

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

15 July 1953

CITATION

LOCAL DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE MEDAL

The Minister of National Defence, in accordance with the authority vested in him under the provision of the Presidential Order 11, has awarded the Local Distinguished Military Service Medal to

Lieutenant Colonel GEORGE EPISTRATIOS KOUMANAKOS
19400, Infantry, Greek Army

For extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy in Korea:

Lieutenant Colonel GEORGE EPISTRATIOS KOUMANAKOS, 19400, Infantry, Headquarters Greek Expeditionary Forces Battalion. During the early morning hours of 18 June 1953, the Greek Expeditionary Forces Battalion had the mission of defending a strategically valuable friendly held outpost near Suwang-Ni, Korea, when a numerically superior hostile force launched a fanatical assault against them. Realizing the importance of saving this position from enemy conquest, Colonel KOUMANAKOS, Commanding Officer of the Battalion, took personal command of its defence. With utter and heroic disregard for his personal safety, he refused to seek a covered position and moved about the fire-swept terrain, checking the positions of his men and weapons and directing intensive fire into the hostile forces. He then moved to a vantage point from where, although still exposed to the fire of the foe, he continued to direct his men. Anticipating an assault by another wave of hostiles, Colonel KOUMANAKOS committed his support element which enabled the heroic defenders to successfully force the foe to withdraw after they had suffered many casualties. Colonel KOUMANAKOS, outstanding gallantry and untiring devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and the military service of the Kingdom of Greece.

WCH YIL SOHN
Minister of National Defence
(Se-1)