LEE MADE NO HEAD TO THE EXCRUCIATING PAIN AS HE RESUMED HIS STEADY VOLUME OF SUPPRESSIVE FIRE. UNDER THIS LAST SUPPORTING FIRE, THE FRIENDLY ELEMENT SWIFTLY ADVANCED ON THE ENEMY BUNKER. STILL CHARGING FORWARD, AND MAINTAINING COVERING FIRE FOR HIS ASSAULTING COMRADES, PFC LEE HELD CONSCIOUSNESS UNTIL TRAIL APPEARED THAT HIS COMRADES HAD COMPLETELY OVERRUN AND SILENCED THE ENEMY BUNKER. THE REMAINING FOUR MEMBERS WERE THEN JOINED BY A FRIENDLY PLATOON FROM THEIR LEFT FLANK. UPON LATER INSPECTION OF THE BATTLEFIELD IT BECAME QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THE TWO BUNKERS ASSAULTED AND CAPTURED BY PFC LEE HAD BEEN THE KEYS TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FINAL AND TOTAL VICTORY. THE ENEMY WOULD NOT BE CAPTURED BY PFC LEE, EVEN THOUGH IT REQUIRED THE SUPREME SACRIFICE, WERE HIGHLY DOUBTFUL THAT THE LIVES OF THE FOUR REMAINING MEMBERS WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED. AS IT WAS PFC LEE'S ACTIONS PRECIPITATED THE DISORDERLY WITHDRAWAL OF THE REMAINING ENEMY BUNKERS IN THE AREA AND CAUSED TO BE ABANDONED VALUABLE ENEMY DOCUMENTS, AN AMMUNITION STORAGE AREA, FOUR ENEMY BODIES, AND FIVE WEAPONS. PFC LEE'S CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY, EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM, AND INTEGRITY, AT THE COST OF HIS OWN LIFE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

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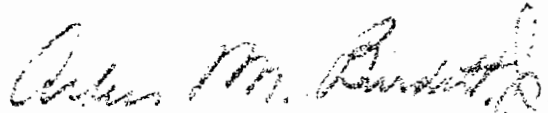
RA15939258 (19 Dec 68)
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

DA, HQ, 101st Airborne Division, APO San Francisco 96383

THRU: Commanding General, Headquarters XXIV Corps, APO 96308

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO 96375

1. The attached recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor to Private First Class Milton Lee, United States Army, has been carefully reviewed by the 101st Airborne Division Awards and Decorations Board. Information contained on the recommendation has been verified and is accurate.
2. My decision reflects a considered evaluation of the recommendation, and I recommend downgrading to the Distinguished Service Cross.
3. This recommendation is not in contravention with AR 600-31.



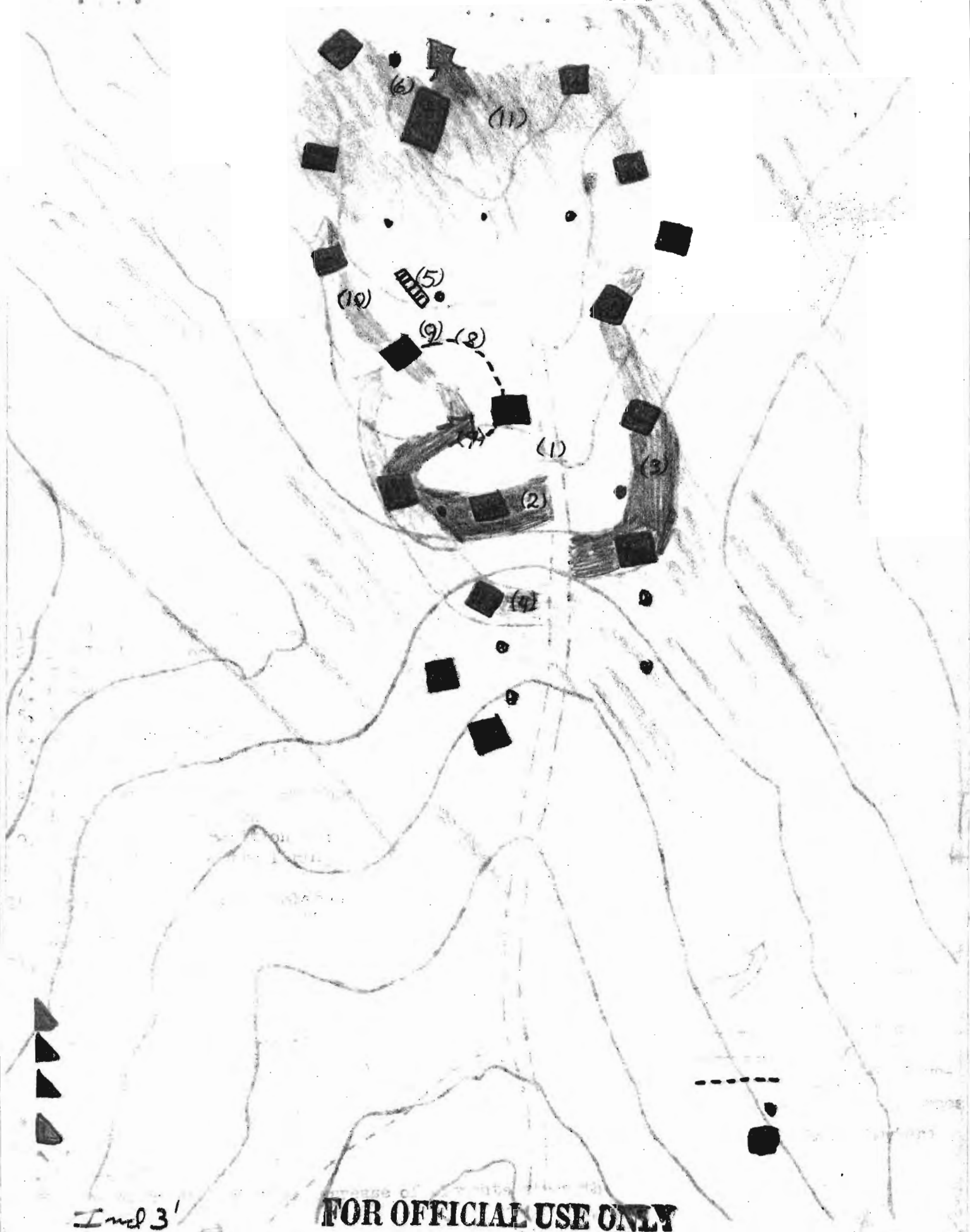
ALLEN M. BURDETT, JR.
Brigadier General, USA
Acting Commanding General

