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HEADQUARTERS
9TH AIR DIVISION

C/GM/4

GENERAL ORDERS)

APO 140, U S Army,
16 June 1945.

NUMBER 31)

SECTION I : AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL
SECTION II : AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
SECTION III : AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL ORDERS

SECTION I

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 24 July 1926, (Bull S, 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 men:

a. Russell O. King, 13023204, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 322nd Bombardment Group (I). For heroism while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 aircraft during a combat mission. When a 2000-pound bomb became hung-up in the bomb bay doors, Staff Sergeant King courageously crawled out on the dangerous catwalk, and although working under constant enemy fire, he succeeded in opening the bomb bay doors. The armed bomb fell in enemy territory in the vicinity of the flak positions. The ingenuity and intrepidity displayed by Staff Sergeant King reflects high credit on himself and on the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Front Royal, Va.

b. For heroism, 31 May 1944, to the below-named enlisted men. When a B-26 aircraft, carrying a full bomb-load, crashed in flames at Boreham, England, these enlisted men courageously entered the burning wreckage to rescue the injured crew members. As a result of the prompt and intrepid actions of the below-named individuals, two members of the crew were saved from the blazing inferno. The heroism of these individuals in entering the burning airplane despite the imminent danger of explosion is in keeping with the high traditions of the Army Air Forces.

394th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (I)
547th Bombardment Squadron (I)

Patrick Roigan	18069797	Pvt	LC	Denver, Colo.
Will R. Spurgeon	39539328	Pvt	LC	Los Angeles, Calif.

c. Chester A. Morris, III, 34766097, Corporal, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (I). For heroism on 29 August 1944, when an enemy V-1 weapon landed, in the Kilburn section of London, England. Corporal Morris gallantly disregarded the danger to his own life and, although bruised and out, entered a crumbling building and rescued six children and a woman who had been trapped by the explosion. Corporal Morris's courage and initiative during this critical emergency reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Macon, Georgia.

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Sec I, GO 21, Hq, 9th Air Division, 16 June 1945.

d. For heroism, 2 June 1944, to the below-named officer and enlisted men. After a B-26 aircraft, returning from an operational mission, crashed and burned, these individuals disregarded their own safety and rendered on-the-spot emergency first-aid treatment to an injured crewman. Despite detonating ammunition, and the constant danger of the gasoline tanks exploding these individuals persisted in their heroic efforts until the wounded crewman had recovered sufficiently to be moved from the area of the burning aircraft. The courageous efforts of the below-named officer and enlisted men are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

322ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

WILLIAM J. EISENBERGER	O-466230	CAPT	MC	New York, N. Y.
James A. Rapp	23112979	Col	AC	Erie, Pa.

e. For heroism, 6 April 1945, to the below-named enlisted men. When the aircraft in which they were flying crashed and burned upon returning from a combat mission, these men displayed outstanding intrepidity by attempting the hazardous rescue of the trapped pilot. Despite the intensity of the flames, and although fully aware that the aircraft contained four 500-pound bombs, these individuals worked until they had succeeded in removing the injured pilot from the blazing wreckage. The courage and alertness displayed by these enlisted men is worthy of high praise.

416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
647th Bombardment Squadron (L)

George E. Gorne	37557692	S/Sgt	AC	Detroit Lakes, Minn.
Gerald F. Bingen, Jr	16006274	Sgt	AC	Racine, Wisc.

f. Clifton W. Richens, 20922655, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 322nd Bombardment Group (M). For heroism, 5 November 1944, while participating in combat as tail gunner on a B-26 Marauder aircraft. When a 1000-pound bomb failed to release over the target, and became stuck in the bomb bay doors, Staff Sergeant Richens courageously removed his parachute, entered the bomb bay, and defused the dangerous bomb. Displaying unusual ingenuity and skill, Staff Sergeant Richens then hoisted the bomb to a safe position. As a result of his prompt and intrepid actions, his aircraft was able to land safely upon returning to base. Entered military service from Vernal, Utah.

g. For heroism, 2 March 1945, to the below-named officer^{and} enlisted men. When their aircraft, critically damaged by enemy flak, was forced to crash-land at an emergency airfield, these individuals, although bruised and shaken by the crash, courageously went to the aid of a fellow crewman who was pinned under the fuselage. Although the aircraft was burning, and flames, and ammunition were exploding constantly in the blaze, these individuals gallantly persisted in the rescue work until they had succeeded in extricating the wounded crewman from the flaming wreckage. The actions of the below-named officer and enlisted men are in keeping with the high traditions of the Army Air Forces.

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Sec-I, GO 31, Hq, 9th Air Division, 16 June 1945.

323rd Bombardment Group (M)
455th Bombardment Squadron (I)

JOHN J. BURSEK	O-781209	2ND LT	AC	Brillon, Wisc.
Howard L. Yeager	33505435	S/Sgt	AC	Montgomery, Pa.

h. MERTON J. RHODA, OF17528, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, 391st Bombardment Group (M). For heroism on 16 January 1945, when the aircraft in which he was flying as copilot crashed during take-off on an operational mission. Although seriously injured in the crash, Lieutenant RHODA ignored the imminent danger of the bombs exploding and struggled courageously to free the pilot from the burning wreckage. Not until he lost consciousness from his wounds did Lieutenant RHODA cease his heroic efforts. The gallantry displayed by Lieutenant RHODA in the face of grave danger reflects the highest credit upon himself and upon the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Corning, New York.

