

Give 99 Medals To Men Aboard USS Savannah

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS, Dec. 16 (AP) —Ninety-nine medals and commendations have been awarded officers and men of the Cruiser Savannah for heroism when that vessel was struck by an enemy aerial bomb Nov. 9 while protecting the 5th army's landing in the Gulf of Salerno.

The presentation was made by Adm. Lyal A. Davidson at ceremonies held in the North African port. One Legion of Merit was awarded post-humously to Lt. Comdr. John O. Speer, Annapolis Md., who was killed in an explosion the instant the bomb struck the Savannah's turret.

Awards were given for innumerable acts of bravery reported aboard ships both by those who were trapped and by those attempting to rescue them, in many cases while the

The Savannah's commander, Capt. Robert W. Cary, Newport R. I., received a Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit. He was credited with successfully carrying out the ship's mission to support the landing force and with saving the ship after it had been struck by the bomb. Of this the citation said "by expert seamanship and great resourcefulness he instituted measures for counterflooding and regaining ship control."

Those getting the Legion of Merit included Lt. Arthur Tuggle, Boston, Mass.

Navy and Marine Corps medals went to Joseph Costa, Fall River, Mass., among others.

Letters of commendation went to Ensign John E. Earnshaw, Fall River, Mass., and Stanislas Pinkos, Newton, Mass.

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