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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AIR FORCES
IN EUROPE
Office of the Commanding General

Fxh #10-Mar '45.

23 March 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NO.....29)

	SECTION
AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS)********	I
AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**********	II

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and Circular #32, Hq European Theater of Operations, US Army, 20 March 1944, the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS is awarded, posthumously, to the following named Officer:

FREDERICK W. CASTLE, O-319375, Brigadier General, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism while serving as Air Commander of a great force of heavy bombardment aircraft on a mission over Germany, 24 December 1944. On this date, mechanical failure which rendered one engine of his aircraft inoperative while on the approach to the target forced General Castle to relinquish his lead position. Rather than jeopardize the lives of friendly troops below, General Castle elected not to jettison his bomb load, thus sacrificing speed and maneuverability. His straggling aircraft was soon singled out by enemy fighters and was hit repeatedly, starting fires in two engines. Shortly thereafter, the aircraft went down in a violent spin, carrying General Castle to his death. The extraordinary heroism and complete disregard for his personal safety displayed by General Castle on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Mrs W. W. Castle, 3711 McKinley Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

II. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and Circular #32, Hq European Theater of Operations, US Army, 20 March 1944, the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS is awarded to the following named Officers:

JOHN A. BROOKS, III, O-23828, Lieutenant Colonel, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while participating in a weather scouting mission in advance of a bomber task force attacking vital enemy installations in central Germany on 9 February 1945. On this date, when a vast force of enemy aircraft were sighted positioning themselves for an attack on our bomber task force, Colonel Brooks, assessing the imminent danger to the bomber formation, aggressively and with absolute disregard for the overwhelming odds or his own safety, led his four ship flight against this superior force, personally destroying two enemy aircraft, probably destroying one, and damaging another. This brilliantly planned and executed attack completely disorganized the enemy force and eliminated it as an immediate threat to the bomber formation. The extraordinary heroism and determination of this officer to destroy the enemy are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

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IRWIN H. DREGNE, O-431399, Lieutenant Colonel, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while leading a P-51 fighter group on a bomber escort mission to Derben, Germany, 14 January 1945. On this date, Lieutenant Colonel Dregne sighted seventy low-flying enemy fighter aircraft with a top cover of one hundred additional enemy fighters. Realizing the great danger to the vulnerable bombers, and in spite of the enemy's vast numerical superiority and tactical advantage of position, he led his men in a daring counter-attack on the enemy planes. Inspired by his intrepidity and daring, flight after flight of Lieutenant Colonel's Dregne's aircraft flew into the massed enemy, completely shattering their formation. Alone now, he intercepted an enemy formation which was attacking the rear of a bomber box and destroyed one enemy aircraft and damaged another, halting his attack only when his own plane was attacked by eight enemy fighters from the side and rear. The extraordinary heroism, intrepidity, and brilliant leadership displayed by Lieutenant Colonel Dregne on this occasion reflect highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

RICHARD P. GATTERDAM, O-701298, Major, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while leading a group of P-51 aircraft in support of heavy bombers attacking targets at Magdeburg, Germany, 14 January 1945. On this date, when Major Gatterdam was more than three hundred miles from friendly territory, his aircraft developed serious mechanical difficulties. Turning command over to one of his section leaders, he headed for home. A few minutes after leaving his group, he heard that a large force of enemy planes had been sighted. In spite of his faulty equipment and the depth of his penetration into enemy territory, he returned to take command and led his group into combat. Attacking aggressively, he personally destroyed two enemy aircraft while the squadron with which he was flying accounted for twelve more enemy planes. The extraordinary heroism, aggressiveness, and determination to destroy the enemy displayed by Major Gatterdam on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

ROBERT M. FRY, O-806652, Major (then Captain), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 16 January 1945, while leading his squadron in a fighter sweep along the Rhine River. On this date, his squadron encountered a numerically superior enemy fighter force flying high above them. In spite of their greater force and tactical advantage in altitude, Major Fry led his squadron directly into the hostile formation. Displaying outstanding airmanship, Major Fry aggressively attacked the enemy and destroyed three of their aircraft. The extraordinary heroism and determination to destroy the enemy displayed by Major Fry on this occasion reflect highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

ROBERT J. HOLBURY, O-737579, Major (then Captain), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy on 5 January 1945, while participating in a minimum altitude photographic mission. On this date, in response to an urgent request for photographic coverage of vital enemy objectives, rather than assign the mission to a squadron, Major Holbury volunteered to fly the extremely hazardous mission himself in spite of the fact that the area to be photographed was one of the most heavily defended on the front lines and weather conditions were

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adverse. Flying at altitudes varying from ten to fifty feet, Major Holbury had flown approximately half-way through the photographic run over the twenty mile long target area when his aircraft was riddled with enemy flak and small arms fire which disabled one engine, damaged the other, and seriously damaged the controls. In spite of the greatly reduced speed and critical condition of his aircraft, and in the face of increasingly accurate flak, Major Holbury continued his run over the target and successfully completed his mission. The extraordinary heroism and determination to accomplish his mission displayed by Major Holbury on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