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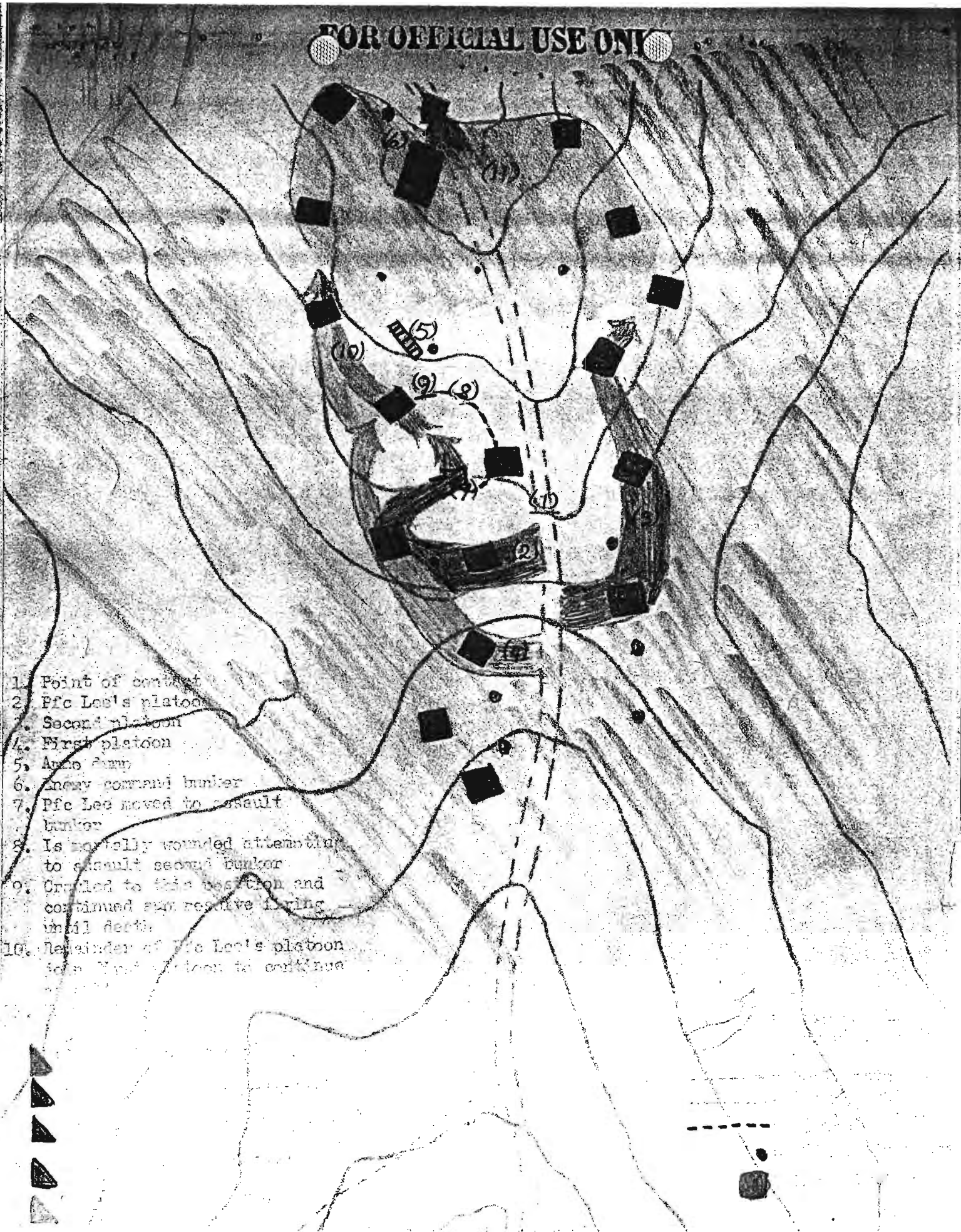


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1. Point of contact
2. Pfc Lee's platoon
3. Second platoon
4. First platoon
5. Ammo dump
6. Enemy command bunker
7. Pfc Lee moved to assault bunker
8. Is mortally wounded attempting to assault second bunker
9. Crawled to this position and continued suppressive firing until death
10. Remainder of Pfc Lee's platoon soon had to look to continue



Incl 3'

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**AVHAG-PD LEE, Milton 3d Ind
(31 Aug 68)**

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO 96372 1 MAR 1969

**TO: Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam,
APO 96222**

1. Recommend the Distinguished Service Cross be approved as the final award.
2. The recommendation for the Medal of Honor does not meet the criteria outlined in paragraph 24, AR 672-5-1. Private First Class Lee displayed extraordinary heroism; however, the degree of heroism was not sufficient to merit award of the Medal of Honor.

