

RESTRICTEDHEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

Exhibit #3-May 1944

SECRET

APO 696, U. S. Army,
21 May 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 144)

E X T R A C T

SECTION VI: AWARDS TO THE 416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L).

SECTION VI

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 delegated by the War Department, a DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following named officer:

HORACE F. PAIR, O-747882, Second Lieutenant, 671st Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For distinguished and meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theatre of Operations on 19 March 1944. Lt. Pair served as Pilot of an A-20 type aircraft dispatched against a heavily defended objective in occupied Europe. While approaching the target his aircraft was struck by anti-aircraft fire which incapacitated one of the engines. Displaying unusual skill and determination, Lt. PAIR maintained his aircraft in formation and successfully participated in the effective destruction of the target. Forced to fall out of the formation, Lt PAIR succeeded in nursing his badly shattered aircraft back over friendly territory, where he was successful in effecting a crash-landing without loss of crew. The keen professional skill, high courage, and unselfish devotion to duty demonstrated by Lt PAIR in the accomplishment of a most difficult mission, exemplify the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

2. 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 delegated by the War Department, a SOLDIER'S MEDAL is awarded to the following named enlisted man:

Victor P. Adams, 35048527, Sergeant, 671st Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism on 19 March 1944. Sgt Adams served as gunner on an A-20 type aircraft which had been badly damaged in a combat mission over enemy territory, and was forced to crash-land in the first available clearing in friendly territory. The aircraft burst into flames upon landing, and all members of the crew were injured and the Pilot badly injured and unconscious. As the Pilot lay stunned and the crew members endeavored to extricate themselves from the blazing wreckage, Sgt Adams, unmindful of his own injuries and showing gallant intrepidity, mounted the wing of the burning plane, cut loose the Pilot's safety belt, extricated his foot which was caught in the wreckage, and with the aid of two civilians lifted the unconscious Pilot to safety. The heroism in the face of great danger and the devotion shown for his Pilot in peril of death are in keeping with the highest traditions of the service. Entered military service from Cleveland, Ohio.

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