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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH AIR FORCE
APO 710

AG 201.22

4 September 1945

SUBJECT: Congratulatory Message from the Secretary of War.

TO: All Fifth Air Force Unit Commanders.

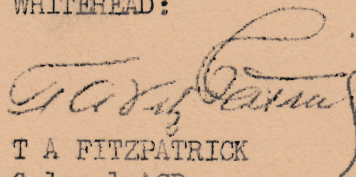
The following message from the Secretary of War to the Commanding General, Far East Air Forces, is quoted for your information:

"DURING THE FINAL WEEKS OF THE AIR ASSAULT ON JAPAN, THE FAR EAST AIR FORCE ADDED NEW CHAPTERS TO THE HISTORY OF COURAGE AND ACHIEVEMENT WHICH IT HAS BEEN WRITING SINCE YOU FIRST ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE ALLIED AIR FORCES IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC. THROUGHOUT THE LONG PERIOD OF YOUR PACIFIC ASSIGNMENTS, YOUR INITIATIVE AND INGENUITY DEVISED OR PERFECTED NEW TECHNIQUES OF AIR TACTICS WHICH CRUSHED THE ENEMY'S AIR RE-ENFORCING HIS ONCE POWERFUL GARRISONS.

"IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE PACIFIC WAR WHEN WE WERE IN THE MOST URGENT NEED OF HALTING JAPANESE OPERATIONS, YOU MADE BRILLIANT USE OF THE SMALL FORCE THEN AT YOUR COMMAND. I RECALL PARTICULARLY THE BOLD AND HAZARDOUS MISSION BY WHICH YOU FLEW A DIVISION INTO PAPUA TO HALT THE ENCROACHMENT OF THE JAPANESE ON PORT MORESBY. BY THE UTMOST EFFICIENCY IN THE USE OF YOUR PLANES AND MEN IN CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE ENEMY'S ISLAND STRONGHOLDS YOU CAUSED SUCH ATTRITION ON THE JAPANESE AIR FORCES THAT YOU SECURED ACTUAL SUPERIORITY OF THE AIR IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC WELL BEFORE IT COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED.

"IN OFFERING MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PART IN OUR VICTORY, I HOPE YOU WILL EXTEND THEM AS WELL TO THE GALLANT CREWS UNDER YOUR COMMAND."

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL WHITEHEAD:



T A FITZPATRICK
Colonel AGD
Adj Gen