

Authority 873541
 By [Signature] NARA Date 11/26/02

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HEROISM <input type="checkbox"/> MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE <small>(AR 672-8-1)</small>		PREPARE TO BEACH APPROV- ING AUTHORITY IN DUPLICATE.	DATE 9 March 1967
FROM: Commanding Officer 2d Bn, 5th Cav 1st Air Cav Div APO 96490	TO: Commanding General 1st Air Cav Div ATTN: AVDAAG-A&D APO 96490	FROM (Unit): Commanding Officer Co C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav 1st Air Cav Div APO 96490	

PART I - STATUS AT TIME OF RECOMMENDATION

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME LAUFFER, BILLY LANE	2. SERVICE NO. RA 19 748 034	3. GRADE PFC E-3	4. BRANCH (Or MOS II NO) 11B10
5. ORGANIZATION Co C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Air Cav Div	6. LEGAL RESIDENCE (Number, Street, City, and State)		
7. RECOMMENDED AWARD Medal of Honor	8. POSTHUMOUS AWARD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
9. NAME, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN Mr. Howard W. Lauffer (Father)			

PART II - STATUS AT TIME OF ACT OR SERVICE

10. SERVICE NUMBER RA 19 748 034	11. GRADE PFC E-3	12. BRANCH (Or MOS II NO) 11B10	13. ORGANIZATION Co C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Air Cav
14. HAS ALL SERVICE BEEN HONORABLE SUBSEQUENT TO THIS ACT OR SERVICE (If not, summarize 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 foreign decorations only when same period as this recommendation.) N/A			
17. DID YOU HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACT OR SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			

PART III - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM

18. WERE YOU AN EYE WITNESS TO THE ACT <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	19. IF CERTIFICATES OR AFFIDAVITS OR EYE WITNESSES OR PERSONS HAVING PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS ARE NOT INCLUDED, GIVE REASONS		
20. PERSONS IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OR WHO ASSISTED IN ACT OR SHARED IN SAME HAZARD			
a. FULL NAME	b. SERVICE NO.	c. GRADE	d. UNIT
Harry Stein	05326981	1LT	Co C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav
George Kenniston	RA51042073	SSG	Co C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav
21. IF ANY OF ABOVE PERSONS HAVE BEEN AWARDED OR RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR HEROISM FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACT, GIVE NAME AND TYPE OF AWARD N/A			

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED

e. LOCATION Coordinates BM667407	f. INCLUSIVE DATES 21 September 1966	g. TIME OF DAY 1830 hrs
d. CHARACTER AND CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND WEATHER The terrain was rocky and mountainous with dense vegetation. The weather was clear with high temperatures.		

23. DESCRIBE ENEMY CONDITIONS (Morale, Proximity, Fire, Observation, Casualties, and Action) what the enemy was doing and what it did as the result of the act.)
 The enemy was firmly entrenched in bunker positions with exceptionally good fire and observation. Their strength was estimated to be a rifle platoon reinforced by mortar. The rifle was high due to commanding terrain. Four [unclear] were [unclear].

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24. UNIT MORALE, CASUALTIES AND MISSION: INDICATE WHAT THE UNIT WAS DOING AT TIME OF ACT.

To provide a blocking force to prevent escape or infiltration of the enemy. Casualties of friendly forces included 7 KIA's and 8 WIA's. Unit morale was excellent.

25. WHAT WERE COMRADES WHO WERE IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY DOING - HOW DID THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACT.

Trying to maneuver against the enemy in order to suppress his fire and allow the wounded to be withdrawn.

PART IV - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE

26. UNIT, HEADQUARTERS, OR SECTION IN WHICH DUTY WAS PERFORMED

N/A

27. INCLUSIVE DATES FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED

N/A

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 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 21 September 1966, Company C, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry was participating in offensive combat against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Bong Son, Binh Dinh Province, Vietnam. At approximately 1000 hours, Private First Class Billy Lane Lauffer, RA 19 748 034, a member of the 1st Platoon, was moving with his squad from a landing zone which had been secured by his company to protect the air landing of Company D. Company C had been directed to resume their search and destroy operation and was moving from the landing zone along their assigned axis of advance. A prominent hill mass lay astride the company axis which required the unit commander to split his force by deploying the 3rd Platoon to the west while the 1st and 2nd Platoons marched in column to the south along the east side of the hill. Without warning Private First Class Lauffer's Platoon received intense automatic weapons fire from enemy ambush positions. The point man was immediately wounded and the remainder of the platoon was fixed by fire and could not maneuver. Simultaneously, the 2nd Platoon received enemy mortar fire. This platoon was directed to maneuver to the right and, with the 3rd

Continued

31. DESCRIBE EFFECTS OR RESULTS Enable the platoon to withdraw to commanding terrain and call in supporting forces of company. Enemy's loss of the enemy's territory discouraged large scale attack.

