

United States Pacific Fleet

COMMANDER SECOND CARRIER TASK FORCE,

PACIFIC FLEET



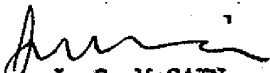
In the name of the President of the United States, the Commander, Second Carrier Task Force, United States Pacific Fleet, presents the AIR MEDAL to

LIEUTENANT ARTHUR LEON WARTA
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

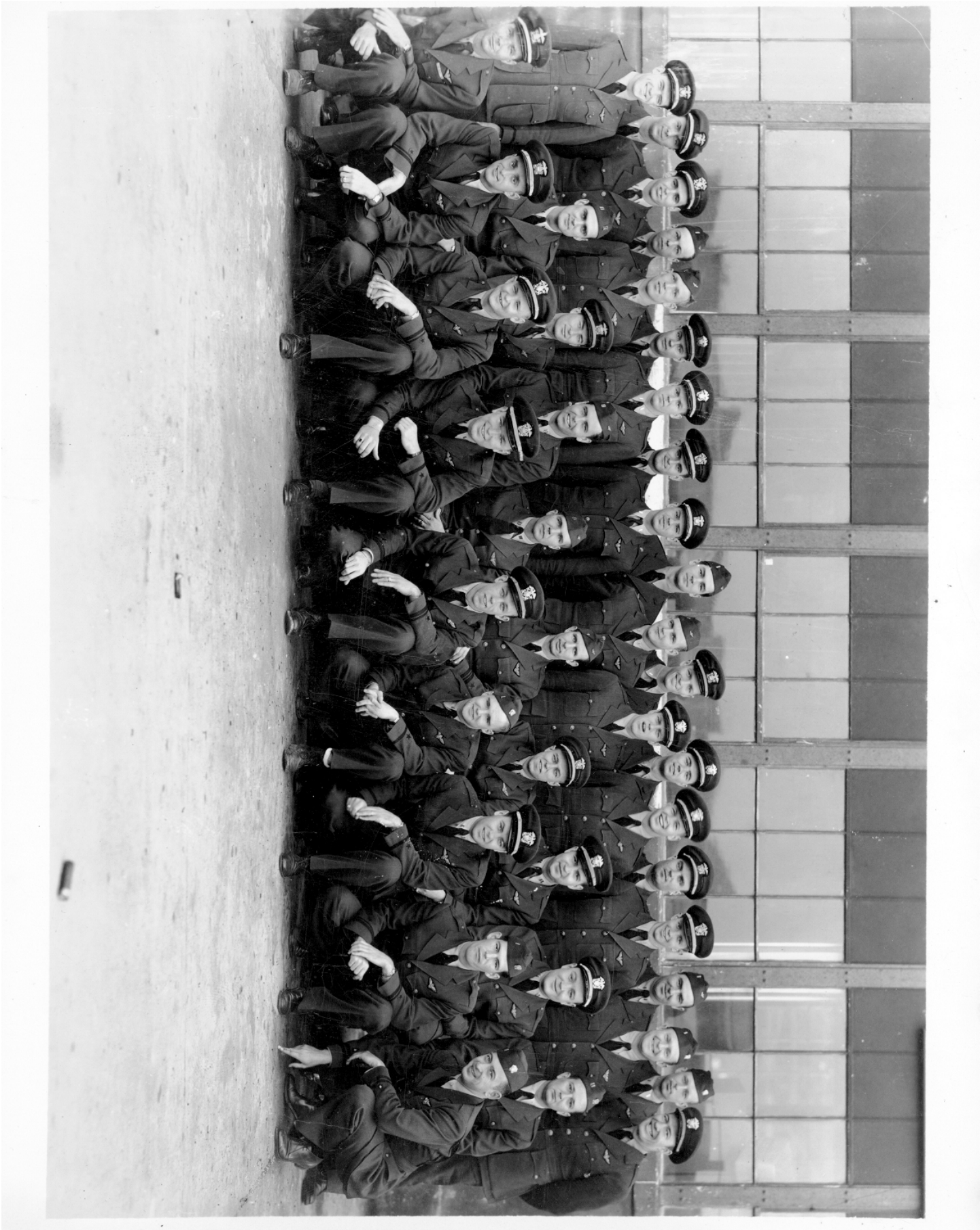
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION

"For distinguishing himself by meritorious acts while participating in an aerial flight as pilot of a carrier-based fighter plane. On 15 October 1944, as the leader of a four plane division assigned to a patrol mission over a Carrier Task Group operating in the Philippine area he led the division on an interception of attacking Japanese fighter aircraft. His ability and aggressiveness contributed to the rout of seven enemy aircraft during which one of their number was destroyed and two more probably destroyed. His skill and courage were at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."


