

HEADQUARTERS

X CORPS (Group)

Office of the Commanding General

APO 909

1 October 1953

Dear General Tsigounis,

On 10 August I regretfully surrendered command of IX US Corps and the Greek Expeditionary Forces to my successor. I was reassigned to my present command which has command and operational supervision of the three ROK Corps, composing the Korean Army in the field. I am departing this command for the United States within a few days.

I would fail my duties, myself, and the Greek Armed Forces if I did not, prior to my departure, comment upon the character of service rendered by your Expeditionary Forces Battalion which served under me.

This command, true to Greek tradition, more than lived up to what you and I both expected of it. Never during the ten and one-half months under my command did any member of the Greek Battalion come to my unfavorable attention for any disciplinary, administrative or combat operational reason. On the other hand I never heard any command other than of the highest praise for all members of this Battalion in every qualification that goes to make up the soldier and the fighting unit, nor at any time did I observe anything other than qualities of the highest order. And I might remark in passing that I was a most frequent visitor to the Greek Battalion, both while in reserve and in the front line. It was particularly outstanding in a crisis, several of which occurred during periods while it was holding front line positions, the most noteworthy

of which occurred in the middle of June during the Battle of "Harry". On this occasion one Company of this Battalion successfully withstood three of the most violent attacks launched against this position in rapid succession during darkness, by no less than two full-strength Communist Battalions. This feat alone marked this command for what it is, a fine courageous and determined representative of the Greek Army as you and I knew it in the last campaigns in the Vitsi and the Gramos. To them I can pay no higher tribute.

I cannot say too much for the outstanding leadership displayed by your Battalion Commanders. I have previously written you concerning Colonel Tamvakas. Now I would like to comment briefly upon Colonel George Koumanakos.

I have previously indorsed an Efficiency Report rendered upon Colonel Koumanakos by his Regimental Commander, Colonel Akers of the 15th Infantry which, I hope, has reached you by this time. In this Efficiency Report both the Regimental Commander and I stated categorically that Lieutenant Colonel Koumanakos was one of the most outstanding and courageous Battalion Commanders of our experience. I wish to repeat that ascertainment personally to you! The outstanding manner in which he administered the affairs of the Greek Battalion and the courage and determination which he instilled into his subordinates of all ranks by personal precept and personal example are, in my opinion, the factors which contributed most to the great success of the Battalion during the critical periods while

under my command. I cannot say too much for his personal and professional qualifications which are thoroughly in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. This officer can command an Infantry Regiment and perform the duties of a Brigadier General Assistant Division Commander with high credit and distinction. He can, with little experience, command an Infantry Division in a similar fashion. I wish to recommend him to your personal attention and to the personal attention of those who follow you later in your high office to the end that he may reach General Officer Grade for which he is now fitted, as early as possible. I would also appreciate it if you would bring this matter to the personal attention of the Chief of the National Defense General Staff and to the attention of His Excellency the Prime Minister, Field Marshal Papagos.

Although my contacts with Lieutenant Colonel Koumnakos' successor, Lieutenant Colonel Prokas, have been few because of my change in assignment, I have been assured by his present Division Commander that he measures fully up to the standard as set by his predecessors.

As one of my last official acts in Korea I wish to convey to you as Chief of Staff, Greek Army, to the Chief of the National Defense General Staff, and to Field Marshal Papagos my deeply-felt gratitude for providing me such outstanding representatives of the Army with which I served in 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951.

Please convey my very best wishes to Field Marshal Papagos, to Kiriilohis, Grigoropoulos, Tsakalotos, Manolakis, Balodemis, Dovas, Zaimis, and my many other friends in the Greek Armed Forces who are too numerous to mention.

To yourself, my personal thanks and my warmest personal and highest professional regards.

Faithfully yours,

FRANK E. JENNINGS

Lieutenant General, USA

Lieutenant General Alexandros P. Tolgounis
Chief, Greek Armed Forces Staff
The Parliament Building
Athens, Greece