

ADDRESS REPLY TO
SUPERVISOR OF NEW YORK HARBOR
39 WHITEHALL ST. N. Y. CITY

WAR DEPARTMENT
SUPERVISOR OF NEW YORK HARBOR
39 WHITEHALL STREET
NEW YORK CITY

REFER TO FILE NO. _____

February 9, 1920

My dear Admiral Knight:

Lieut. Colonel Manwaring, who was with me in Guam, has written me in regard to our war service.

He made a suggestion about printing his letter, with which I was not entirely in accord. I offered however to send it to you, and he agreed to that.

I will say that it had not occurred to me that any Pacific Islanders would be rewarded. I have kept up only superficially with the hearings, and did not know about Poyer.

I am quite sure that Poyer did all he could in Samoa, and equally sure that he deserved any recognition he got.

I agree with Manwaring that we were as much in contact with the enemy as anybody in the Pacific. The CORMORAN blew herself up with a charge that she had been fitted out with, as I believe were all the German ships. We did not know that she had not replaced her breech-blocks, and would not open fire as soon as she knew the war was on. We had to be ready for her. Her force was about equal to ours.

The handling of the officers and crew ashore was something of an undertaking in itself. Several officers are entitled to recognition in these matters, as my reports will show.

I am sending you reprints of a couple of articles that have appeared in the Naval Institute, "Universal Military Training in Guam," and "The Economic Development of Guam."

If you have occasion to consult the Department's files you will find that I drew up a plan for a Naval Base of the first order, and completely revised the defense plan in the light of war experience, both of which have been approved and filed "for action."

Sincerely yours
Roy C. Smith

Admiral
A. M. Knight, U.S.N.
C/o Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

3 Inclosures