"RELIEVE THE WHEEL"

It has been my privilege and my pleasure to be your Captain for over twenty months. Today, on this 26th of January 1945, a new Captain will "Relieve the Wheel".

Nearly two years ago I told you how fortunate we were to commission this mighty ship and I told you of all the hard work and the drilling that we would have to do in order to make this ship an efficient fighting unit of the Fleet and ourselves a worthy crew for her.

You have not disappointed me in any way. You have done a splendid job. The New Jersey shoots well, steams well and performs well every evolution required of her. She is a smart ship. She is a fighting ship. We have accomplished this together. I am proud of you and your accomplishments. In the process of making this a fighting ship you have developed yourselves mentally and physically and made yourselves into better and more self-reliant men. You are salty man-o'-warsmen. Your families and your country can be and are justly proud of you.

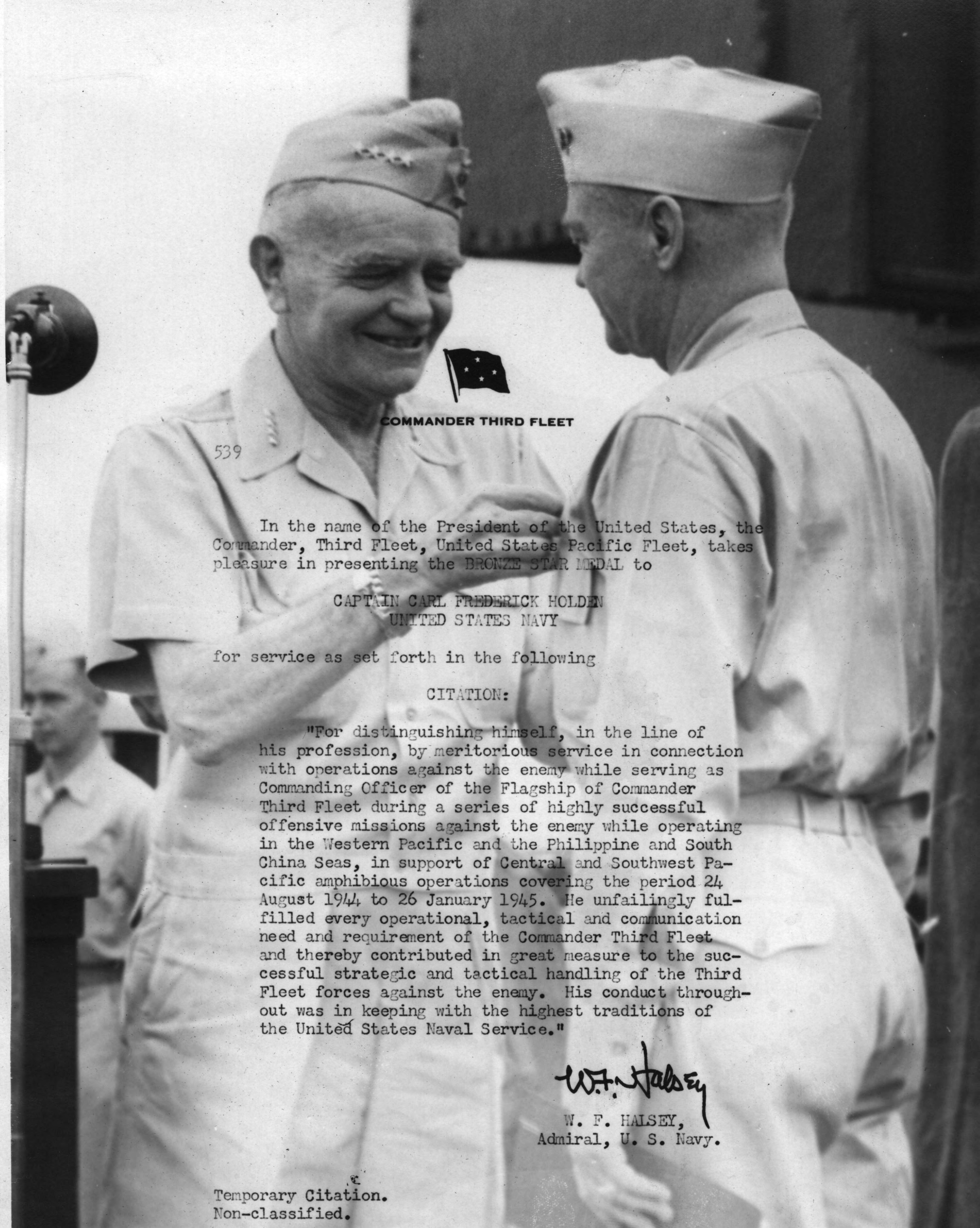
Although censorship does not permit me to be specific, you and I know that our "Seven League Boots" have taken us a long way. You have earned the right to wear the American Area ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific Area ribbon with three announced stars which number I am sure will be increased by several more for campaign participation up to this date.

It is a sad time in all Naval Officers' lives to leave their last big ship command. It is so with me. It will be most unusual if I ever command another ship. Yet, in my case, this sadness is tempered considerably by the fact that I have been your "Skipper" on this ship. I do not feel that I will ever want to command another ship, because to me there will never be another ship to compare with this one nor will there ever be one manned by such fine officers and such a fine crew. It is very hard for me to say good-bye to you. I hope and trust that many of us will be shipmates in the same outfit again even though I am not your Skipper. I thank you most sincerely for all you have done for me. I have known Captain Wooldridge, your new Skipper, for many years and I feel confident that I am leaving the ship and you in most competent hands. I know that you will give him the same loyal, whole-hearted and enthusiastic cooperation that you have given me.

Good-bye and good luck to our ship and to each and every one of you.

Carl F. Holden

CARL F. HOLDEN,
Captain, U.S Navy.



COMMANDER THIRD FLEET

539

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commander, Third Fleet, United States Pacific Fleet, takes pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

CAPTAIN CARL FREDERICK HOLDEN
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For distinguishing himself, in the line of his profession, by meritorious service in connection with operations against the enemy while serving as Commanding Officer of the Flagship of Commander Third Fleet during a series of highly successful offensive missions against the enemy while operating in the Western Pacific and the Philippine and South China Seas, in support of Central and Southwest Pacific amphibious operations covering the period 24 August 1944 to 26 January 1945. He unfailingly fulfilled every operational, tactical and communication need and requirement of the Commander Third Fleet and thereby contributed in great measure to the successful strategic and tactical handling of the Third Fleet forces against the enemy. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

W. F. Halsey

W. F. HALSEY,
Admiral, U. S. Navy.

Temporary Citation.
Non-classified.