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HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, U S Army  
25 January 1945

Exh #2- Jan 45  
(GENERAL ORDERS)

\* NUMBER.....17)

- SECTION I: AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR  
SECTION II: AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (POST-HUMOUS)  
SECTION III: AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS  
SECTION IV: AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

SECTION I

1. 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 authority delegated by the War Department, the following-named officer is awarded the SILVER STAR Decoration:

MATTHEW H. T. FERGUSON, O-409884, Captain, Air Corps, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For gallantry in action while serving as leader of a flight of B-26 type aircraft in an attack upon coastal gun installations on 6 June 1944. Descending through the cloud cover, the formation left him and Capt FERGUSON successfully bombed his objective alone. Immediately thereafter twenty-one Focke-Wolfe 190's attacked him, but demonstrating superior flying skill and steadfast determination, Capt FERGUSON enabled the gunners to destroy one of the enemy aircraft and successfully warded off other repeated attacks. By his extraordinary heroism, brilliant pilotage and distinctive devotion to duty Capt FERGUSON gallantly aided in the destruction of a vital enemy objective which hampered "D Day" landing forces. Entered military service from South Carolina.

SECTION II

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

WARREN L. DECKER, O-800487, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 409th Bombardment Group (L). For heroic and extraordinary achievement while serving as deputy flight leader in a formation of A-20 type aircraft dispatched against the enemy on 20 October 1944. After he encountered engine trouble while descending through overcast, Lt DECKER instructed the crew to bail out as he courageously remained at the controls of his aircraft in an heroic effort to bring the aircraft under control. The turret gunner was unable to put on his parachute because of the violent whipping of the aircraft but without regard for his own life Lt DECKER remained at the controls and enabled the turret gunner to parachute to safety. The gallant courage and self sacrificing regard for the safety of his gunner evidenced by Lt DECKER reflects great

\* GO No 16, Hq, Ninth Air Force, 24 Jan 1945, received limited Distribution.

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distinction upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Next of Kin: Mrs. Charles H. Decker (Mother), Ossining, New York.

SECTION III

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, the following-named officers and enlisted men are awarded the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS:

EDWARD L. PARKS, O-693076, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 344th Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations on 6 October 1944. Serving as pilot of a B-26 type aircraft enroute to bomb a bridge supplying enemy forces in Holland, Lt PARKS distinguished himself when his aircraft encountered intense accurate enemy antiaircraft fire and suffered battle damage. Undeterred, in the face of intense danger, Lt PARKS brilliantly maintained his aircraft in position and released his bombs in a tight concentration on the objective with good results. Lt PARKS' efficiency as a pilot, and his courage and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Iowa.

LESTER POMERANTZ, O-797065, Captain, Air Corps, 386th Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 18 July 1944. Capt POMERANTZ led a formation of B-26 type aircraft in an attack against a railroad bridge in occupied France on this date. Taking efficient evasive action Capt POMERANTZ brought the formation safely through antiaircraft fire and proceeded to bomb the target. Rather than return over the same dangerous route, Capt POMERANTZ selected an alternate unbriefed route and led the formation safely back to base with no further opposition. The keen judgment, superior skill and devotion to duty evidenced by Capt POMERANTZ on this occasion were largely responsible for the successful completion of this mission and reflect great credit to himself and the United States Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

ROY D. YINGLING, 38045066, Staff Sergeant, 391st Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as engineer gunner of a B-26 type aircraft on 6 June 1944. Dispatched on a low level mission to bomb bridges at Caen, the formation encountered accurate, heavy antiaircraft fire. Their bombs dropped on the target with excellent results and on the return flight S/Sgt YINGLING noted considerable activity on the ground from elements of two panzer divisions. S/Sgt YINGLING and the other gunners returned such accurate and intense fire, that a notable decrease in enemy opposition was evident. S/Sgt YINGLING'S courage, determination and accuracy with his guns while under enemy fire materially aided in the success of this attack. Entered military service from Texas.

