

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 48 }

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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I..DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION.—As authorized by Executive Order 9896 (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 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 Chemical Mortar Battalion* distinguished itself by outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Kumhwa, Korea. During the period 7 to 22 October 1952, when the Communist forces massed their strength and launched a concerted attack against a vitally important portion of the United Nations line, this battalion functioned in support of units of the Republic of Korea Army which bore the brunt of the assault. Exhibiting a high degree of mobility and self-sufficiency which fitted them admirably for their exacting and hazardous task, the members of this battalion moved along the entire width of the battle line, emplacing where the fighting was heaviest, inflicting tremendous casualties among the attackers, and redeploying as soon as a relative lull occurred to another sector where the savage battle flared anew. With a singleness of purpose and self-imposed discipline which drove them relentlessly, these men went without sleep for days at a time, fully aware of the critical importance of their fire to the gallant Republic of Korea troops fighting against heavy odds to protect their homeland. With each round fired by the battalion's mortars, the enemy instantly moved to locate the position held by the friendly troops and directed counterbattery against it. Heavy casualties were suffered by the men of the battalion as a result of the foe's constant efforts to destroy them, but even under the most intense fire they would not quit their positions until their fire mission was completed. Forward observer teams were repeatedly sent to exposed posts to relay information to the batteries. These too were singled out by the enemy for annihilation as soon as their presence was known, but they continued, with selfless devotion to duty, to uncover concentrations of the enemy and stop innumerable attacks before they could gather momentum and threaten temporarily weakened friendly positions. As a result of the ceaseless and heroic efforts of the personnel of the *2d Chemical Mortar Battalion*, mortar fire alone held back waves of the attackers as the defenders worked desperately to close gaps in their lines caused by the frenzied assaults of the foe. With a display of fortitude and steadfastness which long will be remembered by all those who witnessed it, the *2d Chemical Mortar Battalion* played a role of incalculable value throughout this critical period of hostilities when the enemy, without regard for losses, smashed again and again at the friendly defenses in an effort to break through and, through sheer weight of numbers, destroy the fighting potential of the forces of freedom battling in Korea. The magnificent fighting spirit, esprit de corps, and unshakable, inspiring confidence exhibited by the personnel of this battalion were responsible in great measure for the smashing defeat of the hostile forces, thus reflecting utmost credit on themselves and upholding the most esteemed traditions of the military service. (General Orders 189, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 4 February 1953.)

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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 *2d Military Police Criminal Investigation Detachment* is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 27 February to 31 October 1952. The detachment was assigned the mission of investigation and prevention of crime throughout the Eighth Army zone, and later throughout the Korean communications zone. On occasion, investigations required the detachment personnel to go into forward areas under enemy observation and fire. The detachment provided security and bodyguard details for the Commanding General, Eighth Army, and carried out crime prevention programs which included lectures, security surveys of installations, and methods for eliminating black market and narcotic sources. Personnel of the unit assisted in the positive identification of approximately 80,000 enemy prisoners of war by the use of fingerprint comparison techniques. The *2d Military Police Criminal Investigation Detachment* 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 loyalty, devotion to duty, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this detachment reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 441, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 30 April 1953.*)

2. The *21st Chemical Decontamination Company* (second award) is cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in support of combat operations in Korea during the period 1 July to 31 December 1952. Through diligent and conscientious application to duty, the members of this company maintained a superior record of achievement. The company supplied vast quantities of napalm to several organizations, provided shower facilities for thousands of United Nations personnel, conducted technical training, and supervised tests of experimental equipment. The standard of performance remained constantly superior despite rapid turn-over in personnel and widespread operation. The *21st Chemical Decontamination 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 432, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 27 April 1953.*)

3. The *42d 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 1 July 1952 to 31 January 1953. In addition to its primary mission of furnishing tactical and logistical support to three United States Army corps engaged in active combat with the enemy, the company also was charged with testing the new "M" series vehicles and rendering analytical performance reports. Often operating under adverse weather conditions and over hazardous mountain terrain, the company transported large quantities of supplies and troops to locations where they were critically needed. Through their outstanding technical skill and efficient operations, the members of the company executed every phase of their assignment in a highly commendable manner. The *42d 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 initiative, 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 425, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 26 April 1953.*)

4. The *Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, 8225th Army Unit* (second 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 1 February 1953. During this period, the unit supported two divisions during an important action, made two tactical moves, and, on one occasion, operated two surgical facilities simultaneously. During the same period, the unit conducted an experimental training program at the direction of higher headquarters. The program, which involved training enlisted technicians to replace nurse officers, was technical in nature, comprehensive in scope, and conclusive in results. Despite the necessity for working under adverse conditions, the unit maintained the highest professional standards and a smoothly functioning, well-equipped, and adequately housed unit resulted. When the hospital reopened within 24 hours after a move under severe climatic conditions, it proved its ability to care for a large number of patients, regardless of the difficulties involved. The *Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, 8225th Army Unit*, 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 initiative, loyalty, and esprit de corps exhibited by the members of this unit reflect great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States. (*General Orders 452, Headquarters, Eighth United States Army, Korea, 3 May 1953.*)

III. DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION.—Paragraph 2, section I, DA General Orders 28, 1953, pertaining to the *461st Infantry Battalion (Heavy Mortar)* (formerly the 2d Chemical Mortar Battalion) is rescinded.

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

DISTRIBUTION:

According to requirements submitted on DA AGO Form 12.