GENERAL ORDERS No. 78

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., *21 August 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:

Private First Class *David M. Smith* (Service No.), Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company E, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action near Yongsan, Korea, on 1 September 1950. Private *Smith* was a gunner in the mortar section of Company E, emplaced in rugged mountainous terrain and under attack by a numerically superior hostile force. Bitter fighting ensued and the enemy overran forward elements, infiltrated the perimeter, and rendered friendly positions untenable. The mortar section was ordered to withdraw, but the enemy had encircled and closed in on the position. Observing a grenade lobbed at his emplacement, Private *Smith* shouted a warning to his comrades and, fully aware of the odds against him, flung himself upon it and smothered the explosion with his body. Although mortally wounded in this display of valor, his intrepid act saved five men from death or serious injury. Private *Smith's* inspirational conduct and supreme sacrifice reflect lasting glory on himself and are in keeping with the noble traditions of the Infantry and the United States Army.

AGO 572B—Aug. 200469°—52

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

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