JOSEPH M. SILK, O-23757, Lieutenant Colonel, Air Corps, 394th Bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement while serving as pilot of a B-26 type aircraft against enemy fortified gun positions at Cherbourg, France. On 24 June 1944, bombing conditions were extremely adverse because a smoky haze covered the heavily defended objective, but Lt Col SILK fearlessly led his flight unswervingly to the target and enabled his flight to drop their

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WILLIAM J. ALEXANDER, O-750009, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while serving as bombardier navigator in the lead aircraft of a box of A-20 type aircraft participating in an attack over Germany. On 23 December 1944, despite extremely adverse weather conditions, heavy ground fire and possible attack by enemy aircraft in the vicinity, Lt ALEXANDER without regard for his personal safety, directed his box on four bombing runs over the target to insure that their bombs would strike the target with the best possible results. By his coolness under fire, high technical proficiency and tenacity of purpose Lt ALEXANDER scored superior results on the target and contributed to the effort of our ground forces to overcome the enemy counter-offensive. Entered military service from California.

HOBERT E. CARTER, O-664522, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 25 December 1944. During a daylight attack against marshalling yards in enemy territory, Lt CARTER'S left engine ceased operating but he nevertheless elected to complete the mission. When smoke over the target area enveloped the objective completely, Lt CARTER disregarding the enemy gun fire, made a second and successful attack and released his bombs with telling effect. Alone and without escort, six ME-109's turned toward him, but as the turret opened fire, the enemy turned away. Lt CARTER'S coolness in the face of danger, his determination to destroy the target despite damage to his aircraft, heavy ground opposition, and the danger of being attacked by enemy planes are worthy of the highest praise and reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

ROBERT A. HOBBS, O-750139, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while serving as lead bombardier navigator of a formation of A-20 type aircraft against the enemy on 23 December 1944. Despite adverse weather conditions, hostile ground fire and threatened by possible attack from enemy fighter aircraft, Lt HOBBS directed three bombing runs over the objective and released his bombs on the assigned target with excellent results. Lt HOBBS' courage, brilliant bombing technique and keen devotion to duty in the face of enemy fire contributed directly to the success of our ground forces in their drive to break an enemy counter-offensive and reflects the highest credit upon himself and to the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Colorado.

LOUIS NEWMARK, O-745045, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations from May to December 1944. Lt NEWMARK served as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft on numerous combat missions against enemy installations in the face of adverse conditions including inclement weather, battle damage and heavy ground fire. Lt NEWMARK repeatedly demonstrated qualities of superior airmanship and courage of a high order and by his achievements, Lt NEWMARK made a valuable contribution to the successful bombing operations of his organization. Lt NEWMARK'S fortitude and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and to the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New York.

WILLIAM J. VIHEREK, 31172138, Staff Sergeant, 410th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while serving as tunnel gunner of an A-20 type aircraft in the European Theater of Operations from May to November 1944.

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During this period S/Sgt VIHEREK participated in numerous bombing attacks against military objectives in France and Germany. When faced with enemy ground fire, S/Sgt VIHEREK exhibited outstanding courage and initiative and successfully returned their fire, made valuable observations of ground and sea activities, and took highly useful photographs of enemy installations. S/Sgt VIHEREK distinguished himself by outstanding airmanship, exemplary conduct and fidelity to duty which reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Rhode Island.

