

SECRETHEADQUARTERS
STATION A-55

Exh #1-Feb '45

AUTH: CO, Sta A-55
DATE: 7 Feb 45
INIT:

FIELD ORDER)

NO. 2)

APO 140, U S Army
7 February 1945, 1200

Maps: Strip Maps attached as Annexes "A" and "B".

1. a. (1) It is not anticipated that enemy ground activity will proceed in the direction of the area of movement. Enemy infiltration units may still be at large.
- (2) Enemy air forces are capable of strafing or bombing convoy and train. Intruder action should be anticipated.
- b. (1) The area of the movement is more than 100 miles west of friendly troop lines which hold offensive advantage.
- (2) Local air superiority is maintained but does not provide absolute protection against air attack.
2. a. Units and advanced echelons of Station A-55 will move by train and motor convoy to Station A-69 on 9 and 10 February 1945.
- b. The motor convoy will depart at 0100 hours, 10 February 1945, and the train will depart 1800 hours, 9 February 1945.
- c. Authority for the movement is contained in Movement Order No. 10, Headquarters, 9th Bombardment Division (M), dated 2 February 1945.
3. a. The following units will move with the number of personnel listed below and mode of travel will be as indicated:

	No of Personnel (Motor Movement)	No of Personnel (Train Movement)
1297th MP Co (AVN)	13	13
199th Med Disp (AVN)	16 (Entire Unit)	
668th Bomb Sq (L)	54	162
670th Bomb Sq (L)	47	132
Hq, 416th Bomb Gp (L)	9	17
1179th QM Co	14	0
484th Air Service Sq	108	0
Hq, 4th Service Gp	7	0

- b. Road route for motor convoy will be as indicated in Annex "A".
- x. Convoy and Train Commanders will report to the Detachment Commander at Station A-69 immediately upon arrival.
4. See Administrative Order No. 1.
5. Communications will be in accordance with current directives and Signal Operating Instructions.

- 1 -

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FO #2, Hq, STA A-55, dtd 7 Feb 45, cont'd.

By order of Colonel AXLESWORTH:

OFFICIAL:

LOUIS A. BRITTEN,
Major, Air Corps,
Executive.

Harold A. Radetsky
HAROLD A. RADETSKY,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
S-3.

ANNEXES:

- "A" (Strip Map of Route)
- "B" (Strip Map of Field)
- Administrative Order No. 1.

DISTRIBUTION:

Two (2) cys ea orgn listed in
Par 3a.

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 HEADQUARTERS
 STATION A-55

DATE: 12 Feb
 INIT: 1200

FIELD ORDER)

NO. 3)

APO 140, U. S. Army,
 12 February 1945.
 1200 hours

Maps: Strip Maps attached as Annexes "A" and "B".

1. a. (1) It is not anticipated that enemy ground activity will proceed in the direction of the area of movement. Enemy infiltration units may still be at large.
- (2) Enemy air forces are capable of strafing or bombing convoy and train. Intruder action should be anticipated.
- b. (1) The area of the movement is more than 100 miles west of friendly troop lines which hold offensive advantage.
- (2) Local air superiority is maintained but does not provide absolute protection against air attack.
2. a. Units and rear echelons of Station A-55 will move by train and motor convoy to Station A-69 on 14 and 15 February 1945.
- b. The motor convoys will depart at 0100 hours, 15 February 1945, and the train will depart 1800 hours, 14 February 1945.
- c. Authority for the movement is contained in Movement Order No. 10, Headquarters, 9th Bombardment Division (M), dated 2 February 1945.
3. a. The following units will move with the number of personnel listed below and mode of travel will be as indicated:

	No of Personnel (Motor Movement)	No of Personnel (Train Movement)
1297th MP Co (AVN)	4	21
79th Sta Comp Sq (SP)	20	0
669th Bomb Sq (L)	71	152
671st Bomb Sq (L)	70	162
Hq, 416th Bomb Gp (L)	18	19
1179th QM Co	16	0
484th Air Service Sq	125	0
868th Chemical Co (AO)		0
(less dets)	37	0
1781st Ordnance Co	39	0
Det "A", 46th Mobile R&R Sq	67	0
Det "B", 1112th Signal Co	32	0

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EO #3, Hq, STA A-55, dtd 12 Feb 45, cont'd.

- b. Road route for motor convoy will be as indicated in Annex "A".
- x. Convoy and Train Commanders will report to the Base Commander at Station A-69 immediately upon arrival.
- 4. See Administrative Order No. 2.
- 5. Communications will be in accordance with current directives and signal operating instructions.

By order of Colonel AYLESWORTH:

OFFICIAL:

WILLIAM J. MENG,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
Executive.

Harold A. Radetsky
HAROLD A. RADETSKY,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
S-3.

ANNEXES:

- "A" (Strip Map of Route)
- "B" (Strip Map of Field)
- Administrative Order No. 2.

DISTRIBUTION:

Two (2) cys ea orgn listed in
Par 3a.

- 2 -

SECRET

S E C R E TH E A D Q U A R T E R S
STATION A-55APO 140, U S Army,
7 February 1945, 1200 hours

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 1 to accompany Field Order No. 2.

Maps.

