

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 71

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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I..DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION.—As authorized by Executive Order 9096 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citation of the following units in the general orders indicated is confirmed in accordance with AR 220-315 in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The 2d Battalion, 7th Infantry, and the 2d Battalion, 15th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division, and the following attached units:

1st Platoon, Tank Company, 7th Infantry;
3d Platoon, Tank Company, 7th Infantry;
2d Platoon, Heavy Mortar Company, 7th Infantry;
Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 7th Infantry;
Battle Patrol, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Infantry;
Counterfire Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Infantry;
2d Medical Platoon, Medical Company, 7th Infantry;
2d Litter Section, Medical Company, 7th Infantry;
2d Ambulance Section, Medical Company, 7th Infantry;
2d Wire Team, Communications Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Infantry;
2d Platoon, Heavy Mortar Company, 15th Infantry;
Antitank Mine Platoon, 15th Infantry;
Liaison Section 2, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 10th Field Artillery Battalion;
Forward Observation Teams 35, 36, and 37, Battery B, 10th Field Artillery Battalion;
Liaison Section 2, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 39th Field Artillery Battalion;
Forward Observation Teams 35, 36, and 37, Battery B, 39th Field Artillery Battalion,

are cited for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy in the vicinity of Kowang-ni, Korea, during the period 23 to 25 November 1951. On 23 November, the 2d Battalion, 7th Infantry, moved into defensive positions on a hill which was of vital importance to the cease-fire talks then in progress. Soon after assuming responsibility for this sector, the battalion was subjected to a heavy barrage of mortar and artillery fire as a prelude to a full-scale enemy attack. Shortly thereafter, an estimated two regiments of the enemy were observed moving frantically through their own supporting fire in an assault against the friendly positions. Wave after wave of the hostile troops came charging up the slope, only to be beaten back by the heavy fire poured into their ranks by the friendly force. The enemy, determined to take their objective at all costs, concentrated five battalions at one sector of the defense line and, under this tremendous pressure, one of the friendly companies was forced to execute a limited withdrawal to save itself from total annihilation. Although masses of the enemy were hurling themselves at the entire friendly line, the defenders, fighting fiercely against heavy odds, held them back except for this single penetration. The 2d Battalion, 15th

Infantry, was immediately ordered to move forward and block the hostile troops attempting to push through the gap in the defense line. Upon reaching the area, one company immediately launched a spirited counterattack. Despite the heavy fire pouring down on them from all sides, the friendly troops pushed the enemy back steadily until the heavy casualties inflicted on them by the numerically superior hostile force made it necessary for them to halt their advance and occupy defensive positions on a newly won ridge. Another friendly company quickly moved through these positions and continued the attack until the enemy was repulsed and the breach in the friendly defense was closed. At this point, a fresh assault company advanced through the other two, who were in the process of consolidating their positions, and drove the enemy completely from the area with heavy casualties. The hostile force immediately launched a fierce counterattack but the friendly troops, exhibiting a matchless fighting spirit, repulsed the enemy repeatedly. Finally, seriously weakened by the tremendous casualties they had suffered, the hostile troops retreated, completely frustrated in their attempt to force the friendly troops from the strategic hill. In this action, approximately 2,000 of the enemy were killed, approximately 3,000 wounded, and 8 taken prisoner. The 2d Battalion, 7th Infantry, and the 2d Battalion, 15th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division, and attached units displayed such superlative effectiveness in accomplishing their mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set them apart and above other units participating in the action. The extraordinary heroism, singleness of purpose, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of these units reflect great credit on themselves and are in keeping with the most esteemed traditions of the military service. (*General Orders 259, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 21 May 1952.*)

II. MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.—By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under AR 220-315, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the periods indicated. The citations read as follows:

1. The 3d Engineer Combat Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 May to 31 December 1951. Displaying singular technical proficiency and extreme versatility, the members of this battalion consistently approached the multifarious engineering tasks necessary to the continued combat effectiveness of the division with the utmost self-assurance and accomplished them in a manner worthy of the closest emulation in all future campaigns. Fifty-five miles of new roads were constructed over the roughest possible terrain and 50 miles of existing roads, which were little better than trails, were widened and surfaced to support two-way traffic carrying critically essential supplies and matériel to forward units. With great skill, the personnel of this battalion also prepared innumerable mine fields in support of combat troops and constructed vast networks of defensive positions. Because of the extremely mountainous nature of the terrain, many of the positions held by combat units were almost completely inaccessible by road. To rectify this situation, the members of the battalion, manifesting outstanding ingenuity, constructed the first aerial tramway to be used in Korea, which greatly facilitated the transportation of supplies to these units and aided

immeasurably in the successful evacuation of their wounded. In addition, many miles of essential roads were maintained and several airstrips were constructed, which greatly enhanced the combat effectiveness of the division. The 3d Engineer Combat Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart and above other units having similar missions. The exceptional technical skill, tireless effort, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this battalion reflect great credit on themselves, the Corps of Engineers, and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 316, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 17 June 1952.*)

2. The 4th Machine Records Unit (M) and the 25th Machine Records Unit (M) are cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea from 26 May 1951 to 26 May 1952. These units displayed superior technical skill and efficiency in the establishment and maintenance of various punched-card files, reports, and statistical analyses. Their primary mission was personnel accounting for Eighth United States Army units, but other programs, such as casualty accounting, equipment status reporting, reports control, and central directory service, were successfully implemented and produced additional beneficial results for all elements of the command. Problems such as inadequate supplies of spare parts for electrical accounting machines, availability of only outmoded equipment with limited capacity, loss of technically trained personnel through rotation and reassignment, and lack of adequate space were expeditiously circumvented so that the highest quality of operations continued despite these difficulties. Through such attributes as high devotion to duty, ingenious improvisation of existing facilities, and expert knowledge of the technical tasks to be performed, paralleled by the skillful application of that knowledge, the personnel of these organizations garnered an enviable reputation for efficiency. In addition to their regular duties, these units met heavy demands for special statistical reports required for the successful conduct of military operations. The 4th Machine Records Unit (M) and the 25th Machine Records Unit (M) displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set them apart and above other units with similar missions. The technical and administrative ability of the personnel of these units reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 300, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 10 June 1952.*)

3. The 76th Engineer Construction Battalion is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 29 July 1950 to 31 December 1951. Upon arriving in Korea shortly after the advent of hostilities, this battalion immediately set about to prepare the Pusan area to receive the vast quantities of troops and supplies destined for the fighting front. At the same time, its members began the construction of defense-line positions with the utmost speed. So effective were the efforts of the members of this battalion and so proficient and organized were the techniques which they applied, that the Pusan perimeter was successfully completed and the port area equipped to receive the vitally needed men and matériel in a short span of time when the time element was critical. After the United Nations troops had broken out of the perimeter, this battalion was assigned the mission of reconstructing and maintaining roads and bridges along the main route of supply. Numerous railroad and highway

bridges were constructed along this route and its arteries, despite shortages of men and materials, through the ingenious improvisation and full utilization of existing facilities by the members of this battalion. The exemplary manner in which these exacting missions were carried out played a significant part in the success achieved by the United Nations Command and materially furthered the bringing of peace and freedom to Korea. The *76th Engineer Construction Battalion* displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart and above other units with similar missions. The technical skill, determination of purpose, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this battalion reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 300, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 10 June 1952.*)

4. The *590th Quartermaster Technical Intelligence Detachment* is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 15 October 1950 to 10 May 1952. Upon being activated, the members of this detachment immediately set about to accomplish their singularly difficult and critically important mission with the utmost self-assurance. While still in transit to their base of operations, the personnel of this detachment obtained permission to interrogate enemy prisoners of war and to examine their quartermaster equipment. This was carried out with such thoroughness and precision that they soon had a comprehensive fund of technical information to serve as a foundation for subsequent operations. With a singleness of purpose and abundance of technical skill that was unsurpassed, this small unit performed its vital function in a manner which consistently evoked the highest possible praise from those having knowledge of its fine work. The product of the tireless research and continuous investigation carried on by the members of this detachment was eagerly sought after by using agencies throughout Korea and the intelligence data which they gathered did much to enhance the effectiveness of combat units and materially furthered the cause of the United Nations in Korea. The *590th Quartermaster Technical Intelligence Detachment* displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart and above other units having similar missions. The exemplary ability and esprit de corps manifested by the members of this detachment reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 316, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 17 June 1952.*)

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

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

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Chief of Staff, United States Army