

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 82

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20 December 1968

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918, and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

Sergeant Ted Belcher, [REDACTED] United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life on 19 November 1966 near Plei Djerang, Republic of Vietnam. On that date, Sergeant *Belcher's* unit, Company C, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, was engaged in a search and destroy mission with Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, the Battalion Reconnaissance Platoon and a Special Forces Company of Civilian Irregular Defense Group Personnel. As a squad leader of the 2d Platoon of Company C, Sergeant *Belcher* was leading his men when they encountered a bunker complex. The Reconnaissance Platoon, located a few hundred meters northwest of Company C, received a heavy volume of fire from well camouflaged snipers. As the 2d Platoon moved forward to assist the unit under attack, Sergeant *Belcher* and his squad, advancing only a short distance through the dense jungle terrain, met heavy and accurate automatic weapons and sniper fire. Sergeant *Belcher* and his squad were momentarily stopped by the deadly volume of enemy fire. He quickly gave the order to return fire and resume the advance toward the enemy. As he moved up with his men, a hand-grenade landed in the midst of the sergeant's squad. Instantly realizing the immediate danger to his men, Sergeant *Belcher*, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety, lunged forward, covering the grenade with his body. Absorbing the grenade blast at the cost of his life, he saved his comrades from becoming casualties. Sergeant *Belcher's* conspicuous gallantry, his profound concern for his fellow soldiers, and his intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
*Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.*

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
*General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.*

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