THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

RESTRICTED
SECRET
HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

Exh # 10 - Dec '44

APO 696, U S ARMY
27 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER....301)

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 IV : AMENDMENTS OF GENERAL ORDERS.

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:

HENRY W. MITZNIP, O-724461, Captain, AC, 387th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while serving as pilot of a B-26 type aircraft participating in a bombardment mission over enemy occupied France on 16 August 1944. Prior to the bomb run Captain MITZNIP's aircraft sustained a direct hit from enemy anti-aircraft fire which severely damaged the forward portions of the fuselage and painfully wounded Captain MITZNIP. Despite the pain of his wounds, Captain MITZNIP flew a true and level course on the bomb run and the bombs were dropped precisely on the target, scoring direct hits. The gallant determination and unfailing skill displayed by Captain MITZNIP in performing his duties despite painful and incapacitating wounds reflect the highest credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

LEWIS T. STOTTS, O-760107, 1st Lieutenant, AC, 387th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while serving as bombardier-navigator of a B-26 type aircraft participating in a bombardment mission over enemy territory on 6 October 1944. Although intense and accurate flak in the target area severely damaged his aircraft, Lt STOTTS requested a second bomb run rather than drop his bombs blindly into the heavy smoke covering the target from a previous bombing. During the second run Lt STOTTS was painfully wounded by enemy anti-aircraft fire but, displaying outstanding determination and devotion to duty, he released his bombs accurately on the target with devastating results. The gallant perseverance, technical skill, and courage exhibited by Lt STOTTS on this occasion reflect great credit on himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the service. Entered military service from Arkansas.

ROSS H. BUK, O-731741, Captain, AC, 391st Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while serving as lead bombardier of a flight of B-26 type aircraft dispatched on a bombardment mission over enemy territory. On the bomb run Captain BUK's aircraft was seriously damaged and he was painfully wounded. Disregarding the damage to his aircraft and the pain of his

RESTRICTED
SECRET

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Par 1, Sec I, GO 301, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 27 Dec 1944, Contd.

wounds, and in spite of poor visibility, Captain BUK successfully led his flight in to accurately bomb the target. Captain BUK's great determination and coolness under fire aided materially to the destruction of a vitally important target. His gallantry and devotion to duty reflect high credit on himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Kansas.

LLOYD A. FFNSTING, 37516880, Staff Sergeant, AC, 391st Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action on 6 October 1944 while serving as engineer-gunner of a B-26 type aircraft dispatched on a bombardment mission over enemy territory. On the bomb run intense and accurate heavy flak severely damaged the aircraft and painfully wounded S/Sgt FFNSTING. Despite the intensity of the enemy ground fire and his painful injury, S/Sgt FFNSTING remained at his guns until the bombs were released and the aircraft was safely over friendly territory. The gallantry and devotion to duty displayed by S/Sgt FFNSTING in remaining at his post despite his wounds and in the face of great danger are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Missouri.

JOSEPH A. KOBALLA, 6942883, Staff Sergeant, AC, 391st Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight as bombardier of a B-26 type aircraft on 26 August 1944. On the bomb run enemy anti-aircraft fire badly damaged the aircraft and painfully wounded S/Sgt KOBALLA. Refusing first aid S/Sgt KOBALLA remained at his post and, although the bomb release mechanism had been damaged by flak, he succeeded in bombing the target with telling effect. S/Sgt KOBALLA continued to perform his duties, and aided in charting the course back to base. The determination, coolness while under fire, and devotion to duty displayed by S/Sgt KOBALLA on this occasion reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

ANTHONY WIFFNY, 12066915, Staff Sergeant, AC, 391st Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight as armorer-gunner of a B-26 type aircraft dispatched on a bombardment mission over enemy territory on 31 July 1944. On the bomb run S/Sgt WIFFNY was painfully wounded by enemy anti-aircraft fire. Despite the accuracy of the enemy fire and the pain of his wound, he remained in the tail turret, calling out flak positions which enabled the pilot to take proper evasive action. S/Sgt WIFFNY would not accept first aid until the aircraft was out of the danger area and returning to base. S/Sgt WIFFNY's coolness under enemy fire materially aided in the successful completion of an important mission. His gallantry and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New York.

