

GENERAL ORDERS }  
No. 69

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 23 September 1954

## 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 by the Department of the Army in the name of the Congress to the following-named officer:

First Lieutenant *Benjamin F. Wilson*, O1179250 (then master sergeant), Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company I, 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 Hwach'on-Myon, Korea, on 5 June 1951. Company I was committed to attack and secure commanding terrain stubbornly defended by a numerically superior hostile force emplaced in well-fortified positions. When the spearheading element was pinned down by withering hostile fire, Lieutenant *Wilson* dashed forward firing his rifle and throwing grenades, neutralized the position denying the advance, and killed four enemy soldiers manning submachine guns. After the assault platoon moved up, occupied the position, and a base of fire was established, he led a bayonet attack which reduced the objective and killed approximately 27 hostile soldiers. While friendly forces were consolidating the newly won gain, the enemy launched a counter-attack. Lieutenant *Wilson*, realizing the imminent threat of being overrun, made a determined lone-man charge, killing seven and wounding two of the enemy and routing the remainder in disorder. After the position was organized, he led an assault carrying to approximately 15 yards of the final objective, but enemy fire halted the advance. He ordered the platoon to withdraw and, although painfully wounded in this action, remained to provide covering fire. During an ensuing counterattack, the commanding officer and first platoon leader became casualties. Unhesitatingly, Lieutenant *Wilson* charged the enemy ranks and fought valiantly, killing three enemy soldiers with his rifle before it was wrested from his hands and annihilating four others with his entrenching tool. His courageous delaying action enabled his comrades to reorganize and effect an orderly withdrawal. While directing evacuation of the wounded, he suffered a second wound, but elected to remain on the position until assured that all the men had reached safety. Lieutenant *Wilson's* sustained valor and intrepid actions reflect utmost credit on himself and uphold the honored 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:

JOHN A. KLEIN,  
*Major General, United States Army,*  
*The Adjutant General.*

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