32. RELATED POSITION OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION TO PERSON BEING RECOMMENDED

Company Commander

33. IF APPROVED, FORWARD AWARD FOR PRESENTATION TO

34. INCLOSURES (Includes proposed citation, sketches and eye witness statements when required)

- 1. Proposed Citation
- 2. Sketch
- 3. Witness statement (Remick)
- 4. Witness statement (Stein)

35. TYPED NAME, GRADE, BRANCH, AND TITLE OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION

1 CHARLES E. STEIN
CPT, INFANTRY, 5th Cavalry, 2d Battalion

36. SIGNATURE

1 Charles E. Stein

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Item 30 (Cont)

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Platoon, to flank the enemy position. After moving west over a small hill which was located approximately 100 meters south of the enemy ambush site, the 2nd Platoon began to receive heavy automatic weapons fire from positions to its front and left flank. This fire killed two men and wounded three. The 3rd Platoon continued to maneuver around the right flank of the 2nd Platoon attempting to outflank the enemy positions and assist the 1st Platoon. At this instant the 3rd Platoon was fired upon by well entrenched enemy and could maneuver no further. Private First Class Lauffer was located toward the rear of the 1st Platoon position and was partially screened from enemy fire by thick undergrowth. He and the men immediately around him attempted to gain positions from which they could return fire. As the platoon leader was directing an air strike on the enemy positions, Private First Class Lauffer shouted to the point man, whom he and his companions could see, to determine whether or not he was still alive. He did not respond, and they concluded that he was probably dead. The battle had now been in progress for several hours and darkness was rapidly approaching. By this time Private First Class Lauffer had knowledge that his platoon had suffered two men killed and another two who were seriously wounded. Realizing that the grievously wounded men would have to be evacuated immediately, the 1st Platoon began to withdraw with Private First Class Lauffer's third squad leading. The platoon was ordered to circumvent the enemy positions by moving west and to link up with elements of Company B which had been committed to the south. Private First Class Lauffer's squad was followed by the 2nd squad which was carrying the litter patients and extra equipment from the dead and wounded. Suddenly the platoon was caught in an overwhelming and accurate crossfire delivered by enemy assault rifles and machine guns which instantly wounded the point man and fixed the platoon by fire. Private First Class Lauffer sought cover as the enemy fire moved toward him. Seeing that his entire squad was unable to maneuver, he aggressively returned fire in an attempt to gain fire superiority to permit the others from his squad to withdraw. However, the enemy fire continued and increased in volume which thwarted the withdrawal. His concern became even greater when he realized that the wounded point man could not withdraw, nor could aid be rendered to him and the litter patients who had been dropped in a position whereby they were lying completely exposed in the direct line of enemy fire. When he observed that the other men in his squad were scattered in various positions which precluded them from delivering effective covering fire, he then instinctively arose and aggressively charged the enemy machine gun position. This courageous act momentarily stunned the enemy gunners and Private First Class Lauffer capitalized on this action by delivering a deadly volume of automatic rifle fire against the enemy at their machine gun position. While Private First Class Lauffer kept the enemy off balance with his gallant one man charge, the wounded point man was able to crawl to a covered position and his companions were provided with the critical time required to successfully move the wounded litter patients from the deadly zone of hostile fire and to gain more advantageous positions from which to return fire upon the enemy. Private First Class Lauffer was fatally injured from multiple gunshot wounds during this selfless act of courage and devotion toward his fellow soldiers. As a result of his exceptionally inspirational and heroic actions, the surviving members of his platoon executed a successful withdrawal from their tenuous position to construct a perimeter where they established a defensive perimeter and secured the evacuation of the wounded.

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Summary of Recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor:

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Name: Billy Lane Lauffer

Status: Rifleman, Private First Class

Organization: Company J, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry,
1st Air Cavalry Division, Airmobile, RVN

Next of Kin: Mr. Howard V. Lauffer (Father)

Persons who assisted: N/A

Conditions under which act performed:

Location: Bong Son, Binh Dinh Province, RVN

Date: 1000 hours, 21 September 1966

Terrain: Rocky and mountainous with dense vegetation

Weather: Clear with high temperatures

Enemy Condition: The enemy was firmly entrenched in burkered positions with exceptionally good fire and observation. Their strength was estimated to be a rifle platoon reinforced by mortars. Morale was high due to commanding terrain.

