

## CITATION FOR THE LEGION OF MERIT

Colonel Charles H. MacDonald, 022518, (then Lieutenant Colonel), Air Corps, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in the Southwest Pacific Area, from 26 November 1943 to 16 July 1945. As Commanding Officer, 475th Fighter Group, Colonel MacDonald personally led his group of P-38 fighter aircraft in many damaging operations against the enemy, making the first daylight attacks on the Admiralty Islands and Hollandia. In addition, his group furnished effective cover for the landings at Arawe and Cape Gloucester, as well as at Biak and Noemfoor. Constantly maintaining the highest morale among his men, he led his pilots on voluntary fighter sweeps off Western New Guinea and the Palau Islands with marked success. Undertaking missions from advanced, newly-won airstrips, he most capably directed his group in providing direct support of the landing operations at Leyte and Mindoro. As a result of his extensive combat knowledge and his sound coordination between ground and air echelons, the 475th Fighter Group destroyed 321 enemy aircraft in aerial combat despite the most difficult operational conditions. He also served with outstanding distinction as Airdrome Commander of Dulag Airfield, Leyte, and later of Clark Field, Luzon. By his resourceful leadership, discerning foresight, and superior professional ability, Colonel MacDonald made a distinct contribution to the success of major operations throughout the Southwest Pacific Area.

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