

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 12 }

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 enlisted man:

Sergeant First Class *Nelson V. Brittin*, Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company I, 19th Infantry Regiment, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action on 7 March 1951 in the vicinity of Yonggong-ni, Korea. Volunteering to lead his squad up a hill, with meager cover against murderous fire from the enemy, he ordered his squad to give him support and, in the face of withering fire and bursting shells, he tossed a grenade at the nearest enemy position. On returning to his squad, he was knocked down and wounded by an enemy grenade. Refusing medical attention, he replenished his supply of grenades and returned, hurling grenades into hostile positions and shooting the enemy as they fled. When his weapon jammed, he leaped without hesitation into a fox hole and killed the occupants with his bayonet and the butt of his rifle. He continued to wipe out fox holes and, noting that his squad had been pinned down, he rushed to the rear of a machine-gun position, threw a grenade into the nest, and ran around to its front, where he killed all three occupants with his rifle. Less than 100 yards up the hill, his squad again came under vicious fire from another camouflaged, sand-bagged, machine-gun nest well-flanked by supporting riflemen. Sergeant *Brittin* again charged this new position in an aggressive endeavor to silence this remaining obstacle and ran direct into a burst of automatic fire which killed him instantly. In his sustained and driving action, he had killed 20 enemy soldiers and destroyed four automatic weapons. The conspicuous courage, consummate valor, and noble self-sacrifice displayed by Sergeant *Brittin* enabled his inspired company to attain its objective and reflect the highest glory on himself and the heroic traditions of the military service.



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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 2415B