

U.S. 11

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL REGISTRY FILE

Reference to Previous Papers and Marking

SUBJECT:

Award of the Legion of Merit to Maj. ~~John~~ JOHN MATHER.

Date	Initials of Officer passing File	Branch to which passed	Date	Initials of Officer passing File
Sec Army 8-1-44				
Sec Army 1-2-44	JH			
Sec Army 10-1-44	JH			
MS: 181-1-44				
A14 2/6/50	RHC			
Despatch 3/8/50	JWn			
A4 8/8/50	AD			



ARMY
M/6/288
③

TELEPHONES:
CENTRAL 7185.
MXY 440.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

UNCLAS
MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

No. S.S. 6904

Date: 03 JUN 1998

SECRET

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Secretary,
Department of the Army.

Authorized by 18 AUG 1943
BRIG D.A.W. Webster, CGCM-A

MAJOR JOHN MATHER - AWARD OF UNITED STATES DECORATION

Attached is copy of a letter, dated 13th August, from the United States Naval Attache to the Prime Minister, regarding the proposed award of the Legion of Merit, degree of Officer, to Major John Mather, Australian Military Forces, for outstanding services with the United States Forces during operations on Guadalcanal during the period 4th November to 4th December, 1942.

2. Early advice would be appreciated as to whether the bestowal of this award is concurred in, having regard to the rules for acceptance of foreign honours.

F. G. Shedden
(F. G. Shedden)
Secretary.

*M See
19/8 c*

RECEIVED
23 AUG 1943
MIL. SEC.

COPY

UNITED STATES NAVY

Office of Naval Attache and
Naval Attache for Air to the
American Legation, Canberra.

Miller House
357 Lt. Collins St.
Melbourne, C.I. Vic.
Australia

CONFIDENTIAL

13th August, 1943

The Right Honourable
John Curtin,
Prime Minister,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that I have been requested by the Navy Department of my government to ascertain whether the acceptance of the following award by the person concerned would be agreeable to the Australian Government. The following extract from the communication I received from the Navy Department is quoted for your information.

"...In recognition of his outstanding service with the Second Marine Raider Battalion during operations on Guadalcanal, November 4 to December 4, 1942, it is desired to award the Legion of Merit, degree of Officer, to Major John Mather, Australian Army. Major Mather, who was designated Chief of Native Scouts for the aforementioned period, demonstrated great loyalty, energy, courage, and fortitude. Through his devoted efforts the battalion was constantly well informed as to trails and other terrain features and as to the location and condition of the enemy. When a native scout was wounded Major Mather, with complete disregard for his own safety, went to him and administered first aid. His coolness under fire and his excellent judgement were a source of inspiration to all with whom he came in contact."

Will you please advise me accordingly in order that I may transmit the information to my government.

Respectfully,

(sgd.) L.D. GAUSEY
Captain, U.S. Navy
Naval Attache.

8/11/95

ARMY
81-1-195

A4. 8/14/50



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MISSION

CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TELEPHONE EXECUTIVE 1940

REC'D
21 AUG 1950
ARMY HEADQUARTERS

BY AIRBAG

9 Aug 50

AHQ,
MELBOURNE.

Lt-Col JOHN V. MATHER

Phone log

Reference: AMM memo of 27 Jun 50
AHQ 0L361 of 3 Aug 50

-
1. Enclosed herewith is a copy of the letter received by AMM from the Commandant of the US Marine Corps in connection with the presentation of the Legion of Merit to Lt-Col John V. MATHER.
 2. It is regretted that this copy was omitted from our previous letter.

8/11/95

L.G.H. Dyke
(L.G.H. DYKE)
Brigadier

AUSTRALIAN ARMY REPRESENTATIVE

A278

REC'D
21 AUG 1950
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON
21 AUG 1950
Copies Circulate for
information and are
not to be used as
evidence.

A4

27/8/50

RECEIVED
HEADQUARTERS
ARMY
1 AUG 23 1950

Encl

10 MAY 1950

Lieutenant Colonel T. F. B. MacAdie, GS
Australian Military Mission
2107 Temporary U Building
Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Colonel MacAdie:

We understand that John V. Mather, formerly Lieutenant Colonel, AIF, who gallantly served with the First Marine Division during the Guadalcanal and Cape Gloucester operations, is planning to attend the reunion of that Division to be held in Washington, D. C., during the first week of August 1950.

