

SECRET



Exh #1-Dec '44: Major General Samuel E. Anderson, left, and Colonel Theodore R. Aylesworth, center, Group Commander, chat with members touring Congressional party.

SECRET

SECRET



Exh #2-Dec '44: Major General Samuel E. Anderson and member of Congressional committee discuss war situation during visit.

SECRET

SECRET



Exh #3-Dec '44: Major General Anderson and Congressman stand in driving rain during stopover on R.

SECRET

SECRET



Exh #4-Dec '44: Claire Booth Luce, Congressional representative from Connecticut, and members of committee relax after talking with Colonel Theodore R. Aylesworth, left, foreground, Group Commander.

SECRET

EX-11 #5 Dec '44

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)

R2-B-1

APO 140, U S ARMY
3 January 1945.

533

SUBJECT: Direct Administrative Inspections

TO : Commanding Generals, All Combat Wings, 9th Bombardment Division (M),
Commanding Officers, All Stations, 9th Bombardment Division (M)

1. During the period 1 August 1944 to 31 December 1944 direct administrative inspections were made of all Bomb Groups and allied units under your respective commands. The following is a list of the overall ratings given the stations at that time:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Hq., 97th Combat Wing (L)	30-12-44	Excellent
409th Bomb Group (L)	18 -20-12-44	Excellent
410th Bomb Group (L)	8 -9-12-44	Excellent
416th Bomb Group (L)	12 -13-12-44	Superior
Hq., 98th Combat Wing (M)	26-12-44	Very Satisfactory
323rd Bomb Group (M)	29 -30-10-44	Very Satisfactory
387th Bomb Group (M)	21 -22-11-44	Very Satisfactory
394th Bomb Group (M)	3 - 9-11-44	Very Satisfactory
397th Bomb Group (M)	4 - 5-12-44	Satisfactory
Hq., 99th Combat Wing (M)	16-12-44	Very Satisfactory
322nd Bomb Group (M)	28 -29- 8-44	Very Satisfactory
344th Bomb Group (M)	24 -24-11-44	Excellent
386th Bomb Group (M)	13 -14-11-44	Very Satisfactory
391st Bomb Group (M)	28- 29-11-44	Excellent
Hq., Bombay Station	5- 6-11-44	Satisfactory

By command of Major General JUDERSON:

s/t/ G. C. VEG., JR.,
Lt., Colonel, AG,
Adjutant General.

I certify that this is a True Extract Copy.


FRANK M. HOPPE,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Group Historical Officer.

SECRET

SECRET



Exh #6-Dec '44: Lt Martin H. Gureasko, second from left, and French Mayor chat with children at Christmas party.

SECRET

SECRET



Exh #7-Dec '44: Sgt Henry E. Leski, as Santa Claus, makes friends with French child at Christmas by sponsored by Red Cross.

SECRET

SECRET



Exh #8-Dec '44: Sgt Reski and small friend hold center of attention at Christmas Party as others look on.

SECRET

SECRET



Exh #9-Dec '44: Sgt Reski. and Miss Babs
Cebrian, Red Cross representative, got to-
gether with their French guests after
Yuletide Party.

SECRET

RESTRICTED
SECRET
HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

Exh # 10- Dec '44

GENERAL ORDERS)

AGO 696, U S ARMY
27 December 1944

NUMBER.....301)NY

- 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. MITZNER, 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 MITZNER's aircraft sustained a direct hit from enemy anti-aircraft fire which severely damaged the forward portions of the fuselage and painfully wounded Captain MITZNER. Despite the pain of his wounds, Captain MITZNER 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 MITZNER 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-760167, 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

R E S T R I C T E D

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. PFNSTING, 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 PFNSTING. Despite the intensity of the enemy ground fire and his painful injury, S/Sgt PFNSTING 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 PFNSTING 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

R E S T R I C T E D

RESTRICTED

SECRET

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

ROBERT J. MORTON, O-571382, 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

RESTRICTED

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

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-797303, 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.

WILLIAM H. LUND, 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 LUND'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 R. 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.

- 16 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

SECRET

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.

