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HEADQUARTERS 540TH ENGENEER REGIMENT A.P.O.#758

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10 June 1943.

Subject: Award of Legion of Merit.

To : Commanding General, NATOUSA, A. P. O. #534.

I. It is recommended that Lt. Gol. Hugh M. Connors, 0229175, Head-quarters, 540th Engineer Regiment, be awarded the Legion of Merit.

2. Citation:

HUGH M. CONNORS, (0229175), Lt. Col. (then Major), C. E., U. S. Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period prior and subsequent to the landing in North Africa, 15 October 1942 to 17 November 1942. It. Col. Conners, Executive Officer, 540th Engineer Regiment, displayed great initiative and ability, as well as devotion to duty, by the superior manner in which he assumed and carried out the functions of Army Executive Officer aboard the Army Transport ship on which he was being transported.

As Executive Officer for all Army personnel aboard ship he intelligently and diplomatically established and maintained liaison and harmonious relations between Army and Navy personnel. Even during his most trying moments he always exhibited a friendly and cheerful mein that did much to maintain the existing high morale. In his official capacity he not only planned all training for the Army personnel aboard, but also supervised its execution. It was largely due to his untiring efforts that personnel and materials arrived where and when they were most critically needed during the actual landing operation. Subsequent to the landing it was due chiefly to his organizing ability that the Army Transport ship was completely unloaded in a minimum of time, although facilities and personnel with which to do this work had been reduced to a minimum. Residence at entry into Service: Denver, Colorado.

3. The entire service of Lt. Col. Hugh M. Connors has been honorable since the rendition of this service.

4. I have personal knowledge of the exceptionally meritorious service of It. Col. Hugh M. Connors. Attached are certificates of Captain John f. Sass and Warrant Officer John Whates who have personal knowledge of the exceptionally meritorious conduct of It. Col. Hugh M. Connors.

GEORGE W. MARVIN

Colonel, C.E., Commanding

2 Incls: Certificates of Witnesses.

CERTIFICATE

28 May 1943.

From 15 October 1942 to 17 November 1942 Lt. Col. Hugh M. Connors (then Major) was Army Executive Officer on an Army Transport Ship. As Adjutant for all Army personnel aboard ship I had an excellent opportunity to observe Lt. Col. Connors at all times.

As Army Executive Officer of the ship Lt. Col. Connors endeavored at all times to maintain the high morals of all Army personnel aboard ship, and he bent all of his efforts to establishing and maintaining harmonious relations between the Army and Navy members on board ship. In his official capacity Lt. Col. Connors labored ceaselessly to perfect the state of training of all personnel aboard that were to participate in the operation. This he did not only by planning the training schedules, but, in a great many instances, by personally supervising this training.

During the actual landing it was greatly due to his personal, untiring efforts that the men and materials most needed arrived on the beaches as requested. It was also due to his efforts in a large measure, by exploiting available facilities and manpower which were by then reduced to a minimum, that the Army Transport was completely unloaded in a minimum of time.

JOHN F. SASS Capt., C.E.,

540th Engr. Regt.

GERTIFICATE

27 May 1943

During the period prior to and subsequent to the landing at Mehdia Plage, French Morocco, 23 October to 16 November 1942, Lt. Col. Connors, then Major, 540th Engineer Regiment, Executive Officer, exhibited leadership and initiative to a degree which created the greatest confidence and levalty in his subordinates. As Army Executive Officer of the ship he supervised and directed training of all personnel on board and greatly contributed to the high degree of perfection reached in training for the operation. During the landing operations which were conducted under adverse conditions, Lt. Col. Connors would not be deterred from his objective, that of getting men and priority materials to the beaches where most needed. At Casablanca, November 15 and 16, it was due to his ceaseless efforts that the ship was completely unloaded in a minimum of time. At all times he acted with great discretion and it was largely due to his personal efforts that the Army and Navy Personnel aboard worked in the perfect harmony which characterized the operations.

I was Sergeant Major of the 540th Engineer Regiment and also Sergeant Major of the troops aboard ship, and as such worked directly under Lt. Col. Connors. I have personal knowledge of Lt. Col. Connors' conduct and exceptionally meritorious service.

JOHN WHATES
Warrant Officer (JG)

540th Engr. Regt.