

Contributed by Rolfe Windward

22 April 1945

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
GROUP NINE LST FLOTILLA THREE
AMPHIBIOUS FORCE PACIFIC

From: The Commander LST Group NINE (CTU 55.3.5)
To: The Commander FIFTH FLEET
Via: (1) The Commander LST Flotilla TWENTY-ONE (CTG 55.3).
(2) The Commander Amphibious Group TWELVE (CTF 55).
(3) The Commander Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet
(CTF 51).
Subject: Lieutenant Robert C. BRYAN 193414, USNR, CO U.S.S. LST 909.
Lieutenant William L. Boyer 142932, USNR, CO U.S.S. LST 481.
Lieutenant Ervin WINDWARD 160939, USNR, CO U.S.S. LST 643.
Lieutenant James I. MOONEY 209735, USNR, CO U.S.S. LST 555.
Reference: (a) Seenav Circular Letter 44-266 of 7 March 1944.
(b) Pacific Fleet Letter 20L-44.
(c) Amphibious Forces Circular Letter ALL2-Rev 2.

1. It is recommended that letters of commendation for the subject officers be issued by The Commander FIFTH FLEET for action during the amphibious attacks on OKINAWA SHIMA, NANSEI SHOTO beginning 1 April 1945 until departure from that area. These officers commanded LST's as part of TU 55.3.5.

2. The LST's under their command were assault loaded with troops and equipment of the SEVENTH Army Division, as part of the force designated for the capture and occupation of OKINAWA SHIMA. On approaching their designated position for launching the LVT's and troops, heavy ships of the Gunfire-Support Group were encountered in their path. Expert and efficient shiphandling permitted them not only to avoid collisions (thus allowing continuation of bombardment) but was such as to bring them into exact designated position in the assigned LST area on time. They caused all assault LVT's to be launched expeditiously as scheduled and continued to supervise unloading to a degree of efficiency that exemplified outstanding ability.

3. Their personal courage and leadership in performing their duties and accomplishing their designated assignments under repeated enemy air attack and at times adverse weather conditions, which required keen judgement and alert supervision, was a decided contributory factor in the initial success of the operation, and an inspiration to their officers and men.

4. It is strongly recommended that letters of commendation be awarded these officers by The Commander FIFTH FLEET and be made a part of their official record.

S. A. LIEF