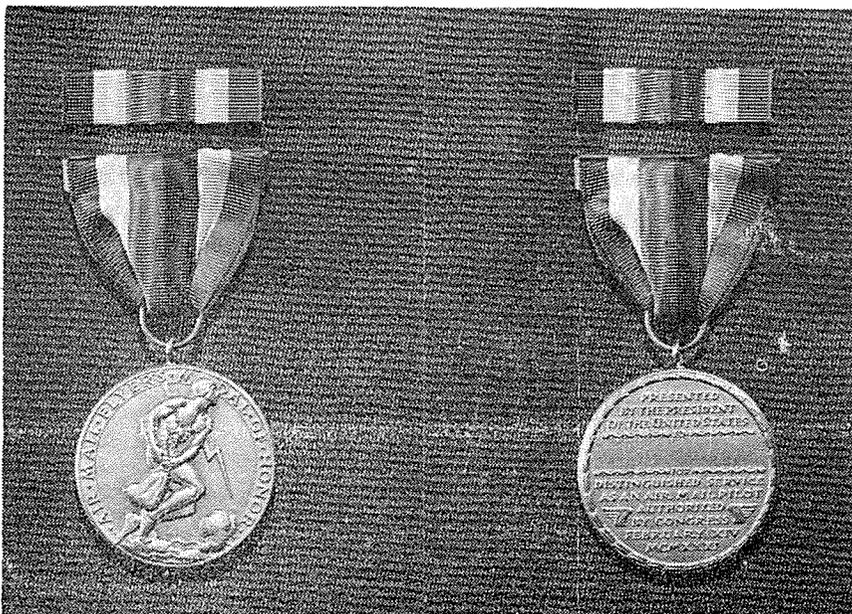


AIR MAIL FLYER'S MEDAL OF HONOR *

Under an Act of Congress, Public Law No. 661 — 71st Congress, approved February 14, 1931, the President was authorized to award a medal of honor to any person employed as a pilot in the air mail service who distinguished himself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while so employed. Ten such medals have been awarded.

The first such honor was conferred by President Franklin D. Roosevelt



U. S. POST OFFICE DEPT. PHOTO

THE AIR MAIL FLYER'S MEDAL OF HONOR

The medal is round, 1/4 inch in diameter. The obverse depicts a heroic nude figure running upon the clouds, thru lightning, clutching a bag of mail. Along the circumference are the words "AIR MAIL FLYER'S MEDAL OF HONOR." The reverse is inscribed in nine lines as follows: "PRESENTED / BY THE PRESIDENT / OF THE UNITED STATES / (a space reserved for the name of the recipient) / DISTINGUISHED SERVICE / AS AN AIR MAIL PILOT / AUTHORIZED / BY CONGRESS / FEBRUARY XIV / MCMXXXI." The whole is bordered by a conventionalized laurel wreath which runs along the circumference. The medal is suspended from a silk moire ribbon, 1 3/8 inch wide, composed of six equal parts of blue, white, red, blue, white, and red.

on December 13, 1933, on Mal B. Freeburg, who distinguished himself by an extraordinary achievement while participating in an air mail flight on April 12, 1932.

President Roosevelt awarded seven medals on October 29, 1935, to the following pilots: Roy H. Warner, Grover Tyler, Edward A. Bellande, Lewis S. Turner, Gordon S. Darnell, Willington P. McFail, and James H. Carmichael, Jr.

* Reprinted by permission from *Poste Haste* magazine No. 53, (July 1, 1953).

On April 12, 1937, a medal was presented to the widow of Ted Kincannon in recognition of his conduct in landing a plane after engine failure in such a manner that the five passengers escaped injury and the mail was not damaged, although pilot Kincannon was fatally injured. This occurred on a flight from Oklahoma City to Dallas, on January 29, 1936.

The latest award was made by Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson, on behalf of President Truman, on October 4, 1948, to Captain John David Hissong of Eastern Air Lines. On this occasion, the co-pilot and flight steward received letters of commendation for helping Captain Hissong evacuate the 11 passengers a few seconds before their plane was entirely consumed by flames. This incident occurred on the night of October 18, 1938.

