

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 16

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 1 February 1952

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 *Lee R. Hartell*, Artillery, United States Army, a member of Battery A, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2d Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy of the United Nations near Kobangsan-ni, Korea, on 27 August 1951. During the darkness of early morning, the enemy launched a ruthless attack against friendly positions on a rugged mountainous ridge. Lieutenant *Hartell*, attached to Company B, 9th Infantry Regiment, as forward observer, quickly moved his radio to an exposed vantage on the ridge line to adjust defensive fires. Realizing the tactical advantage of illuminating the area of approach, he called for flares and then directed crippling fire into the onrushing assailants. At this juncture, a large force of hostile troops swarmed up the slope in a banzai charge and came within 10 yards of Lieutenant *Hartell's* position. Lieutenant *Hartell* sustained a severe hand wound in the ensuing encounter, but grasped the microphone with his other hand and maintained his magnificent stand until the front and left flank of the company were protected by a close-in wall of withering fire, causing the fanatical foe to disperse and fall back momentarily. After the numerically superior enemy overran an outpost and was closing on his position, Lieutenant *Hartell*, in a final radio call, urged the friendly elements to fire both batteries continuously. Although mortally wounded, Lieutenant *Hartell's* intrepid actions contributed significantly to stemming the onslaught and enabled his company to maintain the strategic strong point. His consummate valor and unwavering devotion to duty reflect lasting glory on himself and uphold the noble 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