

“PACIFIC ISLAND HOPPERS” HALL OF VALOR
NAVY SMALL COASTAL TRANSPORTS (APc) & ARMY FREIGHT VESSELS (F),
FREIGHT AND PASSENGER VESSELS (FP), FREIGHT AND SUPPLY VESSELS (FS),
SMALL FREIGHT AND PASSENGER VESSELS (TP), LARGE, SMALL, AND
HARBOR TUGS (LT/ST/TP), AND COASTAL TANKERS (Y)

The Navy’s Small Coastal Transports, and Army’s Freight Vessels, Freight and Passenger Vessels, Freight-Supply Vessels, Small Freight and Passenger Vessels, Large Tugs, Small Tugs, Harbor Tugs, and Coastal Tankers served during World War II. Many of the Army vessels were manned by Coast Guard crews, and the remainder by Merchant Marine, Army Transport Service, or Army Engineer Special Brigade personnel.

The Navy’s wooden-hulled Small Coastal Transports – spanning a mere 103 feet in length and displacing 147 tons – were fitted with a single 400 h.p. diesel engine that could propel the ships at a maximum speed of 10 ½ knots. The standard armament was four 20mm anti-aircraft guns; some of the later-built ships had only two guns. The commanding officers of ships serving in the South and Southwest Pacific generally augmented their armament with .50-caliber and/or .30-caliber machine guns – typically acquired by whatever means possible. During the action for which Lt. (jg) Kemper Goffigon, the commanding officer of the *APc-15*, received the Navy Cross Medal, every officer and man aboard – except for Goffigon and four crewmen – served as gunners or members of gun crews for one of the four 20mm, four .50-caliber, and two 30-caliber guns blazing away. This “volume of fire” – much greater than anything envisioned by the ship’s designer – saved the diminutive vessel during an attack by a group of 20–25 Japanese dive-bombers and Zeros bent on its destruction. Following the war, all but a few of the APcs were sold to organizations or private individuals by the Maritime Administration, or transferred to Allied nations. A handful of ships retained by the Navy were “laid up” or consigned to the Reserves before their eventual disposal.

Under a Joint Chiefs of Staff agreement signed 14 March 1944, the Coast Guard was charged with manning five categories of Army Transportation Corps vessels, F (Freight vessels), FS (freight and supply vessels), LT (large tugs), Y (tankers), and MRS (Army Marine Repair Ship). (The repair ships are not included herein.) The Coast Guard manned 189 of the Army’s Freight-Supply ships, 51 of its Large Tugs, and some of its Coastal Tankers. Coast Guard-manned FS ships were either 176 or 180 feet in length. The other FS ships, manned by Merchant Marine crews, were of this size or smaller, and included a number of vessels originally classified as "Freight Vessels" or "Freight and Passenger Boats" (FP). The Large Tugs were built of wood or steel and were 94-149 feet in length, while the Coastal Tankers were all of steel and either 162 or 182 feet in length. The other “island hoppers” were Small Freight and Passenger Vessels (TP), acquired by the Army from civilian and commercial sources, and later 96-foot wooden, Harbor Tugs (TP) delivered as new construction. The Small Tugs (ST) were not true island hoppers as, due to their diminutive size, they rarely left harbor. However one, the *ST-381*, was awarded a battle star for the Mindoro landings during the Philippines Campaign.

The Navy acquired some of the Army FS ships following World War II and commissioned them as Miscellaneous Auxiliary Ships (AG), which were subsequently reclassified as Light Cargo Ships (AKL). Five AKLs collectively garnered 30 battle stars during the Korean War. The most famous of the ex-Army Freight Supply ships was the intelligence gathering ship USS *Pueblo* AGER-2 (the former *FS-344* and *Pueblo* AKL-44), which North Korea captured in 1968. Awards associated with light cargo ships and the *Pueblo* are included herein. One of two Marines assigned to *Pueblo*, Sergeant Robert J. Hammond, received the Navy Cross Medal. The other Marine received a Bronze Star; Navymen won two Silver and Five Bronze Star Medals.

The Navy also acquired six of the Army Large Tugs and five of the Coastal Tankers after the war. The former vessels were put in service as the Auxiliary Fleet Tug *ATA-239*, *240*, *241*, *242*, *243*, and *244*, and the latter as the Fuel Barge *YO-237*, *238*, *242*, *243*, and *244*.

Navy Cross Medal



Kemper Goffigon III
Robert J. Hammond

Silver Star Medal



Duane Hodges
Frederic Carl Schumacher

Bronze Star Medal



Ron K. Berens
Warren C. Borneman
Robert J. Chicca
Alan W. Davis
David Garner
Paul E. Hagen
Timothy L. Harris
Abraham Krohn
Peter M. Langenberg
Wendell G. Leach
George A. Lowery
Edward E. Macklin
Robert W. Owen
Francis L. Owens

Oliver Rahle
Louis Rua
Frederic Carl Schumacher
Ned E. Smart
Wilbert Williams

Navy and Marine Corps Medal



William E. Burke
John Daniel Cartano

Prisoner of War Medal



Rogelio P. Abelon
Michael W. Alexander
Rizalino L. Aluague
Wayne D. Anderson
Richard E. Arnold
Charles W. Ayling
Don E. Bailey
Herman P. Baldrige
Richard I. Bame
Peter M. Bandera
Michael T. Barrett
Ronald L. Berens
Howard E. Bland
Rushel J. Blansett
Ralph D. Bouden
Paul D. Brusnahan
Lloyd Mark Bucher
Willie C. Bussell

