

D'AVIGNON, GEORGE C 05315074 CAPTAIN INFANTRY United States Army
Company D, 1st Bn, 35th Inf, 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div APO 96262
Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross Date action: 15 April 1968 Theater:
Vietnam.

CITATION

Captain George C. D'Avignon, 05315074, distinguished himself in combat operations against an armed hostile force on or about 1400 hours, 15 April 1968, west of Kontum City, Republic of Vietnam. Captain D'Avignon, Company Commander, Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, was with his unit while engaged in combat operations with an estimated North Vietnamese reinforced company.

Early on the afternoon of 15 April, Captain D'Avignon was directed to maneuver his company to the aid of Charlie Company which was then engaged in extremely heavy contact approximately one thousand meters north of the battalion fire base. Captain D'Avignon immediately alerted his three rifle platoons for movement to the battle. As the three platoons and Captain D'Avignon neared the contact area, they received intense hostile fire from their flanks, front, rear and plunging fire from snipers located in the trees. The enemy had at their disposal small arms, automatic weapons, light machine guns, rockets, and mortars, all of which they were employing effectively. Captain D'Avignon maneuvered his third platoon forward and commanded his first and second platoons to set up a defensive line to the rear of Charlie Company leaving an opening in the center. This later proved to be the only escape route for the badly hit company and insured their safe return to the perimeter taking the least number of casualties possible. At this time, Captain D'Avignon moved forward with his third platoon, charging the enemy positions. While advancing, Captain D'Avignon was hit in the thighs by rounds from an enemy machine gun position. Still in complete control of himself and his company, Captain D'Avignon continued moving forward, leading a devastating attack on the enemy positions. As he was moving forward, an enemy sniper fired two rounds which struck Captain D'Avignon in the back and exited through his stomach, causing a massive open cavity in his lower abdomen. Although seriously wounded, he continued leading his men. As Captain D'Avignon advanced, he reached an enemy machine gun position that was putting out a devastating amount of fire and causing several elements of his company to be pinned down. After reaching the machine gun position, Captain D'Avignon fired four rounds from his pump shotgun, killing the four members of the machine gun crew and destroying the weapon. While returning to the second platoon location, Captain D'Avignon spotted several seriously wounded members of his unit. Rushing to their aid, he immediately started giving first aid until medics could be summoned. As Captain D'Avignon was tending to one wounded man, another enemy sniper shot rang out striking Captain D'Avignon in the right shoulder. By this time, Captain D'Avignon had lost so much blood that he was unable to get to his unit. As the medics came, he redirected them to other wounded men. He made sure that all of the wounded had been taken to safety and then allowed the medics to treat and evacuate them.

Although seriously wounded and in great pain, Captain D'Avignon refused to give up, maintaining command of his unit until he was sure that all the wounded had been evacuated. As a result of Captain D'Avignon's fearless and professional actions, countless lives were saved and the morale and fighting effectiveness of his unit were boosted. Despite suffering four killed and sixteen wounded, Company D remained a solid, effective fighting force, inflicting severe casualties upon the enemy. Captain D'Avignon's personal bravery, devotion to duty, and endurance are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, our efforts in Vietnam, and the United States Army.

D'AVIGNON, GEORGE C 05315074 CAPTAIN INFANTRY United States Army
Co D, 1st Bn, 35th Inf, 4th Inf Div, APO 96355
Awarded: Silver Star Date action: 5 April 1968 Theater: Republic of Vietnam

CITATION

For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Captain D'Avignon distinguished himself while serving as Company Commander of Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. On 5 April 1968, Company A and Company C were engaged in heavy contact about one thousand meters from the battalion fire base situated west of Kontum City. As the fighting raged, a call for assistance was sent from the Commander of Company A to the Battalion Tactical Operations Center. Captain D'Avignon was directed to go to the aid of the stricken sister companies. At that time, Captain D'Avignon alerted his third platoon for immediate movement. As he maneuvered his unit toward the contact area, Captain D'Avignon could hear heavy small arms, automatic weapons, machine gun, and mortar fire. When the unit had approached the contact area, it was taken under intense fire by snipers firing from trees and other heavily camouflaged positions. With the initial burst, the point man was mortally wounded and the man behind him was seriously wounded. The platoon immediately sought cover and Captain D'Avignon moved down the trail to the wounded men. After giving them first aid, he detected a sniper's position and fired several rounds from his shotgun into it, eliminating the sniper. Captain D'Avignon returned, regrouped his platoon and while still under fire from the enemy, moved forward to the surrounded companies. Captain D'Avignon immediately sought the sister company's commander to determine the situation. The companies were completely surrounded by North Vietnamese Regulars and their perimeter was a small, close-knit circle. Captain D'Avignon then went outside the perimeter to more closely observe the enemy positions. Spotting three North Vietnamese Army soldiers, he eliminated them and returned to the perimeter. Then, with his platoon providing covering fire, Captain D'Avignon ordered the sister companies to start their withdrawal. After the sister companies had completed their withdrawal, Captain D'Avignon instructed his platoon to return to the fire base, Captain D'Avignon himself bringing up the rear to insure that all the wounded were evacuated. Captain D'Avignon's extraordinary gallantry, superb leadership 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.