1. SUPPLY.

- a. Railheads will be open for loading of equipment at 0800 hours 7 February 1945, at Melun, Seine et Marne, France. Loading will be completed by 1200 hours, 9 February 1945.
- b. Each individual will be issued one (1) "K" ration for consumption enroute.
- c. All vehicles will carry full complement of filled jerricans as specified by existing directives.
- d. (1) Organizational bivouac and mess equipment will be transported by unit vehicles.
(2) Vehicles may be refueled upon arrival at destination as indicated on Annex "B" to Field Order.
- e. Each individual will be issued one (1) unit of ammunition for individual weapons prior to departure.
- f. Full canteens of water will be carried by each individual.

2. Evacuation.

- a. Casualties aboard train will be reported to the Flight Surgeon immediately upon arrival at destination.
- b. Any casualties in Motor Convoy will be immediately reported to the Convoy Surgeon.

3. Traffic.

a. Circulation.

- (1) Route will be as indicated in Annex "A" to Field Order.
- (2) Rate of march will be 15 miles per hour.
- (3) Details of Convoy:
 - (a) A convoy composed of unit vehicles of Team "A", 4th Service Group will be formed and dispatched by the Service Team Commander at 1300 hours, 9 February 1945, through Gate No. 3.
 - (b) A convoy composed of the unit vehicles of the 670th Bomb Sq (L) and Hq, 416th Bomb Gp (L), will form in the 670th Sq Area and be dispatched by the Convoy Commander at 0100 hours, 10 February 1945, through Gate No. 3.
 - (c) A convoy composed of the unit vehicles of the 668th Bomb Sq (L), 199th Med Disp (AVN), and the 1297th MP Company will form in the 668th Sq Area and be dispatched by the Convoy Commander at 0200 hours, 10 February 1945, through Gate No. 3.

- 1 -

S E C R E T

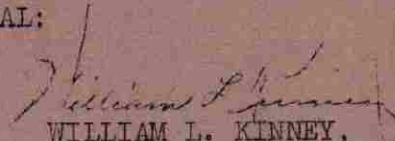
S E C R E TADM O No. 1, dtd 7 Feb 45, Hq Sta A-55, cont'd.

- (d) Each convoy will consist of three Serials. Convoy Commanders will designate serial commanders for each serial.
 - (e) Military Police of the 1297th Military Police Company (AVN) will furnish escort from assembly point to Highway N-36.
 - (f) Distance between vehicles in serial will be sixty (60) yards. Distance between serials will be three hundred (300) yards.
4. Personnel.
- a. Uniform will be Class "B" (overcoat, gas mask, steel helmet complete and small arm). If arctics are worn they will substitute for leggings.
 - b. Duffel bags will be packed with blankets on top. Duffel bags will accompany individuals regardless of mode of travel.
 - c. Field bags will be carried by each individual. Carrying straps will be used.
5. Miscellaneous.
- a. All 9th Bombardment Division (M) Units will comply with Section IV, Ninth Air Force Memorandum 55-2, as amended, prior to departure from Station A-55.
 - b. All 9th Bombardment Division (M) units will comply with Section V, Ninth Air Force Memorandum 55-2 immediately upon arrival at Station A-69.

By order of Colonel AYLESWORTH:

LOUIS A. BRITTEN,
Major, Air Corps,
Executive.

OFFICIAL:


WILLIAM L. KINNEY,
Captain, Air Corps,
S-4.

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S E C R E T

SECRETHEADQUARTERS
STATION A-55APO 140, U. S. Army,
12 February 1945, 1200

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2 to accompany Field Order No. 3.

Maps.

1. SUPPLY.

- a. Railheads will be open for loading of equipment at 0800 hours 11 February 1945, at Melun, Seine et Marne, France. Loading will be completed by 1200 hours, 14 February 1945.
- b. Each individual will be issued one (1) "K" ration for consumption enroute.
- c. All vehicles will carry full complement of filled jerricans as specified by existing directives.
- d. (1) Organizational bivouac and mess equipment will be transported by unit vehicles.
(2) Vehicles may be refueled upon arrival at destination as indicated on Annex "B" to Field Order.
- e. Each individual will be issued one (1) unit of ammunition for individual weapons prior to departure.
- f. Full canteens of water will be carried by each individual.

2. Evacuation.

- a. Casualties aboard train will be reported to the Flight Surgeon immediately upon arrival at destination.
- b. Any casualties in Motor Convoy will be immediately reported to the Convoy Surgeon.

3. Traffic.

a. Circulation.

- (1) Route will be as indicated in Annex "A" to Field Order.
- (2) Rate of march will be 15 miles per hour.
- (3) Details of Convoy:

- (a) A convoy composed of unit vehicles of Team "A", 4th Service Group will be formed and dispatched by the Service Team Commander at 1100 hours, 14 February 1945, through Gate No. 3.
- (b) A convoy composed of the unit vehicles of the 671st Bomb Sq (L) and Hq, 416th Bomb Gp (L), will form in the 671st Sq Area and be dispatched by the Convoy Commander at 0100 hours, 15 February 1945, through Gate No. 3.
- (c) A convoy composed of the unit vehicles of the 669th Bomb Sq (L), and the 1297th MP Company will form in the 669th Sq Area and be dispatched by the Convoy Commander at 0200 hours, 15 February 1945, through Gate No. 3.

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S E C R E T

ADM O No. 2, dtd 12 Feb 45, Hq Sta A-55, cont'd.