J. S. McCAIN
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

Temporary Citation





Capt. H.M. Martin
U.S.N.



Comdr. H.H. Hale
U.S.N.



LT. Comdr. A.B. Cahn
U.S.N.R.

VF 51



Comdr. C.L. Moore



R.W. Jarvis



B.F. Griffin



S.C. Jackson



J.R. Martelle



R.J. Swanson



W.L. Roland



P.C. Gossett



E.C. Brewster



J.R. Battenfield



R.A. Alexander



C.F. Donyes



W.R. Maxwell



A.L. Wartha



H. I. Sherwood



J. Murphy



R.F. Grant



R.R. Henderson



D.G. Stewart



H. Bobb



W.R. Mooney



T.H. Bridges



H.K. Reay



L.A. Bird



W.E. Flynn



G.F. Dailey



H.E. Matthews



D.J. Mays



R.E. Lazorevich



E.M. Boddington



W.H. Hiles



T.H. Lindsey



D.C. Brawhall



N.I. Adams



J.G. Hanson



W.T. Howard



T. Hollowell



M.C. Thwaine



Lt. Comdr. Winnie



With the Boys in the Service

(News items for this column will be appreciated. Bring or telephone the item about "the boys in service" to the Ellsworth Reporter.)

North Africa, July 9, 1943.
Dear Frank Kesler:

I received your letter the other day, so I'll answer it now. I was beginning to wonder if you ever received the last letter I wrote you. It surely took plenty long to reach you. I wrote that letter during the battle of Maknassy. But now that the war is over over here, it is a lot easier to write; more time, and not bothered as much. We covered North Africa from one end to the other; all the way from Port Lyautey, where we landed on November 8, up to Bizerte.

I got a letter from Frank H. today and he followed me most all the way. He also got to go to Tunis. I've heard from Frank Polach a few times and every time he writes he has a different address. Guess he is doing fine right now.

It's plenty hot here now, but when night comes you look for a lot more blankets.

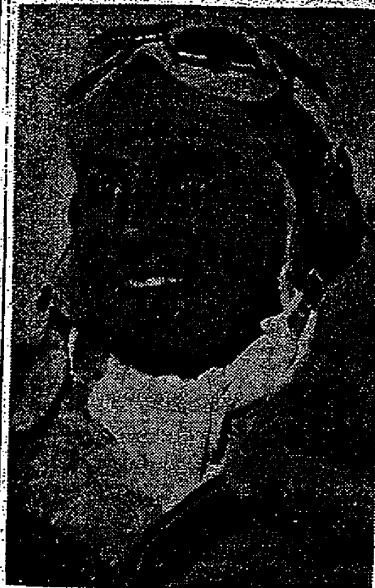
Say, the storm you had must have really torn things up. I see you are still playing in the band. I hear Napier has left town, so who is your director now? I wouldn't mind being there myself now. But maybe I can sit in when I get back. Well, write again, Frank, and don't let them pile to much work on you.

Pvt. Joe Huna.

"I have been in some hot places, but this one has them all beat," Pfc. Paul Handlin says of Iran. "The heat is so terrific, we keep salt tablets to keep from growing too weak through sweating," he writes Ellsworth friends.

"We live in tents, but if we're here long enough I have heard that we will occupy an ice building that may be some cooler. The office building where I am now is a huge thing, but is hot because there are no such things as electric fans and air-conditioning. They say it is only 145 degrees here today. (Pfc. Handlin is with a field hospital unit.)

It seems that my travels will never end and they are anything but enjoyable. It is not like boarding a train in the USA, but here there is no means of transportation except for short distances, and we have to be prepared to find our way out if necessary.



