



COLONEL RUSSELL F. AKERS, JR.
Regimental Commander: 21 March 1953 to 13 September 1953

INTRODUCTION

The decision to publish a 1953 year book of the 15th "Can Do" Regiment was made during the bitter fight to halt the Chinese Kumsong offensive in late July. At that time the regiment had been in continuous contact with the enemy for almost six months. It was felt that a brief summary of this phase of the regiment's history, with pictures of the men who did the fighting, would be the simplest means of remembering our comrades and preserving for our families a record of this part of our lives. This book contains a brief history of the 15th Infantry Regiment since the day it was first organized, but it is primarily the story of the men who fought under its colors during the last six months of the shooting war in Korea. It is the story of Tom, Dick, Harry, of the Eagle's Nest, Old Charlie, and finally Kumsong. It is the story of men who believed in the magic of the two words "Can Do". I shall always feel a sense of humility and pride when I think back on those days. You men of the 15th, inspired and humbled me simultaneously. I shall never forget your courage when the enemy concentrated as many as 25,000 artillery and mortar rounds on a single objective, and then followed up those devastating barrages with wave after wave of trained assault troops. You stood your ground, and even when your bunkers had been destroyed you fought with your bare hands. I shall never forget your loyalty to the regiment or your loyalty to your buddies. Typical of the latter was the four-hour battle you fought in the Chorwon Valley to recover two comrades who had been wounded in a patrol engagement. You suffered patiently through the bitter cold of the early months of 1953, through the overpowering dust, the rains that flooded our positions, and finally set about building new positions in the extreme heat of July. All this is behind us. We have said good bye to our buddies who fell in the Korean hills. We are proud of the history of our regiment and honor the men who created the tradition we inherited. Yet we can feel that by our actions we, too, have added glory, tradition, and fame to the "Can Do" regiment. To all of you-Americans, Greeks, and KATUSAS-I hope that this book will serve to remind you of some of the incidents which brought forth the unselfish devotion of man for man. Rarely, except in war, does one man lay down his life that another may live. Yet all of you were prepared to do this for your buddy and in a larger sense for your country.

God bless you all.



R. F. AKERS, JR.
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding