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HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE
SECRET

Exh #20-Nov. 1944

APO 696, U S Army
15 November 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS)
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NUMBER.....268)

SECTION I: AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR.
SECTION II: AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.
SECTION III: AWARDS OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.

SECTION I

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull. 43, WD, 1918), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, the following-named officers and enlisted men are awarded the SILVER STAR Decoration:

HERMAN W. CAMPBELL, 14173266, Staff Sergeant, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) (Provisional). For gallantry in action on 5 July 1944 while serving as engineer and top-turret gunner of a B-26 type aircraft participating in an attack upon heavily defended enemy installations when, after the target had been successfully bombed, a burst of anti-aircraft fire painfully wounded Sgt Campbell in the face, disregarding his severe injuries he bravely remained at his gun position to afford protection to the aircraft until friendly territory had been reached. The devotion to duty which he displayed on this occasion was instrumental in the success of the mission and in insuring the protection of his fellow crew members and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from Alabama.

RAYFORD L. BOONE, O-562578, First Lieutenant, 323rd Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action on 19 May 1944 while serving as bombardier of a B-26 type aircraft dispatched in an attack upon a special military target. As his aircraft had been badly damaged on the bombing run and he himself had received painful injuries in the leg, Lt BOONE courageously elected to remain at his post in a most vulnerable position in the aircraft and successfully dispatched his bombs on the target. The tenacity and fortitude which he displayed on this occasion reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

EUGENE P. CINQUEMANI, O-731747, First Lieutenant, 323rd Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action on 27 May 1944. As the aircraft in which he was serving as bombardier entered upon the bombing run, anti-aircraft fire painfully wounded Lt CINQUEMANI while a series of anti-aircraft bursts violently shook the aircraft. Despite the pain of his injuries and the difficulty of completing a successful sighting operation, Lt CINQUEMANI remained at his post and successfully dispatched his bombs upon the target. The tactical skill, determination and devotion to duty which he displayed on this occasion were of vital importance to the success of the mission and reflect great credit upon his valor and tenacity. Entered military service from New York.

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DONALD P. GRIFFITHS, 36026050, Staff Sergeant, 344th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action on 28 May 1944. While serving as tail-gunner of a B-26 aircraft which was badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire, Sgt Griffiths, although severely wounded during the bombing run, refused to leave his post of duty in order that the aircraft, badly damaged and unescorted, might be afforded maximum protection during the return from enemy territory. His courage and devotion to duty reflect great credit on the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from South Carolina.

JULIAN D. McDONALD, O-684876, First Lieutenant, 344th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action on 24 July 1944 while serving as pilot of a medium bombardment aircraft dispatched in an attack upon a heavily defended enemy installation. In spite of severe damage to his aircraft and a painful injury to his eyes, Lt McDONALD courageously held to his course until the bombs were dropped effectively and with one engine inoperative and the other defective he successfully piloted the unescorted aircraft to friendly territory where he executed a successful dead-stick landing. The utter disregard for himself and the gallant determination which he displayed were instrumental in the saving of his aircraft and crew and reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

ASHLEY SMITH, O-692834, First Lieutenant, 344th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action on 9 August 1944 while serving as copilot of a B-26 type aircraft participating in an attack upon a heavily defended enemy occupied port Lt SMITH received a severe wound in the right leg from shrapnel. In spite of the pain of his injuries he continued to assist the pilot on the bombing run and throughout the long return firmly remained at his post of duty and later assisted the pilot in executing a single engine landing. His high courage displayed in the face of great danger is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Tennessee.

JAMES E. MAXWELL, O-693872, Second Lieutenant, 386th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while serving as pilot of a B-26 type aircraft on 11 August 1944. When, immediately prior to the bombing run, Lt MAXWELL'S aircraft sustained severe damage and after he had received painful wounds from enemy anti-aircraft fire, he gallantly disregarded the pain of his injuries and the damaged state of his aircraft and courageously continued successfully to attack the high-priority target. The gallantry and devotion to duty which he displayed contributed in large measure to the success of the mission and reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces. Entered military service from California.

