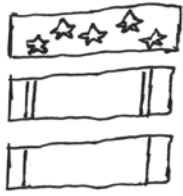


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**Major Benjamin F. Wilson**  
**Medal Of Honor**



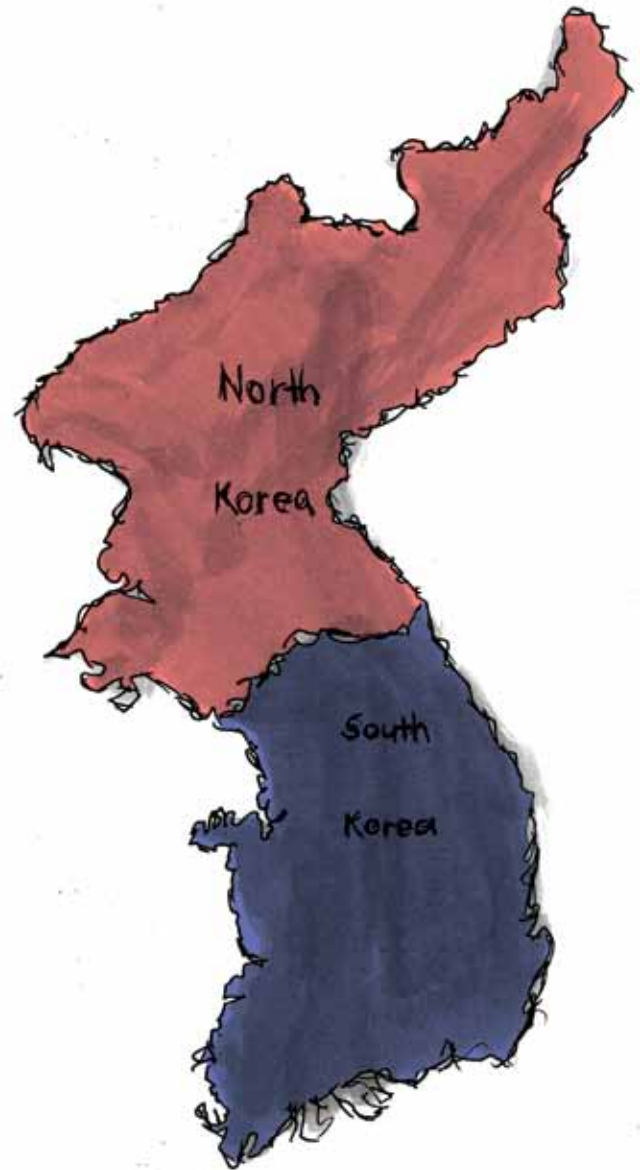
MAJ  
BENJAMIN  
F.  
WILSON



# Major Benjamin F. Wilson 1922-1988

Wilson enlisted in the Army in the summer of 1940, and was commissioned as an officer during WWII. He attempted to return to action for the Korean War, but due to the thinning of Army officer ranks there was no need for another lieutenant. Undeterred he re-enlisted as a private where he rose quickly through the ranks to become I Company's First Sergeant by the summer of 1951.

During the Korean War, Wilson was awarded the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, and a Purple heart for his courageous acts. Moving back to Hawaii, Wilson retired from the Army as a Major in 1960. Major Benjamin F. Wilson passed away in 1988 at the age of 65.



# Korean War

The Korean War was a conventional trench war over the physical division of Communist ruled North Korea and Democratic South Korea. The war was supported by the United Nations in the south with the Peoples Republic

of China and the Soviet Union in the north. The conflict lasted from 1950 - 1953, with casualties from both sides in the millions.



# Wilson's Orders

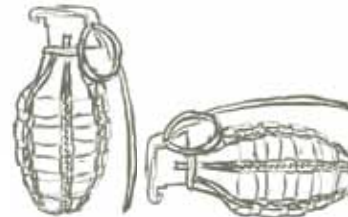
On June 4, 1951, Wilson's company was ordered to take the largest hill, nicknamed **Hell Hill**, overlooking the Hwachon Reservoir in South Korea. On June 5, Wilson led a charge against the far superior force and was responsible for killing several enemy soldiers with all available weapons including his shovel. In a North Korean counter attack Wilson was wounded. Still trying to give orders, Wilson was carried down the hill on a stretcher. About half way down the hill the medics stopped for a rest and Wilson ran back into hell. For his actions, Wilson as awarded the Medal of Honor.



M1 Garand



US Army  
Shovel



MK2 Hand  
Grenade

## Medal of Honor Citation

1st Lt. Wilson distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. Company I was committed to attack and secure commanding

The  
Medics...



