

GSB /wd

UNITED STATES NAVY YARD
CHARLESTON, S. C.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

January 25th, 1921.

My Dear Governor,

1. This is a very tardy acknowledgement of a copy of your letter of Dec. 17th, 1920 to the Secretary of the Navy, (Bureau of Navigation), commending my service in Guam, and recommending me for the Navy Cross. I assure you I appreciate most highly the generous praise you have given, and your earnest recommendation for the award of such a mark of distinction.

2. I am reminded of the very hearty letters of commendation which you gave me in Guam upon the completion of the special telephone work and of the stockades, and the commendatory letter issued by the Secretary of the Navy as a result of your report and recommendation.

3. After leaving Guam I was on duty at the Bureau of Yards and Docks for about two months. From October 1917 to the end of the War, and to December 1919, I was on duty at New London Conn., where I built the Submarine Base and Naval Ammunition Depot. The work was done under great stress starting at almost zero for organization. I will say with all due modesty that I worked to the limit of endurance, and with excellent success. I feel that my services at New London were even more deserving of recognition than my duty in Guam by reason of the long continued stress, and the far greater magnitude of work and responsibility and greater resourcefulness required.

4. Altho I received aplendid fitness reports for my work at New London, I am not aware of any recommendation for special recognition. The various commanding officers apparently considered that construction work in this country did not entitle one to such recognition. I say this without any pique or criticism, as very many have regarded the decorations as intended only for purely military services. On the other hand those in command at other points have recommended decorations for meretorious shore work by the staff.

5. I feel very sure that if my New London work were reported in keeping with your own generous report on my duty in Guam, I would have received pretty definite recognition from the Department either in

the form of a decoration or a commendatory letter. However comforting definite recognition may be, the greatest satisfaction is in a sense duty well performed.

6. And now Governor permit me to express my pleasure in knowing that you were awarded a decoration for your services, into which I know you entered heart and soul.

With kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Smith,
and wishing you pleasant duty, *and again thanking you*
I am very truly yours,

G.S. Burrell
G.S. Burrell.

Capt. Roy C. Smith, USN,
Supervisor of New York Harbor,
39 Whitehall Street, N.Y.

Commander, CEC, USN,