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HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

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18 May 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
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	Section
SILVER STAR - Posthumous award	I
SILVER STAR - Missing in Action awards	II
SILVER STAR - Awards	III
DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS - Missing in Action awards	IV
DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS - Awards	V
DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER) - Missing in Action award.	VI

I--SILVER STAR.--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 the authority delegated by the War Department, the SILVER STAR is awarded posthumously to the following-named officer:

ROBERT L. BACKSTEIN, O-74387, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 25 January 1945. Lt BACKSTEIN exhibited outstanding courage and devotion to duty when, despite the hazards of a severely damaged plane and the intensity of enemy fire, he persevered at his primary task and successfully bombed the target. During the return trip, unable to keep his damaged aircraft in position Lt BACKSTEIN trailed the formation to the base where, in order to permit others to land first, he circled the field until having lost altitude and radio contact, and crash landed. His sacrificial action and inspiring devotion to duty reflect the greatest credit upon himself and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

II--SILVER STAR.--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 the authority delegated by the War Department, the SILVER STAR is awarded to the following-named officers, now missing in action:

WILBUR G. COX, O-791676, Captain, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For heroism and gallantry in action against the enemy in aerial flight. On 23 December 1944, Capt COX, while leading a box of B-26 type aircraft in conjunction with allied ground forces, exhibited outstanding courage and superior leadership. Skilfully piloting his aircraft through antiaircraft fire and attacks by enemy aircraft, he bombed the target and was instrumental in the destruction of a vital railroad bridge. Capt COX, despite damage to his own aircraft unhesitatingly continued his bombing and strafing until his burning plane was grounded by enemy action. His flying skill and devotion to duty are indicative of the highest valor and are a credit to himself and the Army Air Forces.

PAUL R. OSTROM, O-731219, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For gallantry in action in aerial flight against the enemy. On 23 December 1944 Lt OSTROM, bombardier of a Pathfinder aircraft

37 Exh #37-May '45.

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Sec II, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

dispatched on a bombing mission, distinguished himself by outstanding airmanship and superior leadership when, attacked by intense antiaircraft fire and enemy fighters he superbly led his group in a successful bombing of enemy transportation facilities. His fearless approach to the target and subsequent bombing were major contributions to the success of the mission. His determination and aggressiveness, courage and devotion to duty in the face of extreme danger gave inspiration to his group and are representative of the highest standards of the Army Air Forces.

III--SILVER STAR.--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 the authority delegated by the War Department, the SILVER STAR is awarded to the following-named officers and enlisted men:

HOWARD B. AINES, O-750008, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For gallantry in action against the enemy in aerial flight. On 3 August 1944 Lt AINES, bombardier-navigator, leader of a flight of A-20 type aircraft, displayed extraordinary flying ability and outstanding leadership. When his flight became separated from the remainder of the formation upon encountering a heavy overcast, he unhesitatingly proceeded to the assigned target where, despite injuries received when enemy antiaircraft fire shattered the plexiglass nose of his plane, he conducted a successful bombing attack. Then with determination and unflinching devotion to duty, although suffering from severe wounds, he skilfully guided his flight of seven aircraft, four of which were badly damaged, safely back to base. His courage and intrepidity are consistent with the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces and reflect great credit upon himself. Entered military service from California.

DALE R. BARTELS, O-678993, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For gallantry in action on 23 December 1944. While leading a box of B-26 type aircraft against enemy installations Lt BARTELS was attacked by enemy planes. Displaying superior aerial proficiency and outstanding leadership Lt BARTELS, despite constant enemy antiaircraft barrages, skilfully evaded the enemy and brilliantly bombed and destroyed a vital enemy railroad bridge. During the course of subsequent bombing and strafing runs, his gunners were severely wounded and his plane seriously damaged; but, undeterred, Lt BARTELS landed his plane on a friendly base where emergency relief could be given his injured men. Lt BARTELS' exemplary courage and loyalty and fidelity to duty reflect maximum credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from South Dakota.

EUGENE R. CHEKEMAIN, 34248442, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For gallantry in action on 23 December 1944. Although S/Sgt CHEKEMAIN, engineer-gunner, was seriously wounded when enemy fire struck the turret guns during a bombing mission, he continued to fire his guns manually in an effort to ward off from 25 to 30 enemy planes. Steadily weakening because of loss of blood, he nevertheless returned their fire while the crew effectively bombed and destroyed a vital enemy target. S/Sgt CHEKEMAIN'S devotion to duty, his courage and determination to remain at his post insured the success of the mission. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

RUSSEL D. FELLERS, O-737040, Captain, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For gallantry in action while serving as leader of a flight of A-20 type aircraft on a low-level daylight bombing and strafing attack against the enemy

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Sec III, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

on 23 January 1945. Flying under adverse weather conditions, Capt FELLERS led his flight to the target where during the bombing run at extremely low altitude they encountered fierce enemy antiaircraft opposition. Although his bombardier-navigator was seriously wounded and his aircraft severely damaged, Capt FELLERS continued on his flight and enabled his bombardier to release his bombs accurately upon the target. Ignoring the intense ground fire which further damaged his plane, he led his flight to tree-top level and strafed the enemy until all ammunition was expended. Capt FELLERS' outstanding airmanship and extraordinary leadership, his courage and determination enabled him to complete a successful mission and return his flight to home base. Entered military service from Ohio.