WALTER STEINER, 20758599, Staff Sergeant, 386th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action on 27 August 1944 while serving as bombardier of a B-26 type aircraft participating in an attack upon heavily defended enemy troop concentrations. When, immediately prior to the bombing run Sgt Steiner received painful injuries to his face and eyes from enemy anti-aircraft fire, he gallantly remained at his post and, despite his momentary blindness and severe pain, successfully dispatched his bombs on the target. The utter disregard of his injuries and the high courage which he displayed reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Minnesota.

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highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from Tennessee.

CHARLES A. THOMAS, O-668288, Captain, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft from April to October 1944. In the course of numerous combat missions, Captain THOMAS has demonstrated outstanding aerial proficiency, ability, and exceptional leadership in the splendid discharge of his duties. His untiring effort and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Oklahoma.

BERNARD H. BONNETT, O-747725, First Lieutenant, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy while serving as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft from April to October 1944. By his tireless effort, proficiency, and determination displayed throughout numerous and hazardous combat missions, Lt BONNETT has established a commendable record of achievement. His courage and aggressiveness demonstrated in the face of many obstacles has in large measure contributed to the successful operations of the group and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

RICHARD H. COTTER, O-531513, First Lieutenant, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy while serving as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft from May to June 1944. During this period, Lt COTTER has demonstrated great courage and skill in the course of numerous hazardous missions, often under adverse weather conditions. His outstanding leadership and coolness in the face of enemy fire has resulted in the completion of many difficult missions and has been an important factor in assuring the successful operations of his group, reflecting great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Massachussetts.

CHARLES A. HUNTON, JR., O-806071, First Lieutenant, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft from April to October 1944. By his excellent skill and sound judgment he has consistently overcome severe handicaps which have confronted him on numerous hazardous combat missions against enemy installations. The initiative, proficiency, and determination exhibited by Lt HUNTON throughout these operations is well worthy of emulation and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Arkansas.

BERNARD J. KONINK, O-747823, First Lieutenant, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement in aerial flight while serving as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft from April to October 1944. Lt KONINK served with particular distinction on many hazardous light bombardment missions. In his handling of emergency situations he has shown exceptionally good judgment in the face of severe and dangerous circumstances. The superior skill and devotion to duty he has displayed in the performance of his missions has contributed considerably to the sustained operational efficiency of his organization. Entered military service from Ohio.

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RAYMOND F. OLSHAK, O-660289, First Lieutenant, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as bombardier on medium and light bombardment aircraft from February to September 1944. Lt OLSHAK has served with distinction on numerous combat missions over enemy occupied territory. His superior technical skill and calm perseverance under the strain of aerial battle have been largly instrumental in the successful completion of the missions in which he has served and reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

WILBERT L. SAWYER, O-795648, First Lieutenant, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft from April to October 1944. During this period Lt SAWYER has shown superior courage and distinctive flying skill on numerous light bombardment missions against vital and strongly fortified enemy installations. On numerous occasions anti-aircraft fire has inflicted severe damage to his aircraft and he has demonstrated determination and technical ability of the highest type in continuing to carry out his appointed task. The gallant perseverance, eminent flying proficiency and unstinting devotion to duty exhibited by Lt SAWYER are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Virginia.

LARRY W. SMITH, O-806157, First Lieutenant, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft dispatched on light bombardment missions over enemy territory from June to September 1944. By his outstanding skill and initiative he has overcome severe handicaps which have confronted him on many occasions, enabling him to successfully complete his assigned duties. The superior flying ability and high degree of technical skill demonstrated by Lt SMITH have in large measure contributed to the successful operations of his group. Entered military service from Minnesota.

FRANK J. HARROLD, O-25934, Captain (then First Lieutenant), 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot and formation leader of A-20 type aircraft from March to September 1944. Repeatedly demonstrating outstanding leadership and great skill under the most trying conditions, Captain HARROLD, by his courage and exceptional flying technique, has made possible the destruction of many vital enemy objectives. The eminent flying proficiency and unstinting devotion to duty exhibited by Captain HARROLD in the completion of his assigned duties are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New Jersey.

