

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAN DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 8241

26 October 1968

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

RUSSELL, ALBERT L JR 064277 (SSAN 188-16-7667), LIEUTENANT COLONEL, ARMOR,
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 11th
Infantry Brigade APO 96217

Awarded: Silver Star

Date action: 5 September 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against an armed hostile force in the
of Vietnam. Lieutenant Colonel Russell distinguished himself
intrepid actions on 5 September 1968 while serving as battalion
commander of the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 11th Infantry Bri
On that date, Company D, 4th Battalion, was participating in O
Champaign Grove when they made contact with a dug in hostile fo
undetermined size. During the initial exchange of fire, the company
sustained two wounded and one killed. Realizing that the wounded men
needed medical attention, Colonel Russell ordered the pilot of his
command and control helicopter to land and evacuate them. He then
ordered the pickup zone marked with smoke. Coming in on a short
final approach, his aircraft began receiving heavy hostile automatic
weapons fire from three locations. Prior to touchdown and short of
the pickup zone, the aircraft crashed. Disregarding the heavy enemy
automatic weapons fire directed at the aircraft, Colonel Russell
remained in the helicopter to check the wounded. After assisting
the wounded aircraft commander from the downed chopper, Colonel
Russell pulled the mortally wounded artillery liaison officer from
the aircraft. By this time personnel from Company D arrived at the
ash site. They assisted Colonel Russell in moving the wounded pilot
and dead artillery officer to a safe position. Colonel Russell
then returned to the downed helicopter, acquired a radio, and began
calling in gunships and artillery fire against the insurgents.
Under his direction, armed helicopters, artillery, and ground forces
effectively neutralized the hostile positions. Lieutenant Colonel
Russell's personal heroism, professional competence, and devotion
to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military
service and reflect great credit upon himself, the American Divi
of the United States Army.

By the authority of the President
approved 9 J

the provisions of the Act