

REAR ADMIRAL CORNELIUS H. MACK
DENTAL CORPS, U. S. NAVY, RETIRED

Cornelius Henry Mack was born in West Springfield, Massachusetts, on September 1, 1885, son of the late John Paul and Jane Elizabeth (Sheridan) Mack. He graduated from West Springfield High School and in 1906 received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was commissioned Lieutenant (junior grade) in the Dental Corps of the U. S. Navy on March 2, 1914, and subsequently progressed in rank, attaining that of Captain, to date from February 1, 1937. On September 1, 1943 he was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy and was advanced to the rank of Rear Admiral on the basis of combat awards.

Upon receiving his commission in 1914, he was ordered to the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, where he served as Acting Assistant Dental Surgeon until September 1917. He was then assigned to the SIXTH Regiment of Marines at Quantico, Virginia, and was so attached when that regiment was transferred to France in March 1918. As a unit of the Second Division, American Expeditionary Forces, the SIXTH Regiment participated in all the major campaigns of World War I. For outstanding services while in France, he was awarded the Navy Cross and by the Army, the Silver Star Medal, the Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of the Second and Third Silver Star Medal and the Purple Heart Medal. The citations follow in part:

Navy Cross: "For extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty with the SIXTH Regiment, U. S. Marines. In the action at the Bois de Belleau, on June 12, 1918, when his dressing station was subjected to a heavy gas bombardment, he remained on duty and carried on the evacuation of wounded, refusing to leave until all wounded and hospital corpsmen had been removed to a place of safety; as a result he was severely gassed. In the action at Vierzy, on July 19, 1918, he accompanied the advanced and was exposed for fifteen hours to the fire of machine guns and artillery, performing his duties with marked coolness and precision."

Silver Star Medal (Army): "For gallantry in action against the enemy in the Chateau-Thierry Sector."

Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the Second Silver Star Medal (Army): "For gallantry in action in the Bois-de-Belleau, France, June 12, 1918 in continuing to attend to the wounded during a heavy gas bombardment."

Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of the Third Silver Star Medal (Army): "For gallantry in action against the enemy in the Soissons Sector."

Purple Heart Medal (Army): "For wounds received in action on July 21, 1918, while attached to the SIXTH Regiment, U. S. Marine Corps."

In September 1919 he joined the USS PENNSYLVANIA, and in January 1922 was detached for a month's further sea duty in the USS PLANTER. He was assigned to the Naval Dispensary, Washington, D. C., between February and August 1922, reporting in September aboard the USS PITTSBURGH. During June and July 1924 he was aboard the USS MAC LEISH, after which he served at the Navy Yard, Boston, Massachusetts. He remained at the Boston Navy Yard until September 1927 with duty from July 1925 in the Dispensary there.

Following service at the U. S. Naval Station, Cavite, Philippine Islands, he reported in December 1928 for duty with the Marine Detachment at the American Legation, Peiping, China. While there he was Consulting Oral Surgeon to the Peiping Union Medical College and Hospital. Returning to the United States in December 1929 he was ordered to the Naval Hospital, New York, New York, where he remained until September 1933. There he also served as Clinical Professor of Oral Surgery at New York University. The next month he was assigned to the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California, and from May 1937 to January 1943 served at the Naval Training Station, Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia. He next had duty in the Fifth Naval District with headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, until August 1943. Transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy on September 1, 1943, he continued to serve on active duty until November 1945 at the Twelfth Naval District Headquarters, San Francisco, California.

In addition to the Navy Cross, the Silver Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters (Army) and the Purple Heart Medal (Army), Rear Admiral Mack has the Victory Medal with five stars (World War I); the Army of Occupation of Germany Medal; the American Defense Service Medal; the American Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal. He has also been awarded the Croix de Guerre with Gold Star by the Government of France.

In 1933, Dr. Mack received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts. He has done postgraduate work at Columbia, Washington, Northwestern and New York Universities.

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