JAMES H. GILMORE, O-412102, Captain, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For gallantry in action on 30 November 1944. While leading 2 boxes of B-26 type aircraft against a heavily defended German village, althougl enemy antiaircraft fire had severely damaged his plane, repeatedly throwing it off its course, and had painfully wounded him, Capt GILMORE, exhibiting outstanding airmanship and extraordinary leadership recovered his position and led his boxes to the target where they successfully bombed and destroyed enemy installations. Capt GILMORE'S determination in the face of overwhelming odds, his courage and devotion to duty were responsible for the successful completion of the missions. Entered military service from Texas.

RICHARD C. HAMISTER, O-749842, 2d Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For gallantry while serving as bombardier-navigator of an A-20 type aircraft on a combat bombing mission. On 14 January 1945 while participating in an attack upon an important enemy supply route, Lt HAMISTER was seriously wounded, but in spite of the pain, Lt HAMISTER, disregarding the enemy fire and the overcast which partially obscured the target, skilfully directed his runs and bombed the target. His courage and fortitude, steadfast devotion to duty and determination despite his painful wounds are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Ohio.

GORDON G. JONES, O-750281, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For gallantry in action. Lt JONES, serving as lead bombardier-navigator of a flight of A-20 type aircraft engaged in a low level bombing and strafing attack against the enemy on 23 January 1945, distinguished himself by his superb aerial skill and outstanding courage. Despite adverse weather conditions and without the anticipated protection of a fighter escort, he located the difficult target and had entered upon an extremely low altitude bombing run when he was painfully wounded by antiaircraft fire. Disregarding the intense pain and the continuous barrage of ground fire, Lt JONES completed his run and successfully bombed the target. Then descending to tree-top level he strafed the target, receiving further damage from antiaircraft fire. Although his instruments were damaged and he was compelled to depend upon visual navigation Lt JONES led his flight through two snowstorms safely back to base. Entered military service from Maryland.

LEO P. MC DOWELL, 6919516, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For gallantry in action. During a bombing mission on 23 December 1944, the aircraft of which T/Sgt MC DOWELL was engineer-gunner was damaged by intense antiaircraft fire and he was wounded by a 50 calibre shell. Undaunted, he remained at his post and operated his guns manually in successful attempts to ward off attacking enemy aircraft while the bombardier skilfully released his bombs and destroyed an enemy target. During the return trip T/Sgt MC DOWELL, despite the intense pain of his wound, repaired the damaged rudder cable, thereby giving the pilot rudder control and enabling him to land the plane safely. T/Sgt MC DOWELL'S steadfast devotion to duty and

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Sec III, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

outstanding courage were influencial in the success of the mission and reflect the highest standards of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Michigan.

CURTIS G. WELBORN, 34645741, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For gallantry in action. On 23 December 1944, although wounded in the face by enemy fire which also damaged his aircraft S/Sgt WELBORN, radio operator-gunner on a mission over Germany, determinedly returned the enemy fighter attacks and enabled his crew to bomb successfully the enemy target. When the engineer-gunner was so severely wounded that continued operation on his part was impossible S/Sgt WELBORN replaced him and covered both positions from the turret operating the guns manually. S/Sgt WELBORN'S outstanding display of courage and resourcefulness contributed to the success of the mission and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from South Carolina.

CARL J. ULERY, 37444169, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For gallantry in action during a bombing mission over Germany on 23 December 1944. Although seriously wounded by intense enemy antiaircraft fire which also damaged his plane, S/Sgt ULERY, tail gunner, undeterred by these handicaps, fired his guns at attacking enemy fighters, thus enabling his crew to bomb and destroy enemy targets. Throughout the mission, S/Sgt ULERY, remaining in his vulnerable position and warding off enemy blows contributed toward the success of the mission and by his outstanding action exemplify the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Iowa.

IV--DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS.--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 the authority delegated by the War Department, a DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following-named officers, now missing in action:

EARL R. BEVER, JR, 0-747718, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism and extraordinary achievement on 6 September 1944. Lt BEVER, while on a bombing mission over enemy territory was forced by adverse weather conditions to make a bombing run at extremely low altitude, thus subjecting his aircraft to intense enemy antiaircraft fire. Although his plane was severely damaged during the attack, Lt BEVER, displaying superior aerial proficiency released his bombs with devastating results upon the target. Lt BEVER'S determination in the face of innumerable odds, his courage and superior aerial skill contributed much toward the success of the mission and reflect the greatest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces.

JACK L. BURG, 0-743756, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight over enemy territory. On 12 October 1944, Lt BURG, lead bombardier-navigator of a flight attacking enemy targets, distinguished himself by his resourcefulness and outstanding devotion to duty. By skilful navigation he evaded heavily defended enemy gun positions and despite a heavy overcast, expertly located the enemy target and led his flight in a successful bombing run which completely destroyed the target. His extraordinary aerial skill and brilliant leadership reflect the greatest credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

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Sec IV, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

JOHN V. CYRUS, O-747222, Captain, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism and extraordinary achievement while serving as leader of a flight of A-20 type aircraft in an attack against the enemy on 2 January 1945. When the target was obscured by clouds and he was unable to bomb on the first bombing run Capt CYRUS fearlessly exposed himself to exceptionally accurate hostile fire and made a second run during the execution of which his aircraft was shot down over the target. Capt CYRUS' courage and gallant effort to accomplish an important mission in the face of heavy odds are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

GEORGE W. EPPERSON, O-750129, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism and extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 2 January 1945. As lead bombardier-navigator of a flight of A-20 type aircraft, Lt EPPERSON skilfully led his flight on the bombing run through highly accurate ground fire, but clouds obscured the target and prevented bombing. Determined to accomplish his mission Lt EPPERSON, with heroic disregard for his personal safety, ordered a second run, during the course of which his aircraft was shot down. Lt EPPERSON'S intrepidity and determination, and his devotion to duty in the face of overwhelming odds, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

RICHARD V. MIRACIE, O-26150, Captain, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism and extraordinary achievement as a pilot and flight leader in an A-20 type aircraft. On 29 September 1944 Capt MIRACIE'S aircraft was one of a formation dispatched on a mission to Julich, Germany. Although the antiaircraft fire was intense, Capt MIRACIE piloted his plane over the target which he successfully bombed. Ground fire damaged his right engine, but despite the hazard Capt MIRACIE led his flight on subsequent strafing attacks which further damaged the surrounding area. The outstanding aerial skill and courage displayed by Capt MIRACIE are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

V--DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS.--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 the authority delegated by the War Department, a DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following-named officers and enlisted men:

CLAUDE F. BAKER, O-747709, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement on 25 December 1944. While serving as deputy flight leader on a bombing mission over an enemy communication center in Germany, Lt BAKER displayed outstanding courage and steadfast devotion to duty, when, despite severe damage to his right engine, he nevertheless continued on his mission. Although he could no longer remain in close formation because of loss of power he skilfully directed his flight in numerous bombing runs and strafing attacks which completely destroyed the enemy installations. His exceptional skill and calm determination in the face of strong opposition contributed to the success of the mission. Entered military service from California.

GALEN F. BARTMUS, O-730844, Captain, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight over enemy territory. When Capt BARTMUS and his flight reached enemy marshalling yards on a bombing mission,

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they were attacked by continuous and accurate enemy ground fire. Although his plane was severely damaged by the enemy action, Capt BARTMUS nevertheless tenaciously held his aircraft in formation and, displaying brilliant leadership, conducted his flight on a series of bombing and strafing runs which destroyed the enemy installation. Capt BARTMUS' integrity and steadfast devotion to duty while subjected to heavy enemy fire contributed toward the advancement of allied forces and are of greatest credit to his organization. Entered military service from California.

NEWTON C. BENHAM, O-804279, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy on 29 September 1944. The airplane of Lt BENHAM, element leader, was critically damaged by enemy antiaircraft fire upon approaching enemy marshalling yards, but despite this handicap which made the plane difficult to maneuver, he courageously continued as leader and successfully bombed the target. Exerting all his strengt to keep his plane level and compelled to fly the return trip with his arms locked through the control wheel, Lt BENHAM exhibited superb flying skill and steadfast determination toward the accomplishment of his assigned mission. His superior leadership and outstanding aerial proficiency are in keeping with the highest tradition of his organization. Entered military service from Texas.

FRANCIS E. BROWN, O-727846, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 30 November 1944. While leading a group in a bombing mission over a heavily fortified town in Germany, Lt BROWN and his group encountered severe enemy fire which damaged his plane and seriously wounded his radio operator-gunner. Disregarding these difficulties Lt BROWN continued on his mission and although encountering adverse weather, successfully bombed the target and in a series of strafing attacks, inflicted additional damage. Lt BROWN'S superior leadership and determination contributed much toward the success of the advancement of allied troops in this area. Entered military service from Minnesota.

ROBERT O. BROWN, O-752388, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while serving as a pilot of an A-20 type aircraft on 29 September 1944. Although his plane was seriously damaged and his turret gunner wounded when heavy antiaircraft fire was encountered during a bombing mission over Bingen, Germany, Lt BROWN calmly continued his run. Displaying superior aerial proficiency he bombed the enemy installations and engaged in a number of strafing attacks which inflicted additional damage upon nearby marshalling yards. Lt BROWN'S courage and outstanding precision bombing were contributing factors in allied progress in this area and reflect great credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from Illinois.

ROY L. BROWN, O-678152, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement on 13 October 1944. While leading a flight of six aircraft in an attack upon an important railroad bridge, Lt BROWN was attacked by violent antiaircraft fire which prevented bombing during the first and second passes. Disregarding the intensity of the enemy barrage and determined to destroy the objective Lt BROWN brilliantly led his flight in the execution of a third pass which resulted in total destruction of the enemy installation. By his courage and steadfast devotion to duty in the face of overwhelming odds Lt BROWN and his flight contributed much toward the advancement

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Sec V, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

of allied forces in this area. Entered military service from Indiana.

WILLIAM H. CARIS, O-685526, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial warfare on 2 December 1944. While leading a formation in conjunction with allied forces, Lt CARIS encountered severe antiaircraft fire over Germany, and although his navigational equipment had failed and visibility was poor, he unhesitatingly conducted with skill and precision a brilliant bombing attack, the achievement of which aided the ground forces in gaining control of the immediate area. Lt CARIS' unflinching devotion to duty and outstanding leadership are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces and reflect great credit upon himself. Entered military service from Illinois.

