



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

Private Bruno R. Orig



Hero Biography and Battle Narrative



Hometown: Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii

Unit: Company G, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division

Enlisted: Aug. 9, 1950



Pvt. Bruno R. Orig distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, in the vicinity of Chipyeong-ni, Korea, on Feb. 15, 1951.

While returning from a wire-laying mission, Orig saw several of his comrades wounded during a fierce enemy attack. With complete disregard for his own safety, Orig went to them and remained in an exposed position to administer first aid. With the assistance of several comrades from the company command post, Orig began removing the wounded to a place of safety.

While returning from one of these trips, Orig noticed that all except one man of a machine-gun crew had been wounded. Without hesitation, he volunteered to man the weapon. Remaining in this position, Orig placed effective fire on the enemy, allowing a friendly platoon to withdraw without a single casualty. Orig continued to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy until the company positions were overrun.

Later that day, when the lost ground was recaptured, Orig was found dead beside his weapon, and the area in front of his gun was littered with several dead enemy soldiers.

Orig's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty were 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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23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division

The 23rd Infantry Regiment was constituted in 1861 as a unit of the regular Army. It served in the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish–American War and the Philippine War before being assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division in 1917, with whom it served in World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

The 2nd Infantry Division was constituted in 1917 as a unit of the regular Army and organized in France from units assigned to the American Expeditionary Forces, including a U.S. Marine Corps brigade. The division fought in all the major battles of 1918, such as Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne.



After occupation duty in Germany, the 2nd Infantry Division moved to the United States in 1919, replacing the U.S. Marine Corps brigade with an Army brigade. Between the world wars, it tested the Triangular Infantry Division concept that the Army would use in World War II and the Korean War.

In 1943, the 2nd Infantry Division deployed to the United Kingdom, and then to France in June 1944, where they fought from Normandy to Germany, playing a vital role in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. Resuming the offensive, the division crossed the Rhine River in March 1945 and was in Czechoslovakia when Germany surrendered. The 2nd Infantry Division returned to the United States in July 1945 to prepare for the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before it could deploy. Instead, the division moved to Fort Lewis, Washington.

In July 1950, the 2nd Infantry Division became the first U.S. division to reinforce the Eighth Army in Korea. It helped hold the Pusan Perimeter and then advanced with United Nations forces into North Korea. In November, the Chinese launched a massive offensive that forced Eighth Army to withdraw from North Korea. The 2nd Infantry Division covered the right flank and suffered severe casualties as it fought its way past enemy roadblocks in what became known as The Gauntlet. After reconstitution in South Korea, the division saw heavy combat in the drive north to the 38th Parallel from January to June 1951. During that period the division's 23rd Regimental Combat Team inflicted a major defeat on the Chinese at Chipyeong-ni. In the war's final two years, the 2nd Infantry Division fought for ridges and outposts, including a series of battles at Bloody Ridge, Heartbreak Ridge and Old Baldy.



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After the armistice, the division remained in Korea until 1954; then its colors were transferred to Fort Lewis and used to reflag the 44th Infantry Division as the 2nd Infantry Division. In 1956, the division moved to Alaska, as part of an Operation Gyroscope rotation, in which it switched places with the 71st Infantry Division. In June 1958, the division's colors were transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia, and used to reflag the 10th Infantry Division as the 2nd Infantry Division.



In July 1965, the 2nd Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea exchanged their colors and unit designations as the Army created the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) at Fort Benning using units from the 11th Air Assault Division and the 2nd Infantry Division.

Since 1965, the 2nd Infantry Division has remained on the peninsula defending South Korea, which included clashes with North Korean infiltrators in the 1960s. In 2004, one of its brigade combat teams deployed from Korea to Iraq.



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