Lieutenant Colonel Mather was awarded the Legion of Merit with Degree of Officer, in the name of the President of the United States, in recognition of his outstanding service with the Second Marine Raider Battalion, during operations against enemy Japanese forces on Guadalcanal from 4 November to 4 December 1942. It is our further understanding that, due to unavoidable circumstances, this decoration was never ceremoniously presented, merely sent to him through the mails.

In view of the above, it is our desire to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by Lieutenant Colonel Mather's presence to invest him formally with the decoration at an appropriate ceremony during the reunion.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you officially of our intentions regarding the presentation to Lieutenant Colonel Mather in order that the necessary arrangements can be made regarding his attendance at the reunion. The details will be forwarded to you at a later date.

Sincerely yours,

C. B. CATES
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

(MILITARY SECRETARY)

ALLIED LAND FORCES HEADQUARTERS
VICTORIA BARRACKS

Quote in

Reply.....

Melbourne, S.C.I.

Mrs. J. V. Mather,
C/- John Reid Ltd.,
Watt Street,
NEWCASTLE..N.S.W.

AWARD OF LEGION OF MERIT TO NX174723 MAJOR J.V.MATHER.

With reference to my letter of 9 Mar '44, forwarding insignia and documents awarded to your husband, Major Mather, it is thought that the covering letter from the Adjutant-General of the U.S. Army was apparently forwarded to you in error.

2. As this letter calls for acknowledgment and advice, as to disposal of the medal, it would be greatly appreciated if it could be returned as early as possible.

Scunith
Enclosed letter
as referred to above.

Lin..

J. D. Wilkinson
Brigadier,
MILITARY SECRETARY.
24 Mar. 44.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

AG 200.63 (26 Feb 44)

APO 500,
26 February 1944.

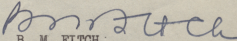
SUBJECT: Legion of Merit Award.

TO : Commander, Allied Land Forces, Southwest Pacific Area,
Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Victoria.

1. The inclosed Citation, Certificate of Award, and Legion of Merit in the degree of Officer, which were forwarded to this headquarters from the Navy Department via South Pacific Forces, are forwarded for presentation to Major John Mather, Australian Military Forces.

2. It is requested that this headquarters be advised when presentation has been made.

For the Commander-in-Chief:


B. M. FITCH,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

3 Incls:
Incl 1--Citation for Legion of Merit.
Incl 2--Certificate of Award.
Incl 3--Medal, Legion of Merit, Degree of Officer, No. 3464.

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO : SAC, NEW YORK

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

Re New York letter to Bureau dated 1/28/44, captioned as above. The Bureau is advised that the above captioned individual is a resident of New York City and is currently employed as a [redacted] at [redacted]. It is noted that the individual in question is a [redacted] and is [redacted].

The Bureau is advised that the individual in question is a [redacted] and is [redacted]. It is noted that the individual in question is a [redacted] and is [redacted].

Very truly yours,
Special Agent in Charge

W. J. [redacted]

cc - New York
cc - [redacted]
cc - [redacted]
cc - [redacted]

MAILED 16 02 FEB 27 '44 AG, GHO



RECEIVED
26 FEB P.M.
Army Secretary

ARMY
M/6/957
③
PART

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CANBERRA.

M/6/957
8/1

230/1.

25th February, 1944.

MEMORANDUM to:-

The Secretary,
Department of the Army,
Victoria Barrcks,
MELBOURNE.

With reference to your Teleprinter B.549 of the 3rd February, 1944, attached herewith is copy of a letter received from the American Legation regarding Award of Legion of Merit to Major Mather. A copy of the citation awarded Major Mather was forwarded on the 6th January.

W. R. Hodgson
Secretary. ^{in BS}

Sec Army
28/2

Mil Secy
28/2

RECEIVED
FEB 29 1944
MIL. SEC.

44/230/1/10
M.B. [Signature]
Canberra, Australia,
February 17, 1944.

Dear Hood:

Reference is made to your letter of February 7, 1944 in which you request the Legation's assistance in expediting the delivery of the decoration awarded to Major Mather of the Australian Forces.

The Legation has now received the following self-explanatory letter from the United States Naval Attache, 357 Little Collins Street, Melbourne:

"With reference to your letter of February 11th regarding Major Mather I have endeavored to find some instructions covering this matter without success. Accordingly, I spoke to Colonel Burns, U.S. Army, who recently received the decoration in question and he tells me that so far only "specimen" medals have been sent to this area, and none for distribution to recipients. In other words Mather will no doubt get his medal when they are struck off in due course.