John W. Grant
Gerald W. Hagenson
Robert J. Hammond
Stephen R. Harris
Timothy L. Harris
Lee R. Hayes
John C. Higgins
Robert W. Hill Jr.
Sydney Karnes
James F. Kell
Earl M. Kisler
Norbert J. Klepac
Gene Lacy
Anthony A. Lamantia
Peter M. Langenberg
Charles B. Law
James D. Layton
Wendell G. Leach

Clifford C. Nolte
Michael A. O'Bannon
Donald R. Peppard
Earl R. Phares
Alvin H. Plucker
Policarpo Polla
Ralph E. Reed
Dale E. Rigby
David L. Ritter
Steven J. Robin
Richard J. Rogala
Ramon Rosales
Edward S. Russell
William D. Scarborough
Fredric Carl Schumacher
James A. Sheppard
John A. Shilling
John R. Shingleton

Armando Canales
Robert J. Chicca
Charles H. Crandell
Bradley R. Crowe
Rodney H. Duke
Stephen P. Ellis
Victor D. Escamilla
Francis J. Ginther
Monroe O. Goldman

Harry Lewis
Lawrence W. Mack
Roy J. Maggard
Larry J. Marshall
Thomas W. Massie
Donald R. McClarren
Ralph McClintock Jericho
John A. Mitchell
Edward R. Murphy Jr.

Norman W. Spear
Charles R. Sterling
Angelo S. Strano
Larry E. Strickland
Kenneth R. Wadley
Steven E. Woelk
Elton A. Wood
Darrel D. Wright

The above eighty individuals are the officers and men of the USS *Pueblo* (AGER-2) – the ex-USA *FS-344*, and later the USS *Pueblo* (AKL-44) – that North Korea held as Prisoners of War from 24 January to 23 December 1968. The ranks or ratings of these men are provided as part of the crew list displayed following the remaining award summaries and associated award citations.

Purple Heart Medal



Thomas Boal
Lloyd M. Bucher
Duane Hodges

Coast Guard Commendation Ribbon

The Secretary of the Treasury approved an associated medal on 26 August 1947



Leland O. Wilkie

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (with two battle stars affixed)



Military units could only be awarded a single battle star for any single operation or engagement; multiple Period of Award entries for a particular ship signify there was more than one qualifying action for the star.

SUMMARY OF BATTLE STARS EARNED DURING WORLD WAR II

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Period of Award</u>	<u>Commanding Officer</u>
Consolidation of Southern Solomons		
(8 February–20 June 1943)		
USS <i>APc-23</i>	7 Apr 43	Lt. Dennis Mann, USNR
USS <i>APc-25</i>	7 Apr 43	Lt. John D. Cartano, USNR
USS <i>APc-29</i>	11 May 43	Lt. (jg) Eugene H. George, USNR
USS <i>APc-33</i>	7 Apr 43	Lt. James E. Locke, USNR
USS <i>APc-34</i>	16 Jun 43	Lt. (jg) H. B. Palmer, USNR
USS <i>APc-35</i>	11 May 43	Lt. Robert F. Ruben, USNR
USS <i>APc-36</i>	11 May 43	Lt. (jg) Kermit L. Otto, USNR
USS <i>APc-37</i>	11 May 43	Lt. Arthur W. Bergstrom, USNR
New Georgia Group operation: New Georgia-Rendova-Vangunu occupation		
(20 June–31 August 1943)		
USS <i>APc-23</i>	30 Jun 43	Lt. Dennis Mann, USNR
USS <i>APc-24</i>	30 Jun 43	Lt. Bernard F. Seligman, USNR
USS <i>APc-26</i>	5 Jul 43	Lt. (jg) James B. Dunigan, USNR
USS <i>APc-27</i>	1 Jul 43	Lt. Paul C. Smith, USNR
USS <i>APc-35</i>	30 Jun 43–21 Jul 43	Lt. Robert F. Ruben, USNR
USS <i>APc-36</i>	1 Jul 43	Lt. (jg) Kermit L. Otto, USNR
USS <i>APc-38</i>	1 Jul 43	Thomas Lee Ray, USNR
Eastern New Guinea operation: Lae occupation		
(4–22 September 1943)		
USS <i>APc-4</i>	4-22 Sep 43	Lt. (jg) E. R. Edwards, Jr., USNR
USS <i>APc-6</i>	9 Sep 43	Lt. C. R. Rosebro, Jr., USNR
USS <i>APc-21</i>	8-12 Sep 43	Lt. (jg) W. J. Bates, USNR
Eastern New Guinea operation: Finschaffan occupation		
(22 September 1943–17 February 1944)		
USS <i>APc-16</i>	22 Sep 43	Lt. W. W. Harris, Jr., USNR
USS <i>APc-18</i>	25 Dec 43–17 Feb 44	Lt. R. O. Love, USNR
USS <i>APc-20</i>	5 Dec 43–30 Jan 44	Lt. (jg) S. P. Johnston, Jr., USNR
Treasury-Bougainville operation: Treasury Island landing		
(27 October–6 November 1943)		
USS <i>APc-33</i>	27 Oct 43	Lt. James E. Locke, USNR
USS <i>APc-31</i>	1 Nov 43	Lt. R. H. Loomis, USNR
Gilbert Islands operation (13 November–8 December 1943)		
USS <i>APc-108</i>	13 Nov 43–8 Dec 43	Lt. (jg) Keith L. Davey, USNR
USS <i>APc-109</i>	13 Nov 43–8 Dec 43	Lt. J. S. Horton, USNR
Eastern New Guinea operation: 7th Fleet supporting operations		
(17 December 1942–24 July 1944)		
USS <i>APc-20</i>	15 Oct 43–4 Dec 43	Lt. (jg) S. P. Johnston, Jr., USNR
Consolidation of Northern Solomons		
(27 October 1943–15 March 1945)		
USS <i>APc-30</i>	15 Dec 43–12 Dec 44	Lt. John R. Shepard, USNR
USS <i>APc-34</i>	15 Dec 43	Lt. (jg) R. P. Driscoll, USNR
USS <i>APc-42</i>	15 Oct 43	Lt. (jg) C. E. Voyles, USNR

