

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE
APO San Francisco 96304

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 769

"GUY HILL"

2 February 1971

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR MERIT

TO 459. The following AWARD is announced.

CUNNINGHAM, THOMAS O.
(Airborne)

SERGEANT Company C (Ranger), 75th Infantry

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) with "V" Device

Date of service: 2 November 1970

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, AR 672-5-1 and USARV Supplement 1 to AR 672-5-1 dated 10 August 1970.

Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Sergeant Cunningham distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions when his team sighted 67 enemy soldiers moving along a trail that the team had placed under surveillance. Calling for helicopter gunship and artillery support, he directed their fire on the enemy in such a way as to drive the enemy into the six-man team's ambush. A reaction force was inserted to exploit the team's contact, and the force moved along the trail until the tracks ended. They then began to set up a night defensive position when they heard moaning, and half the platoon swept the area for 100 meters until they came under intense enemy fire. The platoon was falling back leaving much equipment behind when Sergeant Cunningham and his team pressed them to get the wounded and bring them back. With the loss of their leaders, the platoon fell apart. Sergeant Cunningham, after insuring that the wounded were extracted, set about organizing the perimeter. He assigned fields of fire and throughout the night patrolled the perimeter insuring that each man knew what was expected of him. In the morning Sergeant Cunningham set out to secure the contact site and recovered several weapons, equipment, and the remaining platoon sergeant. Sergeant Cunningham's personal bravery and leadership ability were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

CHARLES R. SMITH
Colonel, Infantry
Chief of Staff

A. T. KUNZMAN
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 769, dated 2 February 1971, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO San Francisco 96384 (cont)

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