- (d) Each convoy, with exception of Team "A", 4th Service Group, will consist of three Serials. Convoy Commanders will designate serial commanders for each serial.
 - (e) Military Police of the 1297th Military Police Company (AVN) will furnish escort from assembly point to Highway N-36.
 - (f) Distance between vehicles in serial will be sixty (60) yards. Distance between serials will be three hundred (300) yards.
4. Personnel.
- a. Uniform will be Class "B" (overcoat, gas mask, steel helmet complete and small arm). If arctics are worn they will substitute for leggings.
 - b. Duffel bags will be packed with blankets on top. Duffel bags will accompany individuals regardless of mode of travel.
 - c. Field bags will be carried by each individual. Carrying straps will be used.
 - d. Personnel traveling by train will be completely entrained by 1745 hours, 14 February 1945.
5. Miscellaneous.
- a. All 9th Bombardment Division (M) Units will comply with Section IV, Ninth Air Force Memorandum 55-2, as amended, prior to departure from Station A-55.
 - b. All 9th Bombardment Division (M) units will comply with Section V, Ninth Air Force Memorandum 55-2 immediately upon arrival at Station A-69.

By order of Colonel AYLESWORTH:

WILLIAM J. MENG,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
Executive.

OFFICIAL:

William L. Kinney
WILLIAM L. KINNEY,
Captain, Air Corps,
S-4.

SECRET

Exh #2-Feb '45

HEADQUARTERS
416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

SECRET
 : AUTH: CO Sta A55
 : DATE: 12 Feb 45
 : INIT: 123
 : :

GENERAL ORDERS)
 :
 NUMBER 2)

APC 140, U. S. Army,
 12 February 1945.

1. Announcement is made of the closing of Headquarters, 416th Bombardment Group (L), located at Melun, France, effective 2400 hours this date.

2. Announcement is made of the opening of Headquarters, 416th Bombardment Group (L), located at Laon/Athies, France, effective 0001 hours, 13 February 1945.

By order of Colonel AYLESWORTH:

OFFICIAL:

George Schenkein
 GEORGE SCHENKEIN,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Adjutant.

GEORGE SCHENKEIN,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Adjutant.

DISTRIBUTION: "B"

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HEADQUARTERS
Station A-69

3/11/4

APC 140, U.S. Army,
13 February 1945.

Exh #2A-45-Feb
GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER 1)

Under the provisions of Change 1, Paragraph 4, AR 600-20, the
undersigned hereby assumes command of Station A-69, APC # 140, U. S. Army.

Theodore R. Aylesworth
THEODORE R. AYLESWORTH,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)

R2-M-1

Exh #3-Feb '45
333.

AFG 140, U. S. Army,
16 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Report of Evacuation of Station A-55.

TO : Commanding General, 9th Bombardment Division (M), APO 140, U. S. Army.
(Through: Commanding Officer, 416th Bomb Group (L), APO 140, U. S. Army.)

1. Station A-55, which is commanded by Colonel Theodore R. Aylesworth, Air Corps, was inspected on 14 February 1945 pursuant to Ninth Air Force Memorandum 55-2, dated 6 November 1944, prior to the departure of the Holding Party of the 416th Bombardment Group (L). The inspection was conducted by Edwin L. Means, Major, Air Corps, a representative of the Inspector General's Department, 9th Bombardment Division (M), who was accompanied by Major Jackson L. Marks of the 416th Bombardment Group (L), and Major R. C. Jarecki and Captain L. M. Jarcho, representatives of the Commanding Officer of the 436th Troop Carrier Group which is now occupying the field.

2. Results of the inspection indicate that except for minor discrepancies noted below, this station was left in an excellent condition. Colonel A. N. Williams, Commanding Officer of the 436th Troop Carrier Group, expressed his complete satisfaction with the condition in which he found the station.

3. The following minor discrepancies, as noted, were agreed to be corrected by the 416th Bombardment Group (L) representative prior to departure:

a. One latrine and one garbage pit were not properly closed in the area occupied by the 1781st Ordnance Supply & Maintenance Company.

b. Two mess areas were in need of lime.

c. Two trash piles were not removed.

4. All Government property had been removed prior to departure.

EDWARD R. STRAIN, JR.,
Lt. Colonel, I.G.D.,
Inspector General.

REVIEWED:

WILLIAM R. GROES,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Air Inspector

THIS IS A TRUE COPY:

Frank M. Hoppe
FRANK M. HOPPE,
1st Lt., A. C.,
Group Historical Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS
116TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

C-S-4

APO MAC, U. S. Army
26 February 1945Exh #4-Feb '45
200.3 x 41

SUBJECT: Transfer of Officers.

TO : See Distribution

1. LT COL DAVIE L. WILLETTS, O 431 583 (1022) AC, is reld fr asgmt with 671st Bomb Sq (L), and is asgd this Headquarters. EDMRC 26 Feb 45
2. MAJ COLLINS H. FERRIS, O 411 820 (1022) AC, is reld fr asgmt with this Headquarters, and is asgd 670th Bomb Sq (L). EDMRC 26 Feb 45
3. MAJ LLOYD F. DUNN, O 724 399 (1022) AC, is reld fr asgmt with 670th Bomb Sq (L), and is asgd 671st Bomb Sq (L). EDMRC 26 Feb 45

By order of Colonel AMESWORTH,

/s/ George Schenkeln,
/t/ GEORGE SCHENKELN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

THIS IS A TRUE COPY:

Frank M. Hoppe
FRANK M. HOPPE,
1st Lt., A. C.,
Group Historical Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)

C/GM/4

Exh #5-Feb '45

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 26)

APO 140, U S Army,
22 February 1945.