RALPH CONTE, O-749833, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 5 August 1944. Lt CONTE was leading his formation on a bombing attack against a fuel dump at Foret de Chantilly in the vicinity of Paris, France, when he encountered heavy enemy antiaircraft fire and a slight overcast in the target area. Although forced to depend upon pilotage navigation because of a faulty gyro-compass, Lt CONTE skilfully evaded the enemy fire and leading his flight through a rift in the clouds, he executed a brilliant bombing run which destroyed the enemy fuel dump. Lt CONTE'S display of leadership and resourcefulness on this occasion reflect great credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from New Jersey.

GORDON G. CORDSEN, O-744359, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement on 13 August 1944. Lt CORDSEN demonstrated superior navigation and brilliant leadership when he conducted a bombing attack upon an enemy railroad bridge. Shortly after entering enemy territory the planes encountered severe antiaircraft fire but Lt CORDSEN changing his course, guided his formation to the target without further attack. Although a partial cloud presented a bombing hazard Lt CORDSEN skilfully located the enemy bridge and accurately released his bombs upon the objective. His courage and integrity are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Colorado.

JAMES R. CROSS, O-747754, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement on 6 October 1944. When the flight leader was forced by mechanical failure to leave the flight Lt CROSS assumed leadership. Encountering adverse weather conditions which necessitated flying by instruments, Lt CROSS, displaying superior aerial proficiency and determination to complete the mission, led his flight in a brilliant attack upon the target. Lt CROSS' courage and ability to assume responsibility resulted in the successful completion of a difficult mission and exemplify the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

DANIEL P. DALFONSO, O-803781, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight over enemy territory on 23 December 1944. Lt DALFONSO, during a bombing mission over Germany, displayed outstanding skill and brilliant leadership when, despite the handicaps of a damaged aircraft and heavy enemy antiaircraft fire, he maintained his position and dropped his bombs with excellent results upon the heavily defended enemy communication center. His superior flying skill and steadfast devotion to duty made a notable contribution to the success of the

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Sec V, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

mission and to the safety of his crew, and reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Illinois.

WAYNE E. DOWNING, O-661726, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement on 29 June 1944. Although his aircraft was seriously damaged when encountering an intense barrage of enemy aircraft fire enroute to the target, Lt DOWNING disregarding considerable loss of flying power, remained with his formation and employing a high degree of professional skill he executed a brilliant bombing run which destroyed the enemy target. Lt DOWNING'S courageous performance of duty and determination in the face of innumerable odds were contributing factors in the completion of a vitally important mission. Entered military service from Colorado.

ALFRED A. DULA, O-760696, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. Flying in adverse weather conditions and encountering severe antiaircraft fire which damaged his plane, Lt DULA, refusing to return to his home base although the damaged condition of his plane justified such action, distinguished himself on 2 January 1945 by his superior flying technique and outstanding heroism. Heavy overcast and intense ground fire made flying in close formation difficult for Lt DULA, but undaunted, he executed a brilliant bombing run which destroyed the enemy target. Lt DULA'S intrepidity and determination reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest standards of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

LLOYD F. DUNN, O-724399, Major, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight over enemy territory. On 6 June 1944 Major DUNN led a box to the heavily defended marshalling yards at Serqueux, France. Although intense antiaircraft fire severely damaged his aircraft and temporarily blinded his two gunners, Major DUNN reformed his box which had been broken up by the antiaircraft fire and bombed the target with excellent results. While strafing with subsequent attacks he silenced the enemy gun positions. Major DUNN'S display of fortitude and perserverance when faced by overwhelming odds reflect greatest credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from California.

JAMES C. EGAN, JR., O-803586, Captain, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 2 December 1944 Capt EGAN was dispatched as a pilot in a formation whose bombing objective was an enemy installation at Saarlautern, Germany. Although the electrical system of his aircraft had failed shortly after the take-off, Capt EGAN continued determinedly upon the briefed mission. Thus handicapped by a faulty aircraft and encountering adverse weather conditions and intense enemy fire over the target, Capt EGAN displayed outstanding aerial proficiency and bombing skill when making two bombing runs upon the target he destroyed the enemy installations. His courage and steadfast devotion to duty are a credit to Capt EGAN and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Louisana.

DONALD D. FANTON, O-750130, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 11 September 1944. The flight of which Lt FANTON was lead bombardier-navigator became separated from the remainder of the box during a bombing mission in conjunction with allied ground forces in the area of Metz, Germany. Although the enemy fire was intense

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and danger from attack by numerically superior enemy planes was imminent, Lt FANTON directed successful evasive action and bombed the target with accuracy. Lt FANTON'S determination and aerial skill contributed directly to the successful operations of allied ground forces in the vicinity of the target and are of greatest credit to himself and his organization. Entered military service from Iowa.

MATTHEW H. T. FERGUSON, O-409884, Captain, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 26 November 1944. Capt FERGUSON, while leading a bombing attack on enemy fuel dumps distinguished himself by a display of brilliant leadership and outstanding aerial proficiency. Despite heavy fire from an enemy six-gun position located within range of the target and a light overcast which hampered visibility, Capt FERGUSON unswervingly led his formation to the objective, and employing evasive action, bombed the target with excellent results. When harassed by enemy jet aircraft after the attack, Capt FERGUSON successfully drove them off and led the formation safely back to base. By his extraordinary devotion to duty, Capt FERGUSON aided greatly in the destruction of vital enemy objectives and the advancement of allied troops in the area. Entered military service from South Carolina.

