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GENERAL ORDERS
No. 2

FILE COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 8 January 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 *Robert M. McGovern*, Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company A, 5th Cavalry Regiment, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy of the United Nations near Kamyangjan-ni, Korea, on 30 January 1951. As Lieutenant *McGovern* led his platoon up a slope to engage hostile troops emplaced in bunker-type pillboxes with connecting trenches, the unit came under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire from the crest of the hill, approximately 75 yards distant. Despite a wound sustained in this initial burst of withering fire, Lieutenant *McGovern* assured the men of his ability to continue on and urged them forward. Forging up the rocky incline, he fearlessly led the platoon to within several yards of its objective when the ruthless foe threw and rolled a vicious barrage of hand grenades on the group and halted the advance. Enemy fire increased in volume and intensity and Lieutenant *McGovern*, realizing that casualties were rapidly increasing and the morale of his men badly shaken, hurled back several grenades before they exploded. Then, disregarding his painful wound and weakened condition, he charged a machine-gun emplacement which was raking his position with flanking fire. When he was within 10 yards of the position, a burst of fire ripped the carbine from his hands, but, undaunted, he continued his lone-man assault and, firing his pistol and throwing grenades, killed seven hostile soldiers before falling mortally wounded in front of the gun he had silenced. Lieutenant *McGovern's* incredible display of valor imbued his men with indomitable resolution to avenge his death. Fixing bayonets and throwing grenades, they charged with such ferocity that hostile positions were overrun and the enemy routed from the hill. The inspirational leadership, unflinching courage, and intrepid actions of Lieutenant *McGovern* reflect utmost glory on himself and the honored traditions of the military service.



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Note: See Times-Herald, 12 Jan 52, for story about Halsey McGovern, father of above MH who refused to accept it "because Truman is with it."

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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

AGO 2116B

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