- SECTION I : AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL
 SECTION II : AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
 SECTION III : AWARD OF THE BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER
 TO THE PURPLE HEART
 SECTION IV : AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART
 SECTION V : AMENDMENT TO GENERAL ORDERS

SECTION I

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, (Bull. 8, WD 1926), and in accordance with authority contained in Hq European T of Opns Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, a SOLDIER'S MEDAL is awarded to the following named officer and enlisted men:

a. For heroism, 18 December 1944, to the below-named officer and enlisted man. During a combat mission over Germany, a 250-pound bomb failed to release on the target as the result of a faulty mechanism. Displaying unusual coolness and courage in this critical emergency, these individuals entered the bomb bay where they discovered the dangerous, fully-armed bomb on the half-open bomb bay doors. With great skill and ingenuity, despite the cramped quarters and bitter cold, they succeeded in replacing the bomb on its shackles and securing the pins in the fuses. Their heroic efforts made it possible for the aircraft to land safely upon returning to base.

386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
555th Bombardment Squadron (M)

MAUCIE S MILLER, JR
 Rex W Kates

0-722569
 38468542

2ND LT
 Sgt

AC
 AC

Louisville, Ky.
 Picher, Okla.

b. Oliver I LeRoy, 34352592, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Prov). For heroism in France on 7 January 1945. While Staff Sergeant LeRoy (then Private First Class) was pre-fighting his aircraft, another aircraft, with both engines running, slid across the icy runway and the noses of the two airplanes collided. With outstanding presence of mind and alertness, Staff Sergeant LeRoy quickly cut the engine of this own aircraft, leaped to the ground, and rushed to the other aircraft which was spouting oil from a severed oil line. Despite the imminent danger of fire and explosion, he climbed on the oil-soaked wing of the run-way aircraft and cut the mixture control. The prompt and courageous actions of Staff Sergeant LeRoy averted an almost certain explosion. Entered military service from Ft McPherson, Ga.

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R E S T R I C T E D

Seot I, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 February 1945.

c. For heroism in France, 5 October 1944, to Thomas W McFall, 13012835, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 558th Bombardment Squadron (M), 387th Bombardment Group (M). When the bomb-laden aircraft in which he was flying as engineer gunner crashed shortly after take-off, Staff Sergeant McFall, although painfully injured, courageously remained at the wreckage and dragged four injured crew members to safety. This intrepid act was performed despite the imminent danger of fire and bomb detonation. Staff Sergeant McFall's decisive act, in the face of pain and danger, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

d. Felix S Wysowski, 13116601, Private First Class, Air Corps, 644th Bombardment Squadron (L), 410th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism in France on 3 November 1944. During a combat mission over Germany, the aircraft in which Private First Class Wysowski was flying as turret gunner was crippled by anti-aircraft fire and the fuel tanks were riddled with flak. Shortly afterward, upon orders from the pilot, the crew parachuted to safety from the damaged airplane. Upon landing, Private First Class Wysowski, observing that the pilot was attempting to make an emergency landing, displayed outstanding initiative and resourcefulness by spreading out his parachute as a marker for the pilot. As a result of Private First Class Wysowski's quick-thinking and ingenuity, the pilot successfully landed the crippled aircraft before the gasoline supply was exhausted. Entered military service from Wilkes Barre, Pa.

SECTION II

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9419, 4 February 1944 (Sec II, Bull 3, WD 1944), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, and contained in Circular # 56, Hq, European T of Opns, dated 27 May 1944, a BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to the following named officer:

322ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

ROBERT G LOOMIS, O-1995929, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations.

SECTION III

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Sec I, Circular 32, Hq, European T of Opns, 20 March 1944, a BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to wear with the Purple Heart, the following named officer having been awarded the Purple Heart per General Orders indicated by sub-paragraph:

a. GO 149, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 8 August 1944.

416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

LEO E POUNDSTONE, O-749491, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 16 January 1945, while serving as pilot on an A-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Bement, Ill.

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R E S T R I C T E D

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Sect. IV, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

SECTION IV

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq, European T of Opns, 20 March 1944, the PURPLE HEART is awarded to the following named individuals:

323RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
453rd Bombardment Squadron (M)

a. Andrew J Chochol, 35065506, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as aerial gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Lorain, Ohio.

454th Bombardment Squadron (M)

b. BENEDICT F SYSLO, O-570471, Captain, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 27 September 1944, while serving as bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Columbus, Nebraska.

c. Haley C Bierman, Jr., 34820543, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 14 February 1945, while serving as aerial gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Albany, Georgia.

455th Bombardment Squadron (M)

d. Herbert J Moore, 36811528, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 31 January 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Ogdensburg, Wisc.

344TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
495th Bombardment Squadron (M)

e. W. X. CARTER, O-711584, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Lexington, Okla.

f. Cornelius Vanderlugt, 36460204, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as armoror gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service

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R E S T R I C T E D

Sect IV, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

from Grand Rapids, Mich.

386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
552nd Bombardment Squadron (M)

g. JACK GREENWOOD, O-713410, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 21 January 1945, while serving as co-pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Shreveport, La.

h. William Turner, 38444213, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as radio operator on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Eupora, Miss.

i. Ollen H Polloy, 38363446, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Austin, Texas.

j. Roy M Wildey, 12167984, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as radio operator on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Rochester, N. Y.

387TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
557th Bombardment Squadron (M)

k. John E Corbin, 13048297, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as tail gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Brookville, Pa.

559th Bombardment Squadron (M)

l. CHARLES A SWANSON, O-720605, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 9 February 1945, while serving as co-pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Gowrie, Iowa.

391ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
572nd Bombardment Squadron (M)

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R E S T R I C T E D

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Sect IV, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

m. Robert A Powell, 39463250, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Spokane, Wash.

n. Virgil W Ritchie, 36809806, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Cumberland, Wisc.

394TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
584th Bombardment Squadron (M)

o. Robert F Russell, 31283601, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 14 February 1945, while serving as tail gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Houlton, Maine.

585th Bombardment Squadron (M)

p. BENJAMIN W AVERA, JR., T-5638, Flight Officer, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 14 February 1945, while serving as bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Los Angeles, Calif.

587th Bombardment Squadron (M)

q. Joseph E Bartell, 33510817, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 14 January 1945, while serving as tail gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Harrisburg, Pa.

397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
597th Bombardment Squadron (M)

r. PORTER C BRANCH, O-759889, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 3 February 1945, while serving as bombardier-navigator on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Princeton, Ind.

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R E S T R I C T E D

Sect IV, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

598th Bombardment Squadron (M)

s. Henry M Finger, 18232365, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received as a result of enemy action on 13 January 1945, while serving as radio gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Hondo, Texas.

t. THEODORE W BEAN, O-808502, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received as a result of enemy action on 6 July 1944, while serving as pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Orenna, Ill.

410TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
644th Bombardment Squadron (M)

u. GORDON G JONES, O-750281, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 23 January 1945, while serving as bombardier-navigator on an A-20 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Baltimore, Md.

SECTION V

1. So much of paragraph 1, Sect III, GO 46, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 December 1944, as awards the Air Medal to S/Sgt Ralph D Tobias, 15061214, is amended to read FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the Air Medal.

2. So much of paragraph 1, Sect VI, GO 19, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 5 Feb 1945, as awards the Air Medal to S/Sgt Willard H George, 37135315, is amended to read FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the Air Medal.

3. So much of paragraph 2 e, Sect I, GO 103, Hq, IX Bomber Command, dated 13 June 1944, as awards the third Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1ST LT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

4. So much of paragraph 2 o, Sect I, GO 120, Hq, IX Bomber Command, dated 6 July 1944, as awards the fourth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1ST LT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

5. So much of paragraph 1, Sect I, GO 158, Hq, IX Bomber Command, dated 18 August 1944, as awards the Air Medal to 1ST LT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

6. So much of paragraph 2 c, GO 179, Hq, IX Bomber Command, dated 11 September 1944, as awards the first Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1ST LT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

7. So much of paragraph 2 f, Sect II, GO 31, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M) dated 17 Nov 1944, as awards the second Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to CAPT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

SECRET

RESTRICTED

Sect V, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

8. So much of paragraph 1c, Sect IV, GO 21, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 February 1945, as awards the Purple Heart to Major Howard L Burris, O-471478, is amended to read BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the PURPLE HEART to Major Howard L Burris, O-24862.

9. So much of paragraph 1, Sect II, GO 27, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 10 November 1944, as awards the Air Medal to S/Sgt James C Spake, 34607094 is amended to read FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.

10. So much of paragraph 1, Sect II, GO 27, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 10 November 1944, as awards the Air Medal to Sgt Wilbur A Skroh, 37505524 is amended to read FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.

By command of Major General ANDERSON:

RICHARD C SANDERS,
Brig General, USA,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:



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

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Missing Exhibit # 6 – February, 1945

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9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)

C/GM/4

Exh #7-Feb '45

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 21)

APO 140, U S Army,
13 February 1945.

SECTION I : AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL
 SECTION II : AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
 SECTION III : AWARD OF THE BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER
 TO THE PURPLE HEART
 SECTION IV : AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART
 SECTION V : AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL ORDERS

SECTION I

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, (Bull. 8, WD 1926), and in accordance with authority contained in Hq European T of Opns USA Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, a SOLDIER'S MEDAL is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted man:

For heroism, 6 January 1945, to the below-named officers and enlisted man. When their bomb-laden aircraft crashed in flames shortly after take-off, these individuals were successful in escaping from the burning wreckage. Although bruised and dazed by the crash, they heroically returned to the aircraft when they discovered that the navigator and tail gunner had been unable to escape. Despite the imminent peril of the bombs exploding, the below-named officers and enlisted man courageously persisted in their efforts until they succeeded in carrying the injured crewmen to safety. A minute later, the bombs exploded and the aircraft was demolished. The cool and intrepid actions of these individuals during this critical emergency is in keeping with the high traditions of the United States Army Air Forces.

1ST PATHFINDER SQUADRON (M) (PROV)

GERALD W SHIREY
 WILLIAM H WALTERS
 Howard K Reast

O-666840
 O-818986
 18075920

CAPT AC
 1ST LT AC
 S/Sgt AC

Mineola, Texas
 Springdale, Pa.
 Whitesboro, Texas

SECTION II

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9419, 4 February 1944 (Sec II, Bull 3, WD 1944), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, and contained in Circular # 56, Hq, European T of Opns, dated 27 May 1944, a BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to the following named enlisted men, organizations indicated:

322ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

James W Neal, 14064559, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from May to September 1944.

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~~RESTRICTED~~

R E S T R I C T E D

Sect II, GO 21, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 Feb 45.

Francis W Hammes, 37094512, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from July to December 1944.

John D Radojits, 15112791, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations.

386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

Harry W Leder, 37099418, Master Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from December 1942 to December 1944.

Robert K Dickinson, 31136513, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from February to November 1944.

