

**COLONEL ELVIN J. DALTON**  
**US Army, Retired (Deceased)**



COL Elvin “Jack” Dalton enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant from Officer Candidate School (OCS) in April 1943. Upon graduation from OCS, he was assigned to the 86<sup>th</sup> Mortar Battalion as a Platoon Leader. Following an intensive training program, the battalion was shipped to England to prepare for the Normandy Invasion. On 28 June 1944, 2LT Dalton led his platoon into Normandy, France, via Utah Beach. Shortly thereafter, he became the Company Commander and during 315 days of uninterrupted combat, led his company through the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns.

In December 1945, CPT Dalton transferred to Military Intelligence and served almost continuously in intelligence and intelligence-related assignments until his retirement in June 1974. During the occupation of Japan, he served as an area and regional commander in the 441<sup>st</sup> Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) Detachment. This assignment was followed by similar duties at Fort Meade and Fort Holabird, Maryland. In June 1951, he became Executive Officer, G3 Section, Army Intelligence Center and School.

Following this assignment, he returned to the Far East Command for duty as a Battalion Commander and Staff Officer of intelligence units. During the Korean War, COL Dalton participated in Operation BIG SWITCH, which had responsibility for the receipt and processing of prisoners of war (POWs) returning from captivity in North Korea. As president of one of the intelligence processing boards, COL Dalton was responsible for

the shipboard administrative and intelligence debriefing of approximately 450 POWs while enroute from Inchon, Korea, to San Francisco.

In 1955, COL Dalton assumed the duties of Chief, Personnel Division, Army Intelligence Command followed by attendance at the Command and General Staff College. He then served as a Battalion Commander with the US Army Chemical Corps Training Command. In January 1961, he attended the Armed Forces Staff College and, upon graduation, remained at the college as an instructor until returning to the Army Intelligence Center and School as Director of the Area Studies Department.

From 1965-1967, he commanded the 502<sup>nd</sup> MI Battalion in Korea. This was followed by a four-year assignment as Chief of the Military Intelligence Branch, Officer Personnel Division, Washington, DC. In August 1971, COL Dalton assumed command of the US Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Huachuca.

He retired from military service in June 1974. His awards include the Legion of Merit (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Purple Heart, the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, and the Belgian Order of the Crown.

COL Dalton passed away 4 November 2003. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1988.