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The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 1942, has awarded the Legion of Merit Degree of Legionnaire, to

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE E. KOUMANAKOS

GREEK ARMY

for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services:

Colonel Koumanakos, Infantry, distinguished himself by meritorious service in Korea, from 2 January 1953 to 1 July 1953. As Commander, Greek Expeditionary Forces Battalion, he performed assigned duties and other not required of him in an exemplary manner. He aggressively supervised the extensive training of his troops so as to enable them to meet and surmount obstacles which they might encounter in combat operations. In addition to his military acumen, his outstanding diplomatic ability provided a close and harmonious relationship between his battalion and other United Nations forces. The exemplary pattern of military courtesy and discipline displayed by him was a source of inspiration to his men and constantly evoked the praise and confidence of those with whom he was associated. Efficiently, methodically, with coolness assuredness, he led his battalion through a variety of adverse situations, never forgetting his grave responsibilities nor losing sight of his relation as a leader. Lieutenant Colonel Koumanakos' tireless devotion to duty and outstanding leadership reflect the highest credit upon himself and the military service.

DWIGHT EISENHOWER

THE WHITE HOUSE

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SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

THRU: Brigadier General George Vlassis
Chief, Greek Liaison Group, Far East Command
GAPO 5801, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

TO: Lieutenant Colonel George Koumanakos
7 Zakynthou Street
Athens, Greece

1. On behalf of the members of my command, I take this means of conveying to you my deep appreciation for the splendid services rendered by you to the 3d U.S. Infantry Division as Commander of the Greek Expeditionary Forces, Korea. In this capacity you demonstrated a superior knowledge of tactics and the highest degree of ability to cooperate with the other units of the command. Your courage and outstanding leadership were an inspiration not only to your own troops but to men of other units as well.

2. Constantly faced by a numerically superior enemy, your Battalion repeatedly distinguished itself in a manner which brought credit not only to your own country but to the United Nations Command. Especially noteworthy was the performance of your unit during the bloody struggle in the Kummong Salient where it played a vital part in the defeat of the Communist Chinese Forces.

3. It is my sincere hope that your new assignment is to your pleasure and that the future may again afford me the opportunity of serving with you.

4. It is desired that a copy of this correspondence be included in your official military records.

Sincerely

/s/ E. W. Ridings
E. W. RIDINGS
Major General, USA
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 1468 C/O Postmaster
San Francisco, California

18 October 1953

Lieutenant Colonel George Koumanakos
Greek Expeditionary Forces
Zakynthou 5
Athens, Greece

Dear George,

On the occasion of the termination of your duties in Korea and your return to Greece, I wish to express the admiration which I hold for you and for the Greek Battalion which you led with such brilliant success.

Throughout the period of your Korean service you consistently and repeatedly demonstrated all of the qualities desirable in a great soldier and leader. The remarkable energy, skill, determination and courage displayed in your every action against the enemy, and the outstanding loyalty, cooperation, and diplomacy which characterized your service, gained for the Greek Battalion, and for you personally, the respect and admiration of the thousands of troops at whose side you fought. You proved, indeed, that you are a Spartan.

With kindest regards and best wishes for success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

s/w. E. Dunkelbert
t/w. E. DUNKELBERG
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding