

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 57

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 2 August 1951

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of the Congress to the following-named officer:



First Lieutenant *Samuel S. Coursen*, , Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company C, 5th Cavalry Regiment, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action on 12 October 1950 near Kaesong, Korea. While Company C was attacking Hill 174 under heavy enemy small-arms fire, his platoon received enemy fire from close range. The platoon returned the fire and continued to advance. During this phase, one of his men moved into a well-camouflaged emplacement, which was thought to be unoccupied, and was wounded by enemy who were hidden within the emplacement. Seeing the soldier in difficulty, he rushed to the man's aid and, without regard for his personal safety, engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat in an effort to protect his wounded comrade until he himself was killed. When his body was recovered after the battle, seven enemy dead were found in the emplacement. As the result of Lieutenant *Coursen's* violent struggle, several of the enemies' heads had been crushed with his rifle. His aggressive and intrepid actions saved the life of the wounded man, eliminated the main position of the enemy road block, and greatly inspired the men in his command. Lieutenant *Coursen's* extraordinary heroism and intrepidity reflect the highest credit on himself and are in keeping with the honored traditions of the military service.



This general order will be read to all troops and will be posted conspicuously on the bulletin boards in each unit area.

By ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

WM. E. BERGIN
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Chief of Staff, United States Army