Calendar: Unit was to provide a blocking force to prevent escape or infiltration of the enemy. Unit morale was excellent.

Narrative Description of gallant conduct:

On 21 September 1966, Company J, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry was participating in offensive combat against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Bong Son, Binh Dinh Province, Vietnam. At approximately 1000 hours, Private First Class Billy Lane Lauffer, RA 19 748 230, a member of the 1st Platoon, was assigned to his squad from a landing zone which had been secured by his company to protect the air landing of Company D. Company J was ordered to advance their position and to hold the position until they were relieved. Private Lauffer was the first to advance and he was the first to be killed. He was killed in action while advancing. He was the first to be killed in action while advancing. He was the first to be killed in action while advancing.

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First Class Lauffer was fatally injured from multiple gunshot wounds during this selfless act of courage and devotion toward his fellow soldiers. As a result of his exceptionally inspirational and heroic actions, the surviving members of his platoon executed a successful withdrawal from their tenuous position to commanding terrain where they established an effective defensive perimeter and prepared for aerial evacuation of the wounded.

During the battle in the vicinity of Son, Son, Binh Son Province, Private First Class Lauffer:

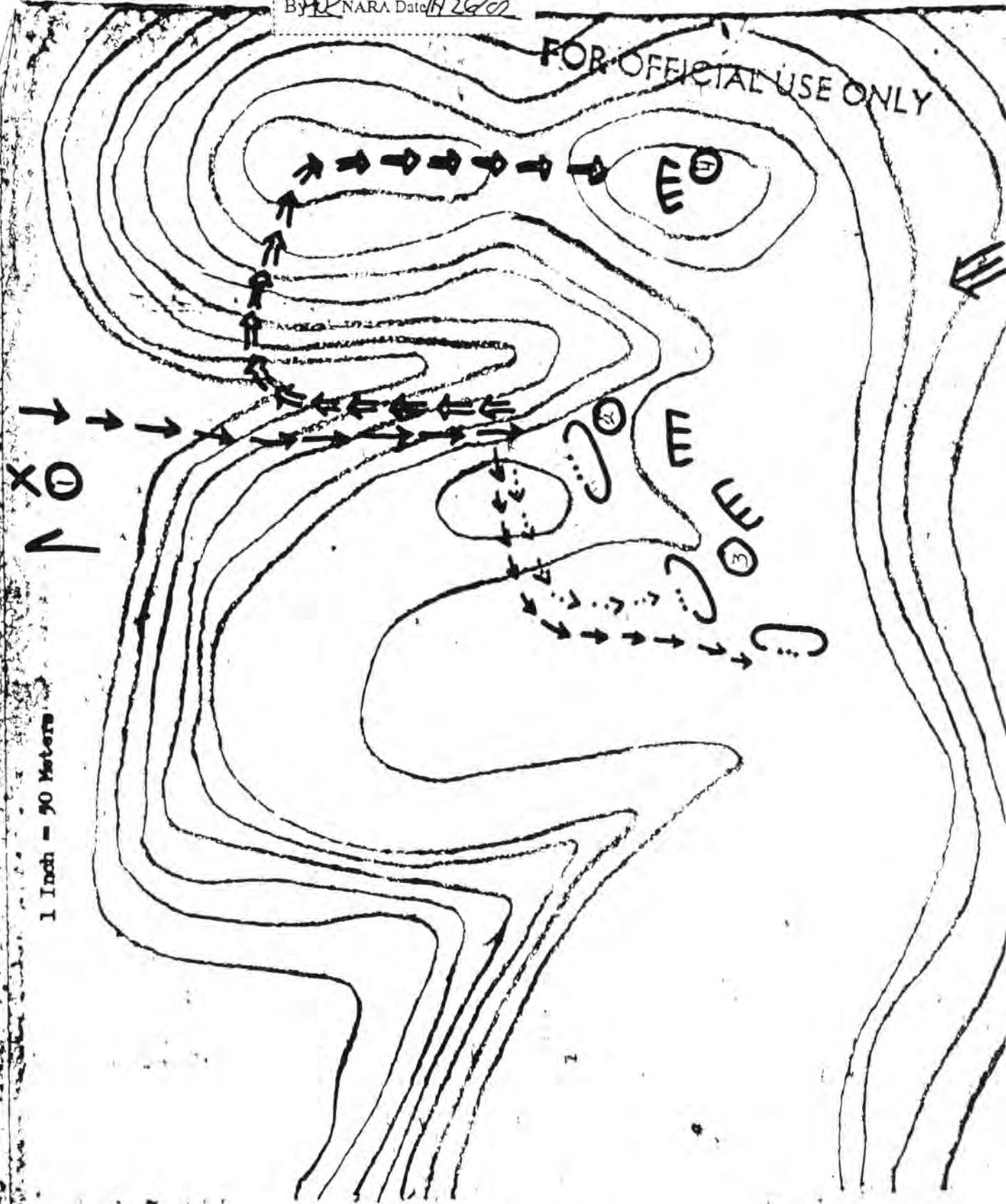
1. Killed four enemy soldiers and wounded an unknown amount.
2. Saved his comrades by charging a machine gun position which resulted in killing enemy soldiers who were about to kill them.

Private First Class Billy Lane Lauffer was KIA on 21 September 1966. The facts contained in the proposed citation and this narrative account have been substantiated by the statements of eyewitnesses.

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1 Inch = 50 Meters

1 PLTS
 2D PLT
 1ST PLT-ADVANCE
 1ST PLT-MITHRAMAL
 OF REINFORCEMENTS
 Squad of 3d Plt
 made by 1st Plt
 2d Plt and 3d Plt
 1st Plt during
 LAUFFER mortally

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HEROISM <input type="checkbox"/> MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE <small>(AR 672-3-1)</small>		PREPARE TO REACH APPROVING AUTHORITY IN DUPLICATE.	DATE 9 March 1966
THRU: Commanding Officer 2d Bn, 5th Cav 1st Air Cav Div APO 96490	TO: Commanding General 1st Air Cav Div ATTN: AVDAAG-A&D APO 96490	FROM (Unit): Commanding Offi Co C, 2d Bn, 5th 1st Air Cav Div APO 96490	

PART I - STATUS AT TIME OF RECOMMENDATION

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME LAUFFER, BILLY LANE	2. SERVICE NO. RA 19 748 034	3. GRADE PFC E-3	4. BRANCH (Or MOS) 11B10
5. ORGANIZATION Co C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Air Cav Div	6. LEGAL RESIDENCE (Number, Street, City, and State) [REDACTED]		
7. RECOMMENDED AWARD Medal of Honor	8. POSTHUMOUS AWARD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

PART II - STATUS AT TIME OF ACT OR SERVICE

10. SERVICE NUMBER RA 19 748 034	11. GRADE PFC E-3	12. BRANCH (Or MOS If WO) 11B10	13. ORGANIZATION Co C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Air Cav Div
14. HAS ALL SERVICE BEEN HONORABLE SUBSEQUENT TO THIS ACT OR SERVICE (If not, summarize 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 foreign decorations only when same period as this recommendation.)
N/A

17. DID YOU HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ACT OR SERVICE YES NO

PART III - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM

18. WERE YOU AN EYE WITNESS TO THE ACT <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	19. IF CERTIFICATES OR AFFIDAVITS OR EYE WITNESSES OR PERSONS HAVING PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS ARE NOT INCLUDED, GIVE REASONS
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20. PERSONS IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OR WHO ASSISTED IN ACT OR SHARED IN SAME HAZARD

a. FULL NAME	b. SERVICE NO.	c. GRADE	d. UNIT
Harry Stein	05326981	1LT	Co C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav
George Kenniston	RA51042073	SSG	Co C, 2d Bn, 5th Cav

21. IF ANY OF ABOVE PERSONS HAVE BEEN AWARDED OR RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR HEROISM FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ACT, GIVE NAME AND TYPE OF AWARD
N/A

22. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED

a. LOCATION Parasite Heights	b. INCLUSIVE DATES 21 September 1965	c. TIME OF DAY 1430
d. CHARACTER AND CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND WEATHER The terrain was open and mountainous with dense vegetation. The weather was clear with high temperatures.		

23. DESCRIBE ENEMY CONDITIONS (Morale, Position, Fire, Observation, Casualties, and Action, what the enemy was doing and what it did as the result of the act)
 The enemy was dispersed and unorganized in the area of the Parasite Heights. The enemy was estimated to be a rifle platoon. The enemy was observed by the observer. The enemy was firing from the area of the Parasite Heights. The enemy was firing from the area of the Parasite Heights. The enemy was firing from the area of the Parasite Heights.

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24. UNIT MORALE, CASUALTIES AND MISSION: INDICATE WHAT THE UNIT WAS DOING AT TIME OF ACT

To provide a blocking force to prevent escape or infiltration of the enemy. Casualties of friendly forces included 7 KIA's and 8 WIA's. Unit morale was excellent.