RICHARD T. FERGUSON, JR., O-803797, Captain, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 11 September 1944 Capt FERGUSON, pilot of an A-20 type aircraft, led his flight on a daylight bombing attack against a strongly defended enemy fort in occupied France. Although the three flights dispatched became disorganized and separated Capt FERGUSON reformed his flight and, displaying outstanding aerial proficiency and superior leadership, conducted a series of successful bombing runs against the target. Despite intense and accurate enemy mobile gun fire which necessitated evasive flying technique, Capt FERGUSON and his flight destroyed the fort and aided the advancement of allied ground troops in this area. Entered military service from Florida.

JOSEPH J. FIELD, 17164561, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy. S/Sgt FIELD, engineer-gunner of an A-20 type aircraft, exemplified fine airmanship and extraordinary courage, when, on 6 June 1944, during a bombing attack on enemy marshalling yards he remained at his post despite extremely intense ground fire and returned fire until all his ammunition was expended. Throughout the entire encounter, S/Sgt FIELD checked all abnormal plane conditions reporting his findings to his pilot, and made valuable observations of enemy movements. His intrepidity and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Nebraska.

RAYMOND B. FIELD, O-693554, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 23 December 1944. When the group of which Lt FIELD was co-pilot of Pathfinder aircraft approached the target area, it encountered intense enemy fire and attacks by ME-109's. Although his aircraft was severely damaged by enemy antiaircraft fire and constant attacks by enemy planes necessitated evasive action, Lt FIELD gallantly assisted his pilot in holding the aircraft in formation until it reached the target and successfully release its bombs. Lt FIELD contributed to the success of the mission, the destruction of the enemy's vital objective and the safe return of crew and aircraft despite the numerous handicaps of the mission. His devotion to duty and unswerving courage are of greatest credit to Lt FIELD and his organization. Entered military service from New York.

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Sec V, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

JOHN D. FOOTE, O-799744, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement on 30 April 1944. While serving as leader of a flight of six aircraft in a bombing attack on enemy installations, Lt FOOTE distinguished himself by his brilliant leadership and outstanding aerial proficiency. During the bombing run over the target, his flight was met by eight ME-109's and immediately he led them in an attack upon the numerically superior force. Although cannon burst struck his plane and rendered it difficult to control, he skillfully maintained his position and aided in the dispersal of the enemy. Then reforming his flight, he conducted a successful bombing of the target. Entered military service from Connecticut.

DOUGLAS HANTSKE, 13103697, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 2 May 1944. During an attack upon enemy installations, heavy antiaircraft fire destroyed the radio in the plane in which S/Sgt HANTSKE served as gunner. Realizing the necessity of informing the pilot of the leakage of fuel due to damaged gasoline lines, S/Sgt HANTSKE determinedly began blinking code on the call signal light until contact with his pilot was obtained and a safe landing insured. S/Sgt HANTSKE'S accurate observations, courage and determination despite the handicaps encountered were responsible for the safety of his crew members and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Corps. Entered military service from Maryland.

DAVID A. HULSE, O-736223, Captain, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 6 August 1944. Although harassed by adverse weather conditions and severe enemy fire, Capt HULSE led his flight in an attack upon the Oissel Bridge, last remaining enemy birdge on the Seine River and an avenue of escape for the enemy retreating from the Falaise Gap. His own aircraft was hit in many places but despite a fire hazard, Capt HULSE brilliantly led his flight in a bombing run and destroyed the target. His determination and steadfast devotion to duty were instrumental in the subsequent allied troop progress in this area and reflect credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from California.

JAMES A. JARROT, O-805475, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 12 October 1944. While approaching the target area, the formation of A-20 type aircraft in which Lt JARROT was flying encountered intense antiaircraft fire. At the beginning of the bomb run, an accurate burst struck the left engine of Lt JARROT'S plane forcing it out of the formation. Displaying outstanding aerial proficiency and skill, he quickly regained control of his damaged aircraft and continued on to the target where he released his bombs directly upon the installation. Lt JARROT'S devotion to duty and superior aerial proficiency reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

ROBERT L. JEX, 20922134, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement in aerial flight on 14 January 1945. During a bombing attack on an enemy road junction Sgt JEX, in addition to his duties as a gunner was charged with the responsibility of securing photographs of the ground area and enemy installations. Despite the heavy enemy fire encountered during the bombing run, Sgt JEX, fully cognizant of the danger involved, displayed courage and steadfast devotion to duty when he exposed himself in order to secure photographs. Heavy enemy fire damaged the plane and

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Sec V, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

seriously wounded Sgt JEX; but he remained at his gun position guarding against possible enemy attack until the mission was completed. Entered military service from California.

ERNEST L. JOHNSON, O-663740, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On a mission in conjunction with allied ground forces in the area of Challigny, France, Lt JOHNSON was responsible for effective air action over this area on 12 September 1944. Encountering adverse weather conditions and with his aircraft damaged by severe enemy fire, Lt JOHNSON continued with his flight, bombing the target so effectively that enemy ground troops in this region surrendered to allied forces. The devotion to duty, professional skill, and outstanding airmanship exhibited by Lt JOHNSON reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Oklahoma.

