

SECRETHEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

Exh #7-Oct 1944

APO 696, U S Army,
12 October 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER.....242)

E X T R A C T

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

SECTION XI

2. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Sull. 8, WD, 1926), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, a DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following named officers:

HIRAM F. CONANT, O-397619, Captain, 668th Bombardment Squadron (L), 416th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism and outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight in the EUROPEAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS. On 4 June 1944 Capt Conant piloted an A-20 aircraft on a combat operational mission over occupied territory. While making the bombing run Capt CONANT'S plane sustained a series of anti-aircraft bursts which damaged the instrument panel and bomb-sight, punctured the gas tanks and left engine, and severed control cables and the hydraulic lines. Fully cognizant of the imminent danger of fire throughout the ship, Capt CONANT nevertheless exercised calm courage and superior technical ability in keeping his plane on course, enabling the Bombardier to dispatch his bombs with telling effect on the target. Capt CONANT'S brilliant demonstration of professional skill and gallant perseverance contributed considerably to the success of the mission, as well as the safe landing of his battered aircraft in the face of almost insuperable obstacles. His resolute determination and unstinting devotion to duty are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from Cambridge, Massachusetts.

CHESTER R. JACKSON, O-736226, Captain, 670th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theatre of Operations on 5 June and 6 August 1944. On the former occasion Capt JACKSON led a formation of A-20 type aircraft on an attack on a heavily fortified headquarters installation. An intense barrage of anti-aircraft fire was encountered which inflicted severe damage on Capt JACKSON'S 3-plane, incapacitating one engine and disabling all but two of the instruments. Although the left aileron control was severed and the plane was vibrating violently, Capt JACKSON by dint of extreme tenacity and distinctive flying skill, piloted the damaged aircraft back to an emergency landing field. On the latter occasion Capt JACKSON served as a flight leader on an attack against a vital bridge in enemy occupied territory. Accurate fire from ground batteries damaged the hydraulic system, left tire, punctured the gas tanks, and injured the turret gunner. Despite the extreme difficulty of continued flight Capt JACKSON gallantly maintained his position at the head of the formation, making a successful crash landing at the home base with no further injury to aircraft or crew. The superior professional ability and unflinching devotion to duty exhibited by Capt JACKSON on these occasions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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Par 1, Sec XI, GO No 242, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 12 October 1944, cont'd.

ARTHUR E. OSBORNE, JR., O-684403, Captain, 668th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For heroic and outstanding achievement while in action against the enemy. On 6 August 1944 Capt OSBORNE served as lead Pilot on a light bombardment mission against a heavily defended enemy railroad bridge. Before reaching the target his plane sustained a near burst of anti-aircraft which riddled the fuselage and damaged the right engine. Realizing his responsibility as lead pilot, however, Capt OSBORNE, by dint of sheer courage and extraordinary flying skill, succeeded in holding his position in formation. Capt OSBORNE'S resolute determination and superior technical proficiency were largely responsible for the completion of the mission and the safe return of his plane and crew to an emergency landing field, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

WARREN FORMA, O-749633, First Lieutenant, 668th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For heroic achievement against the enemy while acting as lead bombardier-navigator in a medium bombardment mission in the European Theatre of Operations on 6 August 1944. On the approach to the objective the formation encountered intense, accurate anti-aircraft fire which inflicted severe damage to the lead plane. Despite bursts of anti-aircraft fire which shook the plane violently, Lt FORMA, with gallant determination and exceptional technical skill, completed his calculations and directed the bomb release so accurately that the enemy ground installation was totally destroyed. The superior professional ability and calm fortitude displayed by Lt FORMA resulted in the successful completion of the mission, and are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from New York, N.Y.

ARVID R. HAND, O-748066, First Lieutenant, 668th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theatre of Operations. On 8 July 1944 Lt. HAND served as lead bombardier-navigator on a combat operational mission in occupied territory. Concealment of the target by clouds of smoke from nearby artillery made it necessary to estimate the aiming point, but Lt HAND, with calm judgment and superior technical ability directed the bomb release with such accuracy that direct hits inflicted extensive damage to the installation. Lt HAND'S superb performance in the face of extremely difficult obstacles contributed in a large measure to the success of the mission, and is exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Hempstead, Texas.

LUTHER E. HILL, O-306064, First Lieutenant, 668th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theatre of Operations from March to August 1944. During this period Lt HILL has shown superior courage and distinctive flying skill while piloting A-20 type aircraft on light bombardment missions against vital and strongly fortified installations in enemy occupied territory. On numerous occasions anti-aircraft fire has inflicted severe damage to his aircraft and, although suffering intensely from painful wounds, he has demonstrated determination and technical ability of the highest type in bringing aircraft and crew safely back to the home base. The gallant perseverance, eminent flying ability and unstinting devotion to duty exhibited by Lt HILL are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Oklahoma, City, Oklahoma.

JOHN P. HILLERMAN, O-805457, First Lieutenant, 670th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For heroic and outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European Theatre of Operations on 3 June and 1 September 1944. After successfully completing the mission on the first occasion his left engine was set afire by an anti-aircraft shell. Although obliged to return

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1, Sec XI, GO 242, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 12 October 1944, cont'd.

through heavily protected areas at zero visibility, Lt. HILLERMAN manifested superb piloting ability and steadfast determination in safely returning the badly damaged aircraft by instrument flight to the home base. On the latter occasion the A-20 type aircraft which Lt HILLERMAN was piloting developed engine trouble shortly after take-off, but Lt HILLERMAN by exercising great technical proficiency, completed the entire mission in single engine flight. The eminent fortitude and distinctive technical skill displayed by Lt HILLERMAN on these occasions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

VERNON R. POWELL, O-748029, First Lieutenant, 570th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theatre of Operations on 6 June 1944. On that date Lt POWELL served as lead bombardier on a medium bombardment attack on heavily defended marshalling yards in occupied France. Extremely heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered which damaged the right engine, causing the aircraft to shake violently, but Lt. POWELL, exercising calm resolution and aggressive tenacity, completed the eighting operation, directing the release of the bombs with devastating effect upon the target. The gallant perseverance and distinctive technical skill manifested by Lt POWELL were largely instrumental in the successful completion of the mission, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Birmingham, Alabama.

ROBERT J. ROONEY, O-26102, First Lieutenant, 570th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For heroic and outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theatre of Operations. On 18 July 1944 Lt ROONEY piloted an A-20 type aircraft on a medium bombardment mission in occupied France. Due to intense anti-aircraft fire encounters enroute to the target, the right engine was incapacitated, the hydraulic lines were cut, and Lt ROONEY sustained a severe wound from a shell fragment. Severely handicapped by the crippled condition of the aircraft and the pain of his wound, Lt ROONEY nevertheless maintained control of his plane and, since one of his gunners was seriously injured, he headed the damaged aircraft back to the home base. With gallant determination and superior flying skill he brought the injured aircraft in for a successful crash landing. The calm courage and distinctive professional ability demonstrated by Lt ROONEY on this occasion are exemplary of the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from New Orleans, Louisiana.

By command of Major General VANDENBURG:

W. W. MILLARD
Colonel, GSO
3 of 3

Official:

/s/ O. M. Seebach
/s/ O. M. SEEBACH
Colonel, AGO
Adjutant General

THIS IS A TRUE EXTRACT COPY.

Frank M. Hoppe
FRANK M. HOPPE,
1st Lt., A. C.,
Group Historical Officer

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