

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, takes pleasure in presenting the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS to

SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM V. BROOKS, UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight as a pilot in Marine Fighting Squadron TWO TWENTY-ONE, during the Battle of Midway Islands on June 4, 1942. While in combat with Japanese aircraft, vastly superior in numbers, he fearlessly pressed home his attack, thereby seriously disrupting the plans of the enemy, lessening the effectiveness of their attack, and contributing greatly to their defeat. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service."

C. W. NIMITZ,
Admiral, U. S. Navy.

Classified Citation.

MARINE AIR SUPPORT GROUP 5
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE,
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

15 November, 1945.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Major William V. BROOKS, (08050), USMCR(NAVC).
Subject: Ribbons and Medals, authorization for.

References: (a) NDGO #207.
(b) ComInCh Serial 5305, of 30 June 1945 published as
45-712 ND Bulletin of 30 June 1945.
(c) ALNAV 351-45.
(d) ALNAV 352-45.
(e) NDGO #194.

1. In accordance with the above references, you are authorized to wear the following decorations.

Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Ribbon and Medal.
American Area Campaign Ribbon and Medal.
World War Two Victory Ribbon and Medal.

WILLIAM G. THRASH

Copy to: CMC.

08050
DGP-xt

MB

JUN 15 1943

From: The Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps.
To: Captain William V. Brooks, USMCR., Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas.
Via: The Commanding Officer.
Subject: Information concerning the Purple Heart.
Reference: (a) Your ltr. to the CO, MB, NAS, dated 5-24-43 with indorsement thereon.
Inclosure: 1.

1. In reply to reference (a), information is furnished that you are entitled to the award of the Purple Heart and are authorized to wear the inclosed Purple Heart ribbon bar, inasmuch as you were wounded in action against the enemy on 4 June 1942. It is not known when the medals will be ready for distribution, however, your name has been placed on file pending receipt of the medals.

JOHN DIXON

By direction

COPY COPY COPY COPY

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
OF THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commander South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force, takes pleasure in presenting the AIR MEDAL TO:

SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM V. BROOKS
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION:

"For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial combat against the enemy in the British Solomon Islands. Lieutenant Brooks has participated in at least twenty combat flights and has been a member of a flight which has made contact with the enemy thirteen times. On October 14, 1942 after a hectic thirty-six hours of bombing and shelling, Lieutenant Brooks was a member of a flight that made contact with an enemy force that was numerically superior by five to one. During the ensuing combat Lieutenant Brooks destroyed one enemy bomber and possibly another. In addition, on September 23, 1942, Second Lieutenant Brooks destroyed one enemy bomber for a total of two and possibly three enemy aircraft."

W. F. HALSEY,
Admiral, U. S. Navy.

Temporary citation.

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, takes pleasure in presenting the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS to

SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM V. BROOKS, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE.

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight as a pilot in Marine Fighting Squadron ..., during the Battle of Midway Islands on June 4, 1942. While in combat with Japanese aircraft, vastly superior in numbers, he fearlessly pressed home his attack, thereby seriously disrupting the plans of the enemy, lessening the effectiveness of their attack, and contributing greatly to their defeat. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service."

C. W. NIMITZ,
Admiral, U. S. Navy.

Non-Classified Citation.

cl

ENCLOSURE (A)



William Vincent Brooks
WILLIAM VINCENT BROOKS, Major
PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN 20 Jun 44.

2

After Action Report of Second Lieutenant William V. Brooks,
VMF 221, June 4, 1942 (Battle of Midway)

I was pilot of F2A-3, Bureau number 01523, Our division under Capt. Armistead was on standby duty at the end of the runway on the morning of June 4, 1942, from 0415 until 0615. At about 0600, the alarm sounded and we took off. My division climbed rapidly, and I was having a hard time keeping up. I discovered afterwards that although my wheels indicator and hydraulic pressure indicator both registered "wheels up", they were in reality about 1/3 of the way down. We sighted the enemy at about 14,000 feet, I would say that there were 40 to 50 planes. At this time Lt. Sandoval was also dropping back. My radio was at this time putting out no volume, so I could not get the message from Zed. At 17,000 feet, Capt. Armistead led the attack followed closely by Capt. Humberd. They went down the left of the Vee, leaving two planes burning. Lt. Sandoval went down the right side of the formation and I followed. One of us got a plane from the right side of the Vee. At this time, I had completely lost sight of my division. As I started to pull up for another run on the bombers, I was attacked by two fighters. Because my wheels being jammed 1/3 way down, I could not out dive these planes, but managed to dodge them and fire a burst or so into them as they went past me and as I headed for the water. As I circled the island, the anti-aircraft fire drove them away. My tabs, instruments and cockpit were shot up to quite an extent at this time and I was intending to come in for a landing.

