

Silver Star Award Description

Sergeant Henry Mungle

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 8, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to SGT Henry H.G. Mungle, United States Army, for gallantry in action on the morning of 12 June 1971.

SGT Henry H. G. Mungle, Military Police Corps, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry while serving as a crew chief of a security platoon, 560th Military Police Company, 93rd Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, 2d Military Region, and Republic of Vietnam.

SGT Mungle was commander of a V-100 armored vehicle performing road security/convoy mission along Highway QL 19, a major East-West road in the An Khe Pass. With the SGT was a two-man crew consisting of PFC's Ronald Tompkins and Roger Wamsley. At approximately 0900 hours, the V-100 was located at the top of the pass and the crew observed the movement of a mixed U.S. (512th Transportation Company) and Korean truck convoy as it moved from East to West.

The weather in the area was clear and sunny and road conditions were ideal. Suddenly, the convoy's lead element was attacked by an estimated NVA company, utilizing B-40 rockets, automatic and small arms fire. The enemy's morale appeared high as they aggressively attacked the vehicular column. On the North side of the road, there were steep mountains rising at about 33% slope. The South side had a gradual drop off that led to deep jungle. Elephant grass was located on both sides of the road, making visibility difficult once an individual left the road.

Four trucks and one gun jeep were destroyed in the initial assault by the rocket fire and friendly forces were pinned down or dispersed. SGT Mungle quickly ordered his vehicle driver, PFC Tompkins, to go to the rescue of the convoy. The V-100 moved east so as to reach the head of the column. SGT Mungle and his crew were immediately taken under heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire by the enemy unit. The fire was returned by all in the crew. SGT Mungle noticed an American soldier lying next to one of the destroyed vehicles. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he vacated the relative security of the armored vehicle and went to the aid of the wounded man. Shielding the wounded soldier with his own body, SGT Mungle began life-saving first aid. During this time, he was still under moderate to heavy enemy fire. Because of the seriousness of the wounds, SGT Mungle returned to the V-100 and directed that a Medical Evacuation helicopter (DUST-OFF) be dispatched to pick up the soldier.

SGT Mungle continued to fire his weapon at the enemy shielding his fallen comrade. After running out of ammunition, he exposed himself to withering small arms fire in order to return to the V-100 to obtain more ammunition. As he reached into the vehicle, two rounds of small arms fire narrowly missed him, but wounded PFC Tompkins who was partially exposed in the open hatch of the V-100. SGT Mungle quickly ordered the armored car to a bluff approximately 50 meters away in order to

protect his crew from further injury. After obtaining more ammunition, SGT Mungle once again exposed himself to hostile fire when he traversed about 60 meters of open road to the side of the stricken soldier.

By this time, SGT Mungle and the V-100 down the road, were laying down a base of fire to protect the approaching Dust-Off helicopter. Because the helicopter did not have a stretcher, SGT Mungle, with complete and utter disregard for his own personal safety, laid down his weapon and helped the aircraft crew chief carry the wounded man to the helicopter. His aid and comfort to his fellow soldier were directly responsible for saving the man's life. He and the V-100 crew continued to fire at suspected enemy locations in order to protect the departure of the Dust Off ship.

With this mission accomplished, SGT Mungle braved further enemy fire and returned to the V-100 vehicle. SGT Mungle then led his crew in further rescue of other personnel who were trapped in the battle area. Although the crew continued to receive sporadic enemy fire, SGT Mungle and crew rescued 2 ROK soldiers, 3 Vietnamese civilians, and 5 RVN soldiers who were caught in the battle area during the next hour and transferred them to other friendly vehicles for evacuation to safety. SGT Mungle then ordered his men to assist other US personnel in moving all non-disabled vehicles out of the "kill zone." Enemy fire continued sporadically. SGT Mungle then trained the weapons of the V-100 on suspected enemy locations and returned fire. Hostile fire ceased at that point and the remainder of the convoy was moved to safety. SGT Mungle remained in the area until all friendly forces had been evacuated. The entire battle lasted approximately two hours.

During a sweep made by Korea ground forces, it was reported that 9 NVA KIA's and other wounded. Miraculously, no U.S. personnel were killed. SGT Mungle's heroic actions in first thwarting the enemy attack, and then, with complete and utter disregard for his own personal safety, risking his life by shielding a wounded soldier with his own body, administering life saving first aid and finally assisting in his evacuation showed rare and extraordinary courage. His continual exposure to hostile fire during the two hour battle period and his positive leadership in directing further rescue operations while under moderate to heavy enemy fire are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.