25. WHAT WERE COMRADES WHO WERE IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY DOING - HOW DID THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACT

Trying to maneuver against the enemy in order to suppress his fire and allow the wounded to be withdrawn.

PART IV - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE

26. UNIT, HEADQUARTERS, OR SECTION IN WHICH DUTY WAS PERFORMED

N/A

27. INCLUSIVE DATES FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED

N/A

29. HOW 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 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 LIKE RANK AND EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR POSITION?

On 21 September 1966, Company C, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry was participating in offensive combat against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Long Son, Binh Province, Vietnam. At approximately 1000 hours, Private First Class Billy Lane Lauffer, RA 19 748 031, a member of the 1st Platoon, was moving with his squad from a landing zone which had been secured by his company to protect the air landing of Company D. Company C had been directed to resume their search and destroy operation and was moving from the landing zone along their assigned axis of advance. A prominent hill mass lay astride the company axis which required the unit commander to split his force by deploying the 3rd Platoon to the west while the 1st and 2nd Platoons marched in column to the south along east side of the hill. Without warning Private First Class Lauffer's Platoon received intense automatic weapons fire from enemy ambush positions. The platoon was immediately wounded and the remainder of the platoon was fixed by fire and could not maneuver. Simultaneously, the 2nd Platoon received enemy mortar fire. This platoon was directed to maneuver to the right and, with the 3rd

Continued

31. DESCRIBE EFFECTS OR RESULTS (Enable the platoon to withdraw to commanding terrain as well as supporting units or assets. Discouraged large scale attack)

32. RELATED POSITION OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION TO PERSON BEING RECOMMENDED

Company Commander

33. IF APPROVED, FORWARD AWARD FOR PRESENTATION

34. ENCLOSURES (Include proposed citation, commendation, or award certificate, if applicable)

- 1. Proposed Citation
- 2. Commendation
- 3. Award Certificate (Certificate)
- 4. Witness statement (Statement)

35. TYPE NAME, GRADE, BRANCH, AND TITLE OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION

Signature

Item 30 (Cont)

