GENERAL ORDERS No. 58

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 2 *August 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 interpidity 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 officer:

Captain *Reginald B. Desiderio*, , Infantry, United States Army, commanding officer of Company E, 27th Infantry Regiment, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the repeated risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty near Ipsok, Korea, on 27 November 1950. His company was given the mission of defending the command post of a task force against an enemy break-through. After personal reconnaissance during darkness and under intense enemy fire, he placed his men in defensive positions to repel an attack. Early in the action he was wounded but refused evacuation, and despite enemy fire he continued to move among his men, check their positions, and make sure that each element was prepared to receive the next attack. Again wounded, he continued to direct his men. By his inspiring leadership he encouraged them to hold their position. In the subsequent fighting when the fanatical enemy succeeded in penetrating the position, he personally charged them with carbine, rifle, and grenades, and inflicted many casualties until he was mortally wounded. His men, spurred on by his intrepid example, repelled this final attack. Captain *Desiderio's* heroic leadership, courageous and loyal devotion to duty, and his complete disregard for personal safety reflect the highest honor on him and are in keeping with the esteemed 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:

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Chief of Staff, United States Army

OFFICIAL:
WM. E. BERGIN
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

AGO 329B

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