5 Insi (Relisted)

1. Smt - CPT Lohemia
2. Smt - SP4 Grago
3. Map
4. Proposed Citation
5. Summary of Recommendation

**FRANK T. MILBREN
Lieutenant General, US Army
Deputy Commanding General**

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STATEMENT

While conducting a search and destroy mission near the city of Phu Bai, Republic of Viet Nam, the third platoon of Bravo Company was contact with a numerically superior force of VC soldiers. On the initial burst more than fifty percent were casualties for Private First Class Milton Lee's platoon. From the beginning, PFC Lee assumed aggressive actions and was always up front in all assaults on the enemy position. Disregarding his own safety, PFC Lee constantly exposed himself to enemy fire while retrieving and caring for the wounded. As the Platoon Leader's VC, PFC Lee constantly relayed self maneuver orders from the Company Commander, and in turn advised the sub-elements of the immediate situation. As the last assault began on the enemy position, PFC Lee and four other men moved forward. As the five men moved forward, PFC Lee shot down four VC soldiers willing to assist the remaining members of his platoon. PFC Lee immediately gave up his rifle and charged the enemy position. Completely overrunning the position, he was responsible for saving the friendly troops and accounted for a total of four enemy dead, one VC rocket launcher and four automatic weapons. Without hesitation, he maneuvered on a second enemy position, now concentrating their entire fire power on his remaining platoon members. As they moved forward, another enemy position, unobserved by PFC Lee, mortally wounded him. With utter disregard for his own painful wounds, he continued to crawl forward and place suppressive fire on the enemy position. After cover of PFC Lee's last suppressive fire, the friendly element was able to maneuver on the enemy position and destroy all elements remaining. Immediately following, a large element from PFC Lee's company joined the remaining four men, and were then successful in routing all enemy soldiers in the surrounding area. In ammunition dump full of VC rockets were found nearby. PFC Lee's actions accounted for a total of four enemy killed and five enemy weapons captured.

//////////////////////////////////////END OF STATEMENT

/s/THOMAS LATTIN JR
 P/Thomas Lattin Jr
 CPT, 1ST BATTALION
 Executive Officer

STATEMENT

Edward J. Miller
 PFC, 1ST BATTALION
 1st Platoon

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STATEMENT

While conducting a search and destroy mission, near the city of Thu Xat, Province of Tay Ninh, contact was made with a numerically superior force of North Vietnamese Army Regulars. The enemy attack was initiated with speed and accuracy to result in fifty percent casualties for Private First Class Milton Lee's platoon. From the beginning, PFC Lee assumed aggressive actions and moved with the forward element in all assaults on the enemy complex. Throughout the enemy automatic weapons fire, he constantly exposed himself to retrieve and care for wounded. As the Platoon Leader, he constantly relayed swift maneuver orders from the Company Commander, and in turn advised the subaltern of the immediate situation. As the final assault began on the enemy complex, only five men from PFC Lee's platoon moved forward; PFC Lee being one of the five. As the five men approached the enemy held terrain, PFC Lee observed four North Vietnamese Army soldiers, waiting to ambush the final members of his platoon. PFC Lee immediately gave up his rifle and charged the enemy position. Completely overrunning the position, he was responsible for saving the friendly troops and accounted for four enemy heavy mortars, one RPG rocket launcher and four automatic weapons. Without hesitation, he maneuvered on a second enemy position, now concentrating their entire fire power on his remaining platoon members. Thanks to his objective, another enemy position, unobserved by PFC Lee, mortally wounded him. With utter disregard for his painful wound, he continued to crawl forward and place suppressive fire on the enemy position. Under cover of PFC Lee's last supporting fire, the friendly element was able to maneuver on the enemy bunkers and destroy all occupants remaining alive. Immediately following, a large element from PFC Lee's company joined the remaining four men and were successful in routing all enemy soldiers in the surrounding area. In addition two full of RPG rockets was found nearby. PFC Lee's actions accounted for a total of four enemy killed and five enemy weapons captured.////

1st Lt. Milton Lee
Platoon Leader
1st Platoon, 1st Company
1st Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry
1st Air Cavalry Division
1st Air Cavalry Division
1st Air Cavalry Division

Milton Lee
MILTON LEE
1st Platoon, 1st Company
1st Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry
1st Air Cavalry Division

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PROPOSED CITATION

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, UNDER THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS APPROVED 12 JULY 1962, THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY AT THE RISK OF LIFE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY IS AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY IN THE NAME OF CONGRESS TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MILTON LEE IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE ON 26 APRIL 1968, NEAR THE CITY OF PHU BAI, REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM. PFC LEE WAS THE PLATOON LEADER'S RADIO TELEPHONE OPERATOR IN THE THIRD PLATOON OF COMPANY B. THE THIRD PLATOON, BEING LEAD ELEMENT FOR THE COMPANY, APPROACHED THE ENTRANCE TO A MAIN TRAIL AND SUDDENLY RECEIVED INTENSE HOSTILE FIRE FROM AN UNKNOWN SIZE BUNKERED FORCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY REGULARS. THE ENEMY FORCE WAS EQUIPPED WITH RPG ROCKET LAUNCHERS, LIGHT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, 30 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS AND GRENADES. THESE WEAPONS WERE USED EXTENSIVELY ON PFC LEE'S PLATOON FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR HOURS. SNIPERS WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS WERE ALSO PLACED IN TREES SURROUNDING THE ENEMY'S AMBUSH SITE. THE AMBUSH WAS INITIATED SO SUDDENLY THAT FIFTY PERCENT OF PFC LEE'S PLATOON BECAME CASUALTIES. THE REMAINDER OF THE PLATOON SWIFTLY MANEUVERED TO A POSITION OF COVER TO TREAT THEIR WOUNDED AND PLAN A ROUTE OF ASSAULT. PFC LEE MOVED THROUGH THE ENEMY FIRE SEVERAL TIMES GIVING LIFE SAVING FIRST AID TO HIS WOUNDED COMRADES. THE ASSAULT WAS INITIATED QUICKLY AND THE MANEUVER BEGAN. PFC LEE'S PLATOON WAS ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF FLANKING THE ENEMY ON THE LEFT SLOPE OF THE HILL. STAYING ON THE FORWARD LINE OF CONTACT, PFC LEE CONTINUOUSLY KEPT CLOSE RADIO CONTACT WITH THE COMPANY COMMANDER AND QUICKLY RELAYED PRECISE AND UNDERSTANDABLE MANEUVER ORDERS TO HIS PLATOON LEADER. ALL THE WHILE HE MOVED WITH THE

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FRONT RANKS, ASSAULTING TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE, PFC LEE OBSERVED FOUR NVA SOLDIERS WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND AN RPG ROCKET LAUNCHER, LYING IN WAIT OF THE LEAD ELEMENT OF PFC LEE'S PLATOON. THE LEAD ELEMENT, BEING FULLY UNAWARE OF THE CONCEALED DANGER, CONTINUED ON. PFC LEE, IMMEDIATELY AND WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY, CHARGED THE ENEMY, PLACING CONTINUOUS M-16 FIRE DIRECTLY INTO THE ENEMY POSITION. DURING THIS TIME, THE ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE PLACING A MURDEROUS HAIL OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE ON THE ONCOMING PFC LEE. WITHOUT HESITATION HE CONTINUED HIS STEADFAST MANEUVER UNTIL HE WAS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE ENEMY POSITION. BRINGING HIS MISSION TO A HALT, PFC LEE COMPLETELY OVERRAN THE POSITION, KILLING ALL OCCUPANTS AND CAPTURING FOUR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND A ROCKET LAUNCHER, COMPLETE WITH ROCKETS. BEING THIS FAR INTO THE ENEMY COMPLEX GAVE PFC LEE COMPLETE OBSERVANCE OF REMAINING POSITIONS. SEEKING ANOTHER POSITION TO HIS LEFT FLANK, PFC LEE, AGAIN WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY, CHARGED FORWARD AGAIN THROUGH THE HEAVY BARRAGE OF ENEMY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE, WHICH WAS NOW DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY ON PFC LEE TO IMPED HIS FORWARD ASSAULT. WHILE RAPIDLY CLOSING ON HIS OBJECTIVE, PFC LEE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. PFC LEE, NOT TO BE STOPPED IN HIS ~~MISSION~~^{ESSENTIAL} MISSION AND NEEDLESS OF THE EXCRUCIATING PAIN, CRAWLED FORWARD INTO VIEW OF HIS OBJECTIVE AND CONTINUED TO PUT OUT A STEADY VOLUME OF SUPPRESSIVE FIRE. UNDER PFC LEE'S LAST SUPPORTING FIRE HIS PLATOON WAS ABLE TO MANEUVER ON AND DESTROY THE POSITION. NOT UNTIL THE POSITION WAS DISPOSED OF DID PFC LEE FALTER IN HIS STEADY VOLUME OF FIRE. PFC LEE'S HEROIC ACTIONS SAVED THE LIVES OF THE LEAD ELEMENT AND CAUSED THE REMAINING ENEMY SOLDIERS TO WITHDRAW, LEAVING BEHIND EQUIPMENT, ~~ESSENTIAL~~^{ESSENTIAL} TO THEIR CAUSE, AND NUMEROUS DEAD. PFC LEE'S OUTSTANDING DISPLAY OF CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY AT THE RISK OF LIFE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