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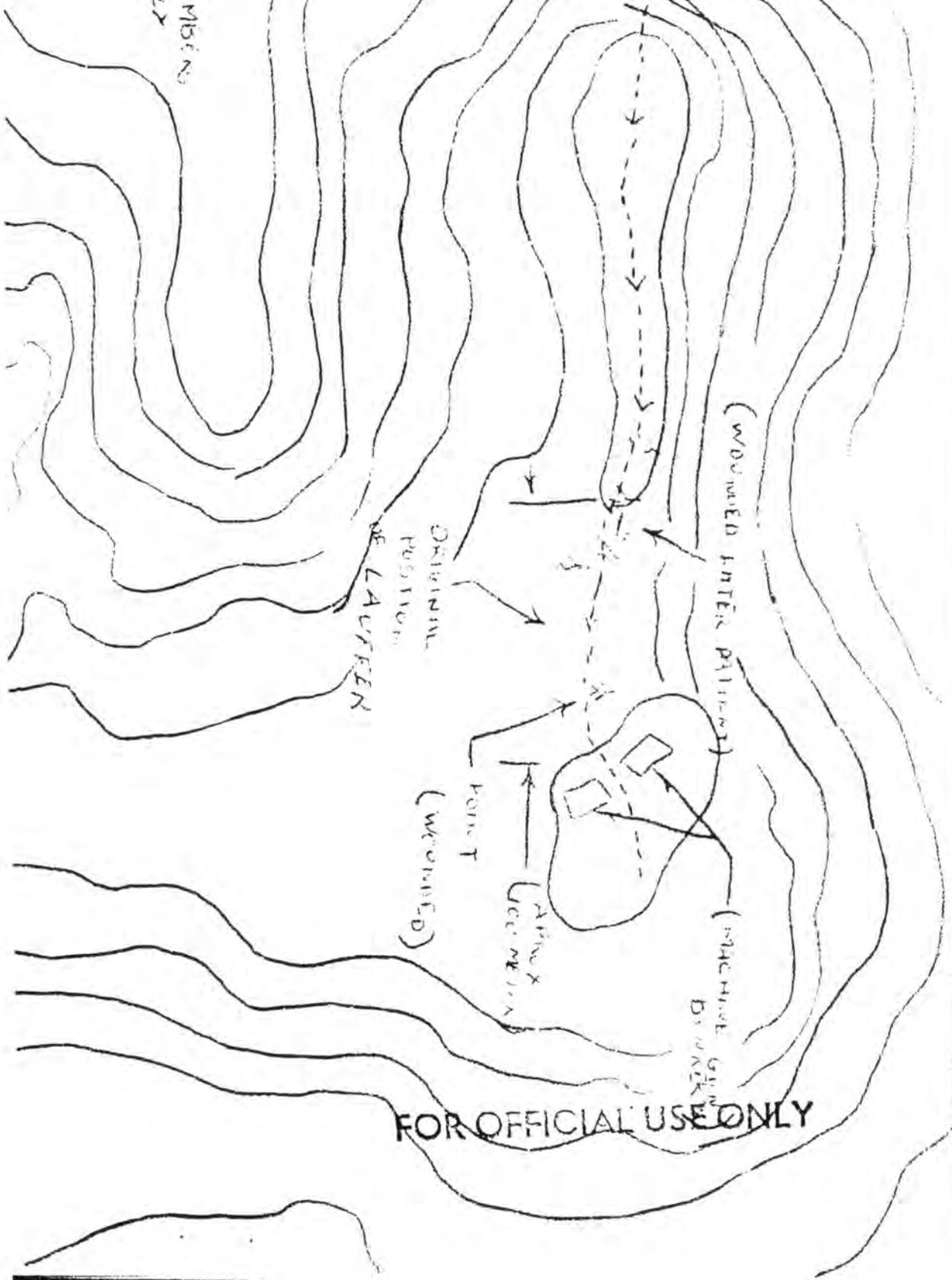
Platoon, to flank the enemy position. After moving west over a small hill was located approximately 100 meters south of the enemy ambush site, the 2nd Platoon began to receive heavy automatic weapons fire from positions to its front and left flank. This fire killed two men and wounded three. The 3rd Platoon continued to maneuver around the right flank of the 2nd Platoon at to outflank the enemy positions and assist the 1st Platoon. At this instant the 3rd Platoon was fired upon by well entrenched enemy and could maneuver no further. Private First Class Lauffer was located toward the rear of the 1st Platoon position and was partially screened from enemy fire by thick undergrowth. The men immediately around him attempted to gain positions from which they could return fire. As the platoon leader was directing an air strike on the enemy positions, Private First Class Lauffer shouted to the point man, who could not see, to determine whether or not he was still alive. He did not respond, and they concluded that he was probably dead. The battle had now been in progress for several hours and darkness was rapidly approaching. By this time Private First Class Lauffer had knowledge that his platoon had suffered two men killed and another two who were seriously wounded. Realizing that the grievously wounded men would have to be evacuated immediately, the 1st Platoon began to withdraw with Private First Class Lauffer's third squad leading. The platoon was ordered to circumvent the enemy positions by moving west and to link up with elements of Company B which had been committed to the south. Private First Class Lauffer's squad was followed by the 2nd squad which was carrying the litter patients and extra equipment from the dead and wounded. Suddenly the platoon was caught in an overwhelming and accurate crossfire delivered by enemy assault rifles and machine guns which instantly wounded the point man and fixed the platoon by fire. Private First Class Lauffer sought cover as the enemy fire moved toward him. Seeing that his entire squad was unable to maneuver, he aggressively returned fire in an attempt to gain fire superiority to permit the others from his squad to withdraw. However, the enemy fire continued and increased in volume which thwarted his withdrawal. His concern became even greater when he realized that the wounded point man could not withdraw, nor could aid be rendered to him and the litter patients who had been dropped in a position whereby they were lying completely exposed in the direct line of enemy fire. When he observed that the other men in his squad were scattered in various positions which precluded them from delivering effective covering fire, he then instinctively arose and aggressively charged the enemy machine gun position. This courageous act momentarily stunned the enemy gunners and Private First Class Lauffer capitalized on this action by delivering a deadly volume of automatic rifle fire against the enemy at their machine gun position. While Private First Class Lauffer kept the enemy off balance with his gallant one man charge, the wounded point man was able to crawl to a covered position and his companions were provided with the critical time required to successfully move the wounded litter patients from the area of the machine gun position. Private First Class Lauffer was fatally injured from a single enemy machine gun round during this assault. He was killed in action on 1/26/68.

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BEEN DROPPED IN A POSITION EXPOSED TO HOSTILE FIRE. RISING INSTINCTIVELY WITH
UTTER DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY, HE AGGRESSIVELY CHARGED AN ENEMY MACHINE GUN
POSITION, MOMENTARILY CONFUSING THE ENEMY GUNNERS. WHILE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
[Name] KEPT THE ENEMY OFF BALANCE BY HIS GALLANT ONE MAN CHARGE, THE WOUNDED
[Name] WAS ABLE TO DRAG TO A COVERED POSITION, AND THE SOLDIERS AND SERGEANTS
DURING THE CRUCIAL MOMENTS REQUIRED TO SUCCESSFULLY MOVE THE WOUNDED [Name] TO
SAFETY. [Name] WAS LATER ADVANTAGEOUSLY REWARD FOR HIS COURAGE AND BRAVERY. [Name]
FATALLY WOUNDED DURING HIS SELFLESS ACT OF COURAGE AND DEVOTION TO HIS FELLOW
SOLDIERS. AS A RESULT OF HIS HEROIC ACTION, THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF HIS PLATOON
WERE ABLE TO EXECUTE A SUCCESSFUL WITHDRAWAL FROM THEIR TENUOUS POSITION AND
REINFORCED AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS [Name] DISPLAYED
CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY, AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE SERVED AS AN INSPIRE
OF SPIRIT TO HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS AND SAVED THE LIVES OF AN UNTOLD NUMBER OF
COMPANIONS. HIS ACTION STANDS IN VINDICATION OF THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY.

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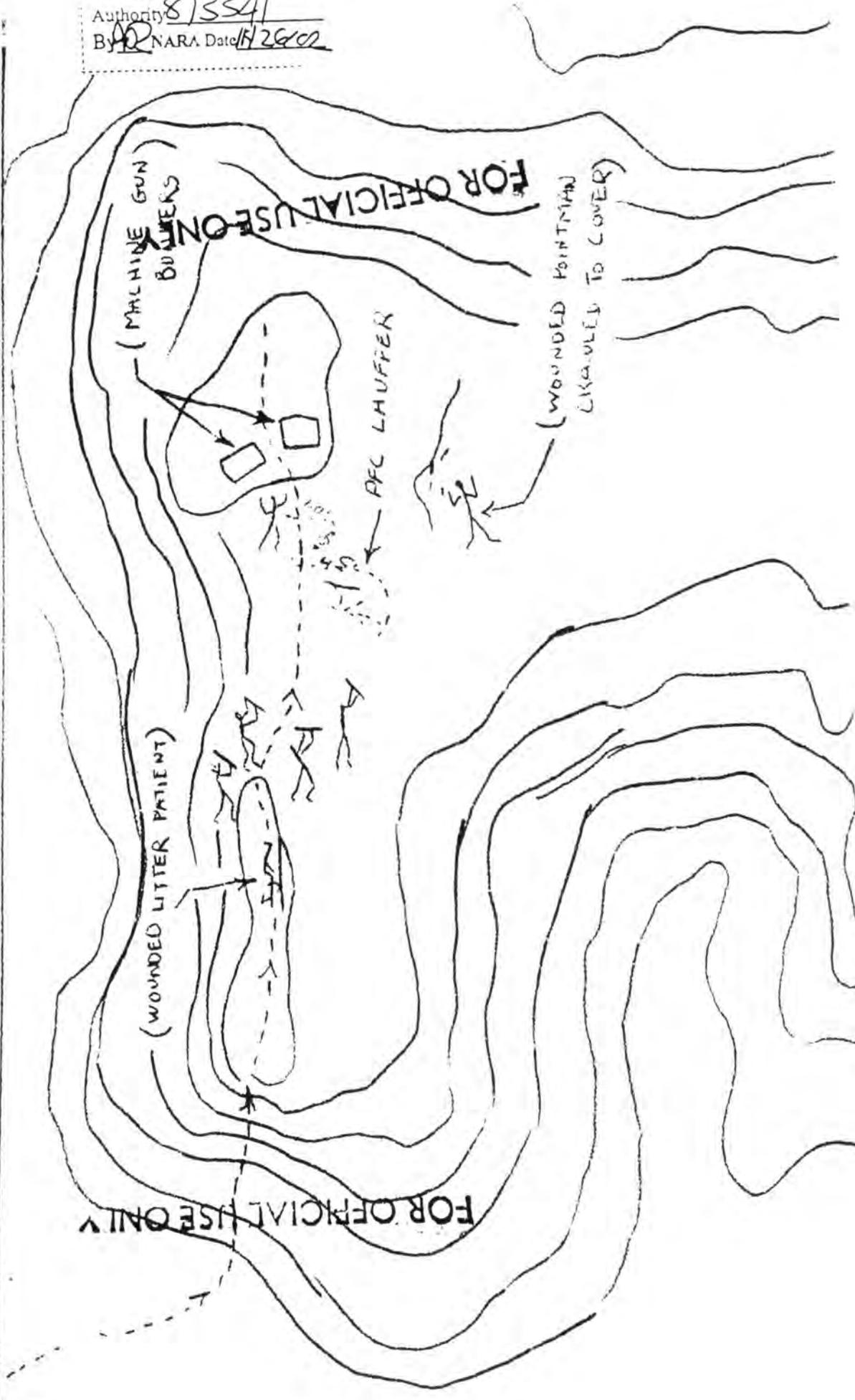


