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GENERAL ORDERS)
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I. AWARDS OF THE LEGION OF MERIT:

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec III, Bull 40, WD, 1942), Executive Order, No. 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec I, Bull 54, WD, 1942), and authority contained in War Department radiogram dated 8 February 1943, a Legion of Merit is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following-named officers:

FREDERICK P. MUNSON, JR., (O-16505), Colonel, General Staff Corps, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 21 December 1942 to 1 April 1944. Colonel Munson planned and organized systems and methods of interrogation of prisoners of war and translation of captured documents which proved to be of inestimable value to the combat forces during the Guadalcanal and New Georgia campaigns. He established an effective system of broadcasting in Japanese to enemy troops on Guadalcanal which had a serious effect on enemy morale. He organized a pool of skilled Japanese-speaking American troops, an orientation school for their training, and directed their employment in such way that the most excellent results were obtained. He acted as liaison officer with the United States Navy and Marine Corps in connection with prisoner of war interrogation and translation of documents. His aggressive and efficient handling of the new and difficult service, his knowledge of the Japanese language and psychology, have contributed appreciably to the successful outcome of these campaigns. Entered United States Military Academy from Oklahoma.

CECIL B. WHITCOMB, (O-190131), Colonel (then Lieutenant Colonel), Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services as regimental executive officer in the Fiji and Solomon Islands from June 1942 to 5 August 1943. Colonel Whitcomb was largely responsible for developing the tactical skill which his regiment displayed in the New Georgia campaign. His leadership was particularly notable in New Georgia when he assisted in the difficult reorganization of another regiment which was placed under a new commander while it was engaged in combat. His energy and calm demeanor instilled confidence in his own regiment during the battle for Horseshoe Hill, the strongly fortified enemy position defending Munda Airfield. He continually visited and encouraged the assault echelons under heavy fire, and his personal courage did much to sustain the fighting spirit with which his regiment stormed and captured the hill, paving the way for the successful completion of its mission. Home Address: Shaker Heights, Ohio.

II. AWARDS OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL:

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order, No. 9419, 4 February 1944 (sec II, Bull 3, WD, 1944), and authority contained in War Department radiogram dated 19 February 1944, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following-named officer and enlisted men:

MAURICE A. MULLAN, (O-38898), Captain (then First Lieutenant), Chaplain Corps, United States Army, for the performance of meritorious services in the South Pacific Area from 9 November 1942 to 1 December 1943. Withstanding the hardships of constant enemy bombings in his devoted and inspiring performance of duty, Chaplain Mullan contributed immeasurably to the mental and physical welfare of personnel of a bombardment group in combat. Home Address: Mason City, Iowa.

II. AWARDS OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Contd):

AXEL V. NIELSEN, (20610168), Staff Sergeant, Infantry, United States Army, for the performance of meritorious services at Bougainville, Solomon Islands, on 30 January 1944. When a soldier fell wounded ten yards in front of a Japanese pillbox, Sergeant Nielsen ran to his aid and helped carry him to the shelter of a tank under intense enemy fire. While evacuating the casualty, two litter bearers were wounded and Sergeant Nielsen again exposed himself to hostile fire to administer first aid to one of them. Home Address: Chicago, Illinois.

JAMES B. LITTLE, (34729305), Private First Class, Infantry, United States Army, for the performance of meritorious services at Bougainville, Solomon Islands, on 26 January 1944. Although wounded, Private Little went to the assistance of an injured officer who was still under enemy fire and helped him to an aid station. Without waiting for medical attention to his own wound, he rejoined his platoon in combat with the enemy, killing two Japanese and assisted in silencing hostile machine gun. Home Address: Elizabethton, Tennessee.

III. AWARDS OF THE OAK-LEAF CLUSTER (AIR MEDAL):

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order, No. 9158, 11 May 1942 (Bull 25, WD, 1942), as amended by Executive Order, No. 9242-A, 11 September 1942 (Bull 49, WD, 1942), a bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster, in lieu of an additional Air Medal, is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following-named officers:

CHARLES T. EVERETT, (0-429627), Captain, Air Corps, United States Army, for meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial attack which damaged enemy shipping off Bougainville, Solomon Islands, on 12 October 1943. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Captain Everett scored one direct hit and possibly two more on a large Japanese freighter. Home Address: Crowley, Louisiana.

GEORGE P. HOPKINS, (0-740427), First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army, for meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight over Tobera, New Britain Island, on 28 January 1944. When several enemy fighters attacked a crippled P-38, Lieutenant Hopkins flew to its assistance. Although his fighter airplane was badly damaged, he succeeded in driving off the enemy and saved his fellow pilot. Home Address: Seattle, Washington.

WALTER R. MORITZ, JR., (0-727041), Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the South Pacific Area on 1 and 16 May 1943. As navigator of a C-47 airplane he made possible the rescue of the survivors of two torpedoed vessels, by radioing for assistance and dropping emergency rations and life vests to the men below. The sinking and approximate position of the first vessel was known, but first knowledge of the sinking of the second ship was the sighting of the life rafts by the crew of this aircraft. On both occasions the C-47 remained over the scene until the summoned help arrived. Home Address: Rosedale, Long Island, New York.

By Command of Lieutenant General HARMON:

A. J. BARNETT,
Major General, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

M. B. Kendrick
M. B. KENDRICK,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adj Gen.

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