ROBERT S. RUDISILL, O-797911, Captain, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft from March to August 1944. In the course of numerous combat missions, Captain RUDISILL has demonstrated outstanding aerial proficiency and exceptional leadership which have contributed in large measure to the successful destruction of many enemy installations. His courage, aggressiveness, and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from North Carolina.

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CHARLES L. McGLOHN, O-806288, First Lieutenant, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while serving as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft on numerous dangerous missions over enemy territory from March to August 1944. By his tireless effort, proficiency, and determination Lt McGLOHN has achieved a commendable record of success. His courage, devotion to duty and aerial skill are well worthy of emulation and have contributed considerably to the sustained operational efficiency of his organization. Entered military service from Mississippi.

JOSEPH F. MEAGHER, O-749487, First Lieutenant, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot and Flight Commander of A-20 type aircraft on numerous difficult missions against heavily defended objectives in enemy territory. Lt MEAGHER has consistently demonstrated outstanding qualities of professional skill and leadership which have contributed in large measure to the destruction of assigned targets. The initiative, proficiency, and determination exhibited by Lt MEAGHER are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Illinois.

RONALD D. PERKINS, O-747885, First Lieutenant, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft from March to August 1944. During this period Lt PERKINS has served with distinction on numerous combat missions over enemy territory and, although on several occasions his aircraft was badly damaged and he himself has been painfully wounded from enemy anti-aircraft fire, his superior technical skill and calm perseverance has enabled him to carry out his assigned task. The exceptional flying ability and devotion to duty exhibited by Lt PERKINS has contributed in large measure to the successful operations of his group and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from California.

MARION S. STREET, O-26323, First Lieutenant, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft on numerous missions over enemy territory from March to August 1944. The superior flying ability and outstanding technical skill displayed by Lt STREET in attacks upon vital enemy installations, often under adverse weather conditions, has contributed considerably to the success of many missions. His courage and devotion to duty exhibited in the face of grave danger is well worthy of emulation and reflects great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Kentucky.

JAMES H. GILMORE, O-412102, Captain, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of a B-26 Pathfinder aircraft on 17 August 1944. Twice on this date Captain GILMORE led flights of B-26 type aircraft against targets in direct support of our ground forces. Through his superior flying ability, Captain GILMORE was able to completely destroy both targets, cutting off a means of escape for the retreating enemy army. The outstanding flying proficiency, initiative, and devotion to duty displayed by him in the destruction of these vital enemy escape routes reflects great credit upon both himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

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VANER A. SMITH, O-438549, Captain, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of a B-26 Pathfinder aircraft on 31 July 1944. On this date Captain SMITH skilfully led a flight of medium bombardment aircraft in an attack against a vital enemy target. Although the objective could not be seen because of adverse weather conditions the bombs were dropped with pin-point accuracy, completely demolishing the target. The courage, aggressiveness and devotion to duty shown on this occasion by Captain SMITH are exemplary of the highest standards of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Texas.

CHARLES G. ALDOUS, O-727827, First Lieutenant, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a B-26 Pathfinder aircraft leading an attack in direct support of our ground forces on 22 June 1944. Immediately prior to the bombing run the flight broke away from Lt ALDOUS' leadership to bomb visually what was thought to be the target. Certain that he was over the right target, Lt ALDOUS continued on despite the danger of possible air attack. Realizing their error, the flight regained their position on Lt ALDOUS' aircraft and dropped their bombs upon the target which was completely destroyed. Lt ALDOUS' excellent leadership, initiative, and devotion to duty in pressing home his attack against the enemy insured the successful completion of the mission and reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Utah.

