GENERAL ORDERS
No. 24

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 25 April 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 Congress to the following-named enlisted man:

Sergeant *William R. Jecelin* (Service No.), Company C, 35th Infantry Regiment, United States Army, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Saga, Korea, on 19 September 1950. His company was ordered to secure a prominent, saw-toothed ridge from a well-entrenched and heavily armed enemy force. Unable to capture the objective in the first attempt, a frontal and flanking assault was launched. Sergeant *Jecelin* led his platoon through heavy enemy fire and bursting shells, across rice fields and rocky terrain, in direct frontal attack on the ridge in order to draw fire away from the flanks. The unit advanced to the base of the cliff, where intense, accurate hostile fire stopped the attack. Realizing that an assault was the only solution, Sergeant *Jecelin* rose from his position, firing his rifle and throwing grenades as he called on his men to follow him. Despite the intense enemy fire, this attack carried to the crest of the ridge, where the men were forced to take cover. Again he rallied his men and stormed the enemy strong point. With fixed bayonets, they charged into the face of anti-tank fire and engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. After clubbing and slashing this force into submission, the platoon was forced to take cover from direct frontal fire of a self-propelled gun. Refusing to be stopped, Sergeant *Jecelin* leaped to his feet and, through sheer personal courage and fierce determination, led his men in a new attack. At this instance a well-camouflaged enemy soldier threw a grenade at the remaining members of the platoon. He immediately lunged and covered the grenade with his body, absorbing the full force of the explosion to save those around him. This incredible courage and willingness to sacrifice himself for his comrades so imbued them with fury that they completely eliminated the enemy force. Sergeant *Jecelin's* heroic leadership and outstanding gallantry reflect the highest credit on himself and uphold the esteemed traditions of the military service.

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This general order will be brought to the attention of all personnel by posting conspicuously on bulletin boards in unit areas.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Chief of Staff, United States Army

OFFICIAL:
EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

AGO 3935B

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