

DEDICATION OF THE RED DRAGONS HQ AT FORT HOOD

During the 2019 reunion the Red Dragon headquarters building was dedicated to MSG Hugh D. Whitacre. Historian Walt Eldredge described the action for which Whitacre received a posthumous Silver Star. On the night of 26 November 1950, Whitacre was in charge of a mortar platoon of C Company when the Chinese made a massive surprise attack. C Company was over run. Whitacre used a fifty-caliber machine gun to hold off the attack while his men finished their fire missions and destroyed their guns. Then he led them to safety through thick woodlands and steep slopes. Reaching safety within the 23rd US Infantry perimeter he realized that some of his men had become separated Whitacre went back into the darkness to find them and guide them in. Saving one group he again went up the heavily wooded mountain, now full of Chinese attackers. He did not come back. His body was never found and to this day his fate is unknown. Because the battalion will soon relocate to other quarters, the dedication was technically of the conference room. Eldredge said, "I know that from this day forward in my heart this will always be the Whitacre building."



Battalion Commander LTC Hector Montemayor and Historian Walt Eldredge display a bronze plaque honoring MSG Hugh D. Whitacre



Mrs. Elizabeth "Ginger" Stuff views the dedication ceremony to her father MSG Hugh D. Whitacre

Master Sergeant Hugh D. Whitacre



Korean War Service Medal

On the night of 26 November 1950, C Company of the 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion was in support of the U.S. 9th Infantry Regiment near Kujang-Dong, North Korea. That night thousands of Chinese troops assaulted through the broken terrain and over ran or isolated many American positions.

MSG Hugh D. Whitacre was supervising the mortars of his platoon, executing many fire missions and causing heavy casualties among the Chinese attacking the Infantry. Another Chinese attack advanced along the Ch'ongCh'on River and closed in on Whitacre's platoon. The mortar crews continued firing even while taking small arms fire from the nearby woods. Whitacre seized a fifty-caliber machine gun and halted the advancing Chinese until his ammunition ran out.

Ordered to evacuate the position, he supervised his men in the destruction of the mortars and vehicles. He then led them in the dark across the river and over a steep heavily wooded ridge to the perimeter of the U.S. 23rd Infantry. There he discovered that in the dark trackless woods the platoon had broken up and many men were still out there in the path of the advancing Chinese.

Whitacre left the perimeter and entered the lightless forest, where there were not only Chinese but retreating Americans who might fire at any movement. He assembled a group of the lost men and led them to safety. Then he went again outside the American lines to make additional rescues. From this trip he did not return. When the ground was recaptured, searchers did not find Whitacre's body. He was never reported as a POW and to this day his fate remains unknown. After the Armistice he was declared Killed in Action and received the Silver Star posthumously.



Silver Star Medal

Sign explaining the story of MSG Whitacre