LIEUT. LEON WARTA

Lieut. (jg.) Leon Warta, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Art Warta, was born in the Ellsworth community twenty-two years ago. Following his graduation from the Ellsworth high school with the class of 1938, Lieut. Warta enrolled as a student at Kansas state college, Manhattan, where he remained for three years, or just prior to the country's entrance into war. He enlisted in the navy air corps and took his preliminary training at Kansas City, Kan., and later completed his flying course at Corpus Christi, Texas, graduating from that school as a dive bomber. Lieut. Warta was then assigned to the aircraft carrier Ranger and was in the convoy of the first troops to North Africa. Lieut. Warta participated in the landing at Casablanca and it was in that engagement that Lieut. Warta's rear gunner and observer, Lieut. Patterson, was fatally injured. The incident is related in a book recently published under the title of "Wildcats Over Casablanca." Following this engagement Lieut. Warta returned to the states and a short visit with his parents. Since his return to active duty Lieut. Warta has failed to disclose his whereabouts but writes his parents frequently that he is well and "not to worry about him."

Lloyd Basye, gunner's third mate and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Basye, of the Sherman ranch, is home on a week's furlough. Gunner Basye, who has been in all parts of the world in his three years service with the U.S. navy, leaves for Brooklyn, N.Y. Friday to report for active duty.

Robert Conroy, recently assigned in navy air corps, received orders the fore part of the week to report



EDMUND WARTA

Pvt. Edmund Warta, second and youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Warta, was born here some nineteen years ago. He attended and graduated from the Ellsworth high school, class of 1942. He enlisted in the marine corps on December last and took his "boot" training at San Diego, Calif. Following his training, he went overseas last spring and from information received by his parents Pvt. Warta is on guard patrol in New Caledonia. In a recent letter to his parents, Edmund wrote that John Helus and Ted White, two former Ellsworth young men, were on the same island with him. Helus enlisted the same time as Warta, but White had joined the marines some time previous.

CITY'S TAX LEVY IS TO BE LOWER

AGGEGATE OF 10.26 MILLS IS SET IN NEW BUDGET

Hearing Set for August 10; Provides Taxe for Eleven Different City Funds

Ellsworth's municipal tax levy will be .67 of a mill lower during the next tax year if a proposed budget as adopted by the city council and mayor is given final approval. A levy of 10.26 mills, compared with 10.93 mills last year, is proposed for a budgeted total of \$43,701.56 for all city departments during 1944.

The budget is subject to final adoption following a public hearing to be held at 8:00 o'clock Tuesday evening, August 10, at the

FOR
Too late to
Mrs. Vernon
who spent the we
of Mr. and Mrs.
family.
Mr. and Mrs.
Nancy and Lari
guests of Mr. and
on Sunday.
Mrs. Clifford D
left Friday by t
to visit her par
return Saturday.
Mr. and Mrs.
family left last v
home in Colorado
here for a year.
Bertha Lou St
Penn., came Su
has been the hou
Gene Staeber for
Emil Ploog has
the Hulda Kruse
Kruse estate. It
by Prof. and Mrs.
Mrs. Elizabeth
Donald Schmidt a
day morning to d
They will be t
weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. I
the parents of a b
Saturday, July 17,
hospital. She has
Ryn Kay.

Miss Vera Carri
was the guest of
from Saturday u
was Twila's room
university.

The B.Y. held a
swimming party l
ing. They left a
driven to Sterling
in his truck.

The following
afternoon as gue
Boeken last Mon
Heitschmidt, Mrs.
Mrs. Paul Peters,
Wilkins.

Mr. and Mrs. B
Mrs. Minnie Heits
ner guests of Mr.
Melchert last Wed
drove to Genesee
to visit the Lou B

Sgt. Maurice
here July 2 for a
with Mr. and M
and his brother
left Sunday evenin
er, Ala., where he

Pfc. Homer Leh
day of last week
lough from Camp
visit with his pare
Frank Lehnus. L
drove to Ellis to
and on Thursday
visit relatives.

Mr. and Mrs.
and son of Healy,
urday evening an
Sunday afternoon
and Mrs. Adrian
Mr. and Mrs. Hai
family and Mrs. A
Wilkins Sunday
Guests of Mrs. H

SQUADRON VT 51



Capt. H.M. Martin
U.S.N.



Comdr. H.H. Hale
U.S.N.



