

SECRET

Exhibit #52... July 1944

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
IX BOMBER COMMAND

C/CM/11

APO 140, US Army,  
3 July 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NO ... 118 )

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

SECTION I

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

322ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
449th Bombardment Squadron (M)

a. HARLETH I LEWTER, O-725753, FIRST LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States, on 25 June 1944, while serving as Pilot of a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Houston, Texas.

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

b. Robert K Smith, 37117219, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 June 1944, while serving as Bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Vancouver, Washington.

454th Bombardment Squadron (M)

c. RAYFORD L BOONE, O-562578, FIRST LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 24 June 1944, while serving as Navigator on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Galena Park, Texas.

d. GLENN R GREEN, O-667990, FIRST LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 23 June 1944, while serving as Pilot of a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at S. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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456th Bombardment Squadron (M)

e. EUGENE P CINQUEMANI, O-731747, FIRST LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 27 May 1944, while serving as Bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Jamaica, New York.

386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
554th Bombardment Squadron (M)

f. LINDEN V COMBES, O-673098, FIRST LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 June 1944, while serving as Bombardier-Navigator on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Monticello, Illinois.

g. HARRY P QUINN, JR., O-1549580, FIRST LIEUTENANT, Ordnance Department, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 June 1944, while serving as Bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Bridgeport, Connecticut.

h. JACK F WATSON, O-2044777, FIRST LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 June 1944, while serving as Pilot of a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Poteau, Oklahoma.

i. William F Stratman, 16050806, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 June 1944, while serving as radio operator-mechanic-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Racine, Wisconsin.

j. Marvin H Bryant, 32383873, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 June 1944, while serving as armorer-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at E. Syracuse, New York.

k. Louis S. Hileman, 20304281, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action while serving as armorer-gunner on a B-26 airplane on 22 June 1944. Entered military service at Banning, Pennsylvania.

l. Clayton E. Lehman, 34209974, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 June 1944, while serving as Bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Homestead, Florida.

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m. Carlton E. Finke, 33158489, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received while serving as mechanic-gunner on a B-26 airplane on 24 June 1944.

Entered military service at Richmond, Virginia.

397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
596th Bombardment Squadron (M)

n. WINFRED E HUMPHRIES, O-741180, FIRST LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 24 June 1944, while serving as a Bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory.

Entered military service at Lyman, South Carolina.

597th Bombardment Squadron (M)

o. Earl F Phipps, 18068207, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 24 June 1944, while serving as an engineer-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory.

Entered military service at Lubbock, Texas.

p. William D Wildner, 32587433, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 24 June 1944, while serving as radio-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory.

Entered military service at Auburn, New York.

598th Bombardment Squadron (M)

q. Frank J Silva, 39129474, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 24 June 1944, while serving as an armament-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory.

Entered military service at Newark, California.

599th Bombardment Squadron (M)

r. JOHN J AMERLISTER, O-375753, CAPTAIN, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received while serving as Pilot of a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission on 17 June 1944.

Entered military service at Prague, Oklahoma.

s. PAUL E BROWN, O-759891, SECOND LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received while serving as Bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission on 17 June 1944.

Entered military service at Beardstown, Illinois.

t. WILLIAM A HAHN, JR., O-815889, SECOND LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 24 June 1944, while serving as Co-Pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory.

Entered military service at North Woodbury, Connecticut.

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GO 118, Hq IX Bomber Command, dated 3 July 1944, cont'd.

u. ROBERT J KINNEY, O-685642, SECOND LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 24 June 1944, while serving as a Navigator on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Northampton, Mass.

v. Clinton B Mathews, 37907922, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received while serving as radio operator-mechanic-gunner on a B-26 airplane on 17 June 1944. Entered military service at Carthage, Tennessee.

w. Frank G Noe, Jr., 36737979, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 24 June 1944, while serving as armorer-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Chicago, Illinois.

x. Hugh A Prats, 18150761, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received while serving as armorer-gunner on a B-26 airplane on 17 June 1944. Entered military service at New Orleans, Louisiana.

y. Richard E Vaughn, 36453542, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received while serving as radio operator-mechanic-gunner on 17 June 1944. Entered military service at Battle Creek, Michigan.

416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
Headquarters

z. RICHARD F SHAEFER, O-25866, FIRST LIEUTENANT, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received while serving as Pilot of an A-20 airplane on 29 June 1944. Entered military service at Raton, New Mexico.

