

Gordon Joseph Lippman
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army

Gordon Joseph Lippman enlisted in the U.S. Army on 19 March 1943 at Los Angeles, CA. He served with the 517th Parachute Regiment in the European Theater of Operations in Italy, Southern France, the Ardennes-Alsace, and in Germany. He was wounded in December 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge. A short time later, SGT Lippman received a battlefield commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry.

On 27 November 1950, then-First Lieutenant Gordon Joseph Lippman was serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, in Korea. During the early morning hours, near Ipsok, Korea, a strong hostile force attacked the supply train of 1LT Lippman's 1st Battalion. Despite exposure to intense hostile fire, he organized the supply troops in a perimeter defense and led the machine gun crew to vantage points from which they could direct effective counterfire on the attacking enemy. Advancing through a deadly small arms and mortar barrage, he contacted the supply area of an adjacent unit which enabled the two forces to combine their strength and repel the hostile incursion. 1LT Lippman's valorous actions earned him the U.S. Army's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal.

On 11 April 1951, then-Captain Lippman was serving as Commanding Officer of Company A, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Do Chung, Korea. CPT Lippman was leading his men across the Hantan River in the predawn darkness in an attempt to secure the high ground on the opposite shore from a well-entrenched hostile force. When his men were in the middle of the river, an enemy outpost discovered the operation and directed machine-gun fire on the wading troops. Quickly deploying his men, CPT Lippman led a charge against the hostile emplacement, destroying it and enabling the Company to finish the crossing with a minimum of casualties. He then reorganized the Company and led his men across a flat, exposed area toward the objective. The enemy, emplaced in a strong perimeter defense on the crest of the hill, directed such a devastating volume of fire on the friendly troops that only a platoon of the Company reached the base of the objective with CPT Lippman. The remainder of Company A was pinned down by the intense fire. He realized that the platoon would be forced to launch a frontal assault against the enemy positions unless some method was used to divert the hostile fire from the attacking troops. Armed only with a pistol and grenades, he quickly moved up the slope and attacked the enemy emplacements. For forty-five minutes, he maneuvered to within a few yards of these positions, harassing the hostile troops and drawing their concentrated fire. His courageous action enabled the platoon to work its way to a position from which an assault was launched that routed the enemy. CPT Lippman's courage and heroism earned him the U.S. Army's second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross.

On 11 December 1965, Lieutenant Colonel Lippman was serving as Executive Officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. That day, Viet Cong snipers infiltrated his camp perimeter near Lai Khe, South Vietnam, and LTC Lippman was trying to locate the snipers. While he was moving across an open area, he was shot and killed.