

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND

CITATION FOR THE LEGION OF MERIT

Lieutenant Colonel JOHN W. CARLSON, 043577, General Staff Corps, United States Army, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as a member of Headquarters, 1st Cavalry Division, in Korea, during the period 1 July to 2 November 1950. Colonel CARLSON, displaying professional skill and sound judgment, directed planning for the deployment of troops against numerically superior forces with an effectiveness which enabled the division to fight a highly successful delaying action with a minimum loss of personnel. Carefully weighing enemy strength and capabilities, he instituted plans for the formation of an impenetrable defensive sector and, by implementation of his concise directions, the division exacted a heavy toll of enemy casualties and was largely responsible for containing the enemy, while augmentation of United Nations' forces and materiel was accomplished. Throughout the campaign Colonel CARLSON maintained his Plans and Operations Section near frontline areas in order to gain first-hand information necessary for effectuation of plans for attack or defense. His inexhaustible tactical knowledge and flawless execution of operational planning enhanced the success of the division's spectacular one hundred and eighty-two mile advance across central Korea and contributed substantially to the defeat of the North Korean Army. Colonel CARLSON's remarkable achievements and inspirational devotion to duty reflect great credit on himself and the military service.