It was at this time that I noticed that a important feature in their fighting. I saw two planes dog-fighting over in the east, and decided to go help my friend if at all possible. My plane was working very poorly, and my climb was slow. As I neared the fight both planes turned on me. It was then that I realized I had been tricked in a sham battle put on by two Japs and I failed to recognize this because of the sun in my eyes. Then I say I was out-numbered, I turned and made a fast retreat for the island, collecting a goodly number of bullets on the way. After one of these planes had been shaken, I managed to get a good burst into another as we passed head-on when I turned into him. I don't believe this ship could have gotten back to his carrier, because he immediately turned away and started north and down. I again decided to land, but as I circled the island I saw two Japs on a Brewster. Three of my guns were jammed, but I cut across the island, firing as I went with one gun. But I could not get there in time to help the American flier and as soon as the Brewster had gone into the water I came in for a landing at approximately 0715 (estimated).

Date and place of birth December 19, 1918 - Barada, Nebraska.
 Usual residence Bigelow, Missouri.
 Next of kin ~~Father - Emmett Brooks~~ - same address. - Mother: Elizabeth Brooks.
 Single or married Married ~~Single~~ - Jane E. Brooks, Union, Nebraska
 Prior service Enl. USMCR: 4-1-41 to 6-9-41.
 Appointed from MISSOURI.

Appointed an Aviation Cadet in the Marine Corps Reserve with rank from 12 May 1941, No. 32. Assigned to VMCR.

Accepted appointment and executed oath of office form on 10 June 1941, at Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Kansas City, Kansas.

10 June 1941 assigned to active duty, and ordered to MARINE BARRACKS, NAVAL AIR STATION, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

- JUN. 1941: 12, Joined; 13 to 30, Student.
- JUL. 1941: Student.
- AUG. 1941: Student.
- SEP. 1941: Student.
- OCT. 1941: Student.
- NOV. 1941: Student.
- DEC. 1941: Student.
- JAN. 1942: Student.

 Appointed a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve with rank from October 16, 1941, commission dated February 10, 1942.

Accepted appointment and executed oath of office form on February 19, 1942, at Corpus Christi, Texas.

MARINE BARRACKS, NAVAL AIR STATION, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS (Continued)

FEB. 1942: 1-18, Student.
19, detached to

MARINE BARRACKS, NAVAL AIR STATION, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

MAR. 1942: 13, Joined Headquarters Squadron 2dMAW, FMF. 27Feb-13March 42
on leave. 13-20, Squadron Officer; 21-31, STAD, Advanced
Carrier Training Group, Post.

Appointed a NAVAL AVIATOR (Heavier-than-Air), and detailed to duty in-
volving actual flying in and control of aircraft, from and including
19 February, 1942.

APR. 1942: NA. Special Temporary Aviation Duty, Advanced Carrier Train-
ing Group, Post.

MAY. 1942: NA. 1, only, Special Temporary Aviation Duty, Advanced Carrier
Training Group, Post; 2-7, Squadron Officer; 8, detached to

SECOND MARINE AIR WING, FMF, OAHU, T. H.

17, Joined H&SS-21, MAG-21, 2d MAW, FMF. 8, embarked aboard
USS J FRANKLIN BELL and 9, sailed from San Francisco, Calif.
17, arrived and disembarked at NYd, Pearl Harbor, T. H.
Aviator. 17-20, Squadron Officer awaiting transportation, 21,
detached to

SECOND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, MIDWAY ISLANDS

26, Joined VMF-221, MAG-22; 22, embarked aboard USS KITTY
HAWK and sailed from NYd, Pearl Harbor, T. H. 26, arrived and
disembarked this station. 26-31, Squadron Officer. NA.

JUNE 1942: NA. 1-30, Asst. Ordnance and Asst. Gunnery Officer. (For
further remarks see confidential files. Footnotes I and B.)
"I"-Sustained shrapnel wounds in the left leg while engaged in
aerial combat with Jap aerial forces. at or about 6:35 A. M.
June 4, 42, In line of duty, GO# 20, does not apply.
See Footnote "F", of H&SS-22, MAG-22, in confidential files.
"F"-23-24, temporarily attached from VMF-221, MAG-22, enroute.
25, to VMF-221, via Government Conveyance. "B"- STAD with
MAG-21, via air transportation.

JULY 1942: NA. (See footnote D in confidential files)
detached to

SECOND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, % Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

1, Joined VMF-223, MAG-23. NA. Communications Officer;
Custodian of Confidential Publications.

