

RESTRICTED
SECRET
 HEADQUARTERS
 IX BOMBER COMMAND

Exh #16-Aug 1944

APO 140, US Army,
14 August 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO ... 154)

EXTRACT

SECTION I: AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL

SECTION I

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, (Bull. 8, WD, 1926), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular #56, dated 27 May 1944, a SOLDIER'S MEDAL is awarded to the following-named officers and enlisted men:

3. For heroism, 19 July 1944, when the radio equipment installed in the mid-section of an A-20 aircraft which was prepared for a combat operational mission suddenly burst into flames and the following named enlisted men sprang to combat the blaze. The imminent danger that the fire would spread to the bomb bay fuel tank and eventually detonate the fuzed bombs was averted by the prompt, fearless, and efficient actions of these men. Exhibiting extraordinary heroism they crawled beneath the fuselage and defused the four five-hundred pound bombs in the bomb bay. With the use of fire extinguishers they accomplished the final extinction of the flames before serious damage to the aircraft was done. Their presence of mind and courageous actions removed a hazard to a large number of personnel in the area and insured the safety of much government property:

	<u>416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)</u>		
	<u>668th Bombardment Squadron (L)</u>		
Harold Arnes	39180369	T/Sgt	Tacoma, Wash.
Charles S Curtis	38152239	T/Sgt	Oklahoma City, Okla.
Clyde Denetsons	39847522	Sgt	Phoenix, Ariz.
Ernest M Partaledis	31163976	Sgt	Boston, Mass.
Frank J Robertson	32718662	Pfc	New York City, N. Y.
William J Higgins	51205556	Pvt	Boston, Mass.

4. For heroism, 4 June 1944, while on a combat operational mission the below listed crew member's A-20 aircraft was the target of accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire which severed hydraulic lines and pierced the gasoline tanks. On the withdrawal from the target area, the VHF equipment suddenly burst into flames which presented an extreme hazard when the bomb-bay doors refused to close and caused a dense spray in the midsection from the leaking hydraulic fluid and gasoline. These crew members laboring jointly fought the blaze with fire extinguishers and succeeded in bringing the fire under control. As they approached the home base the fire broke out with renewed vigor and only through their valient endeavors was final extinction accomplished a few moments before the pilot brought the smouldering aircraft to earth. The devotion to duty and achievement of these crew members are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces:

	<u>416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)</u>		This is a posthumous award. Next of kin: Thomas E Coe, (Father), 5152 Fifth Avenue, So. Birmingham, Ala. Oklahoma City, Okla.
	<u>668th Bombardment Squadron (L)</u>		
William H Coe	14178256	S/Sgt	
Earnest E Kolly	38271192	S/Sgt	

By command of Brigadier General ANDERSON:

RICHARD C SANDERS,
Brig Gen, U S A,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ C.C. Vega, Jr.
/t/ C.C. VEGA, JR.,
Lt Col, A. C.
Adjutant General

I certify the above to be a true copy.

J. T. S. Morris
J. T. S. MORRIS,
Captain, Air Corps.

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