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Summary of Recommendation

1. Name, grade, and service number: 1st Lt Milton, Pfc 53 41400024
2. Status: Radio Telephone Operator
3. Organization (at the time of the action): Third Platoon, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne) 42d Infantry, 1st Airborne Division
4. Next of Kin: Mrs. Ruth Campion, Rt 2, Box 4724, San Antonio, Texas 78221
5. Names of persons who assisted in the act: None
6. Conditions under which the act was performed:
 - a. Location: Near the city of Phu Bai.
 - b. Date: 26 April 1969
 - c. Terrain: Mountainous terrain, thickly vegetated, large trees, overhead canopy.
 - d. Weather: Steady rain, cold
 - e. Army conditions: Heavy bunker complex, sniper in trees throughout the area
 - f. Performer's condition - physical and emotional: Battle fatigue due to several hours of continuous fighting, PFC Lee stayed calm during the entire engagement.
 - g. Narrative description of act.

During a search and destroy operation near the city of Phu Bai, contact was made with a numerically superior force of North Vietnamese Army regulars. The enemy ambush was initiated with speed and accuracy that resulted in fifty percent casualties for Private First Class Milton Lee's platoon. From the beginning, PFC Lee assumed aggressive actions and moved with the foremost element in all assaults on the enemy complex. Regarding the enemy automatic weapons fire, he constantly exposed himself to retrieve and care for wounded. As the platoon leader's XO, he constantly relayed and maneuver orders from the company commander and in turn advised the sub-elements of the immediate situations. As the final assault began on the main complex, PFC Lee observed four North Vietnamese Army soldiers, waiting to ambush the final members of his platoon. PFC Lee immediately gave up his radio and charged the enemy position. Completely overrunning the position, he was responsible for saving the friendly troops and accounted for four enemy dead, one PFC rocket launcher and four automatic weapons. Without hesitation, he maneuvered on a second enemy position, now concentrating their entire fire power on his remaining platoon members. Thanks to this objective, a third enemy position, unobserved by PFC Lee, mortally wounded him. With utter disregard for his painful wound, he continued to crawl forward and place suppressive fire on the enemy position. Under cover of PFC Lee's last supporting fire, the friendly element was able to maneuver on the enemy bunker and destroy all occupants. Immediately following, a large element joined the remainder of PFC Lee's platoon and were then successful in routing the entire enemy force on that side of the complex. In ammunition dumps full of RPG rockets was found nearby. PFC Lee's actions accounted for a total of four enemy killed and five enemy weapons captured.

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DISPOSITION FORM

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REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL MACAG-PD	SUBJECT Recommendation for Award
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THRU ~~ACofS, J1~~ FROM AG DATE 107 CMT 1
 TO CofS MAJ Vinton/gmm/2274

1. PURPOSE. To obtain signature of COMUSMACV on the forwarding indorsement at Tab A to the recommendation for award at Tab B.