ERNEST K. KELLY, 38271192, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while serving as armorer-gunner on an A-20 type aircraft. Subsequent to a successful bombing attack, on 4 June 1944, fire broke out in the aircraft; a defective hydraulic system and leaking gasolin further increased the hazard of continued flight. S/Sgt KELLY, however, completely disregarding his personal safety, succeeded in extinguishing the fire, thereby insuring the safe return of the crew and the seriously damaged aircraft. His outstanding courage and resourcefulness on this occasion contributed in large measure to the successful accomplishment of the mission. Entered military service from Oklahoma.

DAWSON U. KERSHAW, 32457359, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. On 4 November 1944, S/Sgt KERSHAW, armorer-gunner, exhibited outstanding efficiency and alertness while on a bombing mission in conjunction with allied ground forces. Checking the bombs before bombs away, he discovered that one bomb had no arming wire and that it contained a loose fuze. S/Sgt KERSHAW, without wearing his parachute because of cramped position, tightened the fuze and made the bombs ready for the target. S/Sgt KERSHAW'S prompt action and fidelity to duty were a conspicious contribution to the success of the mission and to the welfare of his crew members. Entered military service from New Jersey.

DONALD E. LARSON, O-693381, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement in aerial warfare. On 5 July 1944, the aircraft of which Lt LARSON was co-pilot was leading 37 other planes when a direct hit struck the fuel tank and it began to lose gasoline. Lt LARSON, unmindful of the danger involved straddled the bomb bay and navigator' compartment, and with bomb bay doors open undertook the transfer of the gasoline, continuing even after severe antiaircraft fire rendered additional damage to the plane. The courage displayed by Lt LARSON during this hazardous attack were instrumental in the success of the mission and reflect the greatest credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from North Dakota.

JOSEPH H. LEMON, O-813531, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement during aerial flight. On 6 July 1944 Lt LEMON was flying wing position on a bombing mission when severe antiaircraft fire was encountered and his aircraft was damaged. Although greatly handicapped by the loss of power in his right engine and a lowering of oil pressure, Lt LEMON by superior airmanship and courage remained in formation and dropped his bombs

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Sec V, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

on the target with devastating results. Through his steadfast devotion to duty and determination, Lt LEMON contributed in large measure to the success of the mission. His courage and flying skill reflect great credit to himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

IRWIN J. LOEFFLER, O-704304, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 23 December 1944 Lt LOEFFLER, having already completed a hazardous mission, was called upon to navigate a Pathfinder aircraft a second time that day although there was insufficient time for briefing. Despite the fact that an encounter with enemy fire had severely damaged his plane, and made all navigational aids inoperative. Lt LOEFFLER assumed leadership of the mission when the first box leader overran the target and led the remaining planes in an effective attack over the target. His brilliant leadership and outstanding courage reflect the greatest credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Indiana.

ROBERT W. MAC DONALD, 15097168, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement on 12 May 1944 while serving as an armorer-gunner on an A-20 type aircraft. During a bombing mission against flying bomb installations at Beauboir, France, S/Sgt MAC DONALD'S aircraft encountered intense enemy ground fire which severely damaged the right engine and hydraulic system. Antiaircraft bursts hit the turret and S/Sgt MAC DONALD'S arms and face were struck by flying glass; but despite these handicaps, he courageously remained at his post while the target was successfully bombed. When the radio equipment caught fire, S/Sgt MAC DONALD'S alertness and determination enabled him to extinguish the fire and bring the plane and crew safely back to base. Entered military service from Kentucky.

RUSSELL L. MAUCHIN, JR., O-26243, Captain, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial warfare. On 20 July 1944, Capt MAUGHIN, serving as a leader of a flight of A-20 type aircraft on a combat mission against enemy marshalling yards displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty. When interference from another flight made a second bomb run necessary over the heavily guarded target, even though he realized fighter protection had been withdrawn, Capt MAUGHIN unhesitatingly led his flight for the second assault. In spite of the heavy antiaircraft fire encountered he bombed the marshalling yards successfully. Capt MAUGHIN'S brilliant leadership and superior flying ability reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Virginia.

LEONARD R. MC BRIDE, O-747840, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 19 March 1944 during his first bombing mission, Lt MC BRIDE displayed outstanding flying skill and determination. As the formation of which Lt MC BRIDE was a member, approached the target area, it encountered intense enemy fire. Although his aircraft received serious damage, Lt MC BRIDE, undeterred, courageously continued with the formation and bombed the target with excellent results. Lt MC BRIDE'S steadfast devotion to duty contributed toward the success of the mission and reflects great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Mississippi.

GERALD M. MC NULTY, O-886006, Captain, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. Capt MC NULTY on 6 June 1944 flew as deputy-leader on an evening mission to important marshalling yards in occupied France. Upon entering the bombing area his aircraft was

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Sec V, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

damaged by enemy ground fire; but with courageous fortitude and employing conspicious flying skill, he maintained his position in the box, even though scattered clouds at times hid other planes from his view. When his box leader was forced out of the formation by intense antiaircraft fire, Capt MC NULTY unhesitatingly assumed command, assembled the formation and led a brilliant attack upon the target and destroyed the marshalling yards. Entered military service from Ohio.

