

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL
TWELFTH NAVAL DISTRICT
OAKLAND 14, CALIFORNIA

97132

10 September 1945

From: OHELY, William N., Lieutenant, (D) USNR
To: Commander Seventh Fleet
Via: Commander Service Squadron Nine
Commander Service Force Seventh Fleet

Subject: MAYS, Dexter Otis, CGM, (PA), BSN, 265 34 40,
Recommendation for Award.

Reference: (a) SecNav ltr. of 18 December 1944, subject
"General Instructions and Policies Relative
to Decorations and Medals"; N.D. Bul. Com.
Ed., July-Dec. 1944, 44-1421, p. 78.

1. As former Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. CHESTATEE (AOO-49), I am exercising the privilege of recommending for the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, MAYS, Dexter Otis, CGM (PA), USN, for gallant and intrepid conduct in assisting the Commanding Officer after the ship struck a mine off the coast of Northern Borneo at 1900 on 27 July 1945. The circumstances giving rise to this recommendation are set forth in the following paragraphs.

2. On 27 July 1945 at 1900, Chief Mays, on duty aboard the U.S.S. CHESTATEE when the explosion occurred, was taking bearings on the flying bridge for the Navigator. Chief Mays, who was only two feet away from the Commanding Officer, was knocked down by the explosion, injuring his back, and was severely burned about the arms, hands, back, face, and neck by a blanket of burning oil that covered the forward part of the ship. He remained on the bridge long after the explosion occurred and assisted the Commanding Officer and the Navigator by obtaining a fix and suggesting a safe course. The ship was being set by a strong current toward shallow water at the time.

3. Mays' outstanding performance of duty was witnessed by the Commanding Officer during the crisis, and throughout the entire experience, Mays never failed in his duties, although severely burned and not having received first aid until the more seriously wounded men were treated. With ready assistance, courage, and outstanding endurance, he was an inspiration to all hands on board and contributed immeasurably to their will and ability to fight for the ship. Chief Mays was burned

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badly enough that had he retired to the dressing station for treatment immediately, he would not have been criticized, and for this reason this officer believes that he acted beyond the call of duty.

4. The following citation is suggested:

In the name of the President of the United States, and by direction of the Secretary and the Commander in Chief of the Navy, Commander Sixth Fleet takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to

MAYS, Dexter Otis, CQM (PA), USN

for service set forth in the following:

For distinguishing himself conspicuously by gallantry and outstanding endurance when the U.S.S. CHESTATEE struck a mine off the northern coast of Borneo on 27 July 1945. With coolness and skill, he greatly assisted the Commanding Officer. His leadership and courage were outstanding and in keeping with the best traditions of the Naval Service.

WILLIAM H. OHLY

cc:
CQM D:O; MAYS
CO AOC-49