**Bismarck Archipelago operation: Arawe, New Britain
(15 December 1943–1 March 1944)**

USS <i>APc-2</i>	20-21 Dec 43	Lt. (jg) P. L. Fortune, Jr., USNR
USS <i>APc-4</i>	15-16 Dec 43	Lt. (jg) E. R. Edwards, Jr., USNR
USS <i>APc-9</i>	15-16 Dec 43	Lt. W. V. French, USNR
USS <i>APc-15</i>	17-26 Dec 43	Lt. (jg) Kemper Goffigon, III, USNR
USS <i>APc-21</i>	16-17 Dec 43	Lt. (jg) W. J. Bates, USNR
USS <i>APc-22</i>	19-20 Dec 43	Lt. V. G. Martin, Jr., USNR

**Treasury-Bougainville operation: Supporting air actions
(27 October–15 December 1943)**

USS <i>APc-30</i>	15 Dec 43	Lt. John R. Shepard, USNR
USS <i>APc-37</i>	27 Oct 43	Lt. Arthur W. Bergstrom, USNR

**Bismarck Archipelago operation: Cape Gloucester, New Britain
(26 December 1943–1 March 1944)**

USS <i>APc-12</i>	3-4 Feb 44	Lt. (jg) W. O. Gay, Jr. USNR
-------------------	------------	------------------------------

**Bismarck Archipelago operation: Admiralty Island landings
(29 February–17 April 1944)**

USS <i>APc-7</i>	11-18 Mar 44	Lt. W. T. Conlan, USNR
------------------	--------------	------------------------

**Hollandia operation: Aitape-Humbolt Bay-Tanahmerah Bay
(21 April–1 June 1944)**

USS <i>APc-2</i>	26 Apr 44	Lt. (jg) P. L. Fortune, Jr., USNR
USS <i>APc-4</i>	22 May 44–1 Jun 44	Lt. (jg) E. R. Edwards, Jr., USNR
USS <i>APc-9</i>	13 May 44	Lt. W. V. French, USNR

**Marianas operation: Capture and occupation of Guam
(12 July–15 August 1944)**

USS <i>APc-46</i>	21 Jul 44–15 Aug 44	Lt. R. M. Ross, USNR
-------------------	---------------------	----------------------

**Western New Guinea operations: Duty in connection with motor torpedo boats
(21 April 44–15 November 1944)**

USA <i>FS-167</i>	13 Sep 44–15 Nov 44	Lt. Pardue Geren, USCGR
USA <i>FS-170</i>	28 Sep 44–15 Nov 44	

**Western New Guinea operations: Morotai Landings
(11 September 1944–9 January 1945)**

USA <i>LT-134</i>	15 Sep 44	
USA <i>FS-255</i>	1 Dec 44–9 Jan 45	Lt. Robert F. Maloney, USCGR or Lt. George A. Tardif, USCG

**Leyte operation: Leyte landings
(10 October–29 November 1944)**

USS <i>APc-18</i>	12-29 Nov 44	Lt. W. S. Fox, USNR
USA <i>FS-167</i>	23-29 Nov 44	Lt. Pardue Geren, USCGR
USA <i>FS-364</i>	18-29 Nov 44	
USA <i>FS-388</i>	15 Oct 44	Lt. Homer H. Freed, USGCR, or Lt. (jg) J. E. Emmett, USCGR
USA <i>LT-20</i>	10 Oct-10 Nov 44	
USA <i>LT-134</i>	10 Oct-10 Nov 44	
USA <i>LT-229</i>	24 Oct-4 Nov 44	
USA <i>LT-231</i>	24 Oct-4 Nov 44	
USA <i>LT-454</i>	2-9 Nov 44	

USA Y-6	25 Oct-16 Dec 44	(battle star for Leyte operation)
	Leyte operation: Battle of Surigao Strait	
	(24-26 October 1944)	
USA LT-637	24-26 Oct 44	
	Luzon Operation: Mindoro landings	
	(12-18 December 1944)	
USA LT-1	12-18 Dec 44	
USA ST-381	12-18 Dec 44	
USA TP-113	12-18 Dec 44	
USA TP-129	12-18 Dec 44	
USA Y-14	12-18 Dec 44	
	Luzon operation: Lingayen Gulf landing	
	(4-18 January 1945)	
USS APc-12	4-18 Jan 45	Lt. (jg) W. O. Gay, Jr., USNR
USS APc-16	4-18 Jan 45	Lt. W. W. Harris, Jr., USNR
USA FS-156	15-18 Jan 45	Lt. (jg) William H. Burgess, USCG
USA FS-171	4-18 Jan 45	Lt. (jg) Lemuel K. Hartsook, USCGR
USA FS-174	11-18 Jan 45	Lt. E. R. Sneeringer
USA FS-254	9-18 Jan 45	Lt. Robert A. Copeland, Jr. USCGR
USA FS-364	11-18 Jan 45	
USA FS-366	4-18 Jan 45	Lt. (jg) Howard V. Reckhow, USCGR
USA LT-229	7-14 Jan 45	
USA LT-231	14-18 Jan 45	
USA LT-454	14-18 Jan 45	
USA Y-6	12-18 Jan 45	
USA Y-21	12-18 Jan 45	
	Manila Bay-Bicol operations: Zambales-Subic Bay	
	(29-31 January 1945)	
USA FS-388	30 Jan 45	Lt. Homer H. Freed, USCGR, or Lt. (jg) J. E. Emmett, USCGR
	Manila Bay-Bicol operations: Nasugbu	
	(31 January-10 February 1945)	
USA FS-163	4 Feb 45	Lt. (jg) Don K. Townsend, USCGR
USA FS-168	4 Feb 45	Lt. (jg) Joseph A. Kean, USCGR
USA FS-191	4 Feb 45	Lt. (jg) E.R. Holden, USCGR
USA FS-352	4 Feb 45	Lt. (jg) E. B. Drinkwater, USCG
USA FS-365	4 Feb 45	Lt. Comdr. Benjamin Ayesa, USCGR
USA FS-387	4 Feb 45	Lt. J. L. Gray, USCG
USA FS-389	4 Feb 45	Lt. C. N. Brown, USCGR
	Manila Bay-Bicol operations: Mariveles-Corregidor	
	(14-28 February 1945)	
USA FS-388	15 Feb 45	Lt. Homer H. Freed, USCGR, or Lt. (jg) J. E. Emmett, USCGR
	Okinawa operation: Assault and occupation of Okinawa	
	(24 March-30 June 1945)	
USS APc-23	27-30 Jun 45	Ens. E. R. Gordon, USNR
USS APc-26	21-30 Jun 45	Lt. (jg) A. E. Koski, USNR
USS APc-28	27-30 Jun 45	Lt. (jg) A. L. Toombs, USNR