2. DISCUSSION.

a. At Tab B is a recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to Private First Class Milton Lee, RA15959258, United States Army.

b. The Senior MACV Awards Board recommended award of the Distinguished Service Cross in lieu of the Medal of Honor. AG recommended to ACofS, J1 that notwithstanding the recommendation of intervening commanders, a close review of the recommendation and supporting documents indicates that the acts performed by Private First Class Lee were similar to those for which the Medal of Honor has been recommended and favorably considered in the past. ACofS, J1 approved this recommendation (See Tab C).

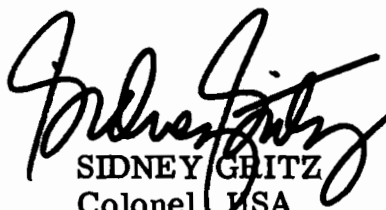
c. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have, in the past, requested this headquarters to reconsider its recommendation in conjunction with similar cases where the soldier had displayed exceptional initiative and intrepidity. The recommendation attached at Tab B is equally as descriptive of gallantry, bravery, initiative and intrepidity as were other similar cases for which the Medal of Honor has been approved.



d. The recommendations of intervening headquarters are as follows:

CG, 101st Abn Div	DSC
Chief of Staff, XXIV Corps	DSC
Deputy CG, USARV	DSC

3. RECOMMENDATION. Signature of COMUSMACV on indorsement at Tab A recommending approval of the Medal of Honor (posthumously) and return correspondence to this office for dispatch.

3 Incl
as


 SIDNEY GRITZ
 Colonel, USA
 Adjutant General


 446 IND FOR MEDAL OF HONOR
 Signed/Approved by COMUSMACV
 12 APR 1969


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REPLACES DD FORM 96, EXISTING SUPPLIES OF WHICH WILL BE ISSUED AND USED UNTIL 1 FEB 63 UNLESS SOONER EXHAUSTED.

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MACAG-PD

Recommendation for Award

ACofS, J1

AG

2 APR 1969
MAJ Vinton/rwv/2274

1. The Senior MACV Awards and Decorations Board has considered the recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor pertaining to Private First Class Milton Lee, United States Army, and the decision of the board is as shown at Tab A.
2. Recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor is attached at Tab B.
3. Recommendations of intervening commanders are as follows:

Acting CG, 101st Abn Div	DSC
Chief of Staff, XXIV Corps	DSC
Deputy CG, USARV	DSC
4. A close review of the recommendation and supporting documents indicates that the acts performed by Private First Class Lee were similar to those for which the Medal of Honor has been recommended and favorably considered in the past.
5. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, have in the past, requested this headquarters to reconsider its recommendation in conjunction with similar cases where the soldier had displayed exceptional initiative and intrepidity. The recommendation attached at Tab B is equally as descriptive of gallantry, bravery, initiative and intrepidity as were other similar cases for which the Medal of Honor has been approved.
6. Recommend that the decision of the Awards Board be overruled and that a recommendation be prepared for signature of COMUSMACV concurring in the award of the Medal of Honor.

2 Incl
as

SIDNEY GRITZ
Colonel, USA
Acting President

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MACAG-PD

Recommendation for Award

X THRU ACofS, J1
TO CofS

AG

MAJ Vinton/gmm/2274

1. PURPOSE. To obtain signature of COMUSMACV on the forwarding indorsement at Tab A to the recommendation for award at Tab B.

2. DISCUSSION.

a. At Tab B is a recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to Private First Class Milton Lee, RA15959258, United States Army.

b. The Senior MACV Awards Board recommended award of the Distinguished Service Cross in lieu of the Medal of Honor. AG recommended to ACofS, J1 that notwithstanding the recommendation of intervening commanders, a close review of the recommendation and supporting documents indicates that the acts performed by Private First Class Lee were similar to those for which the Medal of Honor has been recommended and favorably considered in the past. ACofS, J1 approved this recommendation (See Tab C).

c. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have, in the past, requested this headquarters to reconsider its recommendation in conjunction with similar cases where the soldier had displayed exceptional initiative and intrepidity. The recommendation attached at Tab B is equally as descriptive of gallantry, bravery, initiative and intrepidity as were other similar cases for which the Medal of Honor has been approved.

d. The recommendations of intervening headquarters are as follows:

CG, 101st Abn Div
Chief of Staff, XXIV Corps
Deputy CG, USARV

DSC
DSC
DSC

3. RECOMMENDATION. Signature of COMUSMACV on indorsement at Tab A recommending approval of the Medal of Honor (posthumously) and return correspondence to this office for dispatch.