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 USA, dated 27 May 1944, a BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to the following named personnel, organizations indicated:

HQ, 9TH AIR DIVISION

a. Clara A. Wolford, A-602004, Staff Sergeant, Woman's Army Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 1 July 1943 to 30 April 1945.

1372ND SIGNAL COMPANY (WING)

b. Howard F. Faulkner, 32296067, Technician Fourth Grade, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 1 February 1943 to 30 April 1945.

399TH SIGNAL COMPANY (AVN)

c. George E. Phillips, 32849890, Technician Fifth Grade, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 26 June 1944 to 30 April 1945.

322ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

d. Charles J. Virgo, 14071052, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from November 1944 to March 1945.

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Sec II, GO 31, Hq, 9th Air Division, 16 June 1945.

344TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (1)

- e. Joseph A. Chambers, 33117637, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 6 March 1944 to 10 February 1945.
- f. Edward G. Dewing, 6608681, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 13 April 1944 to 27 December 1944.
- g. Donald E. Etter, 13031563, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 6 March 1944 to 31 July 1944.
- h. Elwood A. Franke, 38256913, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 18 July 1944 to 21 March 1945.
- i. Edward J. Karolski, 13058381, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 6 March 1944 to 23 February 1945.
- j. Romuald J. Kulesza, 32245007, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 12 October 1944 to 25 April 1945.
- k. Albert J. Lyons, 34231749, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 29 May 1944 to 19 April 1945.
- l. John M. Macko, 33151573, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 3 March 1944 to 14 March 1945.
- m. Edward A. McGarrahan, 34231842, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 22 May 1944 to 22 January 1945.
- n. Howard M. Winslett, 34198318, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 19 November 1944 to 25 April 1945.
- o. William H. Wood, 34241203, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 10 April 1944 to 20 April 1945.
- p. Claude M. Phillips, 34189544, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 10 December 1944 to 18 April 1945.

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Sec II, GO 31, Hq, 9th Air Division, 16 June 1945.

q. Lloyd J. Brown, 35501248, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 1 November 1944 to 25 April 1945.

386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

r. Cecil C. Wolfe, 13082992, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 11 August 1944 to 1 March 1945.

s. Louis G. Caskinette, 17025149, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 16 August 1944 to 8 May 1945.

397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

t. Chester K. Pullum, 19116216, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 3 June 1944 to 18 November 1944.

410TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

u. Glen L. Palmer, 15073468, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 19 November 1944 to 24 March 1945.

v. Homer L. Grant, 18115591, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 4 May 1944 to 15 August 1944.

w. Rupert B. Nanny, 35038274, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 19 July 1944 to 23 February 1945.

x. Thomas J. Smith, 14029581, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 25 August 1944 to 25 April 1945.

y. Arthur Bradford, 38319196, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 12 October 1944 to 12 April 1945.

416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

z. Thomas E. Melte, 19066513, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations from 18 March 1944 to 6 August 1944.

SECTION III

1. So much of par 2 e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, Sec IV, GO 52, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (H), 3 April 1945 as reads First Oak Leaf Cluster, is amended to read SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER.

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Sec III, GO 31, Hq, 9th Air Division, 16 June 1945.

2. So much of par 1 g, Sec I, GO 48, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 26 December 1944, as awards the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to Technical Sergeant James J. Legero, 6895014, is amended to read Third Oak Leaf Cluster.

3. So much of par 1, Sec III, GO 5, Hq, 9th Air Division, dated 14 May 1945 as awards the Air Medal to Staff Sergeant Samuel Snider, 31163554, is revoked.

4. So much of par 1, Sec I, GO 56, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (P), 13 April 1945, as awards the Air Medal to Second Lieutenant JAMES W. BRYANT, O-718539, is amended to read Fourth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

5. So much of par 1, Sec I, GO 175, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 7 September 1944, as awards the Air Medal to Sergeant Robert O. Stolz, 35628227, is revoked.

6. So much of Par 1an, Sec II, GO 169, Hq, IX Bomber Command, *dated 30 August 1944 as awards the Seventh Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal is amended to read Ninth Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

7. So much of par 2, Sec II, GO 5, Hq, 9th Air Division, dated 14 May 1945, as reads "Silver Oak Leaf Cluster in Lieu of the Fifth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster" is amended to read "Second Silver Oak Leaf Cluster in Lieu of the Tenth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster".

8. So much of par 2b, Sec II, GO 69, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (K), 6 May 1945, as awards the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to Second Lieutenant RICHMOND L. SCOTT, O-760918, is amended to read First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

8. So much of par 2a, Sec V, GO 7, Hq, 9th Air Division, dated 16 May 1945 as awards the First Oak Leaf Cluster to First Lieutenant Mark P. Schlefer, O-718150, is amended to read First Silver Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

9. So much of par 2b, Sec V, GO 7, Hq, 9th Air Division, dated 16 May 1945 as awards the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to First Lieutenant Mark P. Schlefer, O-718150, is amended to read Sixth Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

10. So much of par 2j, Sec III, GO 5, Hq, 9th Air Division, 14 May 1945 as awards the Third Oak Leaf Cluster to Staff Sergeant Robert J. Johnson, 37564350, is revoked.

11. So much of Par 1, Sec II, GO 69, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (I), 6 May 1945 as awards the Air Medal to First Lieutenant MELVIN T. MIDDLEBROOKS, O-671059, is amended to read first Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

By command of Brigadier General SANDERS:

OFFICIAL:

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

JOHN C. KILBORN,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Chief of Staff.

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GO 31, Hq, 9th Air Division, 16 June 1949.

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