SECRET

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

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 airfield, 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 MILLER
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


C M SEEBACH
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION: "A"
(Less Units not concerned)

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)

Exh #11-Dec '44

APO 140, U S Army
6 December 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO 37)

SECTION I : AWARDS TO 98TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING (M)
 SECTION II : AWARDS TO 9TH WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE SQ (PROV)
 SECTION III : AWARDS TO 344TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
 SECTION IV : AWARDS TO 387TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
 SECTION V : AWARDS TO 391ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
 SECTION VI : AWARDS TO 394TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
 SECTION VII : AWARDS TO 397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
 SECTION VIII : AWARD TO 409TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
 SECTION IX : AWARDS TO 416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

SECTION I

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medal awarded in General Order 142, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 31 July 1944, Second Lieutenant ROBERT C CARLSON, 0917253, Headquarters, 98th Combat Bombardment Wing (M), is awarded the FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, they each having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy. Entered military service from Charlotte, Michigan.

SECTION II

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medals awarded in General Orders indicated by sub-paragraphs, the following named officers of the 9th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Prov) are awarded the BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, they each having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy.

Sixth Oak Leaf Cluster

a. GO 22, Hq, XIX Tactical Air Command, 2 Aug 1944.

ANDREW R CLARK 0494451 1ST LT AC Detroit, Michigan.
 D S from 354th Fighter Group

Seventh Oak Leaf Cluster

ANDREW R CLARK 0494451 1ST LT AC Detroit, Michigan.
 D S from 354th Fighter Group

SECRET

RESTRICTED

GO 37, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (H), 3 Dec 1944.

Eighth Oak Leaf Cluster

ANDREW R. CLARK 0494451 1ST LT AC Detroit, Michigan.
D S from 354th Fighter Group

Fourteenth Oak Leaf Cluster

b. GO 28, Hq, IX Tactical Air Command, 13 July 1944.

MAXWELL W. ROMAN 0421887 LT COL AC Ellicott, Maryland.
D S from Hq, Ninth Air Force

Twenty-first Oak Leaf Cluster

c. GO 22, Hq, IX Fighter Command, 11 Dec 1943.

WARREN G. HARDING 0663147 1ST LT AC Waukegan, Ill.
D S from 404th Fighter Group

Twenty-second Oak Leaf Cluster

WARREN G. HARDING 0663147 1ST LT AC Waukegan, Ill.
D S from 404th Fighter Group

Twenty-third Oak Leaf Cluster

WARREN G. HARDING 0663147 1ST LT AC Waukegan, Ill.
D S from 404th Fighter Group

d. GO 50, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 10 March 1944.

STEWART L. HILLS 0885923 CAPT AC Greenwich, Conn.
D S from 366th Fighter Bomber Group

Twenty-fourth Oak Leaf Cluster

e. GO 22, Hq, IX Fighter Command, 11 Dec 1943.

WARREN G. HARDING 0663147 1ST LT AC Waukegan, Ill.
D S from 404th Fighter Group

f. GO 50, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 10 March 1944.

STEWART L. HILLS 0885923 CAPT AC Greenwich, Conn.
D S from 366th Fighter Group

g. GO 119, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 1 May 1944.

ROBERT G. OGILVIE 0885567 1ST LT AC Bellevue, Michigan.
D S 370th Fighter Bomber Group

2. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medal awarded in General Order No. 22, Hq, IX Tactical Air Command, 2 August 1944, First Lieutenant ANDREW R. CLARK, 0494451, is awarded the SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER, in lieu of the fifth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Dull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order

~~SECRET~~

GO 37, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (L), 6 Dec 1944.

Cluster, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, Sergeant LONDON having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

SECTION VIII

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medal awarded in General Order No. 114, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 25 April 1944, Colonel THOMAS R FORD, 023508, Headquarters, 409th Bombardment Group (L), is awarded the THIRD BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, Colonel FORD having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy. Entered military service from Lansing, Michigan.

SECTION IX

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medals awarded in General Orders indicated by sub-paragraphs, the following named officers and enlisted men of the 416th Bombardment Group (L), are awarded the BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942) and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, they each having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy.

