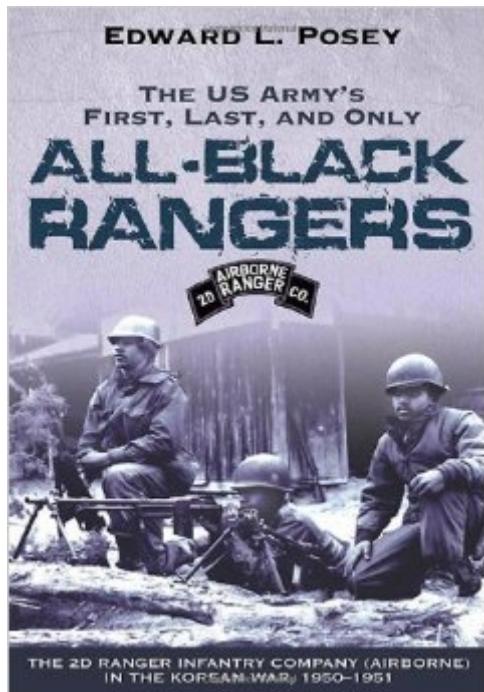


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US Army's First, Last, And Only All-Black Rangers: The 2nd Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) In The Korean War, 1950-1951



Synopsis

The 2nd Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) was the first and only all-black Ranger unit in the history of the United States Army. The company's life span covered ten months, from selection and training through a seven-month combat deployment in Korea, after which the unit was deactivated. The 2nd and 4th Rangers were among the units initially assigned to the Eighth Army and were considered to be combat ready. The 2nd Ranger Company battled North Korean and Communist Chinese Forces near Tangyang, Majori-ri, and Chechon. The 2nd Ranger Company conducted the first airborne assault in Ranger history near the town of Munsan-ni and executed the heroic attack and defense of Hill 581. The men of the 2nd Ranger Company demonstrated courage, served with honor, and achieved a magnificent combat record. Edward Posey's *The US Army's First, Last, and Only All-Black Rangers: The 2nd Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) in the Korea War, 1950-1951* is the first complete history of this elite all-volunteer unit whose members were drawn from the 3rd Battalion of the 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment and the 80th Airborne Anti-Aircraft Battalion. As a member of the unit, Posey bases his account on firsthand experience, official records, interviews with survivors, and other material to produce a rich and worthy addition to the growing literature on the Korean War. Posey's study explains the obstacles these patriotic men faced, their sacrifices, and their courageous actions on the far side of the world. Finally, more than fifty years after the end of the war, the world will learn the true story of the United States Army's first, only, and last all-black Ranger unit.

About the Author: Master Sergeant (Ret) Edward L. Posey joined the US Army in 1947. After serving with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment, he volunteered for airborne training with the Rangers in 1950 and served with distinction in the Korean War (where he was wounded). Sergeant Posey retired from the service in 1969. In 2002, he was inducted in the Ranger Hall of Fame for his dedication to duty and distinguished military career.

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Customer Reviews

Edward L. Posey's (US Army Master Sergeant, Ret.) non-fiction book, *The US Army's First, Last, and Only All-Black Rangers*, published by Savas Beatie, LLC, is far more than a detailed record of events, highlighting the pride, patriotism, and military prowess of a capable military unit of all-black soldiers in the Korean War (1950-1951). The book's even-handed discourse provides an orderly and factual account of the undeniable dedication, extraordinary military skill, and superb esprit de corps of these men, who served as a catalyst for the military establishment's understanding of its obligation to integrate all-black units into the larger force. Although the author carefully maintained focus upon military operational issues and the soldiers' exposure to battlefield injury, pain, and loss, there was a larger social struggle underlying the Korean War experience for these undaunted warriors. Despite the lack of availability of critical support and forward observers, inconsistent provision of replacements, and less than full confidence of senior leadership at Corps, Theater, and higher levels, the personal and collective bravery of these dedicated soldiers could not be diminished. These volunteer combatants were cognizant of the Truman Executive Order 9981 (equal treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed service). However, they did not make an issue of the compromises made and the lack of response to their requests for needed combat reinforcements and artillery support normally provided. Senior leadership proved insensitive to the need for recognition through awards and collective encouragement of these highly dedicated, stellar, and combat-weary American soldiers.

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