SECOND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, (% Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.)
(VMF-223, MAG-23)

AUG. 1942: 1, Joined VMF-224, MAG-23. Assistant Communication and Radio Officer. (See footnotes "J" and "M" in confidential files.)
22 August 42, MAG-23, transferred to

FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, (% Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.)
(VMF-224, MAG-23.)

SEP. 1942: NA. Assistant Communications and Radio Officer.
1, 18, 20 and 26, participated in combat patrol over enemy territory. 14 & 28, participated in aerial combat with enemy.

Awarded the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS and Citation "for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a pilot in a Marine Fighting Squadron in action against enemy Japanese forces, during the Battle of Midway, June 4, 1942. "
Presented _____ . (See case for complete citation)

Appointed a 1st LIEUTENANT in the Marine Corps Reserve 1 October 1942, (TEMPORARY) with rank from 30 September 1942, No. 243. Acknowledged receipt of commission 19 October 1942.

OCT. 1942: NA. 1-15, Assistant Communications and Radio Officer.
16-31, Special Temporary Aviation Duty to continental U. S. via Air transportation. Date of departure and arrival unknown
27, detached to,

MARINE AIRCRAFT WINGS, PACIFIC, FMF, NAS, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

NOV. 1942: 3, Joined Air Regulating Squadron, -3. Service Group, NA.
24 October to 26 October awaiting transportation, 14th Naval District, Pearl Harbor, T. H. 27 October embarked and sailed therefrom via APV-2; 3, arrived and disembarked at San Francisco, Calif. 13, detached to

MARINE BARRACKS, NAVAL AIR STATION, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

DEC. 1942: 19, Joined Aviation Detachment.
NA. 21 November to 18 December 42, delay enroute.

JAN. 1943: NA. 3, received Distinguished Flying Cross with citation for participation in the battle of Midway 4 June 1942.

FEB. 1943: NA.

MAR 1943 NO CHANGE

APR 1943 NO CHANGE

MARINE BARRACKS, NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, CORPUS CHRISTIE, TEXAS.
(Aviation Detachment)

APR. 1944: NA; 24, detached to

USMCAS, CHERRY POINT NORTH CAROLINA
(ARS-9(9thMAW)FMF)

APR. 1944: 30, Joined; NA; 30 only, awaiting assignment.

MAY 1944: 1-5, NA; 6, detached to

POLLOKSVILLE FIELD, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA
(VMF-512, MAG-51(9thMAW)FMF)

MAY 1944: 6, Joined; 6-31, Executive Officer.

Appointed a Major in the Marine Corps Reserve on 1 June 1944
(TEMPORARY) with rank from 28 January 1944, No. 59.
Acknowledged receipt of commission 20 June 1944.

JUN. 1944: NA; 1-30, Executive Officer.

JUL. 1944: 1-2, Executive Officer; 3-13, Special Temporary Aviation
duty at Naval Auxiliary Air Field, Boca Chica, Florida;
14-31, Executive Officer; NA.

AUG. 1944: NA; 1-31, Executive Officer.

MARINE FLEET AIR, WEST COAST (Eff 10Sept44)
(VMF-512, MAG-51, 9thMAW, FMF, MCAS, Mojave, Calif)

SEP. 1944: NA; 1-30, Executive Officer; 5, organization departed via
Squadron Planes, Air Transportation and Rail; 10, arrived
MCAS, Mojave, Calif.

OCT. 1944: NA; 1-31, Executive Officer.
(VMF (CVS)512, MASG-51, USMCAS) (Designation change 1Nov44)

NOV. 1944: NA; 1, Executive Officer; 2, Detached to

off

(H1S4-51, MASG-51, USMCAS, Mojave, California) (5Nov44, DesCng)

4, Joined; NAVC; 4-30, Squadron Commanding Officer.

DEC. 1944: NAVC. 1-20, Squadron Commanding Officer. 21-31, Leave.

6-7

#08050

INACTIVE RES

RESERVE

NAVMC 545A-DP

RECORD OF BROOKS, William V. MARINE CORPS

CARD # 4 OF

MARINE FLEET AIR, WEST COAST
(HQSQ-51, MASG-51, USMCAS, Mojave, California).

JAN. 1945: NAVC; 1-4, Leave; 5-14, Squadron Commanding Officer; 15; detached to,

(VMF(CVS)514-MASG-51, USMCAS, Mojave, Calif.)

15, joined; NAVC; 15-31, Executive Officer.

FEB. 1945: NAVC; Executive Officer.

MAR. 1945: NAVC; Executive Officer.

APR. 1945: NAVC; Executive Officer.

MAY. 1945: NAVC; Executive Officer.

(VMF-514, USS SALERNO BAY, (CVE-110) (effective 26 June 1945)

JUN. 1945: NAVC; Executive Officer; 27, embarked aboard the USS SALERNO BAY (CVE-110) for duty.

