

THE ADMIRAL NIMITZ FOUNDATION
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www.PacificWarMuseum.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADMIRAL NIMITZ FOUNDATION SALUTES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation is proudly saluting Black History Month by featuring select World War II accomplishments of African-Americans on its website www.PacificWarMuseum.org.

More than one million African Americans served in World War II. While serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Army Air Forces, they experienced discrimination and segregation, but met the challenge and persevered. They served their country with distinction, made valuable contribution to the war effort, and earned high praise and commendation for their struggles and sacrifices.

Seven African Americans were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor though only one was awarded for service in the Pacific – Private George Watson, United States Army. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Watson was a quartermaster soldier.

Private Watson joined the Army in 1942, completed his initial entry training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 29th Quartermaster Regiment. He was bound for the Pacific Theater when he met his untimely demise.

Watson's unit was onboard the Dutch steamer *USAT Jacob* off the coast of New Guinea on 8 March 1943 when the ship came under sudden and devastating attack by Japanese bombers.

Awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously, Watson's citation states:

When the ship had to be abandoned, instead of seeking to save himself, he stayed in the water for a prolonged time courageously helping others. Weakened by his exertions, he was eventually dragged down by the sinking ship and drowned.



Private Watson's Medal of Honor resides in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum, Fort Lee, Virginia.

The National Museum of the Pacific War is a Texas Historical Commission property operated by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation in Fredericksburg, Texas.

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