

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 21

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 25 April 1957

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:

Lieutenant Colonel *John U. D. Page*, Artillery, United States Army, a member of X Corps Artillery, while attached to the 52d Transportation Truck Battalion, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty in a series of exploits during the period 29 November to 10 December 1950 in the area near the Chosin Reservoir, Korea. On 29 November, Colonel *Page* left X Corps Headquarters at Hamhung with the mission of establishing traffic control on the main supply route to 1st Marine Division positions and those of some Army elements on the Chosin Reservoir plateau. Having completed his mission Colonel *Page* was free to return to the safety of Hamhung but chose to remain on the plateau to aid an isolated signal station, thus being cut off with elements of the Marine division. After rescuing his jeep driver by breaking up an ambush near a destroyed bridge Colonel *Page* reached the lines of a surrounded Marine garrison at Koto-ri. He then voluntarily developed and trained a reserve force of assorted Army troops trapped with the Marines. By exemplary leadership and tireless devotion he made an effective tactical unit available. In order that casualties might be evacuated, an airstrip was improvised on frozen ground partly outside of the Koto-ri defense perimeter which was continually under enemy attack. During two such attacks Colonel *Page* exposed himself on the airstrip to direct fire on the enemy, and twice mounted the rear deck of a tank, manning the machine gun on the turret to drive the enemy back into a no-man's land. On 3 December while being flown low over enemy lines in a light observation plane, Colonel

Page dropped hand grenades on Chinese positions and sprayed foxholes with automatic fire from his carbine. After 10 days of constant fighting the Marine and Army units in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir had succeeded in gathering at the edge of the plateau and Colonel *Page* was flown to Hamhung to arrange for artillery support of the beleaguered troops attempting to break out. Again Colonel *Page* refused an opportunity to remain in safety and returned to give every assistance to his comrades. As the column slowly moved south Colonel *Page* joined the rear guard. When it neared the entrance to a narrow pass it came under frequent attacks on both flanks. Mounting an abandoned tank Colonel *Page* manned the machine gun, braved heavy return fire, and covered the passing vehicles until the danger diminished. Later when another attack threatened his section of the convoy, then in the middle of the pass, Colonel *Page* took a machine gun to the hillside and delivered effective counterfire, remaining exposed while men and vehicles passed through the ambushade. On the night of 10 December the convoy reached the bottom of the pass but was halted by a strong enemy force at the front and on both flanks. Deadly small arms fire poured into the column. Realizing the danger to the column as it lay motionless, Colonel *Page* fought his way to the head of the column and plunged forward into the heart of the hostile position. His intrepid action so surprised the enemy that their ranks became disordered and suffered heavy casualties. Heedless of his own safety, as he had been throughout the preceding 10 days, Colonel *Page* remained forward, fiercely engaging the enemy singlehanded until mortally wounded. By his valiant and aggressive spirit Colonel *Page* enabled friendly forces to stand off the enemy. His outstanding courage, unswerving devotion to duty, and supreme self-sacrifice reflect great credit upon Colonel *Page* and are in the highest tradition 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 *Wilber M. Brucker*, Secretary of the Army:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

HERBERT M. JONES,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

Distribution:

Active Army: A.

To be distributed on a need-to-know basis to all units and headquarters down to and including companies and batteries and to units and headquarters of comparable size and responsibility.

NG and USAR: B.

To be distributed on a need-to-know basis to all units and headquarters down to and including separate battalions (administrative) and to units and headquarters of comparable size and responsibility.