ROBERT G. MEREDITH, O-747854, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight over enemy territory. Lt MEREDITH, while flying against heavy enemy opposition on 6 June 1944, exhibited outstanding courage and devotion to duty when, upon entering the target area where a heavy overcast necessitated low flying, the formation encountered intense enemy fire. Although his plane was damaged by a close burst Lt MEREDITH calmly maintained his position and bombed the target with excellent results. His aerial proficiency and determination in the face of great odds exemplify the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Montana.

KAYE G. MORRISON, O-545937, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. Lt MORRISON was a member of a formation assigned to bomb an important enemy road junction. A heavy cloud overcast necessitated low altitude flying and the formation leader was forced down. Although his own plane was severely damaged by enemy fire, Lt MORRISON, skilfully maneuvering his plane, moved up to the position of deputy formation leader and aided in the successful bombing and destruction of the road junction. By his alertness, flying skill, and devotion to duty, Lt MORRISON brought the highest distinction upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Utah.

EDWARD M. NEATON, 19079576, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. S/Sgt NEATON, displayed unusual bravery and outstanding airmanship while serving as a mechanic-gunner on an A-20 type junction in the area of Baal, Germany on 19 November 1944. Low cloud coverage over the area necessitated flying at an altitude of 3500 feet where antiaircraft fire was severe. Simultaneously the formation was attacked by eight enemy fighters; but despite these dangers, S/Sgt NEATON remained at his post and fought off the enemy while his plane completed its bombing run. S/Sgt NEATON'S determination and skill contributed in large measure to the success of the mission and his exceptional devotion to duty reflect the greatest credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

WILLIAM A. PECK, O-800034, Captain, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement against the enemy on 6 June 1944. The formation of which Capt PECK served as pilot was attacked by severe enemy fire when a solid overcast forced it to fly at an altitude of 2000 feet over enemy marshalling yards at Serquex, France. Employing outstanding flying skill and superior leadership, Capt PECK maintained his formation despite severe damage to his plane, and bombed the marshalling yards with excellent results. Capt PECK'S steadfast devotion to duty and courageous action were responsible in large measure for the progress of allied troops in this area and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Georgia.

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Sec V, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

ROBERT F. PRICE, O-431508, Major, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 8 July 1944 Major PRICE led a formation in an attack against enemy installations near Caen, France, where intense enemy aircraft fire seriously damaged seven planes of the formation. Dense clouds of smoke from artillery fire blanketed the town and made accurate bombing difficult. Despite these handicaps, Major PRICE, employing cool judgment and superb airmanship, skilfully maneuvered his aircraft to lead his formation in a brilliant bombing run upon the target. This distinguished achievement in the face of grave obstacles substantially contributed to the advancement of allied ground troops in this area. Entered military service from West Virginia.

LYLE N. PROCKNOW, O-762130, 2d Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy. Lt PROCKNOW distinguished himself on 29 September 1944 while serving as a member of a formation which bombed a marshalling yard at Bingen, Germany. Although intense antiaircraft fire was encountered and inclement weather made the target difficult to identify, Lt PROCKNOW proceeded to bomb the objective with devastating results. Lt PROCKNOW'S unflinching devotion to duty is responsible in large measure for the success of the mission and his excellent judgment and aerial proficiency are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

MARSHALL G. RICHARDS, O-663563, Captain, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy on 5 January 1945. On this date Capt RICHARDS led a flight of A-20 type aircraft in an attack against a communications center in occupied Luxembourg. Upon approaching the target his left engine suffered severe damage from enemy fire but Capt RICHARDS refused to drop out of the formation knowing that at this critical moment his flight would not have sufficient time to reform before bombing the enemy installations. Maintaining his position, he led the flight in a successful attack upon the target. The unusual flying skill, superior leadership and devotion to duty demonstrated by Capt RICHARDS on this occasion reflect great credit upon himself and are worth the highest praise. Entered military service from Arizona.

ERNEST F. ROSS, O-685732, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight over enemy territory. On 30 November 1944 Lt ROSS led a group on a bombing mission over the heavily fortified town of Eurp, Germany, a direct obstacle to allied ground forces in their drive toward Cologne. Although the target was obscured by clouds, and heavy antiaircraft fire in this vicinity severely damaged his plane critically wounding his radio operator-gunner, Lt ROSS, with skillfull precision led his group in an effective bombing of the target. Lt ROSS' actions on this occasion are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Kansas.

FREDERICK O. ROVENTE, O-737478, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 12 May 1944 Lt ROVENTE was a member of a formation of A-20 type aircraft which attacked an airdrome in enemy territory. Approaching the target the formation encountered intense antiaircraft fire, and the hydraulic system on Lt ROVENTE'S plane was damaged and the plexiglass windshield of the cockpit shattered. Despite these handicaps Lt ROVENTE continued on his course to bomb successfully the enemy

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Sec V, GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

installations. Lt ROVENTE'S actions contributed greatly to the allied air offensive and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New York.

THOMAS R. SAMMONS, O-749623, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. During a bombing mission in conjunction with allied ground forces on 27 August 1944, Lt SAMMONS displayed outstanding leadership. Bombing of the enemy installations involved accurate timing without destruction to nearby allied troops and before the enemy could firmly fortify itself. Weather conditions were unfavorable and antiaircraft fire heavy, but Lt SAMMONS, undeterred, led his formation in a brilliant attack which destroyed the target and made possible an immediate advance of allied ground forces. Lt SAMMONS' devotion to duty and aerial proficiency reflect great credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from Kentucky.

