GENERAL ORDERS
No. 25

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:

Private First Class *Joseph R. Ouellette* (Service No.), Company H, 9th Infantry Regiment, United States Army, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy from 31 August to 3 September 1950 in the Naktong-Gang River salient near Yongsan, Korea. When an enemy assault cut off and surrounded his unit, he voluntarily made a reconnaissance of a nearby hill under intense enemy fire to locate friendly troop positions and obtain information of the enemy's strength and location. Finding that friendly troops were not on the hill, he worked his way back to his unit under heavy fire. Later, when an air drop of water was made outside the perimeter, he again braved enemy fire in an attempt to retrieve water for his unit. Finding the dropped cans broken and devoid of water, he returned to his unit. His heroic attempt greatly increased his comrades' morale. When ammunition and grenades ran low, Private *Ouellette* again slipped out of the perimeter to collect these from the enemy dead. After collecting grenades he was attacked by an enemy soldier. He killed this enemy in hand-to-hand combat, gathered up the ammunition, and returned to his unit. When the enemy attacked on 3 September, they assaulted his position with grenades. On six occasions Private *Ouellette* leaped from his fox hole to escape exploding grenades. In doing so, he had to face enemy small-arms fire. He continued his resistance, despite a severe wound, until he lost his life. The extraordinary heroism and intrepidity displayed by Private *Ouellette* reflect the highest credit on himself and are in keeping with 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 2936B

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