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**To Provide Additional Pay for Enlisted Men of the
Army Assigned to the Technical Service Forces
Who Are Awarded an Expert Technician Insignia
or the Combat Technician Insignia**

SPEECH

OF

HON. CARL HINSHAW

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 28, 1945

Mr. HINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of the Congress and the American people, a few facts on a subject which seems about to be neglected. This subject is the largely unrecognized but indispensable role which has been acted out, is being acted out, and will be acted out, by Engineer troops in making the victory over Italy and Germany also a victory over Japan.

I do not intend to take any credit away from other arms and services. They deserve all that they have been given. There has come a time in the course of the war, however, when it is important for the American people to show that they understand and appreciate the services which are being given this country by a GI who is too busy to do much writing home—the Engineer soldier. This Engineer soldier will not be coming home soon. He will not be sitting around rest camps or training camps wondering if the Pacific is going to be harder than Europe was. He will not be wondering how

fast the war will end. He will be busy finding out; because the speed with which we can get along with the war at this particular stage depends almost entirely on how fast that Engineer soldier gets his job done. The American Army will pull out of Europe as soon as Engineers prepare the tremendous staging and debarkation facilities necessary—no sooner. The American Army will slam into the Pacific at the pace Engineers can clear the ground and construct bases—no faster. The redeployment period for Engineers, in short, will be a speed-up rather than a rest or breathing period; for when the Engineers are not fighting, they are at work.

Almost a year ago this Congress enacted legislation which awarded additional combat pay to infantrymen as a recognition of their particularly hazardous and important mission. The combat pay was justified as being somewhat equivalent to the flight pay awards all Air Force personnel who spend a specified number of hours in the air. At this time I think it is an appropriate matter for this Congress to consider the granting of special recognition in some form or other to those Army units which because of military necessity must take no rest, but stay in harness and on the job until the present "two down and one to go" is changed to read "three down—and out."

EXTRA PAY NOT ENOUGH

Extra pay, in itself, is hardly enough, because our recognition of the debt we owe to men who have not time to stop for a rest between wars cannot be measured in an extra 5 to 10 dollars a month. If we were giving them something equivalent to combat pay or flight pay, we ought to call it double time—or even triple time—pay; because every engineer GI knows that engineers have been double-timing on two and three shifts, fighting as well as working, and without a

break, since the war began. Major General Sverdrup, head of the Engineer construction service in the Philippines, had to come down from three-shift to two-shift operation recently in order to give his mechanics time enough to make repairs on the bulldozers.

What I have in mind is that we Members of Congress as representatives of the American people should make known to the War Department the American people's wish to honor the Engineer soldiers who have helped put the Army into Africa, into Sicily and Italy, into and across France, across the Rhine, and now farther into the Far East—both with additional pay and with some special insignia. A metal badge would get in an Engineer soldier's way, so a badge is not the answer. I think, however, that two special cloth shoulder patches would come close to being the answer. One—an expert Engineer emblem—to be worn only by those Engineer soldiers who under such tests of proficiency in the assigned mission of their unit as the War Department will prescribe, have proved themselves to be outstandingly proficient as military engineers. Another—a combat engineer emblem—to be awarded to those Engineer units which have carried out combat missions in actual contact with enemy ground forces or have carried out Engineer missions under effective observed or registered enemy fire.

I would suggest the Engineer castle with a laurel wreath to indicate the expert Engineer emblem, and a rifle added to the design to indicate the combat Engineer emblem. Once the designs are adopted, Congress should express to the War Department its desire to make the emblems and their significance well known. I would like it understood by everyone that the idea of awarding such an emblem is not the Engineers' own idea. The Army Engineers do not parade their own excellence. This is our idea. This is our award. We are telling the Army to sew these shoulder patches on

