

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 97

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 30 December 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:

Private First Class *Ralph E. Pomeroy*

Infantry, United States Army, a machine gunner with Company E, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Kumhwa, Korea, on 15 October 1952. While his comrades were consolidating on a key terrain feature, he manned a machine gun at the end of a communication trench on the forward slope to protect the platoon flank and prevent a surprise attack. When the enemy attacked through a ravine leading direct to his firing position, Private *Pomeroy* immediately opened fire on the advancing troops, inflicting a heavy toll in casualties and blunting the assault. At this juncture, the enemy directed intense concentrations of artillery and mortar fire on his position in an attempt to neutralize his gun. Despite withering fire and bursting shells, he maintained his heroic stand and poured crippling fire into the ranks of the hostile force until a mortar burst severely wounded him and rendered the gun mount inoperable. Quickly removing the hot, heavy weapon, he cradled it in his arms and, moving forward with grim determination, raked the attacking forces with a hail of fire. Although wounded a second time, he pursued his relentless course until his ammunition was expended within 10 feet of the foe. Then, using the machine gun as a club, he courageously closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat until mortally wounded. Private *Pomeroy's* consummate valor, inspirational actions, and supreme sacrifice enabled the platoon to contain the attack and maintain the integrity of the perimeter, thereby reflecting lasting glory on himself and upholding the noble 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.*

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