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 AER 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
At that time, the main transmission station to the U.S. The Germans captured the island. Our carrier, the USS Ranger (Cruiser) Tuscaloosa, Augusta (Cruiser), and American troops were ordered to take the island. Our planes flew with submarine patrol bombers, patrols, and bombers, strafed German emplacements. This was done in one of the worst winter weather ever seen. Also, it was in the winter, so there was no sunlight. We were very fortunate to recapture the island and able to set the troops on the island. It was due to the extreme bad weather and surprising the Germans. They had no idea we would attempt such a mission in the severe weather and darkness. The carrier deck (Our landing area) was so covered with ice when we landed aboard the ship, the tailhook caught the cable and stopped the plane. They had deckhands on each side of the deck to hold the plane down so it wouldn't slide off the carrier.

I was transferred to the USS San Jacinto early part of 1944. This took me in the Pacific after numerous missions against the Japanese. We recaptured a large number of islands. I was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for crossing the equator.

His was after we had numerous missions against the Japs on Palau Islands. We lost so many planes and pilots we had to go to the Manus Islands to get more planes and pilots. Manus Island had been captured earlier. The U.S. used the island as an area to keep planes and extra pilots. I guess we would call the island a warehouse for planes and pilots.
With the Boys in 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 Kessler,

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 Maknasen. But now that the war is over, I believe it is a lot easier to write. Time here is not so precious. We covered North Africa from one end to the other. From Port Said, 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 Tunisia. I've heard from Frank Polach a few times and every time he writes he has a different accent. 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 sand. I hear Naples has left town, so who is going to save your children's toys? 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 tell you much on you.

Pvt. Joe Hans

Lieut. Leon Warra

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 1933, Lieut. Warta enrolled as a student at Kansas state college, Manhattan, where he remained for three years. Prior to the country's entrance into the war. Lieut. Warta entered 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 pilot. 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 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 Basse, Fertile's third mate on the "John Basse," was aboard the ship on a week's furlough. Basse, who has been in all parts of the world, has completed three years service with the U.S. Navy. He is still slated to report for duty Friday in support of active duty.

Edmund Warta

Pvt. Edmund Warta, second 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 navy 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 Tom 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

AGGREGATE OF 10.26 MILLS IS SET IN NEW BUDGET

Hearing Set for August 19, Provides Taxes for Eleven Different City Funds

Ellsworth's municipal tax levy will be .7 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 10.33 mills was approved for the budget Friday by the city council. A total of $13,701.96 was appropriated for the city department budget during the current year.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leonhard of Colby, and Mrs. Ada Leonard of Salina, are among the many visitors here during the week.

The Tenth Sunday in July

A special service was held in honor of Mrs. Eliza.
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

Mr. Arthur Leon Warta
Ellsworth
Kansas
NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

15 August 1946

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

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,
Lt. Comdr. USNR,
Medals and Awards.

Encl:
A. Permanent Citation(s) ( ).
To: Lieutenant Arthur L. Warta, USNR, Ellsworth, Kansas.

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


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, Lt. Comdr., USNR, Medals and Awards.

Encls:
A. Presidential Unit Citation.
B. Ribbon Bar and Bronze Star.
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 13, 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,

[Signature]

Secretary of the Navy