CARL M. ZAYCNC, 17099675, Staff Sergeant, AC, 391st Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while serving as engineer-gunner of a B-26 type aircraft dispatched on a bombardment mission over enemy territory on 6 October 1944. On the bomb run, S/Sgt ZAYCNC's aircraft was hit by several bursts of enemy flak, causing considerable battle damage and painfully wounding him. Although suffering intense pain, S/Sgt ZAYCNC refused first aid and remained at his post as enemy fighters were reported in the vicinity. Not until the danger had passed and the aircraft was safely over friendly territory

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Par 1, Sec II, GO 301, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 27 Dec 1944, Contd.

ROBERT J. MORTON, O-371682, Captain, AC, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while leading a flight of A-20 type aircraft in an attack against a vital marshalling yard in enemy territory on 6 June 1944. On this date Captain MORTON's flight was subjected to intense, accurate, light and heavy flak for a full twenty-five minutes. Despite the intense opposition, he successfully bombed the target and made the return to base. However, damage to his hydraulic lines prevented lowering his wheels. By the time he succeeded in getting his wheels down it was dark and raining. Exhibiting the highest degree of flying skill, he executed an excellent landing, and, with the small amount of hydraulic fluid left to his hand pump, he brought his aircraft to a safe halt. The skill, determination, and courage displayed by Captain MORTON on this occasion is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Illinois.

RICHARD V. WHEELER, O-26098, Captain, AC, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft in an attack against heavily defended enemy rocket installations on 25 April 1944. On the bomb run the formation encountered a barrage of moderate to intense heavy flak, and Captain WHEELER's aircraft was severely damaged. Captain WHEELER, displaying outstanding skill maintained his position in the formation and dropped his bombs accurately on the target. Before landing at base it was necessary to violently shake the badly damaged aircraft in order to get the landing gear down and locked. Captain WHEELER accomplished this dangerous feat and successfully landed his aircraft without further damage or injury to his crew. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

JAMES D. ADAMS, O-669657, 1st Lieutenant, AC, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 6 September 1944. On this date, Lt ADAMS led a flight of A-20 type aircraft in an attack against enemy gun emplacements. Lt ADAMS made two runs over the target but could not drop his bombs because of a mechanical failure and, with only sufficient fuel remaining for the return to base, he left the target area. Shortly after the necessary adjustments were made to the bomb release mechanism and Lt ADAMS returned and bombed the target with excellent results. By cruising at the minimum speed, Lt ADAMS led his flight safely back to base. The keen judgment, leadership, and determination displayed by Lt ADAMS on this occasion materially contributed to the successful completion of the mission and reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New York.

HENRY T. ARRINGTON, O-749608, 1st Lieutenant, AC, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 12 September 1944, when, while serving as lead bombardier-navigator of a formation of A-20 type aircraft in an attack against enemy artillery positions, the interphone and interplane communication system in his aircraft failed. Although isolated from the rest of the formation Lt ARRINGTON elected to continue the attack. With the aid of his pilot he devised a means of communication by use of call light signals and airplane maneuvers. Using only this meagre means of communication he was able to guide the formation around the heavily defended areas and to the target which was bombed with excellent results, giving invaluable assistance to allied troops fighting

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

only fifteen hundred yards from the target. After the attack he assembled the formation and guided them safely back to base. Entered military service from Florida.

GUSTAV EBENSTEIN, O-797803, 1st Lieutenant, AC, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft on 24 June 1944. Returning after a successful attack against an enemy fuel dump one of the aircraft flying in Lt EBENSTEIN's flight was forced to drop out of formation because of battle damage. When it was observed that the crippled aircraft was headed for a heavily defended enemy locality and was already the target of German ground fire, Lt EBENSTEIN left the formation and, exposing himself to anti-aircraft fire, led the damaged aircraft away from the heavily defended area and safely back to base. Lt EBENSTEIN's courage, skill, and leadership is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from New York.

WILLARD H. LAND, O-684357, 1st Lieutenant, AC, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft. On the night of 6 June 1944, in an attack against important enemy marshalling yards, a solid over-cast forced the formation down to two thousand feet. During the entire period over enemy territory the formation was constantly subjected to intense, accurate flak of all types. Lt LAND's aircraft was hit repeatedly. One thirty-seven millimeter shell exploded directly inside his bomb-bay, his elevator and rudder were struck many times and worked with difficulty. Despite this heavy battle damage, he maintained his position in the formation, bombed the target, and returned his aircraft and crew safely to base. Entered military service from Louisiana.

