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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 199TH INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEP) (LIGHT)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96279

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 43

13 January 1968

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

LAFON, RICHARD H RA11607249 () PFC E3

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Effective month: January 1968

Date action: 27 October 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Private First Class Lafon distinguished himself by heroic actions in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 October 1967 while assigned to the Long Range Patrol Detachment, 199th Light Infantry Brigade. On that afternoon, the mission of the six man patrol was to remain in an area controlled by the Viet Cong in Gia Dinh Province near Saigon. Because the patrol had encountered two Viet Cong the previous night, Private First Class Lafon and his fellow team members volunteered to remain in the area to determine if they had discovered a Viet Cong infiltration route. During daylight hours they were to observe enemy activity and at nightfall to establish a clandestine surveillance position. At 2115 hours the patrol leader reported by radio that the enemy could be heard moving in the vicinity. As the insurgents approached their position, the patrol leader requested a concentration of artillery fire. Suddenly, the enemy, using grenades, small arms fire and claymore mines attacked the six men. During the attack, Private First Class Lafon was dazed by the explosion of a grenade. By the time he regained consciousness the Viet Cong had withdrawn, four of his fellow members were mortally wounded, the fifth man was grievously wounded, and the radio communication equipment was damaged. After administering first aid to the man still alive, he collected the radio equipment, starlight scopes, weapons, and the patrol logbook which contained detailed notes and descriptions of the area. For over nine and a half hours, Private First Class Lafon calmly comforted his dying comrade as the Viet Cong moved around his position. At daylight, as a gunship helicopter flew overhead, he signaled with a flare. After the mortally wounded sergeant was evacuated, Private First Class Lafon remained at his position until the bodies of his comrades were removed. Refusing to be evacuated until he was debriefed, Private First Class Lafon's voluntary actions and exemplary devotion to duty materially assisted the planning of combat operations by providing accurate and timely intelligence information. Private First Class Lafon's unquestionable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, and the United States Army

Authority: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96262

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 6363

13 October 1969

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced:

JOYCE, GARY P SPECIALIST FOUR United States Army, Co E, 58th Inf
(LRP) 4th Inf Div, APO 96262

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Date actions: 11-15 November 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam


Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Joyce distinguished himself while serving as a member of a Long Range Patrol with Company K, 75th Infantry (Rangers), 4th Infantry Division. During the period 11-15 November 1968, Specialist Joyce voluntarily participated in a four man Long Range Patrol into enemy held territory which was unsupported by friendly units. The team evaded the enemy for three nights and reported enemy positions which proved valuable in planning a large scale offensive operation within the same area. On the fourth day, the team was engaged by intense enemy automatic fire. Because of their competence and ability to react quickly, the team was able to break contact and call for extraction. They returned to G-2 with invaluable information of and photographs of enemy personnel and vehicle trails. Specialist Four Joyce's courageous actions, initiative, and exemplary devotion to 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.

Authority: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

GORDON J. DUQUEMIN
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff


P. C. WEDDLE
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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