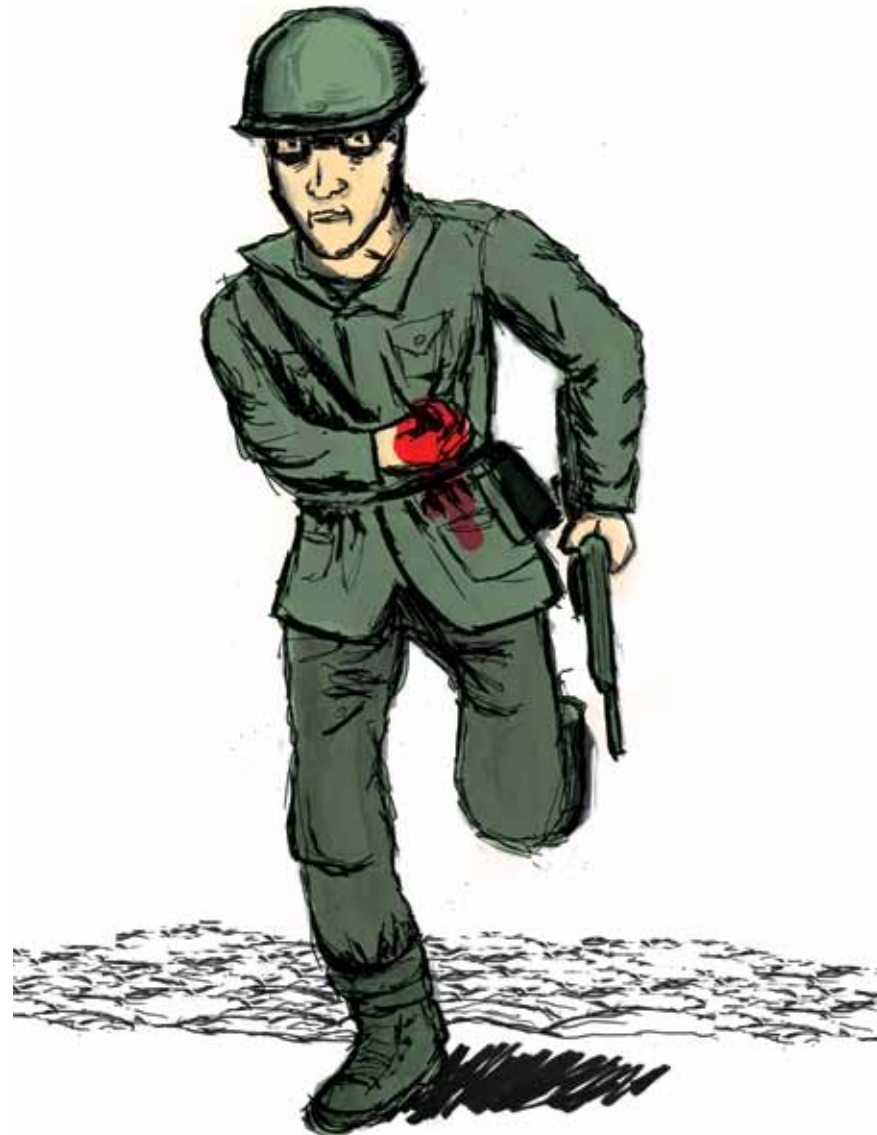
...Stopped For  
a Rest...

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, he dashed forward and, firing his rifle and

throwing grenades, neutralized the position denying the advance and killed 4 enemy soldiers manning submachineguns. 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

...Wilson  
Ran Back  
into Hell.

friendly forces were consolidating the newly won gain, the enemy launched a counterattack and 1st Lt. Wilson, realizing the imminent threat of being overrun, made a determined lone-man charge, killing 7 and wounding 2 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, when 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 1st Platoon leader became casualties. Unhesitatingly, 1st Lt. Wilson charged the enemy ranks and fought valiantly, killing 3 enemy soldiers with his rifle before it was wrested from his hands, and annihilating 4 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 of the men had reached safety. 1st Lt. Wilson's sustained valor and intrepid actions reflect utmost credit upon himself and uphold the honored traditions of the military service.





# Four Days Later...

...Sergeant Wilson committed another **One-Man-Assault** against the opposition reopening his wounds. Wilson laid down such devastation to the enemy that forced them to retreat from their fortified position. Unable to receive two Medals of Honor for one Battle, Wilson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest honor.

A One-Man Army - Major Benjamin F. Wilson, U.S. Army -  
DUANE A. VACHON, PH.D., Hawaii Reporter, Aug 2011.

Medal of Honor Citation: Medal of Honor recipients:  
Korean War. United States Army Center of Military  
History, September 23, 1954

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