

# Certificate of Meritorious Service



## CLARK E. WATTS

The active duty of CLARK E. WATTS in the 544th Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment dates from December 30, 1943 until he returned to the United States to be honorably discharged from the service.

He received his Basic Training in Company F. Shore Battalion and was transferred to Company E. another Shore Company with the military specialty of Demolition Specialist and Light Truck Driver.

While he was familiarizing himself with his assigned duties he qualified with the rifle, carbine and light machine gun. A major part of his state side training consisted of many amphibious assault problems on the sandy beaches of Florida; there he became a specialist at storming enemy-held beaches.

His foreign service dates from May 2, 1944 when he sailed from San Francisco on the U.S.A.T. "Sea Devil" and arrived at Oro Bay, New Guinea twenty-three days later. There his Regiment was assigned to the Sixth Army for future operations. Several months of acclimation to the heat and rain of the tropics followed. Then he went with the first elements of the Fourth Engineer Special Brigade to Maffin Bay, Dutch New Guinea, where he staged with his Regiment for their initial combat operation. After a brief preparation period he joined the large task force and landed with D-Day assault units on the island of Morotai, Netherlands East Indies on September 15, 1944.

Seven weeks later he accompanied his Regiment to Bouganville, Northern Solomon Islands to join the 37th Infantry Division for further combat operations. On December 12th he and his unit were assigned to the XIV Corps of the Sixth Army preparing to invade Luzon, and were among the first troops to go ashore at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippine Islands on January 9, 1945. Thus began the liberation of Luzon from the yoke of the Japanese.

In March his unit's mission on the beachhead was completed and he moved with it to Manila. There he assisted in opening the port to receive its first Allied shipping. After four months of commendable work his unit turned the operation of the port over to other hands, and thereafter engaged in the reconstruction of the city. It was while in Manila that he was authorized to wear the Bronze Arrowhead for the initial assault on the Lingayen Invasion.

At the time that surrender negotiations were being made with the Japanese Government he moved to Aringay, P. I. for staging preparatory to the first assault on the home islands of Japan. Upon acceptance of the surrender terms, the 544th prepared for its new mission as occupation troops. He moved with the occupation troops of the 33rd Infantry Division and landed with the first troops ashore at Wakayama, Honshu, Japan on September 25, 1945. December 15th he was prepared for a more specialized assignment as a Motor Sergeant and was given the rank of Sergeant.

Sergeant Watts has merited the following awards: Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon, New Guinea Campaign Bronze Star, Northern Solomons Campaign Bronze Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and Bronze Star, Luzon Campaign Bronze Star, Bronze Arrowhead, Four overseas service bars, World War II Victory Medal and the Drivers and Mechanics Badge.

Sergeant Watts has displayed excellent character and efficiency throughout his service with this Regiment. He has performed his military duty well and is a credit to this organization. It is the combined effort of conscientious soldiers like him which made it possible for the Regiment to complete so successfully its war mission.

*James E. Walsh*  
JAMES E. WALSH  
COLONEL CE  
Commanding