SOULD MEMBERS
INITIALLY

Hand-drawn map of a machine gun bunker & trail

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MOVEMENTS OF PFC LAUFFER AND SIKO SQUAD



Witness Statement

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On 21 September 1966, I was moving with my squad as lead element for the first platoon at coordinates BR 866806. We had just reached the top of a hill and started heading south toward Company B, which was joined by other elements of our company. My squad was leading and carrying the wounded, equipment from the wounded and dead from an ambush earlier in the day. Suddenly my squad was caught in another ambush, this time from two machine guns spraying the trail we were walking on. Immediately my point man was hit falling in the line of enemy fire. I told the squad to withdraw to covered positions and lay down a base of fire. Pfc Lauffer was second in line and was now in position closest to the enemy. It became obvious that we were pinned down and could not move unless someone put down good fire support from the front. Pfc Lauffer looked back and saw that his squad was receiving heavy fire and could not move and realized that the wounded were lying in the direct line of enemy fire. Pfc Lauffer acted without orders and seemingly without regard for his own life as he moved himself into a position to fire at the enemy. This position put him in the direct line of enemy fire with relatively no cover. He rose to his feet and advanced forward laying down a base of fire that allowed my squad to move to safe positions and enabled the wounded point man to crawl to the rear for medical attention. During his advance Pfc Lauffer was wounded twice and fell to the ground. Minutes later Pfc Lauffer died from wounds suffered from this action. His unselfish giving of his life saved the lives of my squad and enabled us to remove the wounded to a safe location for evacuation. Pfc Lauffer was not ordered to act as he did, but did so obviously on his own out of concern for his fellow soldiers. His actions were far beyond that required of any soldier.

GEO R D. MERRISON
R451042073 SSG E-6
US Army, O-6
2d Br. 5th Cavalry

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 By AR NARA Date 1/26/02

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

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I have previously made a statement concerning Pfc Billy Lane Lauffer, RA 19 74° 034, for his actions prior to being killed on 21 September 1966. This statement is designed to clarify the position regarding, "... he rose to his feet directly in enemy fire standing on the trail in the most dangerous position, he fired and moved toward the enemy position." My choice of words was deliberate to convey that PFC Lauffer was not in a state of shock or dazed but performed his actions with a cool head and full awareness of his movements and the location of the enemy. His movements indicated were definitely of an aggressive nature. There was no protective cover forward of his position, nor any other reason or motive for his movement. It is obvious from my previous statement that the point man had no cover, consequently being severely wounded, and obviously there was no cover or concealment offered to PFC Lauffer's front. PFC Lauffer's ultimate destination was the machine-gun position which was pinning down his squad. Taking quick action he rose to his feet moving onto the trail with his rifle firing in rapid succession. Quickly he jumped from side to side trying to avoid enemy bullets and make progress toward the bunker. As he continued to assault the position he received the fatal bullet in the chest. It matters little how one describe the action, the facts involved are simple and straight forward; he deliberately and with full knowledge of his actions attempted to singly destroy the bunker position.

HARRY A. STEIN
 1LT, Infantry
 05306981

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By [signature] NARA Date 11/26/01

Witness Statement

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On 21 September 1966, my platoon was carrying litter patients and equipment, moving toward high ground after an intense battle with the enemy in dug in positions. My third squad was the lead element, followed by the litter patients and equipment. Suddenly my frontal squad was hit by a strong enemy machine gun cross fire, instantly wounding my point man. Pfc Lauffer was second in line hitting the ground as the fire hit the ground and trees around him. Pfc Lauffer immediately set down a base of fire for the squad behind him as the rest of the squad scattered and began firing. Pfc Lauffer realized their fire could not give effective cover for the withdrawal of the wounded in direct line of enemy fire. Being in a frontal position, only he could give effective fire. Without regard for his own life and out of a desire to save the men in the squad and wounded from further injury, he rose to his feet directly in enemy fire standing on the trail in the most dangerous position, he fired and moved toward the enemy position. Pfc Lauffer was mortally wounded and died moments later from the injuries. His unselfish giving of his life not only allowed the wound to get to a safe position but allowed the squad to withdraw to high ground and reform themselves for the night.

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