"Colonel Burns suggests that in the meantime Major Mather can obtain a ribbon to wear by applying to the Chief Quartermaster, U.S. Army, Southwest Pacific Area, A.P.O. 501. In view of the fact that army authorities at headquarters may not be familiar with this award I suggest that Major Mather apply through the Commanding Officer of the unit with which he is now serving. Alternatively, if he cares to

send

J. E. Hood, Esquire,
Department of External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.

110 24/44
1-3-44 Kangas
advised that medal
etc. had arrived
& no action required
by them J.E.H.

send his application through this office
I will be pleased to forward it with a
certificate to the effect that we hold
in our files copy of citation of award
received from Washington in his case."

Sincerely yours,

For the Minister:

John R. Minter
Counselor of Legation

COPY OF TELEPRINTER MESSAGE

*To
From*

Secretary, Department of External Affairs

M/6/957

Secretary, Department of the Army

1/2/44 3/2/44

1708

D.457

Reference your Department's memorandum 230/1 of 6 Jan 44 concerning Award of Legion of Merit to Major Mather. No advice has been received by this Department as to whether this award has been approved yet. Enquiries received from Attorney General on 29 Dec 43 on behalf of Major Mather request delivery of decoration to this officer be expedited as he feels that American Marine Officers in his company resent the fact that he is not wearing the ribbon of his decoration. In addition he would like to forward the medal to his wife. Please advise whether the award has yet been approved and if so endeavour to ascertain whether Mather has actually been presented with the medal.

Approved for despatch,

Secretary, ^{TELEPRINTER}
Draft Letter Herewith

J. B. Hutchison Capt.

(P. R. Sinclair)

Brigadier
MILITARY SECRETARY

Secretary.

1/2/44.



BF MSI



ARMY
M 6 957

6th January, 1944.

Dear Mr. Martin,

I acknowledge your representations of 29th December on behalf of MX.174723, Major J. V. Mather, R.Q. Bn., 1 Mar. Div., F.M.F., C/- Fleet P.O., San Francisco, California, who desires to receive early delivery of the Legion of Merit 2nd Class, which it is stated was awarded to him in February last.

I shall write you further on this matter at a later date.

Yours sincerely,

(F. M. FORDE)
Minister for the Army.

The Hon. C. E. Martin, M.L.A.,
Attorney-General,
Parliament House,
SYDNEY,
Secretary

— For preparation of a reply for the Minister's signature pls.

M.S. 1/8



ROS
Pte. Secretary
6/1/44

11



ARMY
4 JAN 1944
M/6/957
PART - 2

SYDNEY. December 29, 1943.

UNCLAS

The Hon. F.M. Forde, M.H.R.,
Minister for the Army,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Date: 03 JUN 1988

Dear Mr. Forde:

Authorized by

In the absence of Captain ~~Martin~~, Attorney General,
I desire to make representations on behalf of NX.174723,
Major J.V. Mather, H.Q. Bn., 1 Mar. Div., F.M.F.,
C/- Fleet P.O., San Francisco, California.

It appears that last February Major Mather was awarded
the American Decoration, Legion of Merit 2nd Class,
but has not yet received his Decoration.

In a letter to Captain Martin he points out that he
is in the company of American Marine Officers and he
feels that they resent the fact that he is not wearing
the ribbon of his decoration. In addition he would
like to forward the medal to his wife.

It would be appreciated if inquiries could be made by
you with a view to expediting the delivery of the
Decoration to Major Mather.

Yours faithfully,

FRANK MURPHY,
(PRIVATE SECRETARY)

ARMY

F81 / 1 155

RECEIVED
7 JAN 9
Army Sec



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CANBERRA.

6th January, 1944.

230/1. X

UNCLAS

MEMORANDUM to:

Date: 03 JUN 1998

The Secretary,
Department of the Army,
MELBOURNE.

Authorized by
BRIS D.A.W. Webster, DCCM-A

I enclose herewith copy of Citation in connection
with the Award of the Legion of Merit to Major-General Mather
for your information and records.

W. R. Hodgson per
Secretary. *akency*

Mac, Sec 10/11

RECEIVED
JAN 11 1944
MIL. SEC.

AL:JP.

COPY.

LEGION OF MERIT, Degree of OFFICER
MAJOR JOHN MATHER, AUSTRALIAN ARMY

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States while serving with the Second Marine Raider Battalion during operations against enemy Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands from November 4 to December 4, 1942. Designated Chief of Native Scouts for this period, Major Mather was courageous, loyal and tireless in keeping his battalion well informed concerning trails, the difficult features of the terrain and also the location and activities of the enemy. Further, he manifested heroism and fortitude of a high order during action on November 7, when he risked his life to go to a wounded native scout and administer first aid. His cooperative and zealous services in the face of grave hazards were of inestimable value to the battalion in this area."