JUL. 1945: NAVC; 1-27, Executive Officer; 28-31, Commanding Officer. 14-31 special temporary duty at Marine Corps Air Station Santa Barbara (Goleta), California.

AUG. 1945: NAVC; Commanding Officer; 1-11, Special Temporary Aviation Duty, at Marine Corps Air Station, Santa Barbara (Goleta) California.

AIRCRAFT, FLEET MARINE FORCES, PACIFIC. (24 Aug 45, Designation Changed)
(VMF-514, 3dMAW)

(VMF-514, MASG-48, 3rd MAW) (8 Sep 45, Designation Changed)

SEP. 1945: NAVC; Commanding Officer; 1, at sea; 2-5, berthed at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, T.H.; 6-19, underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa Shima; 20-24, berthed at Buckner Bay, Okinawa Shima; 25-26, berthed at Hagushi Wan, Okinawa Shima; 27, at sea and return; 28-30, at sea.

OCT. 1945: NAVC; 1-22, Commanding Officer; 23-31, Special Temporary Aviation Duty at Saipan; 1-7, berthed at Hagushi Wan, Okinawa Shima, 8-11, at sea; 12-13, berthed at Hagushi Wan, Okinawa Shima; 14-22, at sea; 23-31, berthed at Saipan, Marianas Islands

AIRCRAFT, FLEET MARINE FORCES, PACIFIC
 (VMF-514, MASG-44, 3dMAW) (10Nov, DesignChgd)

NOV. 1945: NAVC; 1-4, 7-15, special temporary aviation duty at Saipan; 5-6 and 16-30, Commanding Officer; 5-6, at sea; 16, underway enroute Arote Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands; 17, berthed at Arote Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands; 18-24, underway enroute Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, T.H.; 25-27, berthed at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, T.H.; 28-30, underway enroute San Diego, California.

MARINE FLEET AIR , WEST COAST ((Effective 28Nov45)
 (VMF-514 %FPO San Francisco, Calif)(4Dec46 Effective)

DEC. 1945: NAVC; 1-8, Commanding Officer; 1-3, aboard USS SALERNO BAY (CVE-110) enroute to San Diego, Calif; 4, arrived and disembarked at Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego, Calif; 5-8, at San Diego, Calif; 9, detached to

MARINE AIR WEST COAST 20Dec45Eff)
 (Hq, PersGp, MCAD, Miramar, SanDeigo Calif)

8, Joined; NA; 13, Detached to

MARINE BARRACKS U.S. NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, GREAT LAKES, ILL.
 (HqDet. CasDet)

DEC. 1945: 30, Joined; 22-30Dec45, on leave; 30-31, Detachment Officer;

JAN. 1946: 1-6, Detachment Officer; 7, detached to home awaiting relief from active duty; 8, travel; 9Jan-5Mar, leave; 6 Mar, relieved from active duty and assigned to

AVIATION UNIT, NINTH RESERVE DISTRICT

AVIATION UNIT? NINTH RESERVE DISTRICT.

MAR. 1946: 7, joined.

Appointed a Major in the Marine Corps Reserve (permanent) with rank from 28 January 1944, commission dated 12 August 1946. Accepted appointment and executed oath of office 10 September 1946.

DMA-1541-afs
15 Feb 1955

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Lieutenant Colonel William V. BROOKS, USMCR 08050
Via: Director, Ninth Marine Corps Reserve and Recruitment District

Subj: Acceptance of resignation

Ref: (a) LtCol Brooks ltr of 21 Jan 1955 to SecNav
(b) Paragraph 10200 MCM 1949
(c) SecNav ltr of 29 Sep 1952 to CMC and JAG Subj:
Report of Marine Corps Reserve Policy Board -
1952, final action on (Topic #4)

Encl: (1) Certificate of discharge

1. By direction of the President, your resignation from the Marine Corps Reserve, reference (a), is hereby accepted, effective 15 February 1955, in accordance with the provisions of reference (c).


2. Upon separation from the Marine Corps your service record reveals that you are entitled to an Honorable Discharge, the highest type discharge awarded, a certificate of which is enclosed herewith.

3. A review of your record indicates a most commendable performance of duty on your part. The Marine Corps is greatly indebted to officers of your caliber who have through their efforts so materially assisted in carrying out the missions of the Corps. The Commandant wishes to take this occasion to express his appreciation of your service.

B. LIDYARD
By direction

Copy to:
Dir MarCorps Res

mm

CLEARED FOR
"CERT & MISC"
SECTION
DGH 
SELECTED TO BE JACKETED

Filed 2
08050-afs