USS <i>APc-32</i>	21-30 Jun 45	Ens. T. H. Keifer, USNR
	Borneo operations: Tarakan Island operation (27 April–29 May 1945)	
USA <i>FP-47</i>	27 Apr 45–5 May 45	
	Borneo operations: Brunei Bay operation (7 June–15 July 1945)	
USA <i>FS-167</i>	4-15 Jul 45	Lt. Pardue Geren, USCGR
	Borneo operations: Balikpapan operation (15 June–20 July 1945)	
USA <i>FP-47</i>	28 Jun 45–7 Jul 45	
USA <i>FS-164</i>	28 Jun 45–7 Jul 45	Lt. N. Hanson, Jr. USCG
USA <i>FS-361</i>	28 Jun 45–7 Jul 45	Lt. C. C. Gerber, USCGR

SUMMARY OF BATTLE STARS EARNED DURING THE KOREAN WAR

Inchon landing 1950 (13–17 September 1950)

USS <i>Estero</i> (AKL-5)	14-17 Sep 50	
[ex-USA <i>FS-275</i> /ex-USS <i>Estero</i> (AG-134)]		
USS <i>Hewell</i> (AKL-14)	15-17 Sep 50	Lt. Stanley Jaworski
[ex-USA <i>FS-391</i> /ex-USS <i>Hewell</i> (AG-145)]		
USS <i>Ryer</i> (AKL-9)	15-17 Sep 50	
[ex-USS <i>FS-361</i> /ex-USS <i>Ryer</i> (AG-138)]		

North Korean Aggression 1950 (27 June–2 November 1950)

USS <i>Estero</i> (AKL-5)	18 Sep 50–5 Oct 50	
USS <i>Hewell</i> (AKL-14)	18 Sep 50–2 Nov 50	Lt. Stanley Jaworski
USS <i>Ryer</i> (AKL-9)	18 Sep 50–2 Nov 50	

Communist China Aggression 1950-51 (3 November 1950–24 January 1951)

USS <i>Deal</i> (AKL-2)	13 Nov 50–29 Dec 50	
[ex-USA <i>FS-263</i> /ex-USS <i>Deal</i> (AG-131)]		
USS <i>Hewell</i> (AKL-14)	6 Dec 50–7 Jan 51	Lt. Stanley Jaworski
USS <i>Ryer</i> (AKL-9)	3-22 Nov 50	

First UN Counter Offensive 1951 (25 January–21 April 1951)

USS <i>Deal</i> (AKL-2)	7 Feb 51–19 Apr 51
USS <i>Ryer</i> (AKL-9)	7 Feb 51–21 Apr 51

Communist China Spring Offensive 1951 (22 April–8 July 1951)

USS <i>Deal</i> (AKL-2)	23 Apr 51–8 Jul 51
USS <i>Ryer</i> (AKL-9)	2 May 51–3 Jul 51

U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive 1951 (9 July–27 November 1951)

USS <i>Deal</i> (AKL-2)	9 Jul 51–16 Nov 51
USS <i>Estero</i> (AKL-5)	21 Sep 51–13 Nov 51
USS <i>Ryer</i> (AKL-9)	29 Jul 51–20 Sep 51

USS *Sharps* (AKL-10) 15-20 Nov 51 Lt. R. E. Hoover
[ex-USA *FS-385*/ex-USS *Sharps* (AG-139)]

**Second Korean Winter 1951-52
(28 November 1951–30 April 1952)**

USS *Estero* (AKL-5) 22 Dec 51–30 Apr 52

USS *Hewell* (AKL-14) 27 Dec 51–30 Apr 52

Lt. Dale E. Holland/
Lt. Quinnie B. Preston

USS *Sharps* (AKL-10) 1 Dec 51–27 Apr 52

Lt. R. E. Hoover/Lt. Comdr. R. D. Sweet

**Korean Defense, Summer-Fall 1952
(1 May–30 November 1952)**

USS *Deal* (AKL-2) 31 Jul 52–12 Nov 52

USS *Estero* (AKL-5) 1 May 52–2 Nov 52

USS *Hewell* (AKL-14) 1 May 52–25 Nov 52

Lt. Quinnie B. Preston

USS *Sharps* (AKL-10) 2-7 May 52

Lt. Comdr. R. D. Sweet

**Third Korean Winter 1952-53
(1 December 1952–30 April 1953)**

USS *Deal* (AKL-2) 23-24 Apr 53

USS *Estero* (AKL-5) 9-10 Mar 53

USS *Hewell* (AKL-14) 1 Dec 52–30 Mar 53

Lt. Quinnie B. Preston

**Korea, Summer-Fall 1953
(1 May–27 July 1953)**

USS *Deal* (AKL-2) 2 May 53–10 Jun 53

USS *Estero* (AKL-5) 17 May 53–9 July 53

USS *Hewell* (AKL-14) 15 Jun 53–26 Jul 53

Lt. Quinnie B. Preston

Note: Please **contact David** to identify omitted persons or to provide award citations.