Lt. Comdr. A.B. Cahn
USNR.



Lt. Comdr. D.S. Melvin



L.R. Hole



M.E. Kilpatrick



F.H. Daniels



W.G. White



R.G. Plaisted



D.H. West



H.G. Boren



F.M. Waters



L.J. Grab



G.H.W. Bush



J.O. Guy



S.P. Butchart



M.G. Moore



R.R. Houle



J.J. Raquepau



C.H. Woie



W.M. Mc Carter









THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

October 24, 1945

My dear Mr. Warta:

I have addressed this letter to reach you after all the formalities of your separation from active service are completed. I have done so because, without formality but as clearly as I know how to say it, I want the Navy's pride in you, which it is my privilege to express, to reach into your civil life and to remain with you always.

You have served in the greatest Navy in the world.

It crushed two enemy fleets at once, receiving their surrenders only four months apart.

It brought our land-based airpower within bombing range of the enemy, and set our ground armies on the beachheads of final victory.

It performed the multitude of tasks necessary to support these military operations.

No other Navy at any time has done so much. For your part in these achievements you deserve to be proud as long as you live. The Nation which you served at a time of crisis will remember you with gratitude.

The best wishes of the Navy go with you into civilian life. Good luck!

Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal
James Forrestal

Mr. Arthur Leon Warta
Ellsworth
Kansas



NAVY DEPARTMENT

Pers-528-101-hjm
112022

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

15 August 1946

To : Lieutenant Arthur Leon Warta, USNR,
Elsworth, Kansas.

~~XXXXX~~

Subj: Transmittal of permanent citation(s) for the Distinguished
Flying Cross.

1. There is forwarded herewith the permanent citation(s) for subject decoration(s) awarded you for service during the war.
2. The records of the Chief of Naval Personnel indicate that you have been presented with the subject decoration(s).

By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel.

L. C. Thompson
L. C. THOMPSON,
Lt. Comdr. USNR,
Medals and Awards.

Encl:

A. Permanent Citation(s) ()

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



Refer to No.

Pers-101T-geh
112022

30 August 1946

To : Lieutenant Arthur L. Warta, USNR,
Ellsworth, Kansas.

Subj: Presidential Unit Citation awarded U. S. S. SAN JACINTO
- transmittal of.

Ref : Article A-1014, Bureau of Naval Personnel Manual, 1944.

1. There is forwarded herewith a facsimile of the subject citation.
2. In accordance with reference (a), your service in this Unit during the period for which it has been cited, entitles you to wear the enclosed ribbon bar with the bronze star.
3. A copy of this letter and the citation have been made a part of your official record.

By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel.

L. C. Thompson
L. C. THOMPSON,
Lt. Comdr., USNR,
Medals and Awards.

Encls:

- A. Presidential Unit Citation.
- B. Ribbon Bar and Bronze Star.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

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

U.S.S. SAN JACINTO

and her attached Air Groups participating in the following operations:

- X May 19-23, 1944, Wake and Marcus; / June 11 to August 5, 1944, Marianas, Bonins, Palau, Yap; / August 31 to September 18, 1944, Bonins, Palau, Yap; / October 10 to November 22, 1944, Ryukyus, Formosa, Luzon, Philippines: AG-51 (VF-51, VT-51).
- X December 14-16, 1944, Luzon; / January 3 to 22, 1945, Philippines, Formosa, China Sea, Ryukyus; / February 16 to April 27, 1945, Japan, Bonins, Ryukyus: AG-45 (VF-45, VT-45).
- X May 12 to June 10, 1945, Ryukyus, Japan; / July 10 to August 15, 1945, Japan: AG-49 (VF-49, VT-49).

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the air, ashore and afloat in the Pacific War Area from May 19, 1944, to August 15, 1945. Operating continuously in the most forward areas, the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO and her air groups struck crushing blows toward annihilating Japanese fighting power; they provided air cover for our amphibious forces; they fiercely countered the enemy's aerial attacks and destroyed his planes; and they inflicted terrific losses on the Japanese in Fleet and merchant marine units sunk or damaged. Daring and dependable in combat, the SAN JACINTO with her gallant officers and men rendered loyal service in achieving the ultimate defeat of the Japanese Empire.”

For the President,

James Forrestal
Secretary of the Navy