Ref: CO, 2nd RarBn, 1st MAC ltr dated 27 Dec 1942 to CG,
1st Mac Forwarded ComSoPac Ser 0525 of Mar 28, 1943.

UNCLAS

Date: 03 JUN 1998

Authorized by
BRIG D.A.W. *W. J. ...* DDCM-A

SECRET

4 SEP 1943

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA....A.C.T.

MAJOR JOHN MATHER - AWARD OF UNITED STATES DECORATION.

With reference to your memorandum received on 18th August forwarding copy of a letter of 13th August from the United States Naval Attache regarding the proposed award of the Legion of Merit, Degree of Officer, to Major J.V. Mather, Australian Military Forces, I desire to inform you that, after consideration of a recommendation submitted by the Department of the Army, the Minister concurs in the proposed award.

2. The Department of the Army has furnished the following personal particulars relating to this officer:-

NUMBER	NG0363
RANK	Lieutenant (Temporary Major)
NAMES	MATHER, John Vaughan
UNIT	34 Australian Infantry Battalion Seconded for special duties
DATE OF BIRTH	16th August, 1903
NAME AND HOME ADDRESS	Mrs. Jean C. Mather (Wife)
OF NEXT OF KIN	C/O John Reid Ltd., Watt Street, Newcastle, N.S.W.

Lieut. (T/Major) Mather was first commissioned as an officer of the Australian Engineers on the 1st February, 1924, serving as a Lieutenant until the 14th May, 1928 when he resigned his commission.

On the 7th March, 1935, he was again commissioned in the Australian Engineers and on the 28th January, 1938, transferred to the 34th Australian Infantry Battalion, being promoted temporary Captain on the 12th April, 1940 and temporary Major on 1st December, 1941."

3. It would be appreciated if you would arrange for a copy of the citation to be made available to this Department and to the Department of the Army.

Date: 03 JUN 1998

Authorized by
BRIG D.A.W. *W. J. ...* DDCM-A
Secretary.

RECEIVED
8 SEP 1943
MIL. SEC.

The Secretary,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

Forwarded for information in connection with your memorandum S.M.21184 of 27th August.

W. J. ...
Secretary.

SECRET

ARMY

M. 6. 288

27 AUG 1943

421184

UNCLAS

UNCLAS

Memorandum for:- Date: 03 JUN 1943

Date: 03 JUN 1943

The Secretary,
Department of Defence.Authorized by
BRIG D.A.W. Webster, DGCMA

NSD, Sydney


MAJOR JOHN MATHER - AWARD OF UNITED STATES DECORATION.

With reference to your Department's memo SS.6904 of the 18th August, 1943 and the attached letter from the United States Naval Attache to the Prime Minister, it is advised that this Department has no objection to the bestowal of the award proposed by the American Navy Department on Lieut. (T/Major) John Mather whose personal particulars are as shown hereunder:-

NUMBER	EG0363
RANK	Lieutenant (Temporary Major)
NAMES	MATHER, John Vaughan
UNIT	34 Australian Infantry Battalion Seconded for special duties
DATE OF BIRTH	16th August, 1903
NAME & HOME ADDRESS	Mrs. Jean C. Mather (Wife)
OF NEXT OF KIN	C/O John Reid Ltd., Watt Street, Newcastle, N.S.W.


Lieut. (T/Major) Mather was first commissioned as an officer of the Australian Engineers on the 1st February, 1924, serving as a Lieutenant until the 14th May, 1928 when he resigned his commission.

On the 7th March, 1935, he was again commissioned in the Australian Engineers and on the 28th January, 1938, transferred to the 34th Australian Infantry Battalion, being promoted temporary Captain on the 12th April, 1940 and temporary Major on 1st December, 1941.

Secretary,
Draft Letter Hrewith


(P. R. Sinclair)
Secretary.

/8/1943.



Brigadier
MILITARY SECRETARY

24/8/43.

UNCLAS

Date: 03 JUN 1943

Authorized by
BRIG D.A.W. Webster, DGCMA

B.F. MIL. SEC. 1 (AFTER DESPATCH)

UNCLAS

1355
039/282
(01007)

Date: 03 JUN 1998

Headquarters, First Marine Division,
Fleet Marine Force, San Francisco, Calif.
C/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

25 AUG 1943

DGCM-A

23 August, 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L

From: The Commanding General, First Marine Division.
To: Major John V. Mather, Australian Military Forces.