Second Oak Leaf Cluster

- a. GO 161, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 21 Aug 1944.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Joseph F Goggin	17166442	T/Sgt	AC	Junction City, Kansas.
-----------------	----------	-------	----	------------------------

- b. GO 130, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 12 Sept 1944.
668th Bombardment Squadron (L)

John F Geyer	35629198	Sgt	AC	Mt. Gilead, Ohio.
--------------	----------	-----	----	-------------------

670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

ROBERT L KIRK	0761323	1ST LT	AC	Colofax, Calif.
---------------	---------	--------	----	-----------------

-43-

~~SECRET~~

RESTRICTED

GO 37, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (H), 6 Dec 1944.

c. GO 19, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division, 20 Oct 1944.
663th Bombardment Squadron (L)

JAKE W WRIGHT	0761522	1ST LT	AC	Weatherford, Okla.
Paul J Profita	32311626	S/Sgt	AC	Brooklyn, N.Y.
John R Simmonds	17135418	S/Sgt	AC	Baxter Springs, Kansas.
John J Sittarich	37573540	Sgt	AC	Brackendale, Minn.

Third Oak Leaf Clusterd. GO 148, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 7 Aug 1944.
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Louis Moskowicz	12153874	Pvt	AC	Brooklyn, N.Y.
-----------------	----------	-----	----	----------------

e. GO 159, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 19 Aug 1944.
668th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Kenneth G Lagerman	36807325	S/Sgt	AC	Watertown, Wisc.
--------------------	----------	-------	----	------------------

Fourth Oak Leaf Clusterf. GO 142, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 31 July 1944.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Lawrence L Leahigh	35697452	S/Sgt	AC	Butler, Ind.
--------------------	----------	-------	----	--------------

g. GO 150, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 10 Aug 1944.
671st Bombardment Squadron (L)

JOSEPH J LACKOVICH	0753529	1ST LT	AC	Yuma, Arizona.
--------------------	---------	--------	----	----------------

h. GO 159, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 19 Aug 1944.
668th Bombardment Squadron (L)

JAMES H MONTROSE	0755994	1ST LT	AC	San Francisco, Cal.
PAUL E PARKER	0761620	1ST LT	AC	Sacramento, Calif.
John H Roberts, Jr	34608707	S/Sgt	AC	Asheville, N.C.

Sixth Oak Leaf Clusteri. GO 302, Hq, Eighth Air Force, 24 April 1944.
668th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Donald E Raines	35766101	S/Sgt	AC	Ft Wayne, Ind.
-----------------	----------	-------	----	----------------

j. GO 107, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 18 June 1944.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Donald E Burns	39288631	S/Sgt	AC	South Gate, Calif.
----------------	----------	-------	----	--------------------

-44-

RESTRICTED

RECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

GO 37, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (TC), 6 Dec 1944.

Seventh Oak Leaf Clusterk. GO 107, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 18 June 1944.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Laverne C Burger 15377330 S/Sgt AC Alliance, Ohio.

Eighth Oak Leaf Clusterl. GO 117, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 28 April 1944.
Headquarters

RICHARD F SHAEFER 025866 CAPT AC Alberquerque, N.M.

m. GO 107, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 18 June 1944.
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)JACK F SMITH 0750471 1ST LT AC Rock Wood, Tenn.
WILLIAM F TRIPP, JR 0807540 1ST LT AC Dedham, Mass.671st Bombardment Squadron (L)ARTHUR E HERMAN 0813699 2ND LT AC Bridgeport, Conn.
James O Young 35711742 S/Sgt AC Dayton, Ohio.Eleventh Oak Leaf Clustern. GO 80, Hq, Fifth Air Force, 8 May 1943.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Wilmar L Kidd 19020343 S/Sgt AC Neodesha, Kans.

o. GO 114, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 25 April 1944.
668th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Clarence H Yost 15067647 S/Sgt AC Keystone, W.Va.

670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Francis F Glynn 31201629 S/Sgt AC Fall River, Mass.

671st Bombardment Squadron (L)

ROBERT H SMITH 0663194 1ST LT AC San Francisco, Cal.

p. GO 117, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 28 April 1944.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)Patrick F Glynn 31185196 S/Sgt AC Waltham, Mass.
Thomas A Palmer 13106046 S/Sgt AC Washington, D.C.q. GO 124, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 6 May 1944.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

ROBERT H JOOST 0666678 1ST LT AC San Francisco, Cal.

-45-
RECLASSIFIED~~SECRET~~

GO 37, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 6 Dec 1944.

r. GO 141, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1944.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

THOMAS J LEONARD 0747330 1ST LT AC Chicago, Ill.

Twelfth Oak Leaf Cluster

s. GO 22, Hq, IX Fighter Command, 11 Dec 1943.
668th Bombardment Squadron (L)

GALEN F BARTMUS 0730884 CAPT AC Redondo Beach, Cal.

t. GO 117, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 28 April 1944.
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

MEREDITH J HUFF 0736220 CAPT AC Jennings, Kansas.
PATRICK F R MACMANUS, JR 0671671 1ST LT AC Raymondville, Tex.

670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

ROBERT S RUDISILL 0797911 CAPT AC Haines City, Fla.
JOHN P HELLERMAN 6805457 1ST LT AC Tulsa, Okla.
Irving Binney 32813178 S/Sgt AC Woodside, N.Y.
O D Evans 18133260 S/Sgt AC Krops, Okla.

2. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medals awarded in General Orders indicated by sub-paragraphs, the following named officers and enlisted men of the 416th Bombardment Group (L), are awarded the SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER, in lieu of the fifth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158; (Bull. 25, 10 Dec 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, 10 Dec 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOWSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, they each having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy.

a. GO 123, Hq, Fifteenth Air Force, 11 May 1944.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Dale A Sampson 37123768 S/Sgt AC Alna, S.D.

b. GO 125, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 25 July 1944.
668th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Daniel M Brown 35514148 S/Sgt AC Lakewood, Ohio.

c. GO 126, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 25 July 1944.
668th Bombardment Squadron (L)

JAMES K COLOUITT 0755882 2ND LT AC San Angelo, Texas.

SECRET
RESTRICTED

GO 37, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 6 Dec 1944.

d. GO 142, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 31 July 1944.
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Franklin P Basford	33592032	Sgt	AC	Philadelphia, Pa.
Michael Bookach	32606803	Sgt	AC	Dover, N.J.

671st Bombardment Squadron (L)

DAVID L WITHINGTON	0750497	1ST LT	AC	Honolulu, T.H.
--------------------	---------	--------	----	----------------

e. GO 143, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 7 Aug 1944.
671st Bombardment Squadron (L)

HORACE F PAIR	0747382	1ST LT	AC	Atlanta, Ga.
---------------	---------	--------	----	--------------

f. GO 150, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 10 Aug 1944.
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Robert W Carstens	36851748	S/Sgt	AC	E Detroit, Mich.
-------------------	----------	-------	----	------------------

3. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medals awarded in General Orders indicated by sub-paragraphs, the following named officers and enlisted men of the 416th Bombardment Group (L), are awarded the SECOND SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER, in lieu of the tenth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, they each having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy.

a. GO 117, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 26 April 1944.
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

DAVID A HULSE	0736223	CAPT	AC	Sacramento, Calif.
WILLIAM A PECK	0800034	CAPT	AC	Atlanta, Ga.

671st Bombardment Squadron (L)

Henry A Lempiak	6981474	S/Sgt	AC	High Falls, N.Y.
-----------------	---------	-------	----	------------------

b. GO 140, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1944.
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

JAMES MADENPORT	0681755	1ST LT	AC	Bristol, Va.
-----------------	---------	--------	----	--------------

c. GO 141, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1944.
670th Bombardment Squadron (L)

James C McKee	14047810	S/Sgt	AC	Atlanta, Ga.
---------------	----------	-------	----	--------------

SECRET
RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

GO 37, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 6 Dec 1944.

d. GO 156, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 4 June 1944.
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Glenn I Fleischmann 19060630 S/Sgt AC Evanston, Ill.

e. GO 107, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 18 June 1944.
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Ralph C Hoffman 17026879 S/Sgt AC Robbinsdale, Minn.

By command of Major General ANDERSON:

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

OFFICIAL:

[Signature]
C. C. VEGA, JR.
Lt Col, Air Corps,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION "A" PLUS

- 1 cy : Director of Bureau of Public Relations
- 1 cy : 91st MRU.
- 1 cy : 93rd MRU.
- 3 cys : TAG, Attn: Awards and Decorations Branch
Washington, D.C.
- 2 cys : Awards and Decorations, AG Military Personnel
Division, Hq, ETOUSA
- 5 cys : Hq, Ninth Air Force
- 2 cys : Historical Section, Ninth Air Force
- 3 cys : Hq, Ninth Air Force, Attn: A-1
- 2 cys : Hq, USSTAF, Director of Personnel.
- 2 cys : 31st MRU.

~~SECRET~~
HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)

G/CM/15

APC 140, U S Army,
19 December 1944.

EX 4 #12-DEC '44

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO ... 43)

SECTION I : AWARD TO 98TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING (M)
SECTION II : AWARDS TO 391ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
SECTION III : AWARDS TO 409TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
SECTION IV : AWARDS TO 410TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
SECTION V : AWARDS TO 416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

SECTION I

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medal awarded in General Order No. 58, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 15 March 1944, Brigadier General HAROLD L MACE, O17955, Headquarters, 98th Combat Bombardment Wing (M), is awarded the SECOND BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, GENERAL MACE having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy. Entered military service from Deland, Florida.

SECTION II

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, AIR MEDALS are awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 391st Bombardment Group (M), in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, they each having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy.

572nd Bombardment Squadron (M)

DONALD E DANIELS	0706031	2ND LT	AC	Davison, Mich.
HENRY E HUBBCK	0713451	2ND LT	AC	Soaford, N.Y.
PAUL O MAVES	0712191	2ND LT	AC	Lyons, Ill.
Coleman L Adams, Jr.	14142636	S/Sgt	AC	Atlanta, Ga.
James J Doyle	17086660	S/Sgt	AC	Denver, Colo.

572nd Bombardment Squadron (M)

DON W ALLEN	0689123	1ST LT	AC	Cakdale, Ia.
HERBERT W DEWITT, JR	0793079	1ST LT	AC	Chattanooga, Tenn.

-1-

~~SECRET~~

RESTRICTED

GO 43, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division, 19 Dec 1944.

573rd Bombardment Squadron (M) contd.

GILBERT T BENNETT	0759686	2ND LT	AC	Modesto, Calif.
CHARLES W BUTLER	0722693	2ND LT	AC	Cambridge City, Ind.
ALBERT O ELLIOTT	02061357	2ND LT	AC	Carrollton, Ala.
JOHN W HAGAMAN, JR	0797989	2ND LT	AC	Brooklyn, N.Y.
WILLIAM J MILTY	0747663	2ND LT	AC	Ashland, Ohio.
DESMOND J E YOUN, JR	0712177	2ND LT	AC	Blue Island, Ill.
Millan W Adair	15196591	T/Sgt	AC	Logan, Ohio.
Bernard Dunbar	15102839	T/Sgt	AC	Defiance, Ohio.
Davis W Hamilton	11097043	S/Sgt	AC	Brunswick, Me.
James W Barker	34362287	S/Sgt	AC	Jackson, Tenn.
Alexander E Saltikoff	32346873	S/Sgt	AC	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Ross E Morrison	38471246	Sgt	AC	Chelsea, Okla.
Lewis C Hanson	36593991	Sgt	AC	Weston, Mich.

574th Bombardment Squadron (M)

JOSEPH M BLAIR	0558793	2ND LT	AC	Tulsa, Okla.
EARL E OLIVE	02061147	2ND LT	AC	Decatur, Ill.
THOMAS L CRABB	02061345	2ND LT	AC	Dallas, Texas.
George P McNamara	39103381	S/Sgt	AC	Kansas City, Mo.
Raphael K Delashoski	16071877	Sgt	AC	Peoria, Ill.

575th Bombardment Squadron (M)

JOHN W BARDES	0659510	CAPT	AC	Hopkinsville, Ky.
GROVER E GREEN	0795387	1ST LT	AC	Council Bluffs, Ia.
EDWARD H BOLTON	0619948	2ND LT	AC	Schuylkill Haven, Pa.
RUDOLPH C CHRISTIANSEN	0714664	2ND LT	AC	Gibbs, Idaho.
JAMES C COX	0816508	2ND LT	AC	Fort Smith, Ark.
THOMAS E FORHAM	0712730	2ND LT	AC	Lakewood, Ohio.
CHARLES J HOFSTMAN	0705954	2ND LT	AC	Detroit, Mich.
VINSON P LEAVITT	0704841	2ND LT	AC	Limestone, Me.
LEN F LITTLEJOHN	0779171	2ND LT	AC	Los Angeles, Cal.
GENE B LOWE	0718114	2ND LT	AC	Orth, Texas.
MARTIN C MAZURK	0712193	2ND LT	AC	Chicago, Ill.
DANIEL L SHIELDS	0823465	2ND LT	AC	Edgeworth, Pa.
PHILIP SMITH	0718158	2ND LT	AC	St Louis, Mo.
ROBERT O SMITH	0715333	2ND LT	AC	Jackson, Miss.
Robert C Cochran	34205733	T/Sgt	AC	Barton, Fla.
Clyde B Skeen	15114659	T/Sgt	AC	Chesapeake, W.Va.
Robert N Alakel	31083774	S/Sgt	AC	Lawrence, Mass.
John E Lindholm	32862462	S/Sgt	AC	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Leroy L Nichols	37558013	S/Sgt	AC	Reeder, N.D.
Alvaro D Souza	19093064	S/Sgt	AC	Los Banos, Calif.
Stewart J Boyd	12175937	Sgt	AC	Shreveport, La.
Raymond W Broker	37520471	Sgt	AC	Drexel, Mo.
Junies C Kervin	38420996	Sgt	AC	Livingston, Texas.
Robert C Schneider	17115190	Sgt	AC	Holita, Kansas.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

GO 43, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (L), 19 Dec. 1944.

SECRET

JOHN W FRANCIS
James F Price

647th Bombardment Squadron (L)

0755313
343532471ST LT
S/SgtAC
ACTacoma, Wash.
Swainsboro, Ga.e. GO 142, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 31 July 1944.
647th Bombardment Squadron (L)

Joseph P Hume

12194171

S/Sgt

AC

Kalispell, Mont.

f. GO 147, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 6 Aug 1944.
647th Bombardment Squadron (L)NAVAL F DAVIS
MAURICE C LANCEFORD0753620
07535301ST LT
1ST LTAC
ACBiggs, Calif.
Goldthwaite, Tex.

4. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medals awarded in General Orders indicated by sub-paragraphs, the following named officers and enlisted men of the 410th Bombardment Group (L), are awarded the SECOND SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER, in lieu of the tenth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, they each having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy.

a. GO 14, Hq, Twelfth Air Force, 1 Feb 1943.
646th Bombardment Squadron (L)

John R Herdtua

15069766

S/Sgt

AC

Fairport Harbor, O.

b. GO 19, Hq, War Department, 21 April 1943.
647th Bombardment Squadron (L)

JOSEPH M WUNDERL

0431359

MAJOR

AC

San Angelo, Texas.

c. GO 149, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 27 May 1944.
644th Bombardment Squadron (L)

PAUL H RANDALL

0749317

1ST LT

AC

Paducah, Ky.

Harold R Crompton
John Harnisch
Donald O Perrin33435364
11050110
17127420S/Sgt
S/Sgt
S/SgtAC
AC
ACSharon, Pa.
Methuen, Mass.
Olathe, Kans.

646th Bombardment Squadron (L)

ALDEN C CLARK
Theodore B Pelletier
Byron R Sample0802669
11116372
130643651ST LT
S/Sgt
S/SgtAC
AC
ACDuguesne, Pa.
Webster, Mass.
Providence, R.I.

SECRET

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

GO 43, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (H), 19 Dec 1944.

547th Bombardment Squadron (L)

William G Pysden	39283655	S/Sgt	AC	Anaheim, Calif.
Harry D Squibb, Jr	33502814	S/Sgt	AC	Carlisle, Pa.

d. GO 156, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 4 June 1944.

644th Bombardment Squadron (L)

JOHN A RATHS	0803685	1ST LT	AC	Minneapolis, Minn.
Joseph A Fisher	16147847	S/Sgt	AC	Chicago, Ill.

646th Bombardment Squadron (L)

LeRoy C Eglinton	32743181	S/Sgt	AC	Albany, N.Y.
------------------	----------	-------	----	--------------

SECTION V

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the Air Medal awarded in General Order 117, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 28 April 1944, Colonel THEODORE R AYLESWORTH, 022629, Headquarters, 416th Bombardment Group (L), is awarded the FOURTH BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bull. 25, WD 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-A, (Bull. 49, WD 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theater of Operations, COLONEL AYLESWORTH having completed the required number of operational sorties against the enemy. Entered military service from Mansfield, Penna.

By command of Major General ANDERSON:

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

OFFICIAL:

C. C. Vega, Jr.
C. C. VEGA, JR.,
Lt Col, Air Corps,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION "A" PLUS

- 1 cy : Director of Bureau of Public Relations.
- 2 cys : 31st MRU.
- 1 cy : 91st MRU.
- 1 cy : 93rd MRU.
- 3 cys : TAG, Attn: Awards and Decorations Branch
Washington, D.C.
- 2 cys : Awards and Decorations; AG Military Personnel
Division, Hq, ETOUSA.
- 5 cys : Hq, Ninth Air Force.
- 3 cys : Hq, Ninth Air Force, Attn: A-1.
- 2 cys : Historical Section, Ninth Air Force.
- 2 cys : Hq, USSTAF, Director of Personnel.

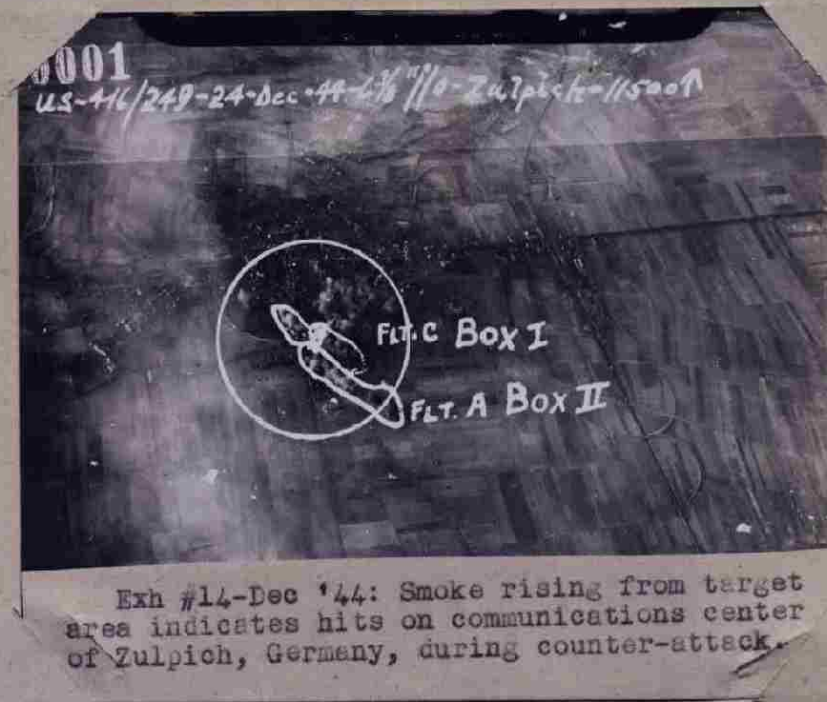
RESTRICTED

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

Missing Exhibit # 15 – December, 1944

SECRET



SECRET

EXH #17-Dec. '44

SECRET

9th Air Force No. P-340
9 January 1945.NINTH FLIES 328,105 SORTIES D ROPS
217,000 TONS BOMBS DURING 1944.

NINTH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, JAN. 9.-In its first full year of operations as a tactical weapon, the U.S. Ninth Air Force in 1944 cooperated with Allied ground troops by dropping more than 217,028 tons of bombs in 328,105 sorties flown against the enemy.

In combat from England to Normandy to the German border, Ninth fighter-bombers loosed 126,618 tons of bombs, while medium and light bombers dropped 90,410 tons of explosives on enemy targets of almost every description.

Flying from England with a limited number of B-26 Marauders and P-51 Mustangs in the first months of 1944, the Ninth by mid-year was a fully developed exponent of tactical airpower. It caught its "second wind" on the wing, adding strength and experience to the resources it tapped in the great tactical air assaults which helped clear the path for invasion and the Allied sweep through France.

The Ninth's initial year on the Western Front ended approximately when its planes and pilots perforated the Belgium bulge with all-out assaults which came with clearing skies during the Christmas season.

During the year, Ninth Air Force pilots destroyed 1,752 enemy aircraft in the air, probably destroyed 257 and damaged 817. On the ground, 470 German planes were destroyed, 67 probably destroyed and 236 damaged.

A total of 1,455 Ninth Air Force fighter-bombers and 288 light and medium bombers were lost during the year—1,743 aircraft of all types.

Carrying out another of tactical airpower's "priority" objectives, the Ninth struck enemy communications and supply lines in its program to isolate Europe's battlefields from the source of German reserves. Fighter-bombers knocked out 2,397 locomotives and destroyed 10,906 railroad cars in post D-Day assaults. P-47 Thunderbolts, P-51 Mustangs and P-58 Lightnings also disabled or damaged 840 bridges to add to the total knocked out prior to June 6.

The fighter-bomber toll included 1,481 rail-cuts from D-day through December 31; 175 ammunition and fuel dumps destroyed, 99 damaged and 45 probably destroyed during the year. Since October 16, 1944, 13,246 tons of bombs were dropped on enemy rail yards.

Linked with the Ninth's continuous assaults on German behind-the-lines facilities were those aimed at the enemy's motor transport equipment. During the year, the Ninth's fighter-bombers destroyed more than 21,000 vehicles of all types, including tanks and track-propelled armor. Many thousands of similar vehicles were probably destroyed or damaged. An additional 2,872 horse-drawn vehicles were des-

SECRET

destroyed, 90 probably destroyed and 226 damaged by fighter or-bombers.

In other missions flown hand-in-glove with ground troops of three American armies, fighter-bombers silenced 1,625 gun positions, probably silenced 240 and damaged 555. A total of 1,997 enemy held buildings were destroyed, 169 probably destroyed and 781 damaged.

The Ninth moved to England from the Middle East late in 1943, but its presence there was not announced by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower until February 17 of 1944. Within the next 100 days, size of the Ninth's operational elements was increased 1,000 per cent to make it the world's largest tactical air force.

Maj. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, the Ninth's present commanding general, assumed command in August of 1944, succeeding Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton who now commands the First Allied Airborne Army.

During April and May, the Ninth Air Force took on its first "big" job in the ETO, joining with the Eighth Air Force to soften up the continent for invasion. Railroads in France, the Lowlands and Germany were pounded. In the two weeks ending D-Day, 176 locomotives were knocked out and 16 enemy rail yards heavily attacked. From May 1 to D-Day, the Ninth's fighter-bombers and bombers flew 35,000 sorties—more than 1,000 per day—and in the five weeks before June 6, 35 separate assaults were made on Luftwaffe airfields.

Where there had been 15 important highway and nine railroad bridges crossing the Seine from Paris to the sea, there were none that could be used by the enemy by June 6. In addition, the Ninth hit pilotless launching platforms and coastal guns on the Channel coast.

The Ninth Air Force operated on a 24-hour schedule on D-Day, sending its men-filled and equipment-laden C-47's in a 200 mile skytrain from England to Normandy (Troop Carrier Command no longer is under the Ninth). Bombers took final cracks at coastal guns and at other ground installations, while fighter-bombers patrolled the area to guard against interference by the Luftwaffe.

Another 1944 high-point for the Ninth was the part it played with the Eighth Air Force when, on July 25, 3,700 tons of bombs were dropped in an area 4 miles by 1 1/2 miles about St. Lo. The First Army moved eight miles in the next 12 hours in the historic "St. Lo break-through" which saw Paris liberated one month later. Taking advantage of every break in the weather, the Ninth gave the Germans no rest. On August 17, Thunderbolts, Lightnings, and Marauders left more than 1,000 enemy vehicles knocked out.

With the enemy entrenched along the Siegfried Line, the Ninth for the rest of the year cooperated with ground troops in destroying targets up and down the front.

For seven days after Von Rundstedt launched his counter-offensive on December 16, airmen of the Ninth waited impatiently for the break in the weather which finally came on December 23. During the 12 favorable flying days since that time, the Ninth Air Force has launched more than 15,000 sorties, shooting down almost 500 enemy planes and disabling more than 1,000 tanks and armored vehicles and nearly 5,000 freight cars. In addition, German communications and supply lines have been smoldered by heavy assaults from the air.

To accomplish its mission in 1944, the Ninth Air Force added two newcomers to its mechanical veterans—the B-26 Marauder, A-20 Havoc, P-47 Thunderbolt, P-51 Mustang, and P-38 Lightning. The P-51 Black Widow night fighter began prowling the darkness, and the A-26 Invader made its first appearance with the Ninth Bombardment Division. This fast, heavily-armed medium bomber is pointed to the new year as one of the deadliest of the AAF's combat airplanes.