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Div. 2140

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GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 42

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 12 May 1953

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION—Citation of units-----Section I
MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION—Awards-----II

I. 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 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 citations read as follows:

1. The *1st Battalion, 32d Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, and Company I and Company G, 31st Infantry Regiment*, attached are cited for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy in the vicinity of Kumbwa, Korea, during the period 15 to 20 October 1952. Although it had suffered heavy casualties in an engagement the previous night, the battalion was ordered on 15 October 1952 to attack and secure an important enemy-held hill mass. Despite a heavy barrage of enemy artillery and mortar fire and adverse weather conditions, the battalion succeeded in taking a part of the objective after a vicious struggle. When the forward unit of the battalion was forced to withdraw because of heavy casualties, the battalion quickly reorganized and entrenched on the initial objectives. Throughout the night, the battalion withstood continued enemy attacks. On the morning of 16 October 1952, the battalion launched an assault which ended in the capture of another vital section of the hill. That night, the battalion constantly fought at close range enemy troops who crawled from caves and tunnels into which they had been driven during the day attack. The following morning, the battalion was withdrawn to a reserve area for reorganization, but 2 days later was in the battle again and ultimately succeeded in securing all objectives. The *1st Battalion, 32d Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, and Company I and Company G, 31st Infantry Regiment*, attached, displayed such outstanding tenacity and determination in accomplishing its hazardous mission as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the action. The extraordinary heroism and selfless devotion to duty exhibited by the members of this battalion and attached units reflect great credit on themselves and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 412, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 23 April 1953.*)

2. The *1st Signal Company*, early on D-Day, 6 June 1944, landed with assault troops on the invasion beach, Normandy, France, with the vital mission of establishing and maintaining communications from shore to ship and, on shore, to all 1st United States Infantry Division units and attached. In the face of intense artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire, personnel of the company, displaying indomitable courage, determination, and sustaining many casualties, carried indispensable equipment ashore through treacherous underwater obstacles and extensive mine fields without loss of a major item. Still under heavy fire, they immediately set up and operated radios and a message center, establishing communications with ships and assault troops, thereby facilitating the seizure of beachhead objectives. Wire crews quickly and unhesitatingly proceeded through mine fields and under continuous enemy artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire to lay and maintain the Division's wire net to units fighting their way inland. Men of the detachments constantly moved back and forth along the exposed beach, vulnerable to the continuing intense barrage, carrying vitally needed

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equipment above the water line. When an LST loaded to capacity with valuable signal equipment was damaged and slowly sinking as a result of an attempted landing under heavy artillery and mortar fire, the officers and men of the *1st Signal Company* dauntlessly accomplished the incredible feat of successfully transferring all loaded vehicles, equipment, and personnel to another LST in open, rough sea. The communications system established and maintained by the *1st Signal Company* enabled the Division to fight a decisive, coordinated battle during the critical hours of the initial assault and contributed invaluable aid to the successful Allied invasion of France. When the Division, on 26 July, broke through the German lines in the vicinity of Marigny, France, the speed with which combat teams moved made it necessary for wire sections to lay communication lines aggressively and with unprecedented speed to front-line positions. Despite continuous and heavy enemy artillery and small-arms fire, the *1st Signal Company* persistently laid and maintained wire in exposed positions. Throughout hours of darkness, without rest or normal preparation, under air attack, and subjected to ambush by isolated and well-concealed groups of enemy, the men laid and patrolled wire lines with such technical skill and courage that at all times the Division commander controlled and employed the Division by telephone. The break-through developed swiftly into a driving pursuit of the disorganized enemy. For 3 weeks, signal company messengers, sustaining many casualties, traveled hundreds of miles through uncleared, unfamiliar, and heavily mined terrain subjected to attacks from patrols and snipers. Despite the most trying conditions of fatigue, enemy action, and dispersion of units, the messengers, message center, and radio personnel with grim determination, courage, and skill maintained perfect communications. The pursuit culminated during the early days of September in the "Battle of Mons," Belgium, where the 1st United States Infantry Division annihilated or captured an enemy force estimated as a corps. The Division's success at Mons was greatly facilitated by the communications system operated by the *1st Signal Company*. There were no front lines and the resulting fluid situation led to sudden fierce encounters with the enemy in rear areas, which added to the technical difficulties of the company's already hazardous task. With great stamina, courage, and skill, the company efficiently and with incredible speed installed and operated the communications net which materially aided the combat teams to destroy and prevent the enemy from fully manning the Siegfried Line, thereby paving the way for subsequent penetration of the defense south of Aachen, Germany. During the heavy fighting for Aachen, the *1st Signal Company* maintained superb communications among widely dispersed units, although the enemy continuously launched desperate and stubborn counterattacks against the Division's constricting ring around the city. After the capture of Aachen, on 20 October, in the attack through the Hurtgen Forest during the month of November, the *1st Signal Company*, despite the most concentrated artillery and mortar fire yet experienced, together with extremely inclement weather, continued to produce superior communications. On 17 December, after the German break-through into the Ardennes, the *1st Signal Company* preceded the Division to Saurbrodt, Belgium. Unhesitatingly and fearlessly traversing territory held by enemy paratroopers and braving the devastating effect of hostile artillery fire and imminent attack by tanks, the company, in total darkness, swiftly installed and continuously maintained communications so that from the moment of arrival all units of the Division were under perfect control and poised for any eventuality. This determined and fearless action enabled the Division to quickly seize and control vital terrain features on the northern shoulder of the German bulge and to hold firm against sustained

efforts of vastly superior enemy forces to exploit the early success of the breakthrough. Throughout all major engagements of the 1st United States Infantry Division, the officers and men of the *1st Signal Company* demonstrated superb acts of courage, personal sacrifice, superior technical skill, fortitude, and determination in successfully accomplishing all missions with the highest efficiency. Their exemplary performance of duty, fine esprit de corps, and outstanding achievements in the most adverse circumstances contributed immeasurably to the combat success of the Division and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army of the United States. (This citation is for the period 6 June 1944 to 25 January 1945, inclusive.) (*General Orders 152, Headquarters, 1st United States Infantry Division, 12 August 1945.*)

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 *10th Special Services Company* (third award) is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 August 1952 to 28 February 1953. The company continuously provided the highest type of entertainment to troops throughout the command. Often functioning under adverse field conditions and handicapped by loss of key personnel, the company succeeded in maintaining the high quality of its performances and contributed to the maintenance of troop morale. The *10th Special Services Company* displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of unusually difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with similar missions. The determination, loyalty, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this company reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 396, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 16 April 1953.*)

2. The *536th Transportation Truck Company* is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 17 November 1951 to 30 June 1952. Newly activated, the organization achieved a superior record in transporting vitally needed supplies to forward army supply points over rough and hazardous mountain roads under extremely adverse conditions. Because of the acute shortage of personnel, it was often necessary for drivers to remain on the road from 36 to 48 hours without sleep. In transporting thousands of tons of vital supplies to the front, the company vehicles traveled a total of 1,860,891 miles for a total of 4,247,234 ton-miles. Within a period of 43 days, the company set and improved the tonnage record of the battalion four times. The *536th Transportation Truck Company* displayed such outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of unusually difficult tasks as to set it apart from and above other units with similar missions. The determination, loyalty, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this company reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 390, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 15 April 1953.*)

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

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