

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL

NH16/P15/A6-5
MDW/OFK/vbl
Serial 241

San Diego, 34, California

5 OCT 1944

From: The Medical Officer in Command
To : Corporal Richard J. Pestinger,
403488 U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

Subject: Presidential Unit Citation, Award of,
Second Marine Division

Enclosures: (a) One (1) Facsimile of Presidential
Unit Citation.

1. Delivered with congratulations.

By direction of the
Medical Officer in
Command.



O. F. Kastner
Ch. Pharm., USN
Ass't Enlisted Patients
Personnel Officer

1740-35
DGP-jlm

MC-308916

FIRST INDORSEMENT

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

From: Director of Personnel, Marine Corps.
To: The Commanding Officer, Marine Detachment,
U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, 34, California.

Subject: Award of Presidential Unit Citations.

Inclosures: (a) 118 First Division Citations.
(b) 187 Second Division Citations.
(c) 28 Ribbon Bars w/2 blue stars.
(d) 249 Ribbon Bars w/1 blue star.

1. Returned.

2. In compliance with the request contained in basic letter, there are inclosed copies of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the First Marine Division, Reinforced, for service in action against the enemy in the Solomon Island, and the Second Marine Division, Reinforced, for service in action against the enemy on Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, and Presidential Unit Citation ribbon bars with blue enameled stars with the request that they be delivered to the men concerned for service as shown in basic letter.

3. The records of this office do not show that Edward J. Murphy served ashore on Guadalcanal as a part of the First Marine Division, reinforced; nor do they show that Arthur C. Foster served ashore on Tarawa as part of the Second Marine Division, Reinforced, during the period specified in the respective Citations.

/s/ W. W. Orr
W. W. ORR

-----By direction-----

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY.

O. F. Kastner

O.F. KASTNER, CH. PHARM, USN

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the

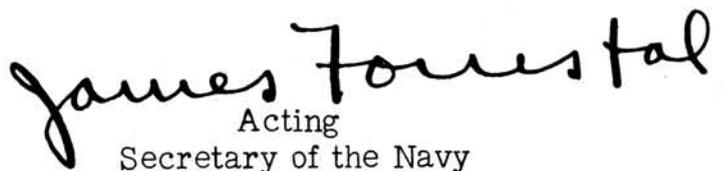
SECOND MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED)

consisting of Division Headquarters, Special Troops (including Company C, 1st Corps Medium Tank Battalion), Service Troops, 2nd, 6th, 8th, 10th and 18th Marine Regiments in the Battle of Tarawa, as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For outstanding performance in combat during the seizure and occupation of the Japanese-held Atoll of Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, November 20 to 24, 1943. Forced by treacherous coral reefs to disembark from their landing craft hundreds of yards off the beach, the Second Marine Division (Reinforced) became a highly vulnerable target for devastating Japanese fire. Dauntlessly advancing in spite of rapidly mounting losses, the Marines fought a gallant battle against crushing odds, clearing the limited beachheads of snipers and machine guns, reducing powerfully fortified enemy positions and completely annihilating the fanatically determined and strongly entrenched Japanese forces. By the successful occupation of Tarawa, the Second Marine Division (Reinforced) has provided our forces with highly strategic and important air and land bases from which to continue future operations against the enemy; by the valiant fighting spirit of these men, their heroic fortitude under punishing fire and their relentless perseverance in waging this epic battle in the Central Pacific, they have upheld the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

For the President,


Acting
Secretary of the Navy