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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

JAG:agw

26 MAY 1948

Memorandum for the File

In August 1948, after the matter had been under consideration for several months, I approved the award of a third Distinguished Service Medal to Admiral Stark, and in due course the award was made. In my view that action was indicative not only of my belief that the award was deserved (which I entertained before receipt of Admiral King's letter) but also of my concurrence in Admiral King's remarks concerning Admiral Stark. In view of the fact that such action did not specifically amend the endorsement placed on this record by the Secretary of the Navy, this memorandum is for the purpose of confirming that concurrence.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

FINISH FILE PERQ 924

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April 25, 1984

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The Chief of Naval Personnel
Department of the Navy
Washington, D. C. 20350

Dear Sir:

I am co-executor and co-trustee of the estate of the late Admiral Harold R. Stark.

As you know, he was the Chief of Naval Operations at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and was designated an interested party in the Navy's Court of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the attack. He also testified at some length during the subsequent Congressional investigation.

He was the subject of adverse findings by the Court of Inquiry and in the endorsements on the findings by Admiral King, Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, and by the Secretary of the Navy.

Subsequently, by a letter to Secretary Sullivan dated 14 July 1948, Admiral King modified his endorsement. Thereafter, Secretary Sullivan approved the award of a third Distinguished Service Medal to Admiral Stark; he also concurred in Admiral King's modified endorsement by a Memorandum for the File dated 16 May 1949. For your convenience, copies of Admiral King's letter, the citation for the DSM and Secretary Sullivan's memorandum are enclosed.

I would appreciate your assurance that the originals of these three documents are in Admiral Stark's personnel file, or that the originals of Admiral King's letter and Secretary Sullivan's memorandum are a part of the Court of Inquiry record, with copies in Admiral Stark's file.

Since Admiral Stark's daughters do not have a signed copy of Secretary Sullivan's memorandum dated 16 May 1949, please send me a photocopy that I can deliver to them.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

David W. Richmond

Enclosures

Copies to Mrs. Mary Stark Semans
Mrs. Katharine Stark Gillespie

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the GOLD STAR in lieu of the Third Distinguished Service Medal to

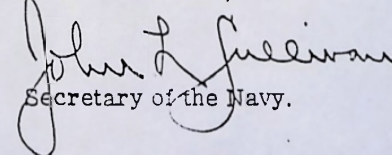
ADMIRAL HAROLD RAYNSFORD STARK, UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States in a duty of great responsibility as Commander, United States Naval Forces in Europe, from April 30, 1942, to August 15, 1945; and Commander TWELFTH Fleet from October 1, 1943, to August 15, 1945. Maintaining close liaison with British and other Allied naval authorities in the European Theater, Admiral Stark ably represented the United States Navy in the theater integration of Allied military plans, skillfully directing the Navy's participation in the vital problems of supply to the United Kingdom, building up in that area the bases essential to the training and operation of United States Naval amphibious forces and discharging effectively his responsibilities for the logistic support of the United States Naval Task Force assigned to the invasion of Normandy and for the continuing supply in support of Allied land forces after the invasion. Serving as Naval Adviser to the United States Member of the European Advisory Commission in addition to his duty as senior United States Naval representative in Europe, Admiral Stark rendered distinguished and brilliant service not only as a Naval administrator but also as a highly skilled and diplomatic emissary in his relations with Allied authorities, contributing vitally to the success of the Normandy invasion and the post-invasion operations leading to the victorious termination of the war in Europe. His performance of this exacting and important assignment was characterized by exceptional tact, intelligence, professional integrity and gallant devotion to duty, reflecting the highest credit upon himself, the United States Naval Service and his country."

For the President,


Secretary of the Navy.