

14 December 1955

Vice Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood
Commander, First Fleet
c/o F. P. O., San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Hoppy:

I have just received your letter of 12 December with regard to General O'Daniel's DSM. I am delighted to learn of this well-merited recognition of Mike's fine work in Indo-China.

With regard to your request for anything that might be appropriate and which you could incorporate in your presentation remarks, I am sure you are aware of his general responsibilities during that period. However, I would like to suggest that you emphasize Mike's capabilities as an operator. I can recall one instance in the early stages when I had flown to Indo-China to examine the problem, we were having a discussion of the facilities for receiving the refugees. Another agency was supposed to furnish the funds and it was assumed that they would arrange the procedures. When the situation reached a stalemate as to who was going to do what, in typical O'Daniel fashion, Mike said, "I'll take care of the operations, you just see that I have the facilities." In addition, he made frequent airplane trips from Saigon to Haiphong inspecting the work of the MAAO, looking over the refugee camps and in general, keeping personal tabs on the situation ashore. That's about all I can think of in the way of specifics.

It was nice to hear from you but I don't relish your illusion to the difference in the weather between California and Washington. I envy that sunshine as it is cold enough here to do you know what to the brass monkey.

Sincerely,

L. S. SABIN
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy