THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

RESTRICTED

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

Exh #1 - Jan '45

APO 696, U S ARMY
24 January 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER.....15)

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 man are awarded the SILVER STAR Decoration:

THOMAS B. HALL, O-19010, Colonel, Air Corps, Headquarters, 394th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations on 26 August 1944. On this date Col HALL led a formation of B-26 type aircraft in an attack on German troop concentrations along the banks of the Seine River. At the beginning of the attack the formation was subjected to intense, accurate enemy antiaircraft fire, which was concentrated on the formation led by Col HALL. Although heavy haze, dense battle smoke and intense enemy opposition greatly complicated bombing conditions, Col HALL gallantly led his formation through a barrage of enemy gun fire and his target was bombed with devastating effect. Col HALL's gallant and courageous leadership, and utter disregard of personal danger on this occasion, are symbolic of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New Mexico.

JOE M. WHITFIELD, O-793211, Lt Colonel (then Major), Air Corps, 387th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while serving as pilot of a B-26 type aircraft participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 11 April 1944. Lt Col WHITFIELD led the group in an attack on flying bomb installations in the Pas de Calais area when his aircraft sustained severe damage from the enemy gun fire. The concussive force of the burst painfully wounded the engineer-gunner and violently threw the nose of the plane upwards. Despite great dangers Lt Col WHITFIELD skillfully kept his aircraft on course and gallantly led the group over the target where direct hits were scored. Because his navigator was suffering from shock, Lt Col WHITFIELD navigated for himself and with excellent judgment, led the group away from the heavily defended area without further damage or injury to the formation. The gallant actions and determination demonstrated by Lt Col WHITFIELD on this date, reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Louisiana.

SECRET

RESTRICTED

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Par 1, Sec I, GO No 15, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 24 Jan 1945, cont'd.

THOMAS B. COX, O-669008, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 394th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action on 3 November 1944. While serving as navigator of a B-26 type aircraft participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations, Lt COX displayed outstanding courage when he was painfully wounded by enemy antiaircraft fire just prior to the beginning of the attack. He refused to make known his wound and although suffering intense pain, Lt COX remained at his duties throughout the entire bomb run. His courage and deep devotion to duty insured the successful completion of the mission and enabled the formation to avoid serious damage. The gallant actions displayed by Lt COX in the face of great personal suffering reflect the highest credit upon himself and is an inspiring example to all Servicemen. Entered military service from Texas.

NICK J. MUSTARI, O-684388, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 386th Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 16 August 1944. Participating in a ground support attack on an enemy installation on this date, Lt MUSTARI's aircraft was damaged by antiaircraft fire enroute to the target, which set fire to one of the engines. Flames enveloped the wing and shot forward from the radio compartment to the pilot's compartment, inflicting severe burns. Despite the pain of his wound and the danger of the fire, Lt MUSTARI disregarding personal safety left the formation, skillfully avoiding collision with the other aircraft. He maintained the control of the burning aircraft until the crew members had parachuted from the aircraft, and it was only then that Lt MUSTARI left his post to bail out. Lt MUSTARI's valiant attempts to control his plane and his gallant actions on this occasion brings high honor to himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Illinois.

PHILIP G. SIMKINS, O-813964, 2nd Lieutenant, Air Corps, 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 territory on 12 October 1944. On this date Lt SIMKINS led an attack on enemy troop concentrations. When upon entering the bomb run he realized the formation leader had lost his course. His flight held their bombs and followed Lt SIMKINS over the correct target and achieved excellent results. The gallantry and determination displayed by Lt SIMKINS is exemplary of the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Lt SIMKINS is missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Philip G. Simkins (Wife), Portland, Oregon.

WARREN T. WARDENSKY, O-680343, 2nd Lieutenant, Air Corps, 391st Bombardment Group (M). For gallantry in action while participating in aerial combat against the enemy as co-pilot of a B-26 type aircraft on 25 May 1944. In an attack on the Liege Railroad Bridge, this date, Lt WARDENSKY was painfully injured during the bomb run. Refusing medical attention at this crucial moment he remained at his controls and completed the bombing attack with devastating effect. Only after his aircraft was clear of the target did Lt WARDENSKY accept first aid. His gallant spirit and steadfast determination was instrumental in the success of the mission. Lt WARDENSKY's great courage and unselfish devotion to duty in the face of great pain and danger are in keeping with the best traditions of the military service of the United States. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

craft opposition during the bomb run and one fragment went through the tunnel gunner's compartment. S/Sgt KISHLO demonstrated outstanding courage and fearless devotion to duty by remaining in this unprotected position as he watched for the bombs to be released. S/Sgt KISHLO noticed a bomb jammed on the bomb bay doors, and he quickly relayed the information to the pilot and enabled him to release the bomb in the target area, which destroyed an oil storage tank adjoining the target. His cool and confident actions on this occasion contributed in large measure to the success of the mission. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

HARRY D. SQUIBB, JR, 33502814, Staff Sergeant, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For heroic and extraordinary achievement while serving as armorer gunner of an A-20 type aircraft on 29 September 1944. Enemy antiaircraft fire inflicted severe damage to S/Sgt SQUIBB's aircraft during the bombing run, and shortly thereafter the empennage of the aircraft suffered a crippling blast rendering it unstable. S/Sgt SQUIBB fully cognizant of the danger of the entire empennage tearing loose from the aircraft, removed his parachute harness and, entering the tunnel hatch, installed himself into the rearmost section of the fuselage. S/Sgt SQUIBB demonstrated a sacrificial singleness of purpose as he remained in the fuselage enabling the pilot to regain control of the plane and remain in level flight. S/Sgt SQUIBB was instrumental in the safe return of both aircraft and flying personnel. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

HUGH A. MONROE, O-749489, Captain, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations from March to December 1944. Serving as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft, Capt MONROE repeatedly contributed to the successful operations of his group in a large number of perilous combat missions. Despite adverse weather conditions, violent opposition and severe battle damage encountered throughout the course of these missions, Capt MONROE consistently exhibited outstanding aerial proficiency. The professional skill, devotion to duty, unusual leadership and outstanding pilotage demonstrated by Capt MONROE reflect the highest credit on himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

MAXWELL W. ROMAN, O-421887, Lt Colonel, Air Corps, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Prov). For extraordinary achievement as pilot of a P-51 type aircraft dispatched on a weather reconnaissance mission on 21 July 1944. When the safety of his wingman was endangered by icy turbulent weather conditions, Lt Colonel ROMAN ordered him to turn back and continued on alone, fully aware that he would be subjected to both ground and air attack. He encountered heavy, accurate fire from enemy gun emplacements but continued notation of weather data while carrying on violent evasive action. As a result of Lt Colonel ROMAN's information, successful fighter missions were dispatched to desired target areas. By courageously continuing his mission despite adverse weather conditions and enemy antiaircraft fire, Lt Colonel ROMAN was instrumental in contributing to the aerial offensive against the enemy. Entered military service from Maryland.

SECTION III

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS awarded him by the War Department, a BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Par 1, Sec III, GO No 15, Hq, Ninth Air Force. 24 Jan 1945, Cont'd.

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:

WARNER H. HUTCHINSON, O-440540, Major, Air Corps, 394th Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement on 26 August 1944. Assigned the responsibility of leading his group against heavy concentrations of enemy troops attempting a large scale withdrawal across the Seine, Major HUTCHINSON was confronted with adverse weather conditions and intense accurate enemy antiaircraft fire which made precision bombing extremely difficult. Despite these distracting dangers, Major HUTCHINSON skillfully located the target and enabled the formation to drop its bombs with destructive force. His courageous and brilliant leadership resulted in the extensive destruction of enemy equipment. The marked aerial proficiency and unfaltering devotion to duty displayed by Major HUTCHINSON in the face of extreme danger, reflect the highest credit both to himself and to the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Illinois.

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