668th Bombardment Squadron (L)

aa. John A Fejes, Jr., 13039715, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received while serving as gunner on an A-20 airplane on 29 June 1944. Entered military service at Irwin, Pennsylvania.

ab. Harold R Hedrick, 14165008, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received as a result of enemy action on 23 June 1944. Entered military service at High Point, North Carolina.

ac. Earl R Judd, Jr., 39318083, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received while serving as gunner on an A-20 airplane, on 29 June 1944. Entered military service at Molalla, Oregon.

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669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

ad. Jack Mani, 39560628, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 29 June 1944, while serving as gunner on an A-20 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Los Angeles, California.

ae. John J McGuire, 17143116, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 29 June 1944, while serving as gunner on an A-20 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at St. Paul, Minnesota.

SECTION II

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943; and pursuant to authority contained in Section I, Circular 32, Headquarters, ETOUSA, 20 March 1944, a BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to wear with the PURPLE HEART, the following named enlisted man having been awarded the PURPLE HEART per General Orders indicated by sub-paragraph:

a. GO 86, Hq IX Bomber Command, 25 May 1944.

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

James C Bailey, 18082382, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 June 1944, while serving as armorer-gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service at Clarksville, Texas.

SECTION III

1. By direction of the President; under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, (Bull. 8, WD, 1942); and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular 56, dated 27 May 1944, a SOLDIER'S MEDAL is awarded to each of the following named officers:

For heroism, 29 May 1944, the below named officers when their aircraft crashed landed shortly after take-off and immediately burst into flames. All of the other crew members having escaped, Captain MITCHELL and Lieutenant WECHSLER struggled to free the unconscious co-pilot. These two officers who were fully cut about the face, did not desist their attempts to remove the co-pilot until the airplane had become a roaring inferno.

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They did succeed in unfastening the co-pilot's safety belt and removing his parachute. As Captain MITCHELL and Lieutenant WECHSLER left the doomed plane they carried to safety the unconscious bombardier who had fallen unconscious when he had crawled from the burning aircraft. In the meantime, the co-pilot had regained consciousness and through Captain MITCHELL and Lieutenant WECHSLER'S efforts was able to escape in sufficient time to be safe when the bombs exploded and completely demolished the aircraft. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by Captain MITCHELL and Lieutenant WECHSLER will always be worthy of emulation.

391ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
575th Bombardment Squadron (M)

KENNETH W MITCHELL	O-731630	CAPTAIN	Chanute, Kansas
HOWARD WECHSLER	O-797108	1ST LT	New York, N. Y.

2. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, (Bull. 8, WD, 1942), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department and contained in ETOUSA Circular 56, dated 27 May 1944, a SOLDIER'S MEDAL is awarded to the following named enlisted man:

Gerard R Pelletier, 31269089, Private, 2146th Engineer Aviation Fire Fighting Platoon. For heroism, 31 May 1944, in rescuing one crew member and aiding in the rescue of another crew member from a crashed and burning aircraft. With complete disregard for personal safety, Private Pelletier, having learned from the dazed pilot of other crew members in the burning aircraft, rushed to the aid of a crew member struggling to free himself and helped him to a waiting stretcher. Fully cognizant of the presence of unexploded bombs, Private Pelletier re-entered the ill-fated aircraft and dragged another crew member, who was unconscious, to a safe distance away. Private Pelletier's actions on this occasion mark him as an extraordinarily courageous soldier in the face of great danger.

Entered military service at Manchester, New Hampshire.

SECTION IV

1. So much of Section III, par. 5, GO 101, this Hq, cs, as pertains to the award of the Purple Heart to 2ND LT WOODROW W FRY, 0748173, is rescinded.

2. So much of Section II, par. 2 ag, GO 107, this Hq, cs, as pertains to the award of the fourth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to 2ND LT HAROLD A WALTON, 0757345, is deleted.

3. So much of Section V, par 2 u, GO 111, this Hq, cs, as pertains to the award of the ninth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to CAPT EMMETT E CURRAN, O-724903, is deleted.

4. So much of Section III, par 2 n, GO 102, this Hq, cs, as reads: "Troy W Bell, 7000577, Pvt.," is amended to read: "Troy W Ball, 7000577, Pvt."

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GO 118, Hq IX Bomber Command, dated 3 July 1944, cont'd.

5. So much of Section III, par. 2 g, GO 102, this Hq, cs, as reads:  
"John W Depus, 33324294, Sgt.," is amended to read: "John W Depue, 33324294,  
Sgt."

By command of Brigadier General ANDERSON:

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

OFFICIAL:



C. C. VEGA, JR.,  
Lt. Col., A. C.,  
Adjutant General.

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