Indefed Sept 8/53 p 406

GO 63

GENERAL ORDERS No. 63

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., *17 August 1953*

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 enlisted man:

Corporal *Lester Hammond, Jr.*

Infantry, United States Army, a radio operator with Company A, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Kumwha, Korea, on 14 August 1952. Corporal *Hammond* was a member of a six-man reconnaissance patrol which had penetrated approximately 3,500 yards into enemy-held territory. Ambushed and partially surrounded by a large hostile force, the small group opened fire, then quickly withdrew up a narrow ravine in search of protective cover. Despite a wound sustained in the initial exchange of fire and imminent danger of being overrun by the numerically superior foe, he refused to seek shelter and, remaining in an exposed place, called for artillery fire to support a defensive action. Constantly vulnerable to enemy observation and action, he coordinated and directed crippling fire on the assailants, inflicting heavy casualties and repulsing several attempts to overrun friendly positions. Although wounded a second time, he remained steadfast and maintained his stand until mortally wounded. His indomitable fighting spirit set an inspiring example of valor to his comrades and, through his actions, the onslaught was stemmed, enabling a friendly platoon to reach the beleaguered patrol, evacuate the wounded, and effect a safe withdrawal to friendly lines. Corporal *Hammond's* unflinching courage and consummate devotion to duty reflect lasting glory on himself and uphold the finest 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:

M. B. RIDGWAY,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:
WM. E. BERGIN,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:
According to requirements submitted on DA AGO Form 12.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953