JACK S. SARGENT, O-747900, Captain, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 3 August 1944, Capt SARGENT led a formation of eighteen aircraft in an attack upon enemy marshalling yards. Because of heavy overcast and severe enemy fire a successful bombing of the target was rendered extremely hazardous. Refusing to abandon the mission, however Capt SARGENT selected a railroad junction as a target of opportunity. Reforming his flight, he led the formation in a brilliant attack, dropping bombs with pin-point accuracy upon the target. Capt SARGENT'S unswerving devotion to duty and determination in the face of great odds reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

JAMES P. SCHWARTZ, O-669794, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy. On 27 December 1944 Lt SCHWARTZ exhibited superior aerial ability and outstanding leadership where intense enemy fire was encountered during an attack on the enemy communication center. Despite heavy opposition and the failure of a first bombing run, Lt SCHWARTZ reformed the group and again attacked the installation completely destroying it. His determination and steadfast devotion to duty were instrumental in the success of the air offensive in this area and reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Louisana.

WILLARD W. SMITH, 38328745, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 28 November 1944 while serving as tunnel gunner in a formation attacking a troop concentration in Germany, S/Sgt SMITH exhibited superior judgment and aerial skill. On approaching the target, severe antiaircraft fire was encountered and an accurate burst struck S/Sgt SMITH'S aircraft causing a fire. S/Sgt SMITH, with outstanding courage and resourcefulness, calmly extinguished the flames, thus insuring the safe completion of the mission. The determination, and courage exhibited by S/Sgt SMITH are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Louisana.

WALTER E. TRESDALE, O-805875, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 5 January 1945 while participating in action against the enemy as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft. When his formation encountered heavy antiaircraft fire near the

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target, a shell fragment entered the cockpit of Lt TRESDALE'S plane seriously wounding him. Despite intense pain, Lt TRESDALE continued the bombing run scoring direct hits upon the target. The courage, resourcefulness, and firm determination exhibited by Lt TRESDALE on this occasion was contributed in large measure to the successful completion of a difficult mission. Entered military service from California.

LOUIS J. VANDERLOOP, O-765756, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement against the enemy in aerial flight On 28 November 1944 Lt VANDERLOOP was serving as bombardier in a flight attacking the heavily defended village of Morken, Germany which hindered the advancement of allied ground troops. Fully cognizant that inaccurate bombing might result in the destruction of allied troops in this region, Lt VANDERLOOP bombed the fortifications with pin-point accuracy thus permitting the immediate advance of allied forces. The tactical skill and devotion to duty displayed by Lt VANDERLOOP on this occasion reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

EARL WHEELER, JR., O-745984, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight over enemy territory on 5 July 1944. While leading a flight on a bombing mission, Lt WHEELER encountered low cloud coverage and intense antiaircraft fire in the vicinity of the target. Undeterred by these hazards, Lt WHEELER brilliantly led several successful attacks upon the enemy installations. When the formation leader was shot down, Lt WHEELER assumed control and, employing skilful evasive action, he reorganized the formation and completed the bombing mission. His display of superior leadership and outstanding aerial proficiency reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Illinois.

DAVID L. WILLETS, O-431583, Lieutenant Colonel, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy On 6 June 1944 Lt Col WILLETS distinguished himself by exhibiting superior flying ability and outstanding leadership when he led a formation of A-20 type aircraft to attack an important road junction at Argantan, France. Employing superb aerial tactics he skilfully maneuvered his flight through the hazards of intense enemy fire and low cloud coverage and effectively bombed the target. His professional skill, devotion to duty, and outstanding aerial proficiency reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

MICHAEL ZUBON, O-26075, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. When the enemy was attempting a retreat across the Seine River in the area of Rouen, France on 27 August 1944, a formation of light bombers was dispatched to bomb troop and vehicle concentrations in that region. While making a series of bombing runs the aircraft piloted by Lt ZUBON was damaged by intense enemy antiaircraft fire. Although oil was spattered over his aircraft, thereby creating a serious hazard, Lt ZUBON bombed the target successfully. His outstanding flying technique and bombing skill, his courage and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New York.

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GO No 76, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 18 May 1945, contd.

VI--DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER).--By direction of the President, in addition to the DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS awarded him in General Orders No. 170, dated 30 June 1944, a BRONZE OAK-LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following-named officer now missing in action, 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:

RICHARD K. BILLS, O-798034, Captain, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism and outstanding achievement while serving as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft. On 19 November 1944 Capt BILLS led a formation of 36 aircraft in an attack upon an important road and railroad junction at Baal, Germany. Although extremely hazardous weather conditions would have justified abandonment of the operation, Capt BILLS continued his mission and, despite heavy antiaircraft fire, attacked the target and destroyed the enemy installations. Capt BILLS' determined efforts on this occasion were instrumental in the advancement of allied troops in this area and are deserving of the highest praise and commendation.

By command of Lieutenant General VANDENBERG:

W W MILLARD
Colonel, GSC
C of S

OFFICIAL:

F. N. MONAHAN
Lt Col, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION: "A"
(Less units not concerned)

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