THOMAS B. FLAKE, JR., O-791808, First Lieutenant, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while serving as navigator on a B-26 Pathfinder aircraft leading an attack in direct support of our ground forces on 22 June 1944. Shortly before the target was reached, the flight broke away from Lt FLAKE'S aircraft and attempted to bomb the target visually. Secure in his belief that his aircraft was attacking the proper target, Lt FLAKE never deviated from his original course and continued on the bomb run despite the danger of possible air attack. Seconds before the bombs were dropped, the flight, realizing their error, again formed behind the Pathfinder aircraft, dropping their bombs simultaneously and effectively destroying the target. The superior professional ability, skill and aggressiveness exhibited by Lt FLAKE on this occasion was instrumental in the completion of a highly successful mission and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from Georgia.

ABRAHAM INKELES, O-685625, First Lieutenant, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement as navigator of a B-26 Pathfinder aircraft leading a group of medium bombardment aircraft in an attack against vital enemy installations on the night of 13/14 August 1944. As navigator of the first three aircraft dispatched to mark and illuminate the objective, Lt INKELES, displaying superior airmanship in overcoming the many hazards of night navigation, successfully reached the target, dropping flares with such effectiveness that the entire area was clearly illuminated enabling each individual aircraft to score direct hits. The aerial proficiency, technical skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Lt INKELES on this occasion was an important factor in the destruction of a high priority target and reflects great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New York.

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Par 3, Sec III, GO No 268, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 15 November 1944, cont'd.

by the War Department:

WILLIAM G. ERICKSON, JR., O-792568, Captain, 391st Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of a B-26 type aircraft on 8 August 1944. Enroute to attack a vital enemy installation Captain ERICKSON'S aircraft was badly damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire. Displaying superb airmanship, Captain ERICKSON struggled to maintain the plane in level flight while he gave the order to salvo the bombs and for the crew to abandon the aircraft. Only after the last man left the disabled aircraft did Captain ERICKSON leave the controls and jump through the open bomb bay doors. Captain ERICKSON'S courage, heroic determination, and superior flying skill made possible the escape of his entire crew and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from New York.

4. By direction of the President, in addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded him per Competent Authority, a BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following-named officer, 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:

ROBERT J. HUGHEY, O-22857, Lt Colonel, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft on 6 June 1944. On this date Lt Col HUGHEY led a formation of light bombardment aircraft in an attack against a vitally important enemy installation. Adverse weather conditions made it necessary to attack the target from a low altitude, increasing the formation's vulnerability to enemy ground fire. Employing skillful evasive action, Lt Col HUGHEY led his formation over the assigned target where they dropped their bombs with telling effect. By his determined leadership and superior flying skill, Lt Col HUGHEY made a valuable contribution in support of the Allied invasion of the European Continent. Entered military service from Missouri.

5. By direction of the President, in addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded him per Par 2, Sec VIII, General Orders No 144, Hq, Ninth Air Force, dated 21 May 1944, a BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following-named officer, 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:

EDWIN J. RACKHAM, O-886083, Captain, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Prov). For heroism and extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-51 type aircraft on a low-level, night weather reconnaissance mission on 5 June 1944. On this date Captain RACKHAM courageously exposed himself to intense and accurate enemy ground fire in order to obtain valuable weather data necessary for the planning of future operations. By his superior flying skill he was able to avoid any hits on his plane and to safely return to base with accurate information. The courage and outstanding aerial proficiency displayed by Captain RACKHAM on this occasion made possible the success of an extremely important mission and is symbolic of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Michigan.

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Par 6, Sec III, GO No 268, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 15 November 1944, cont'd.

6. By direction of the President, in addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded him per Par 1, Sec III, General Orders No 85, Hq, Ninth Air Force, dated 31 March 1944, a BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following-named officer, 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:

JOHN S. VESTAL, O-887131, Second Lieutenant, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Prov). For heroism and extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a P-51 type aircraft on a low-level weather reconnaissance mission over enemy territory on 5 June 1944. In the face of great personal danger and difficulties Lt VESTAL was successful in skillfully collecting accurate weather data vitally necessary for the planning of future operations. His superior flying skill, aggressiveness, and determination displayed on this date contributed in large measure to the success of future operations and are in keeping with the highest ideals of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Missouri.

By command of Major General VANDENBERG:

W W MILLARD
Colonel, GSC
C of S

OFFICIAL:

C M SEEBACH
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

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