Subject: Presidential Citation awarded to the First Marine
Division (Reinforced), transmittal of.

Enclosures: (A) Certified copies of subject-named citation (2).

1. There are transmitted herewith, two (2) certified copies of the subject-named citation, which are forwarded to you in view of the fact that you were attached to the First Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, U. S. Marine Corps, during the period within which the events occurred that led to the issuance of the citation.

2. You are therefore, so far as this Headquarters is concerned, entitled to wear the citation ribbon as a permanent personal decoration.

3. Your attention is invited to the appropriate regulations governing the wearing of the citation ribbon.

4. By copy hereof, the Military Secretary, Allied Land Forces Headquarters, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, S.C.1, Victoria, Australia, is informed of this transaction.

JOHN E. LINCH,
By direction.

Copy to: Military Secretary, Allied Land Forces Headquarters,
Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, S.C. 1.
F I L E.

CONFIDENTIAL

MS 1/HA

Mather

ARMY		
M	6	288

APPRECIATION OF SERVICES OF N.60363 LIEUT.(T/MAJ.) J.V. MATHER

L.H.Q. RECORDS (for Maj. Withers)

Enc. Attached is a true copy of an appreciation of this officer's services with the U.S. Marine Corps. It would be appreciated if this document could be filed with this officer's personal records.

/ 3/1943.

CAPTAIN,
for Brigadier,
MILITARY-SECRETARY.





AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MISSION
THE COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF BUILDING
CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

27th January, 1943
AQ802/35/2A

VIA PACIFIC SAFE HAND AIR

N 60363.

Dear A.G.,

I forward for your information and any action you consider suitable a file of correspondence concerning the appreciation of the services of Major John V. Mather, Australian Army, whilst operating with First U.S. Marine Division in the Solomons. No doubt further information regarding the services rendered by Major Mather could be obtained from First Marine Division, which, I understand, is now located in an area more accessible to you than to me.

Yours sincerely,

V.A.H. Sturdee

(V.A.H. STURDEE)
Lieutenant-General.
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MISSION



VAHS:MD

Maj. Gen. V.P.H. Stantke, O.B.E.,
Adjutant General,
Land Headquarters,
MELBOURNE.

M.S.

ms1

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

Serial No. 305816

JAN 18 1943

My dear Commander Rosenthal:

The Department has just received from Major General A. A. Vandegrift, USMC, Commanding General on Guadalcanal Island, a citation covering the service of Major John V. Mather, A.I.F., who served as Chief of Native Scouts during a raider operation. A copy of the citation is enclosed for any action which you may deem appropriate.

Very sincerely yours,

A.V.S. Pickhardt

A. V. S. Pickhardt,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Head of Intelligence Branch.

Commander A. S. Rosenthal, R.A.N.,
Naval Attache,
Australian Legation,
3117 Woodland Drive, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

ack.
1/18/43

0
P
Y
108/222

First Marine Division
Fleet Marine Force
C/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

7 December, 1942

DIVISION CIRCULAR)

: Citation of 2d Raider Battalion
NUMBER. . 38a-42) for outstanding service.

1. From the operational records of this division it appears that the 2d Raider Battalion, while attached to this division, took the field against the enemy at Aola Bay on 5 November, 1942. For a period of thirty days this battalion, moving through difficult terrain, pursued, harried and by repeated attacks destroyed an enemy force of equal or greater size and drove the remnants from the area of operations. During this period the battalion, as a whole or by detachments, attacked the enemy whenever and wherever he could be found in a repeated series of carefully planned and well executed surprise attacks. In the latter phase of these operations the battalion destroyed the remnant of enemy forces and bases on the upper Lunga River and secured valuable information of the terrain and the enemy line of operations. In these battles the enemy suffered 400 killed and the loss of his artillery, weapons, ammunition and supplies whereas the battalion losses were limited to fifteen killed. For the consummate skill displayed in the conduct of operations, for the training, stamina and fortitude displayed by all members of the battalion and for its commendably aggressive spirit and high morale the Commanding General cites to the 1st Marine Division the Commanding Officer, Officers and Men of the 2d Raider Battalion.

A.A. VANDEGRIFT
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps.

To: Major John V. Mather, Australian Army,
Chief of Native Scouts on the above expedition.

With my appreciation for the cooperation and
information which made this operation possible.

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY:

EVANS F. CARLSON,
Lt. Col., U.S.M.C., Comdg. Bn.

/s/E.K. LEGG, III,
Ensign, I.V(S), U.S.N.R.