JAMES MADENFORD, C-681755, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 4 August 1944. While serving as bombardier navigator of an A-20 type aircraft dispatched in an attack against the enemy, Lt MADENFORD'S aircraft encountered cumulus cloud cover and just before they reached the target, fixed heavy guns fired upon the formation and damaged Lt MADENFORD'S aircraft. Despite the damage to his aircraft and the strong enemy opposition, Lt MADENFORD remained at his bombsight and released his bombs with excellent results on his objective. The steadfast determination, calm courage and superior ability as bombardier navigator demonstrated by Lt MADENFORD on this occasion reflects high credit to himself and is worthy of the highest praise. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

JACK F. SMITH, C-750471, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For extraordinary achievement while serving as pilot of an A-20 type aircraft from May to December 1944. Dispatched on numerous and extremely difficult missions over German-occupied Europe, Lt SMITH repeatedly attacked and destroyed many vital enemy objectives despite adverse weather conditions and dangers involved on hazardous missions. Demonstrating calm judgment and superb pilotage when confronted by enemy antiaircraft fire, Lt SMITH distinguished himself by conspicuous aerial skill while participating in these vital attacks, and brings high credit to himself and to the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Tennessee.

ANDREW R. CLARK, C-494451, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Prov). For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial weather reconnaissance missions over Continental Europe from November to December 1944. Repeatedly exposing himself alone or with a single wingman to attack by enemy antiaircraft fire or enemy aircraft, Lt CLARK unflinchingly returned with accurate and complete descriptions of meteorological conditions in spite of adverse conditions. His superior technical knowledge of weather, skillful handling of his aircraft and courageous perseverance enabled Lt CLARK to complete these dangerous missions during this period. The invaluable information obtained by Lt CLARK has been instrumental to the success of numerous fighter and bomber operations. Entered military service from Michigan.

GEORGE T. DUTTON, 13033627, Technical Sergeant, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while participating in numerous day and night missions in the European Theater of Operations from March to December 1944. T/Sgt DUTTON, as radio operator gunner of a B-26 type aircraft, demonstrated exemplary conduct, fidelity, ingenuity and devotion to duty in an outstanding manner. During this period T/Sgt DUTTON contributed conspicuously to the success of the missions in which he participated and the

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skill and courage with which he executed his duties reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Virginia.

LAWRENCE J. MC NALLY, 32451570, Technical Sergeant, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while serving as radio operator gunner of a B-26 type aircraft from September to December 1944 over enemy occupied territory. While participating in many day and night attacks over France and Germany, T/Sgt MC NALLY demonstrated superior ability, exceptional courage and skill throughout the course of hazardous missions, and repeatedly displayed a deep devotion to duty which contributed in large measure to the successful operations of his group. T/Sgt MC NALLY'S outstanding record reflects high credit to himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New Jersey.

ANTHONY J. CATALANO, 15329050, Staff Sergeant, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European Theater of Operations against the enemy from September to December 1944. During the number of combat missions on which S/Sgt CATALANO served as tail gunner of a B-26 type aircraft he consistently demonstrated outstanding technical skill and perseverance. The quick thinking, sound judgment and devotion to duty which S/Sgt CATALANO evidenced in his manner of performance on these missions against heavily defended enemy installations were largely responsible for their successful completion, and are exemplary of the high traditions of the Service. Entered military service from Ohio.

HAROLD A. RAUB, 17067379, Staff Sergeant, 1st Pathfinder Squadron (M) Provisional. For extraordinary achievement while participating in numerous day and night missions over occupied France and enemy territory from September 1943 to December 1944. On one occasion S/Sgt RAUB demonstrated calm courage and efficiency when the pilot and waist gunner were injured, he immediately administered first aid to the gunner and remained at his gun position. S/Sgt RAUB as engineer gunner distinguished himself by his outstanding airmanship, devotion to duty, initiative and daring, and greatly contributed to the success of the missions in which he participated. Entered military service from Iowa.

#### SECTION IV

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS awarded him per competent authority a BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to the following-named officer, 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:

WARREN G. HARDING, O-663147, 1st Lieutenant, Air Corps, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Prov). For outstanding achievement while participating in aerial flight on weather reconnaissance missions in the European Theater of Operations from September to December 1944. Under hazardous weather conditions exposed to enemy gun fire and interception, Lt HARDING flying unescorted, or with single wingman, obtained invaluable meteorological information during this

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