GENERAL ORDERS No. 61

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

Corporal *John Essebagger, Jr.* (Service No. ER 16269-483), Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company A, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Popsu-dong, Korea, on 25 April 1951. Committed to effect a delaying action to cover the 3d Battalion's withdrawal through Company A, Corporal *Essebagger*, a member of one of two squads maintaining defensive positions in key terrain and defending the company's right flank, had participated in repulsing numerous attacks. In a frenzied banzai charge, the numerically superior enemy seriously threatened the security of the planned route of withdrawal and isolation of the small force. Badly shaken, the grossly outnumbered detachment started to fall back and Corporal *Essebagger*, realizing the impending danger, voluntarily remained to provide security for the withdrawal. Gallantly maintaining a one-man stand, Corporal *Essebagger* raked the menacing hordes with crippling fire. With the foe closing on the position, he left the comparative safety of his shelter and advanced in the face of overwhelming odds, firing his weapon and hurling grenades to disconcert the enemy and afford time for displacement of friendly elements to more tenable positions. Scorning the withering fire and bursting shells, Corporal *Essebagger* continued to move forward, inflicting destruction upon the fanatical foe until he was mortally wounded. Corporal *Essebagger's* intrepid action and supreme sacrifice exacted a heavy toll in enemy dead and wounded, stemmed the onslaught, and enabled the retiring squads to reach safety. His valorous conduct and devotion to duty reflect lasting glory on himself and are in keeping with the noblest traditions of the Infantry and the United States Army.

AGO 4295B—June 950999°—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

AGO 4295B

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