3 Incl
as

SIDNEY GRITZ
Colonel, USA
Adjutant General

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TAB A INCORSEMENT
TAB B RECOMMENDATION
TAB C DF

Notwithstanding the recommendation of intervening commanders, a close review of the ~~recommendation~~ recommendation and supporting documents indicates that the acts performed by Private First Class Lee were similar to those for which the Medal of Honor has been recommended and favorably considered in the past.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff, have in the past, requested this headquarters to reconsider its recommendation in conjunction with similar cases where the soldier had displayed exceptional initiative and intrepidity. The recommendation attached at TAB B is equally as descriptive of gallantry, bravery, initiative and intrepidity as were other similar cases for which the Medal of Honor has been approved.

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DISPOSITION FORM

(AR 340-15)

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

SUBJECT

MACAG-PD

Recommendation for Award

~~EX~~ THRU ACofS, J1
TO CofS

FROM AG

DATE
MAJ Vinton/gmm/2274

CMT 1

1. PURPOSE. To obtain signature of COMUSMACV on the forwarding indorsement at Tab A to the recommendation for award at Tab B.

2. DISCUSSION.

a. At Tab B is a recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to Private First Class Milton Lee, RA15959258, United States Army.

AG recommended to AC of S, J1 that . AC of S, J1 approved the recommendation

b. The Senior MACV Awards Board recommended award of the Distinguished Service Cross in lieu of the Medal of Honor. The ACofS, J1 did not concur in the Board's recommendation (See Tab C). Notwithstanding the recommendation of intervening commanders, a close review of the recommendation and supporting documents indicates that the acts performed by Private First Class Lee were similar to those for which the Medal of Honor has been recommended and favorably considered in the past.

c. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have, in the past, requested this headquarters to reconsider its recommendation in conjunction with similar cases where the soldier had displayed exceptional initiative and intrepidity. The recommendation attached at Tab B is equally as descriptive of gallantry, bravery, initiative and intrepidity as were other similar cases for which the Medal of Honor has been approved.

d. The recommendations of intervening headquarters are as follows:

CG, 101st Abn Div
Chief of Staff, XXIV Corps
Deputy CG, USARV

DSC
DSC
DSC

3. RECOMMENDATION. Signature of COMUSMACV on indorsement at Tab A recommending approval of the Medal of Honor (posthumously) and return correspondence to this office for dispatch.

3 Incl
as

SIDNEY GRITZ
Colonel, USA
Adjutant General

DA FORM 2496
1 FEB 62

REPLACES DD FORM 96, EXISTING SUPPLIES OF WHICH WILL BE
ISSUED AND USED UNTIL 1 FEB 63 UNLESS SOONER EXHAUSTED.

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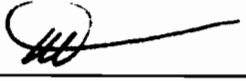
HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
Office of the Adjutant General
Awards and Decorations Branch

8 Apr

MEMO TO:

~~AGP~~
~~DAG~~
HQ
AGPD

Reprepare as indicated.
Please Xwhite


ROBERT W. VINTON
MAJ, USA
Ch, Awd & Dec Br

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Col Moninelli

MEMO TO

Col Lane

Maj. Vinton

*SMP. (After 1400hrs)
today*



SIDNEY GRITZ
Colonel, USA
Adjutant General

DN

4

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
Office of the Adjutant General
Awards and Decorations Branch

25 Mar

MEMO TO: *Colonel Gutz*

For signature

MOT case



ROBERT W. VINTON
MAJ, USA
Ch, Awds & Dec Br