John E Shane, 35408011, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from September 1943 to January 1945.

387TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

Coleman C Sirkis, 33205044, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from August 1943 to December 1944.

391ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

Harold G Anderson, 6634073, Master Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from January to December 1944.

Matthew Wiherle, 6895775, Master Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from January 1944 to February 1945.

Howard R Gromer, 35112560, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from May to November 1944.

Donald G Skinner, 36178951, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from July to December 1944.

409TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

George E Apple, 14103910, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from May to November 1944.

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R E S T R I C T E D

SECRET

R E S T R I C T E D

Sect II, GO 21, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 Feb 45.

William G Gaier, 35034119, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from June to December 1944.

Cecil M Hindman, 18083381, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from June 1944 to January 1945.

Howard W Parker, 15066528, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from May to December 1944.

Clifford C Wittenbroker, 35714454, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from June 1944 to January 1945.

416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

Walter T Bladykas, 32527157, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from June to October 1944.

SECTION III

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq, European T of Opns, 20 March 1944, a BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to wear with the Purple Heart, the following named officer having been awarded the Purple Heart per General Orders indicated by sub-paragraphs:

a. GO 106, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 26 August 1944.

344TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

496th Bombardment Squadron (M)

JOHN A GARGILL, O-744453, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from San Francisco, Calif.

SECTION IV

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Hq, European T of Opns, 20 March 1944, the PURPLE HEART is awarded to the following named individuals:

SECRET
-3-
R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

Sect IV, GO 21, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 Feb 1945.

344TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
495th Bombardment Squadron (M)

a. John J Beddingfield, 34615227, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 3 February 1945, while serving as armorer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Meridan, Miss.

496th Bombardment Squadron (M)

b. HARRY M HAGUE, O-744309, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Kansas City, Mo.

386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

c. HOWARD L BURRIS, O-471478, Major (Then Captain), Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from San Antonio, Texas.

d. JOHN F BOYD, O-724192, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 16 January 1945, while serving as bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Goldsboro, N. C.

e. John A Coleman, 12086424, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as radio operator-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from New York City, N. Y.

f. Erling O Sem, 19062001, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as engineer-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Bottineau, North Dakota.

g. Robert W Working, 35729227, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as armorer-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Evansville, Ind.

SECRET

R E S T R I C T E D

Sect IV, GO 21, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 Feb 1945.

387TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
557th Bombardment Squadron (M)

h. Harold G Rosen, Jr., 33590664, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 25 January 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Spring City, Pa.

394TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
584th Bombardment Squadron (M)

i. JOHN R Q BROWN, O-797963, Captain, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 3 February 1945, while serving as pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Birmingham, Ala.

j. EDWARD L KINSELLA, O-434320, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Pittsfield, Mass.

k. HERBERT J MILLER, O-886817, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from New Orleans, La.

l. JOE D JEPHSON, T-128382, Flight Officer, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 3 February 1945, while serving as co-pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Alvin, Texas.

m. Dana E Rogers, 39857867, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as tail gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Phoenix, Arizona.

n. John H Chinn, 38555206, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as tail gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Uvalde, Texas.

SECRET

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

Sect IV, GO 21, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 Feb 1945.

397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
598th Bombardment Squadron (M)

o. RICHARD P GEORGE, O-675204, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received as a result of enemy action on 13 January 1945, while serving as pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Long Island, N. Y.

p. Vernon A Grey, 35222166, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received as a result of enemy action on 22 January 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Dayton, Ohio.

q. Harold S Moody, 17068897, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received as a result of enemy action on 22 January 1945, while serving as radio-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Des Moines, Iowa.

409TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
642nd Bombardment Squadron (L)

r. RONALD T LEEPER, O-1043148, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as pilot on an A-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Midland, Texas.

s. Charles E Kelley, 13133604, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as armorer gunner on an A-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Pittsburg, Pa.

643rd Bombardment Squadron (L)

t. Robert T Harris, 35479696, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 21 January 1945, while serving as armorer gunner on an A-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Parkersburg, West Virginia.

u. James R Clark, 18199954, Corporal, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 23 January 1945, while serving as armorer gunner on an A-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Eklalka, Montana.

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R E S T R I C T E D

SECRET

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Sect IV, GO 21, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 Feb 1945.

v. Marshall B Steele, Jr., 31275817, Corporal, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 23 January 1945, while serving as armorer gunner on an A-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Terryville, Conn.

SECTION V

1. So much of paragraph 1 ac, Sect IV, GO 6, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 January 1945 as awards the third Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to Sgt Earl E Payne, 35749424, is amended to read SECOND BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the Air Medal.

2. So much of paragraph 3 c, Sect IV, GO 6, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 January 1945, as awards the second Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of the tenth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to Capt William R Goode, O-693368, is amended to read ELEVENTH BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the Air Medal.

3. So much of paragraph 2 l, Sect IV, GO 6, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 January 1945, as awards the Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of the fifth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to Sgt Floyd S Sholts, 37563355, is amended to read FOURTH BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the Air Medal.

4. So much of paragraph 2 ae, Sect II, GO 15, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 28 January 1945, as awards the Eleventh Oak Leaf Cluster to:

John C Bass	15082110	T/Sgt	AC	Shelbyville, Ind.
Destroyed E/A				

is amended to read: TWELFTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER.

5. So much of paragraph 2, Section III, GO 10, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 17 January 1945, as awards the Seventh Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to Captain Walter F Creson, O-666000, is amended to read SIXTH BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the Air Medal.