No recommendations for the awarding of medals have been received by the Post Office Department in recent years.

D. McNEIL

THE EGYPTIAN PALESTINE MEDAL, 1948

The Egyptian award for service in Palestine in 1948 is a bronze medal of irregular heptagonal shape, 45 x 42 mm., including the suspension lug. It is about 1.5 mm. in thickness at the edges, and approximately 2.5 mm. thick at the bottom edge. The finish of this medal is of dark-brown, similar to that of the Khedive's Bronze Star of 1882.



THE PALESTINE MEDAL

The obverse of the medal portrays King Farouk in a field-marshal's uniform, hatless, and facing left. On his left side is the Parliament Building, and on the right side a mosque. On the two topmost sides of the medal there are the words "*Medalyeh Falasteen*" in Arabic script, meaning "Palestine Medal."

The reverse of the medal shows uniformed figures representing the three services: navy, army, and air force. In the foreground there are Arab civilians, presumably refugees, while in the background is an Arab village. In the right-hand corner are the Arabic numerals for "1948" and the Moslem year "H 1367." On the bottom left-hand corner is found the name of the engraver, "Minassian" (of Cairo).

This medal is not in general issue, although authorized three years ago.

THE MERCHANT MARINE MEDALS AND RIBBONS

For the first time in its history, during the Second World War, the United States Maritime Commission established medals and ribbons for the members of the Merchant Marine. Since unauthorized sale or possession of such ribbons and medals is prohibited by law, very few collectors have any definite knowledge about them. Here we hope to present concise but accurate information regarding these interesting awards.

The Merchant Marine has authorized four medals for award to "any master, officer, or member of the crew of any United States ship, or any foreign ship operated by or for the U. S. Maritime Commission or the War Shipping Administration." These medals are the Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Mariner's Medal, and the Merchant Marine Victory Medal.

The highest of these decorations is the Distinguished Service Medal. Designed by Paul Manship, it represents a silver compass-rose upon a gilt compass-card; the medal is attached by a swivel to the suspension device which represents a gilt eagle upon crossed anchors. On the reverse is a circular inscription "UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE," within which is another smaller inscription "DISTINGUISHED SERVICE." In the center is depicted the shield of the U. S. coat of arms. The ribbon is $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide, composed of blue $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, white $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, red $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, white $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, and blue $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. To qualify for this decoration one must have, on or after September 3, 1939, distinguished himself by outstanding conduct or service in line of duty.

The Meritorious Service Medal is second in rank of precedence. On the obverse it has an eagle with wings displayed, superimposed upon an anchor. It is suspended from a ribbon $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide, composed of $15/32$ inch blue, $1/32$ inch yellow, $1/16$ inch red, $1/16$ inch white, $1/8$ inch dark-blue, $1/16$ inch white, $1/16$ inch red, $1/32$ inch yellow, and $15/32$ inch blue. This decoration is awarded to any seaman for conduct or service of meritorious nature not sufficient to warrant the Distinguished Service Medal.

The Mariner's Medal is the third of the U. S. Merchant Marine decorations. It is in the shape of an extremely wide conventionalized gilt cross in the center of which is a large medallion in silver depicting an eagle propped upon an anchor and facing left. The medallion on the reverse has a circular inscription along the edge "UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE" within which, in a wreath, is a hand carrying a blazing torch above waves. This medal is suspended from a ribbon $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide, composed of $5/8$ inch red, $1/8$ inch white, and $5/8$ inch blue. The Mariner's Medal is awarded to any seaman who, while serving on a ship during the period of a war, is wounded as a result of an act of an enemy. This decoration is presented posthumously to the next of kin of the seamen who die as a result of wounds.

The fourth medal, although the last in rank among the Merchant Marine awards, besides the above decorations, is the only war medal, the others being only ribbons. This is the Merchant Marine Victory Medal. It was created in Public Law 698, by the 79th Congress, Chapter 918, 2nd Session, S.