



# **MEDAL OF HONOR MEDIA KIT**



**J a n u a r y 2 0 2 5**  
**Korean War honorees**



**U.S. ARMY**

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST ★ I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT ★ I WILL NEVER QUIT ★ I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE



# MEDAL OF HONOR

## Corporal Fred B. McGee



### Hero Biography and Battle Narrative



**Hometown:** Steubenville, Ohio

**Unit:** 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division

**Enlisted:** May 22, 1951



Cpl. Fred B. McGee distinguished himself by gallantry in action near Tang-Wan-Ni, Korea, on June 16, 1952, during an assault on enemy fortified positions. As gunner on a light machine gun in a weapons squad, McGee delivered a heavy volume of supporting fire from an exposed position despite intense enemy machine-gun and mortar fire directly on his location. Though forced to move his gun several times, he continued to support the assault and provide covering fire to the assault elements of his platoon.

When his leader and several other members of his squad were wounded, he assumed command and moved the squad forward to a more exposed position to deliver neutralizing fire on an enemy machine gun. When his machine gunner was mortally wounded, he again took over the gun. He then ordered his squad to withdraw and voluntarily remained behind to help evacuate the wounded and dead. Though wounded in the face, he heroically exposed himself by standing straight up under intense enemy machine-gun and mortar fire and attempted to evacuate the body of the company runner. Forced to abandon the body, he aided a wounded man and moved him to safety through a huge volume of enemy mortar and artillery fire.

McGee displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. His unyielding courage and bravery, and his profound concern for his fellow Soldiers are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.



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## 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division

The 17th Infantry Regiment was constituted in May 1861 as a unit of the regular Army. The regiment served in the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish–American War and the Filipino War before being assigned to the 7th Infantry Division in 1933, with whom they served in World War II and the Korean War.

The 7th Infantry Division was constituted in December 1917 as a unit of the regular Army. The division deployed in 1918 to France to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces. In October 1918, the 7th Infantry Division entered the front line. After the armistice ended fighting on Nov. 11, 1918, the division returned to the United States in 1919 and was inactivated two years later.



In July 1940, the 7th Infantry Division was reactivated at Camp Ord, California. In the spring of 1943, the division began its odyssey across the Pacific by recapturing two Alaskan islands from the Japanese. After refitting in Hawaii, the division conducted amphibious assaults at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, Leyte in the Philippines, and Okinawa. Following Japan's surrender in August 1945, the 7th Infantry Division moved to southern Korea to liberate the country from Japanese control. With the establishment of the Republic of Korea in 1948, the division joined the occupation force in Japan.

Immediately after North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950, the 7th Infantry Division sent thousands of Soldiers to other divisions deploying from Japan to Korea. Rebuilt with replacements from the United States and thousands of Korean soldiers under the Korean augmentation to the U.S. Army program, the 7th Infantry Division landed at Inchon in September 1950. After the liberation of Seoul, the division sailed around the peninsula to land at Iwon in North Korea.

In November 1950, its 17th Infantry Regiment reached the Chinese-Korean border at the Yalu River. That same month the Chinese launched a massive offensive that pushed United Nations forces out of North Korea and captured Seoul. A task force from the division was destroyed defending the right flank at the Chosin Reservoir. Back in South Korea, the 7th Infantry Division saw heavy combat in the drive north to the 38th Parallel from January to June 1951.



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For the next two years, the division fought a series of battles at outposts such as Heartbreak Ridge, Triangle Hill, Porkchop Hill and Old Baldy, until the armistice in July 1953. The 7th Infantry Division remained on the peninsula defending South Korea, which included clashes with North Korean infiltrators in the 1960s, until its inactivation in 1971.

The division was reactivated in 1974 and again stationed at Fort Ord. In 1985, the 7th Infantry Division became the first unit to transform under the light infantry division concept. Units from the division deployed to Panama for Operation Just Cause in 1989.



The 7th Infantry Division inactivated in 1994 as part of the post-Cold War drawdown. Five years later, the headquarters activated at Fort Carson, Colorado, and led a new composite division of three Army National Guard brigade combat teams until its inactivation in 2006. In 2012, the division headquarters reactivated at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to oversee the brigades stationed there. In 2015, the division's headquarters deployed to Afghanistan for a one-year tour, assuming responsibility for the Train, Advise, and Assist Command – South mission.



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