6. So much of Paragraph 1 e, Sect III, GO 5, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 12 January 1945, as awards the Purple Heart to First Lieutenant Vernon L Briscoe, O-7661955, is deleted.

7. So much of paragraph 1 g, Sect II, GO 5, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 12 January 1945, as awards the Purple Heart to Staff Sergeant Harry W Bryah, 39193567, is deleted.

8. So much of paragraph 1 c, Sect II, GO 5, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 12 January 1945, as awards the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart to Staff Sergeant Charles F Salas, 14084855, is deleted.

SECRET

RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

Sect IV, GO 21, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 Feb 1945.

9. So much of par 1, Sect II, GO 4, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 8 January 1945, as awards the Air Medal to Staff Sergeant James S Rowell, 14060700, is deleted.

10. So much of paragraph 1, GO 41, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 17 December 1944, as awards the Air Medal to Staff Sergeant William J Hess, 11018080, and Technical Sergeant Nolan A Chapman, 39236656, is deleted.

11. So much of par 1, GO 22, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 25 October 1944, as awards the Air Medal to Sergeant Jack Barrier, 38033514, is deleted.

12. So much of paragraph 1, Sect II, GO 7, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 14 January 1945, as awards the Soldier's Medal to personnel of the 1288th Military Police Company is amended to include:

LAMP C BARNES

O-505395

Capt

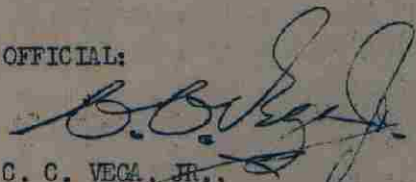
GMP

Fayetteville, N. C.

By command of Major General ANDERSON:

RICHARD C SANDERS,
Brig General, USA,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:


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

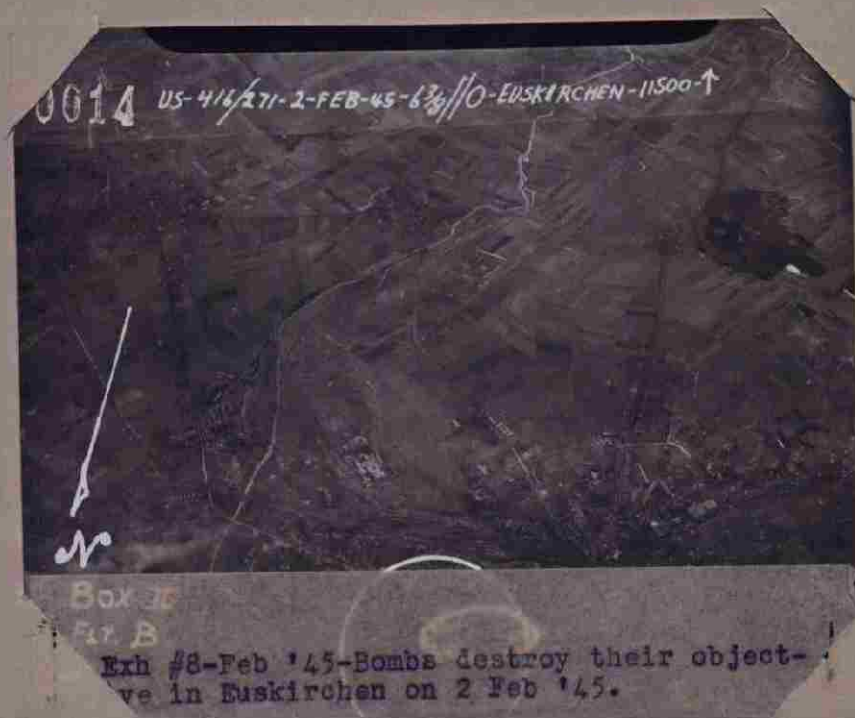
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R E S T R I C T E D

SECRET



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SECRET

Exh #9-Feb '45.

SECURITY SECRET

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

FROM: 97TH COMBAT WING

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 416TH BOMB GROUP (L)

CY 89

171750A

2465

FX223

NINTH BOMB DIVISION P-1117-A

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM COMMANDING GENERAL 9TH AIR FORCE:

"TODAY I RECEIVED A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE G O C FIRST CANADIAN ARMY FOR THE EXCEEDINGLY EFFECTIVE AIR CO-OPERATION HE RECEIVED FROM THE 9TH AIR FORCE ON 14 FEBRUARY. TO YOU PEOPLE WHO DID THE ACTUAL WORK I RELAY HIS MESSAGE AND ADD TO IT MY OWN COMMENT THAT? AS USUAL, YOU DID A SWELL JOB. BECAUSE OF THAT DAYS WORK THE GERMAN IS NEARER COLLAPSE. THE COMING GOOD WEATHER IS BRINGING DIFFERENT AND DIFFICULT TASKS THAT ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FINAL BLOW. KEEP THE STANDARDS UP."

FUTURE TARGETS MAY REQUIRE DEEPER PENETRATIONS INTO MORE HEAVILY DEFENDED AREAS. KEEP ALWAYS IN MIND THAT IT IS FAR BETTER TO DESTROY SUCH TARGETS ON THE FIRST ATTEMPT THAN TO HAVE TO GO BACK. FOR YOUR PAST WORK AND PAST SACRIFICES, PARTICULARLY THE WORK OF 14 FEBRUARY, I THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATE YOU.