LEONARD F. McBRIDE, O-747840, 1st Lieutenant, AC, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement on 11 May 1944 while serving as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft in an attack upon an enemy airfield in France. Immediately before the bomb run one of the engines on Lt McBRIDE's aircraft failed. However, he elected to continue on the bomb run, but was forced to fall behind the rest of the formation, leaving his aircraft unprotected against the heavy enemy flak as he bombed the target alone. The devotion to duty, outstanding airmanship and professional skill exhibited by Lt McBRIDE on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Mississippi.

DANIEL F. SHEA, O-26111, 1st Lieutenant, AC, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement on 22 June 1944 while serving as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft in direct support of our Ground Forces in France. The formation encountered bursts of intense accurate flak immediately after the bombs were dropped and Lt SHEA's aircraft suffered heavy battle damage. Rather than risk the lives of his crew members Lt SHEA elected to crash land the aircraft on an airstrip in friendly territory instead of attempting to reach his base. Despite the extensive damage to his aircraft Lt SHEA exhibited outstanding flying skill and successfully crash landed his plane without injury to his crew. The outstanding professional skill, determination, and courage displayed by Lt SHEA on this occasion is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New Hampshire.

RESTRICTED

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Par 1, Sec II, GO 301, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 27 Dec 1944, Contd.

FREDERICK W. JERSIG, O-812433, 1st Lieutenant, AC, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Provisional). For extraordinary achievement while participating in numerous weather reconnaissance missions over enemy territory from April to November 1944. Despite the dangers of enemy aircraft and anti-aircraft fire, and under the most adverse weather conditions, Lt JERSIG has repeatedly completed the most hazardous missions, obtaining valuable information vital for future operations. The skill, determination, and courage displayed by Lt JERSIG during this period contributed in large measure to the successes achieved by many fighter and bomber missions and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Texas.

SECTION III

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS awarded him on GO 27, IX Bomber Comd, 12 Feb 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:

ROSCOE L. HALLER, O-791205, Major, AC, 323rd Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 29 September 1944. On this date Major HALLER served as pilot of a B-26 type aircraft leading an attack upon a special military target in enemy territory. At the start of the bombing run a series of flak bursts sent fragments into Major HALLER's airplane, severely damaging it. Demonstrating superior flying skill and steadfast determination, Major HALLER, although he had to feather the propeller on the right engine, succeeded in maintaining his position at the lead of the group throughout the bombing run, enabling the objective to be bombed successfully. The skill, technical knowledge, and determination displayed by Major HALLER reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New York.

2. By direction of the President, in addition to the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS awarded him per par 1, Section II, General Orders, this Headquarters, dated 15 November 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:

THOMAS F. JOHNSON, O-659307, Major, AC, 344th Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 19 September 1944. While serving as pilot of a B-26 type aircraft dispatched to bomb an important enemy target in Germany, Major JOHNSON successfully led his group through a thick overcast to the vital target. His careful planning and skillful execution of the attack prevented the enemy from inflicting damage on the formation and the target was bombed with great effectiveness. Returning to base, Major JOHNSON again led every aircraft safely through the overcast. Major JOHNSON's superb flying skill, keen judgment, and perfect execution of the attack were largely responsible for the success of this vital mission. Entered military service from New York.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Par 1, Sec IV, GO 301, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 27 Dec 1944, Contd.

SECTION IV

1. So much of Par 1, Section II, General Orders No. 268, this Headquarters, dated 15 November 1944, as pertains to the award of the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS to 2nd Lieutenant Roy B. Edge, O-887137, is deleted.

2. Section III, General Orders No. 268, this Headquarters, dated 15 November 1944, is amended to include the following paragraph:

"7. By direction of the President, in addition to the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS awarded him per par 23, Section V, General Orders No. 15, Hq, IX Bomber Command, dated 21 January 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:

ROY B. EDGE, O-887137, Second Lieutenant, 322nd Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 31 August 1944. When, returning from a successful bombing mission over enemy-held territory, the left engine of the B-26 type aircraft which he was piloting cut out and the other engine failed while flying over a thickly populated area. Lt EDGE ordered his crew to abandon the aircraft while he, with the evident intent of guiding his aircraft so as to avoid loss of civilian life, with disregard for his personal safety attempted a dead-stick landing on a nearby airdrome, which, although unsuitable, was the only place to land. Lt EDGE's self-sacrificing courage and unstinting devotion to duty reflect the highest distinction upon himself and the Army Air Forces. This award is made posthumously. Next of Kin: Roy W. Edge (Father), Calhoun, Georgia."

By command of Major General VANDENBERG:

W W MILLARD
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

C M SEEBACH
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION: "A"
(Less Units not concerned)

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958