The below citations are presented generally in chronological order, and not in alphabetic order by surnames of award recipients. Please assist in making this listing more comprehensive by providing names of omitted individuals and/or copies of missing award citations.

**USS *APc-15*: 26 December 1943
NAVY CROSS MEDAL
BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Kemper Goffigon, III, USNR, Commanding Officer, USS *APc-15*
The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant, Junior Grade Kemper Goffigon, III, United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Officer in Charge of a Landing Craft Tank (LCT(5)), during amphibious operations at New Britain Island on 26 December 1943.

Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Goffigon's LCT(5), was attacked by Japanese dive bombers and riddled by shrapnel that killed two men and wounded 16. He courageously disregarded his own painful injuries and, showing forceful leadership and outstanding skill, immediately undertook strong protective measures to control damage and care for the wounded personnel. With the engineering plant and rudder badly damaged, he reassembled his remaining men and labored tirelessly for five hours in the combat zone to effect repairs which enabled his ship to return to a place of safety under her own power. The conduct of Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Goffigon throughout this action reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 337 (April 1945)

Action Date: December 26, 1943

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Company: Officer in Charge

Division: LCT(5)

(Note: During the operation in which he received the Navy Cross, Goffigon was the commanding officer of the USS *APc-15*, and also the task unit commander of a resupply echelon which included LCT(5) type tank landing craft.)

Signalman Second Class Warren C. Borneman, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Seaman Second Class Warren C. Borneman (NSN: 3765881), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity against enemy aircraft at Arawe, New Britain, on 26 December 1943, during a dive-bombing and strafing attack concentrated heavily on a ship in which he was embarked. Though severely wounded in one eye, he continued to perform his duties in a cool and efficient manner. After receiving his wounds he sent signals to nearby ships regarding the rescue of personnel struggling in the water. Thereafter he assisted in further measures for the safety of surviving personnel. Only after all possible measures had been taken did he give consideration to his own severe wounds. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by Seaman Second Class Borneman were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 00488 (March 7, 1944)

Action Date: December 26, 1943

Service: Navy

Rank: Seaman Second Class

(Note: Borneman was erroneously identified in this medal citation as a Seaman Second Class, vice a Signalman Second Class.)

U.S. Army ~~LT-454~~: 5-8 December 1944

BRONZE STAR MEDALS – 10

Coxswain Alan W. Davis, USCG

Bronze Star

For meritorious achievement at sea December 5-6, 1944, while serving aboard U.S. Army large tug [LT-454] en route to the Philippines. His craft went to the rescue of another ship [Liberty ship S.S. *Antone Saugrain*] which had been torpedoed by enemy action and saved 277 survivors from the abandoned ship.

Radioman, First Class David Garner, USCGR

Bronze Star

For meritorious achievement at sea December 5-8, 1944, while serving aboard a U.S. Army large tug en route to the Philippines. His craft went to the rescue of another ship which had been torpedoed by enemy action and saved 277 survivors from the abandoned ship.

Boatswain's Mate, Second Class Paul E. Hagen, USCGR

Bronze Star

For heroic achievement at sea December 5, 1944. When the U.S. Army large tug on which he was serving put about to render assistance to the crew of a torpedoed freighter Hagen a member of the life boat detail was instrumental in the success of the rescue of 277 survivors.

Seaman, Second Class Abraham Krohn, USCG

Bronze Star

For meritorious achievement at sea December 5, 1944. When the U.S. Army tug on which he was serving put about to render assistance to the crew of a torpedoed freighter, Krohn was instrumental in the success of the rescue of 277 survivors.

Chief Boatswain's Mate George A. Lowery, USCG

Bronze Star

For heroic achievement at sea December 5, 1944. When the U.S. Army tug on which he was serving, put about to render assistance to the crew of a torpedoed freighter, Lowery directed the lowering of the ship's boats and the rescue efforts, resulting in the saving of 277 survivors.

Fireman, First Class Edward E. Macklin, USCGR

Bronze Star

For meritorious achievement at sea December 5-6 1944, while serving aboard a U.S. Army large tug en route to the Philip pines. His crafted went to the rescue of another ship which had been torpedoed by enemy action saved 277 survivors from the abandoned ship.

Seaman, First Class Robert W. Owen, USCG

Bronze Star

For meritorious achievement at sea December 5, 1944. When the U.S. Army tug on which he was serving put about to render assistance to the crew of a torpedoed freighter, Owen was instrumental in the success of the rescue of 277 survivors.

Fireman, First Class Louis Rua, USCGR

Bronze Star

For meritorious achievement at sea December 5-6 1944, while serving aboard a U.S. Army large tug en route to the Philippines. His craft went to the rescue of another ship which had been torpedoed by enemy action and saved 277 survivors from the abandoned ship.

Seaman, First Class Ned E. Smart, USCGR

Bronze Star

For meritorious achievement at sea December 5-6 1944, while serving aboard a U.S. Army large tug en route to the Philippines. His craft went to the rescue of another ship, which had been torpedoed by enemy action and saved 277 survivors from the abandoned ship.

Seaman, Second Class Wilbert Williams, USCGR

Bronze Star

For heroic achievement at sea on 5 December 1944. When the U.S. Army large tug on which he was serving put about to render assistance to the crew of a freighter torpedoed by enemy aerial action he as a member of the life boat detail was instrumental in the rescue efforts. The numbers of survivors of the abandoned ship brought safely to the tug totaled 277.

(Note: The S.S. *Antone Saugrain* was hit by a torpedo from a Japanese dive bomber which struck her hull at the number two hold and exploded, fatally wounding the vessel aboard which were 413 crew and Army troops. The patrol frigates *Coronado* and *San Pedro* and the Army tug *LT-454* came to the freighter's assistance and saved all hands.)

U.S. Army ~~FS-209~~: 28 December 1944

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Hospital Apprentice, Second Class Francis L. Owens, USCGR

For courageous conduct while serving aboard the U.S. Army *FS-209* during a hazardous operation in the re-supply of forces on Mindoro, Philippine Islands, on 28 December 1944. When an ammunition ship exploded and blew two men into oil-covered, debris-filled water, he voluntarily jumped overboard endangering his own life to bring the dazed and bruised men to safety.

Source: United States Coast Guard Book of Valor, Washington, D.C., 1945.

(Note: The history of these type compiled by the Coast Guard indicates that Owens served aboard the *FS-309* and not the *FS-209* as denoted above.)

U.S. Army ~~FS-309~~: 14 February 1945

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Lieutenant Oliver Rahle, USCG

For meritorious conduct as Commanding Officer of the U.S. Army *FS-309* during operations against Nasugbu Bay, Luzon Philippine Islands, on 14 February 1945, when his foresight in rigging a raft about his vessel prevented its sinking when attacked by an enemy vessel which exploded upon striking the raft. Loss of life and congestion of dock were also prevented.

Source: United States Coast Guard Book of Valor, Washington, D.C., 1945.

USS *APC-25*: 13 August 1943
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

Lieutenant John D. Cartano, United States Naval Reserve

For heroism displayed in the rescue of approximately thirty-five survivors from a burning transport [USS John Penn APA 23] which had been subjected to an enemy aerial attack in the Solomon Islands area on August 13, 1943. Lieutenant Cartano, as the Commanding Officer of a small craft [USS APC-25], went promptly to the rescue of survivors from the stricken ship which at the time was exploding and burning violently. His efficient conduct of rescue operations resulting in saving the lives of many wounded men who would undoubtedly have been lost but for his prompt and fearless action. His conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

J. F. Shafroth

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Deputy Commander South Pacific Area
and South Pacific Force

U.S. Army *FS-366*: 24 November 1944
PURPLE HEART MEDAL

Ensign Thomas Boal, U.S. Coast Guard

For wounds received during enemy action off the coast of the Philippines, Ensign Thomas Boal of Winnetka, Illinois receives the Purple Heart in a presentation ceremony aboard a Coast Guard manned freight ship on which he is serving. The Coast Guard officer was at his battle station when hit by shrapnel. The presentation was made by his commanding officer, Lieutenant (jg) Charles Mashburn of Marshall, North Carolina.

Public Information Division

U.S. Coast Guard

Washington, D.C.

U.S. Army *FS-366*: 13 June 1945
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

Seaman First Class William E. Burke, USCGR

Navy and Marine Corps Medal

For distinguished heroism in rescuing a man from drowning in the San Juanico Straits, Philippine Island, on 13 June 1945. While on duty on the U.S. Army *FS-366*, he saw a dory containing nine men capsize in the strong current. When rescue boats were unable to reach one man who was in danger of drowning he dove into the water with a life jacket swam to the floundering man and kept him afloat until help arrived.

Source: United States Coast Guard Book of Valor, Washington, D.C., 1945.

U.S. Army *FS-180*: 26–30 May 1945
COAST GUARD COMMENDATION RIBBON

Lieutenant Leland O. Wilkie, USCGR

Commendation Ribbon

For excellent service in rescuing [His Majesty's Australian Ship] HMAS *COLAC*, badly damaged by enemy gunfire in Choiseul Bay, from 26 May to 30 May 1945 while serving as Commanding Officer of U.S. Army *FS-180*. His skillful direction and completion of a difficult tow in heavy seas were outstanding.

Source: United States Coast Guard Book of Valor, Washington, D.C., 1945

COLD WAR

USS *Pueblo* (AGER-2): 24 January–23 December 1968
NAVY CROSS MEDAL
SILVER STAR MEDALS – 2
BRONZE STAR MEDALS – 6
PRISONER OF WAR MEDALS – 80

(On 23 January 1968, the USS *Pueblo* was attacked by North Korean naval vessels and MiG jets. One man was killed and several were wounded. The eighty surviving crewmembers and two embarked civilians were captured and held prisoner for 11 months. The USS *Pueblo* remains a commissioned vessel of the United States Navy and is the only ship of the U.S. Navy currently being held captive. It is on public display in North Korea despite continuing diplomatic efforts to secure its return.)

NAVY CROSS MEDAL

Sergeant Robert J. Hammond, United States Marine Corps

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Robert J. Hammond, Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism as a crewmember of the U.S.S. PUEBLO (AGER-2) during their period of captivity in North Korea from 24 January to 23 December 1968. Following his capture, Sergeant Hammond, through his unyielding resistance and fierce loyalty to his shipmates and his country, became a symbol of resistance, courage, and dedication to the United States. This infuriated the North Koreans, who singled him out for more frequent and far more severe brutalities than were administered to the other prisoners. When the North Koreans learned that the U.S.S. PUEBLO crew had duped them in their international propaganda efforts, they intensified their efforts to break the will and spirit of the crew through the administration of indiscriminate beatings. Realizing that many of his shipmates were in danger of

being permanently injured or killed, Sergeant Hammond willingly attempted to sacrifice his own life in order that his shipmates might be spared further torture. The following day the North Koreans ceased their beatings and tortures. Sergeant Hammond's devotion to duty and heroic actions against seemingly impossible odds reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

Authority: Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals

SILVER STAR MEDALS

Fireman Duane Hodges, United States Navy

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) to Duane Hodges, Fireman, U.S. Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on 23 January 1968 while serving on board U.S.S. PUEBLO (AGER-2) during the unwarranted attack upon and illegal seizure of that vessel in international waters in the Sea of Japan by North Korean naval and air force consisting of two patrol boats, four torpedo boats, and two aircraft. When PUEBLO came under fire from these North Korean units, Petty Officer Hodges rendered invaluable assistance in the face of the intense hostile fire while participating in the unfamiliar task of destroying classified materials. Mortally wounded while carrying out this assignment, Petty Officer Hodges, by his courage, initiative, and inspiring dedication, he reflected credit upon himself and upheld and enhanced the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Frederic Carl Schumacher, United States Navy

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star Medal to Frederic Carl Schumacher, Lieutenant [then Lieutenant Junior Grade], U.S. Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on 23 January 1968 while serving on board U.S.S. PUEBLO (AGER-2) during the unwarranted attack upon and illegal seizure of that vessel in international waters in the Sea of Japan by North Korean naval and air force consisting of two patrol boats, four torpedo boats, and two aircraft. When the U.S.S. PUEBLO came under heavy fire from these North Korean units, Lieutenant Schumacher, as Operations Officer, repeatedly exposed himself to the intense fire while organizing and providing the necessary supervision to ensure the destruction of all classified materials under his purview. Through his inspiring leadership, courage, and dedication in the face of hostile fire, he reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

BRONZE STAR MEDALS

Boatswain's Mate Second Class Ronald L. Berens, United States Navy

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Boatswain's Mate Second Class Ronald L. Berens, United States Navy, for meritorious service as a crew member of the U.S.S. PUEBLO (AGER-2) during his period of captivity in North Korea from 24 January to 23 December 1968. Although subjected to extreme forms of physical and mental cruelties, which were in violation of all international agreements, he steadfastly demonstrated defiance and total resistance towards his captors. He never wavered in his devotion to duty and loyalty to the United States, even though the guards and interrogators, frustrated by his behavior, increased the tempo and severity of their ruthless treatment. His courageous stand served to inspire his fellow prisoners and strengthened their will to resist. By his exemplary performance of duty, he reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. (Boatswain's Mate Second Class Berens is authorized to wear the Combat "V".)

Action Date: January 23–December 23, 1968

Service: Navy
Rank: Boatswain's Mate Second Class
Division: Prisoner of War (North Korea)

Sergeant Robert J. Chicca, United States Marine Corps

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Sergeant Robert J. Chicca, United States Marine Corps, for meritorious service as a crew member of the U.S.S. PUEBLO (AGER-2) during his period of captivity in North Korea from 24 January to 23 December 1968. Although subjected to extreme forms of physical and mental cruelties, which were in violation of all international agreements, he steadfastly demonstrated defiance and total resistance towards his captors. He never wavered in his devotion to duty and loyalty to the United States, even though the guards and interrogators, frustrated by his behavior, increased the tempo and severity of their ruthless treatment. His courageous stand served to inspire his fellow prisoners and strengthened their will to resist. By his exemplary performance of duty, he reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. (Sergeant Chicca is authorized to wear the Combat "V".)

Action Date: January 23–December 23, 1968

Service: Marine Corps

Rank: Sergeant

Division: Prisoner of War (North Korea)

Seaman Second Class Wendell G. Leach, United States Navy

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Seaman Second Class Wendell G. Leach, United States Navy, for meritorious service as a crew member of the U.S.S. PUEBLO (AGER-2) during his period of captivity in North Korea from 24 January to 23 December 1968. Although subjected to extreme forms of physical and mental cruelties, which were in violation of all international agreements, he steadfastly demonstrated defiance and total resistance towards his captors. He never wavered in his devotion to duty and loyalty to the United States, even though the guards and interrogators, frustrated by his behavior, increased the tempo and severity of their ruthless treatment. His courageous stand served to inspire his fellow prisoners and strengthened their will to resist. By his exemplary performance of duty, he reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. (Seaman Second Class Leach is authorized to wear the Combat "V".)

Action Date: January 23–December 23, 1968

Service: Navy

Rank: Seaman Second Class

Lieutenant, Junior Grade Frederic Carl Schumacher, United States Navy

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Lieutenant, Junior Grade Frederic Carl Schumacher, United States Navy, for meritorious service as a crew member of the U.S.S. PUEBLO (AGER-2) during his period of captivity in North Korea from 24 January to 23 December 1968. Although subjected to extreme forms of physical and mental cruelties, which were in violation of all international agreements, he steadfastly demonstrated defiance and total resistance towards his captors. He never wavered in his devotion to duty and loyalty to the United States, even though the guards and interrogators, frustrated by his behavior, increased the tempo and severity of their ruthless treatment. His courageous stand served to inspire his fellow prisoners and strengthened their will to resist. By his exemplary performance of duty, he reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest

traditions of the United States Naval Service. (Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Schumacher is authorized to wear the Combat "V".)

Action Date: January 23–December 23, 1968

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Division: Prisoner of War (North Korea)

Division: Prisoner of War (North Korea)

Ensign Timothy L. Harris, United States Navy

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Ensign Timothy L. Harris, United States Navy, for meritorious service as a crew member of the U.S.S. PUEBLO (AGER-2) during his period of captivity in North Korea from 24 January to 23 December 1968. Although subjected to extreme forms of physical and mental cruelties, which were in violation of all international agreements, he steadfastly demonstrated defiance and total resistance towards his captors. He never wavered in his devotion to duty and loyalty to the United States, even though the guards and interrogators, frustrated by his behavior, increased the tempo and severity of their ruthless treatment. His courageous stand served to inspire his fellow prisoners and strengthened their will to resist. By his exemplary performance of duty, he reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. (Ensign Harris is authorized to wear the Combat "V".)

Action Date: January 23–December 23, 1968

Service: Navy

Rank: Ensign

Division: Prisoner of War (North Korea)

Communications Technician Second Class Peter M. Langenberg, United States Navy

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Communications Technician Second Class Peter M. Langenberg, United States Navy, for meritorious service as a crew member of the U.S.S. PUEBLO (AGER-2) during his period of captivity in North Korea from 24 January to 23 December 1968. Although subjected to extreme forms of physical and mental cruelties, which were in violation of all international agreements, he steadfastly demonstrated defiance and total resistance towards his captors. He never wavered in his devotion to duty and loyalty to the United States, even though the guards and interrogators, frustrated by his behavior, increased the tempo and severity of their ruthless treatment. His courageous stand served to inspire his fellow prisoners and strengthened their will to resist. By his exemplary performance of duty, he reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. (Communications Technician Second Class Langenberg is authorized to wear the Combat "V".)

Action Date: January 23–December 23, 1968

Service: Navy

Rank: Storekeeper First Class

Division: Prisoner of War (North Korea)

PRISONER OF WAR MEDALS

There were 81 officers and men aboard the USS Pueblo when it was captured North Korean on 23 January 1968. Fireman Duane Hodges was mortally wounded during the attack. One crewmember, CT3 Joseph Fejfar, had been stricken with illness before the ship departed on its mission and was left ashore. The remaining eighty Navy men as well as two civilians were taken Prisoners of War.

Officers:

Comdr. Lloyd Mark "Pete" Bucher, Commanding Officer
Lt. Edward R. Murphy Jr., Executive Officer
Lt. Stephen R. Harris, Research Officer
Lt. (jg) F. Carl Schumacher, 1st Lieutenant, Operations Officer
Ens. Timothy L. Harris, Supply Officer
CWO-4 Gene Lacy, Engineering Officer

Chief Petty Officers:

CTMCS Ralph D. Bouden
ENC Monroe O. Goldman
CTTC James F. Kell (TAD from Kamiseya, Japan)

First Class Petty Officers:

CT1 Don E. Bailey (TAD from Kamiseya, Japan)
HM1 Herman P. Baldrige
CT1 Michael T. Barrett
EN1 Rushel J. Blansett
YN1 Armando Canales
SK1 Policarpo Polla "PP"
CT1 Francis J. Ginther
EMI Gerald W. Hagenson
BM1 Norbert J. Klepac
QM1 Charles B. Law
CT1 James D. Layton
PH1 Lawrence W. Mack
CT1 Donald R. Peppard
CT1 David L. Ritter (TAD from Kamiseya, Japan)
EN1 William D. "Scabbie" Scarborough
CT1 James A. Sheppard

Second Class Petty Officers:

CT2 Michael W. Alexander
CT2 Wayne D. Anderson
BM2 Ronald L. Berens
SGT Robert J. Chicca, USMC (TAD from Kamiseya, Japan)
IC2 Victor D. Escamilla
SGT Robert J. Hammond, USMC (TAD from Kamiseya, Japan)
RM2 Lee R. Hayes
CT2 Peter M. Langenberg
SM2 Wendell G. Leach
CS2 Harry Lewis
CT2 Donald R. McClarren
ET2 Clifford C. Nolte
CT2 Charles R. "Joe" Sterling
GM2 Kenneth R. Wadley
CT2 Elton A. Wood

Third Class Petty Officers:

CT3 Charles W. Ayling
CT3 Paul D. Brusnahan

BM3 Willie C. Bussell
RM3 Charles H. Crandell
CT3 Bradley R. Crowe
CT3 Rodney H. Duke
CT3 John W. Grant
CT3 Sydney (Jerry) Karnes
CT3 Earl M. Kisler
CT3 Anthony A. Lamantia
CT3 Ralph McClintock Jericho, (TAD Kamiseya, Japan)
QM3 Alvin H. Plucker
CS3 Ralph E. Reed
CT3 Steven J. Robin
CT3 John A. Shilling
CT3 Angelo S. Strano
EN3 Darrel D. Wright

Non-rated:

Steward Rogelio P. Abelon
Steward Rizalino L. Aluague
Fireman Richard E. Arnold
Fireman Richard I. Bame
Fireman Peter M. "Milt" Bandera
Fireman Howard E. Bland
Seaman Stephen P. Ellis
Fireman John C. Higgins
Seaman Robert W. Hill Jr.
Fireman Duane Hodges
Seaman Roy J. Maggard
Seaman Larry J. Marshall
Fireman Thomas W. Massie
Fireman John A. Mitchell
Fireman Michael A. O'Bannon
Seaman Earl R. Phares
Seaman Dale E. Rigby
Seaman Richard J. Rogala
Seaman Ramon Rosales
Seaman Edward S. "Stu" Russell
Seaman John R. Shingleton
Fireman Norman W. Spear
Fireman Larry E. Strickland
Fireman Steven E. Woelk
Civilian Oceanographers:
Harry Iredale, III (TAD from the Naval Oceanographic Office)
Dunnie R. Tuck, Jr. (TAD from the Naval Oceanographic Office)

Source: USS *Pueblo* AGER-2 Crewmember List

(<http://www.usspueblo.org/Aftermath/Crewmembers.html>: accessed 19 February 2012).

Last updated May 8, 2013