SIGNED VANDENBERG

IMPORTANT: THIS MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED IN CODE; AND REPLY THERETO MUST BE ENCODED AND BEAR THE SAME SECURITY CLASSIFICATION.

THIS IS A TRUE COPY:



FRANK M. HOPPE,
1st Lt., A. C.,
Group Historical Officer.

SECRET

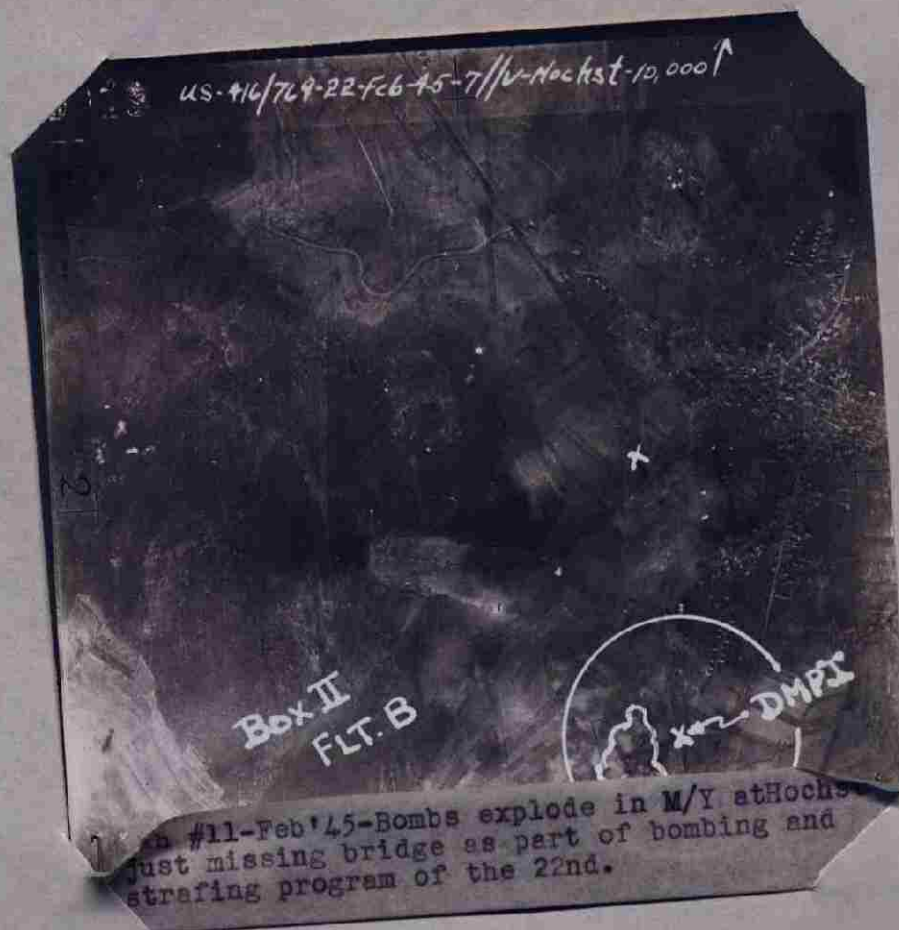
SECRET



Exh #10-Feb'45-Lt. Royalty (3rd fr left) congratulates Lt. Col. Willetts at end of the Group's 200th mission. Lt. Muir (left) and Sgt. Rose (right) look on.

SECRET

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
PRESS RELEASE

Exh #13-Feb '45

NINTH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION HEADQUARTERS, FRANCE, Feb. 28—Coming within four cloudy days of bombing through the calendar in February, Major General Samuel E. Anderson's Ninth Bombardment Division today rounded out its biggest month since August, 1944.

Continuous attacks by the division's B-26 Marauders, A-26 Invaders and A-20 Havocs left Germany's communications network along the western front a jig-saw of broken and damaged bridges, leveled towns and severed rail lines.

The 24-day offensive saw the medium and light bombers, flying more than 7,000 sorties, roar over front-line ground forces to batter Germany's transportation system in an area extending from Hanover south to the Saar valley. They rained 11,000 tons of bombs on 59 communications centers, 50 bridges, 14 marshalling yards and numerous other communications centers.

The U.S. First, Third and Ninth Armies, in addition to British and Canadian forces, were aided in their new offensive by the bombers' relentless pounding of defended villages between the western front and the Rhine. Late in February, airmen saw several of their former targets swallowed up by Allied ground advances, then sifted their attacks to points farther west.

Biggest day of the month was February 14 when 763 sorties were flown but the most successful operations were carried out February 22 when more than 550 Marauders, Havocs and Invaders hit 50 rail targets and more than 80 special aiming points to disrupt German communications in a 200-mile arc just ahead of the enemy's defenses west of the Rhine. Marauders, for the first time in their combat history, went on the deck to strafe as A-26s and A-20s joined in the spectacular and highly effective air assault.

Another February highlight was an attack February 16 on a Junkers aircraft plant at Solingen, Germany. Production of parts for German high-speed jet-propelled fighters suffered a severe curtailment as a result of the attack by B-26s and A-20s. Reconnaissance 10 days later revealed the bombers destroyed nearly half the factory buildings manufacturing parts for Jumo 004 turbo jet propulsion units used to power Messerschmitt 262 and Arado 234 jet fighters.

As the month ended, the division's aircraft were stepping up their offensive in close coordination with Cologne-bound U.S. armies, smashing enemy communications and towns between the current battle line and the Rhine. Thirty-five of the bombers were lost during the month's operations.

SECRET