GENERAL ORDERS No. 60

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 enlisted man:

Master Sergeant *Melvin O. Handrich* (Service No.), Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company C, 5th Infantry Regiment, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action on 25 and 26 August 1950, near Sobuk San Mountain, Korea. His company was engaged in repulsing an estimated 150 enemy who were threatening to overrun its position. Near midnight on 25 August, a hostile group over 100 strong attempted to infiltrate the company perimeter. Sergeant *Handrich*, despite the heavy enemy fire, voluntarily left the comparative safety of the defensive area and moved to a forward position where he could direct mortar and artillery fire upon the advancing enemy. He remained at this post for 8 hours directing fire against the enemy who often approached within 50 feet of his position. Again, on the morning of 26 August, another strong hostile force made an attempt to overrun the company's position. With complete disregard for his safety, Sergeant *Handrich* rose to his feet and from this exposed position fired his rifle and directed mortar and artillery fire on the attackers. At the peak of this action, he observed elements of his company preparing to withdraw. He perilously made his way across fire-swept terrain to the defense area where, by example and forceful leadership, he reorganized the men to continue the fight. During the action, Sergeant *Handrich* was severely wounded. Refusing to take cover or be evacuated, he returned to his forward position and continued to direct the company's fire. Later, a determined enemy attack overran Sergeant *Handrich's* position and he was mortally wounded. When the position was retaken, more than 70 enemy dead were counted in the area he had so intrepidly defended. Sergeant *Handrich's* sustained personal bravery, consummate courage, and gallant self-sacrifice reflect untold glory on himself and the heroic traditions of the military service.

AGO 331B—Aug. 950969°—51

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:

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Chief of Staff, United States Army

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

AGO 331B

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1951