

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 34

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 29 May 1951

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I. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), the Distinguished-Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility during the period indicated is awarded posthumously to the following-named officer:

Brigadier General *Laurence K. Ladue*, (then colonel), United States Army. 11 February to 23 May 1951.

II. DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION.—As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citation of the following unit in the general orders indicated is confirmed in accordance with AR 260-15 in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The *1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, British Army, and Troop C, 170th Independent Mortar Battery, Royal Artillery*, attached, are cited for exceptionally outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against the armed enemy near Solma-ri, Korea, on 23, 24, and 25 April 1951. The *1st Battalion and Troop C* were defending a very critical sector of the battle front during a determined attack by the enemy. The defending units were overwhelmingly outnumbered. The 63d Chinese Communist Army drove the full force of its savage assault at the positions held by the *1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment*, and attached unit. The route of supply ran southeast from the battalion between two hills. The hills dominated the surrounding terrain northwest of the Imjin River. Enemy pressure built up on the battalion front during the day, 23 April. On 24 April, the weight of the attack had driven the right flank of the battalion back. The pressure grew heavier and heavier and the battalion and attached unit were forced into a perimeter defense on Hill 235. During the night, heavy enemy forces had bypassed the staunch defenders and closed all avenues of escape. The courageous soldiers of the battalion and attached unit were holding the critical route selected by the enemy for one column of the general offensive designed to encircle and destroy I Corps. These gallant soldiers would not retreat. As they were compressed tighter and tighter in their perimeter defense, they called for close-in air strikes to assist in holding firm. Completely surrounded by tremendous numbers, these indomitable, resolute, and tenacious soldiers fought back with unsurpassed fortitude and courage. As ammunition ran low and the advancing hordes moved closer and closer, these splendid soldiers fought back viciously to prevent the enemy from overrunning the position and moving rapidly to the south. Their heroic stand provided the critically needed time to regroup other I Corps units and block the southern advance of the enemy. Time and again efforts were made to reach the battalion, but the enemy strength blocked each effort. Without thought of defeat or surrender, this heroic force demonstrated superb battlefield courage and discipline. Every yard of ground they surrendered was covered with enemy dead until the last gallant soldier of the fighting battalion was overpowered by the final surge of the enemy masses. The *1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regi-*

ment, British Army, and Troop C, 170th Independent Mortar Battery, Royal Artillery, displayed such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing their mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set them apart and above other units participating in the same battle. Their sustained brilliance in battle, their resoluteness, and extraordinary heroism are in keeping with the finest traditions of the renowned military forces of the British Commonwealth, and reflect unsurpassed credit on these courageous soldiers and their homeland. (General Orders 286, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army Korea, 8 May 1951.)

III. MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.—By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under AR 260-15, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following unit of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated. The citation reads as follows:

The *25th Replacement Company, 25th Infantry Division*, is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service in Korea for a 6-month continuous period from July 1950 to February 1951. During this period, the *25th Replacement Company* processed over 20,500 replacements for the *25th Infantry Division*. The processing involved receiving, equipping, and giving a brief course of orientation for immediate entry into combat. All records of the replacements were screened and brought up to the highest standards. Despite the difficulties of transportation, weather, supply, and numerous movements of the company caused by the tactical situation, the mission was expeditiously and skillfully accomplished. In addition to the normal replacements, 4,200 Republic of Korea troops were processed for integration into the division. When the rest and recuperation program to Japan was initiated, the company provided facilities for reception, equipping, and shipment of as many as 300 soldiers at one time. The spirit of cooperation, devotion to duty, and the unfailing excellence of the work of all members of the company contributed essentially to the immediate combat effectiveness of the division and to the general morale of the organic units. The successful, extraordinary, and distinctly meritorious achievements stand as exemplary criteria in the processing of personnel replacements and bring noteworthy credit to the *25th Replacement Company, 25th Infantry Division*, and the military service of the United States. (General Orders 200, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea (EUSAK), 12 April 1951.)

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

Wm. E. BERGIN
Major General, USA
Acting The Adjutant General

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Chief of Staff, United States Army