

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

Rear Admiral Edgar was born in Washington, D. C. August 23, 1889, the son of Commander Webster A. Edgar, U. S. Navy, Retired, Naval Academy Class of 1886, and Mrs. Matilda Emery Edgar. He entered the Naval Academy on appointment at large in 1908, was graduated in 1912, and assigned to the USS MICHIGAN. In September of that year he was transferred to the USS FLORIDA, Flagship, First Division, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. He was ordered to the USS MONTANA for torpedo instruction in January 1914 and re-joined the FLORIDA when the course was completed on April 28, 1914.

He served in the USS SMITH from October 1914 until May 1916, and was commissioned Lieutenant (junior grade) from June 8, 1915, while in that assignment. His next duty was in connection with fitting out the USS SAMPSON at the plant of the Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, Quincy, Massachusetts. He served in her from her commissioning June 27, 1916 until August 1918. As a Lieutenant he assisted with fitting out the USS DELPHY in the fall of 1918, and joined her when she was commissioned on November 30, 1918.

Rear Admiral Edgar was instructor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Physics at the Naval Academy from September 1919 until June 1921. After a year's duty in the USS STOCKTON he joined the USS NEVADA in July 1922, and served in her until March 1924, having attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander in December 1922. He was stationed at the Naval Station, Tutuila, Samoa, from April 1924, until July 1925, and had a second tour of duty in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Physics at the Naval Academy in 1925-26. He served as engineer officer of the USS NEW YORK from November 1926, until May 1929, and was District Communication Officer, Thirteenth Naval District, until August 1931, with additional duty as member of the Army and Naval Local Joint Planning Committee, Thirteenth Naval District.

Rear Admiral Edgar commanded the USS SMITH THOMPSON from August 1931 until July 1933. As a Commander he served as Asiatic Communication Officer, Sixteenth Naval District, Cavite, P.I., until August 1934, after which he was District Communication Officer for the Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, California from September 1934 until May 1937. He had duty as Executive Officer of the USS LOUISVILLE from June 1937 until June 1939, and followed that duty with a tour as Radio Material Officer, Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T.H. He was commissioned Captain on December 8, 1939, and after his return to the United States in June 1940, he served in the Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco, California until he assumed command of the USS WILLIAM P. BIDDLE on February 3, 1941.

On September 8, 1942, he was transferred to command of Transport Division 5, a part of Amphibious Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. For service in this command, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the Army, with the following citation:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL:

"For exceptionally meritorious service in landing a Combat Team, United States Army, east of Cape Matifou, North Africa, November 7-9, 1942. Captain Edgar's seamanship and skill in handling the transport division enabled a combat team to land men and equipment in rough seas in the face of heavy enemy air

and submarine attacks, thus contributing greatly to the success of the operations which resulted in the capture of the city and port of Algiers. Throughout the operation, Captain Edgar cooperated so fully and completely with Army officials that many of the difficulties inherent in the difficult operation of landing troops on a hostile shore were obviated, thereby contributing greatly to the success of the operation."

Subsequently he successively commanded Transport Divisions 11 and 3, and for meritorious service was awarded the Legion of Merit for services during the invasion of Sicily, and the Gold Star in lieu of a Second Legion of Merit for services during the Allied invasion of Italy. The citations follow:

LEGION OF MERIT:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services while Commander of Transports of a Task Force during the invasion of the Island of Sicily. Captain Edgar, with great energy and professional skill, directed all preparatory training and molded the transport group into an effective combat force. By his able and aggressive leadership under fire, the embarked troops were landed efficiently and expeditiously on enemy beaches, thereby greatly contributing to the success of the invasion. The extraordinary ability and outstanding devotion to duty displayed by Captain Edgar reflected great credit upon himself and the Naval Service."

GOLD STAR in lieu of a SECOND LEGION OF MERIT:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services as Commander Transports of a major Task Force during the Allied invasion of Italy, September and October 1943. As Commander Transports of a major Task Force, Commodore Edgar was charged with the coordination and execution of the plans for the transportation, discharge and supply of the invading forces throughout the entire assault and follow-up period. With great skill and outstanding leadership he planned for this mission, and with minimum casualties among personnel and equipment executed it successfully, thereby materially contributing to the invasion of Italy and subsequently to the supply of the invading Allied armies. The extraordinary ability and outstanding devotion to duty displayed by Commodore Campbell D. Edgar, U.S.Navy, reflected great credit upon himself and the Naval Service."

Having been confirmed in the rank of Commodore on November 5, 1943, to rank from September 17, 1943, he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Third Legion of Merit "for exceptionally meritorious service as Commander of Follow-up Force 'B' during the planning, training and assault landing in Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944" and a Gold Star in lieu of the Fourth Legion of Merit "for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services as Commander of Transports, and Commander of a Beach assault during the amphibious invasion of Southern France in August 1944."

Transferring from the Atlantic to the Pacific Theatre of Operations, Rear Admiral Edgar served as Commander Transports, Eleventh Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet, until January 1945, and for six months thereafter as Commander Transport Squadron 19, with additional duty as Commander Training Command, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet.

Rear Admiral Edgar returned to the United States in July 1945, and after serving for a year at the Navy Yard, Puget Sound, Washington, he was ordered to the Naval Hospital, San Francisco, California, where he remained from August to December 1946. He was transferred to the Retired List of the Navy in the rank of Rear Admiral on January 1, 1947, and relieved of all active duty.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit with three Gold Stars, Rear Admiral Edgar has the Mexican Service Medal (USS FLORIDA); the Victory Medal, Destroyer Clasp (USS SAMPSON); the Yangtze Service Medal (USS SMITH THOMPSON); the American Defense Service Medal, Base Clasp (Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T.H.); the European-African-Middle Eastern Area Campaign Medal, and also a Certificate of Appreciation awarded to him by the British Government.

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5 October 1949