GEORGE J. GAUTIER, O-1699076, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army (Missing in Action). For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while leading a flight of three P-47 type aircraft acting as top cover for eight other aircraft dive bombing a target in Germany on 7 October 1944. On this date, Captain Gautier identified and reported a force of over eighty hostile fighters. In order to protect the remainder of his squadron which was engaged in destroying the primary objective, Captain Gautier, with complete disregard for his personal safety, unhesitatingly led his flight of three aircraft into the overwhelming enemy force. With persistent and determined attacks, he broke up the enemy formation, thereby enabling the remainder of his squadron to reform after their dive bombing run. Despite the almost insuperable odds against him and although often alone in the midst of large numbers of enemy fighters, Captain Gautier continually attacked, destroying one enemy aircraft and probably destroying and damaging others. The extraordinary heroism, devotion to duty, and determination to destroy the enemy displayed by Captain Gautier on this occasion reflect highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Mrs. Mabel Gautier (Mother) 164 Maple Street, Englewood, New Jersey.

CLAUDE J. CRENSHAW, O-692895, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving as flight leader in a bomber escort mission in the vicinity of Merseburg, Germany, 21 November 1944. On this date, accompanied by only his wingman, Captain Crenshaw attacked a formation of one hundred enemy fighters having a top cover of thirty five additional fighter aircraft. In his great desire to protect the bomber formation, he pursued the enemy relentlessly, destroying four of their aircraft and damaging still another despite the enemy's vast numerical superiority. The outstanding heroism and determination to destroy the enemy displayed by Captain Crenshaw on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

LELAND C. NIELSEN, O-660790, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving as pilot of an A-26 type aircraft in a bombing and strafing mission near Blankenheim, Germany, 23 January 1945. On this date, Captain Nielsen was rendered unconscious and his aircraft was severely damaged by intense enemy ground fire. Regaining consciousness, in spite of painful wounds about the face and splinters of glass in his eyes, he continued on to the target and successfully released his bombs. The extraordinary heroism and determination to destroy the enemy displayed by Captain Nielsen on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

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RICHARD J. SCHOLZ, O-818440, Captain (then First Lieutenant), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving as pilot in a dive bombing attack, 17 December 1944. On this date, the flight in which Captain Scholz was flying was circling the target area when they were attacked by more than ten enemy fighters who dived on them from behind through thick overcast. With complete disregard for his personal safety, and in spite of the fact that his aircraft was under constant fire, Captain Scholz destroyed an enemy fighter who was on his element leader's tail, and only when his element leader was no longer in danger did he turn into the enemy. Attacking relentlessly, he destroyed two enemy aircraft in head-on attacks, and although his own plane was now severely damaged and on fire, he continued to attack, destroying still another hostile fighter. The extraordinary heroism and determination of this officer to destroy the enemy are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

RAYMOND E. PRICE, O-820820, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army (Missing in Action). For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving as a pilot of a B-24 aircraft, 25 December 1944. On this date, Lieutenant Price's aircraft was severely damaged and the bomb bay set on fire following repeated enemy fighter attacks. Two of his aircraft's engines were rendered inoperative, the control surfaces damaged, and the main hydraulic system destroyed. In a short time his aircraft became a lone straggler and was attacked by three enemy fighters who inflicted further damage and badly wounded several crew members. Despite the critical condition of the aircraft, Lieutenant Price continued to take evasive action and fight the attacking enemy. Realizing that the aircraft could maintain flight no longer, he ordered the crew to bail out and decided to attempt a crash landing in order that wounded crew members might be saved. Shortly thereafter, the aircraft exploded in mid-air and Lieutenant Price was not seen to leave it beforehand. The extraordinary heroism and complete disregard for his personal safety displayed by Lieutenant Price on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Mr. James F. Price (Father) R.F.D., Loraine, Texas.

EDWARD J. O'ROURKE, O-826273, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army (Missing in Action). For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving as Co-pilot on a B-24 aircraft, 25 December 1944. On this date, the aircraft in which he was flying was severely damaged and the bomb bay set on fire following repeated enemy fighter attacks. Despite great damage to the plane, the imminent danger of explosion, and orders to bail out, Lieutenant O'Rourke elected to remain in the aircraft in order to assist the pilot in a crash landing. Shortly thereafter the aircraft exploded and Lieutenant O'Rourke was not seen to leave it beforehand. The extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant O'Rourke on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kin: Mr. Felix O'Rourke (Father), 7 Revere Avenue, New York, N.Y.

JOHN R. TIEDEMANN, O-116634, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army (Missing in Action). For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving as a navigator on a B-24 aircraft, 25 December 1944. On this date, the aircraft in which Lieutenant Tiedemann was flying was

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GENERAL ORDERS #29, 23 March 1945, cont'd).

By command of Lieutenant General SPAATZ:

E. P. CURTIS
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

HARRIS F. SCHERER,
Colonel, AGD.,
Adjutant General.

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