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HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)

C/GM/4

Exh #5-Feb '45

APO 140, U S Army,
22 February 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 26)

SECTION I : AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL
 SECTION II : AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
 SECTION III : AWARD OF THE BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER
 TO THE PURPLE HEART
 SECTION IV : AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART
 SECTION V : AMENDMENT TO GENERAL ORDERS

SECTION I

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 contained in Hq European T of Opns Circular # 56, dated 27 May 1944, a SOLDIER'S MEDAL is awarded to the following named officer and enlisted men:

a. For heroism, 18 December 1944, to the below-named officer and enlisted man. During a combat mission over Germany, a 250-pound bomb failed to release on the target as the result of a faulty mechanism. Displaying unusual coolness and courage in this critical emergency, these individuals entered the bomb bay where they discovered the dangerous, fully-armed bomb on the half-open bomb bay doors. With great skill and ingenuity, despite the cramped quarters and bitter cold, they succeeded in replacing the bomb on its shackles and securing the pins in the fuses. Their heroic efforts made it possible for the aircraft to land safely upon returning to base.

386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
555th Bombardment Squadron (M)

MAUCIE S MILLER, JR
 Rex W Kates

0-722569
 38468542

2ND LT
 Sgt

AC
 AC

Louisville, Ky.
 Picher, Okla.

b. Oliver I LeRoy, 34352592, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Prov). For heroism in France on 7 January 1945. While Staff Sergeant LeRoy (then Private First Class) was pre-fighting his aircraft, another aircraft, with both engines running, slid across the icy runway and the noses of the two airplanes collided. With outstanding presence of mind and alertness, Staff Sergeant LeRoy quickly cut the engine of this own aircraft, leaped to the ground, and rushed to the other aircraft which was spouting oil from a severed oil line. Despite the imminent danger of fire and explosion, he climbed on the oil-soaked wing of the run-way aircraft and cut the mixture control. The prompt and courageous actions of Staff Sergeant LeRoy averted an almost certain explosion. Entered military service from Ft McPherson, Ga.

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Seot I, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 February 1945.

c. For heroism in France, 5 October 1944, to Thomas W McFall, 13012835, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 558th Bombardment Squadron (M), 387th Bombardment Group (M). When the bomb-laden aircraft in which he was flying as engineer gunner crashed shortly after take-off, Staff Sergeant McFall, although painfully injured, courageously remained at the wreckage and dragged four injured crew members to safety. This intrepid act was performed despite the imminent danger of fire and bomb detonation. Staff Sergeant McFall's decisive act, in the face of pain and danger, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

d. Felix S Wysowski, 13116601, Private First Class, Air Corps, 644th Bombardment Squadron (L), 410th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism in France on 3 November 1944. During a combat mission over Germany, the aircraft in which Private First Class Wysowski was flying as turret gunner was crippled by anti-aircraft fire and the fuel tanks were riddled with flak. Shortly afterward, upon orders from the pilot, the crew parachuted to safety from the damaged airplane. Upon landing, Private First Class Wysowski, observing that the pilot was attempting to make an emergency landing, displayed outstanding initiative and resourcefulness by spreading out his parachute as a marker for the pilot. As a result of Private First Class Wysowski's quick-thinking and ingenuity, the pilot successfully landed the crippled aircraft before the gasoline supply was exhausted. Entered military service from Wilkes Barre, Pa.

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, dated 27 May 1944, a BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to the following named officer:

322ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)

ROBERT G LOOMIS, O-1995929, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in direct support of military operations.

SECTION III

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to authority contained in Sec I, Circular 32, Hq, European T of Opns, 20 March 1944, a BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to wear with the Purple Heart, the following named officer having been awarded the Purple Heart per General Orders indicated by sub-paragraph:

a. GO 149, Hq, IX Bomber Command, 8 August 1944.

416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
669th Bombardment Squadron (L)

LEO E POUNDSTONE, O-749491, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 16 January 1945, while serving as pilot on an A-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Bement, Ill.

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Sect. IV, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

SECTION IV

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

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

a. Andrew J Chochol, 35065506, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as aerial gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Lorain, Ohio.

454th Bombardment Squadron (M)

b. BENEDICT F SYSLO, O-570471, Captain, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 27 September 1944, while serving as bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Columbus, Nebraska.

c. Haley C Bierman, Jr., 34820543, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 14 February 1945, while serving as aerial gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Albany, Georgia.

455th Bombardment Squadron (M)

d. Herbert J Moore, 36811528, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 31 January 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Ogdensburg, Wisc.

344TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
495th Bombardment Squadron (M)

e. W. X. CARTER, O-711584, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Lexington, Okla.

f. Cornelius Vanderlugt, 36460204, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as armoror gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service

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Sect IV, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

from Grand Rapids, Mich.

386TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
552nd Bombardment Squadron (M)

g. JACK GREENWOOD, O-713410, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 21 January 1945, while serving as co-pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Shreveport, La.

h. William Turner, 38444213, Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as radio operator on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Eupora, Miss.

i. Ollen H Polloy, 38363446, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Austin, Texas.

j. Roy M Wildey, 12167984, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 22 January 1945, while serving as radio operator on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Rochester, N. Y.

387TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
557th Bombardment Squadron (M)

k. John E Corbin, 13048297, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 2 February 1945, while serving as tail gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Brookville, Pa.

559th Bombardment Squadron (M)

l. CHARLES A SWANSON, O-720605, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 9 February 1945, while serving as co-pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Gowrie, Iowa.

391ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
572nd Bombardment Squadron (M)

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Sect IV, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

m. Robert A Powell, 39463250, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Spokane, Wash.

n. Virgil W Ritchie, 36809806, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 February 1945, while serving as engineer gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Cumberland, Wisc.

394TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
584th Bombardment Squadron (M)

o. Robert F Russell, 31283601, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 14 February 1945, while serving as tail gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Houlton, Maine.

585th Bombardment Squadron (M)

p. BENJAMIN W AVERA, JR., T-5638, Flight Officer, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 14 February 1945, while serving as bombardier on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Los Angeles, Calif.

587th Bombardment Squadron (M)

q. Joseph E Bartell, 33510817, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 14 January 1945, while serving as tail gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Harrisburg, Pa.

397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
597th Bombardment Squadron (M)

r. PORTER C BRANCH, O-759889, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 3 February 1945, while serving as bombardier-navigator on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Princeton, Ind.

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Sect IV, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

598th Bombardment Squadron (M)

s. Henry M Finger, 18232365, Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received as a result of enemy action on 13 January 1945, while serving as radio gunner on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Hondo, Texas.

t. THEODORE W BEAN, O-803502, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received as a result of enemy action on 6 July 1944, while serving as pilot on a B-26 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Orenna, Ill.

410TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
644th Bombardment Squadron (M)

u. GORDON G JONES, O-750281, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 23 January 1945, while serving as bombardier-navigator on an A-20 airplane on a combat operational mission over enemy occupied territory. Entered military service from Baltimore, Md.

SECTION V

1. So much of paragraph 1, Sect III, GO 46, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 December 1944, as awards the Air Medal to S/Sgt Ralph D Tobias, 15061214, is amended to read FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the Air Medal.

2. So much of paragraph 1, Sect VI, GO 19, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 5 Feb 1945, as awards the Air Medal to S/Sgt Willard H George, 37135315, is amended to read FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the Air Medal.

3. So much of paragraph 2 e, Sect I, GO 103, Hq, IX Bomber Command, dated 13 June 1944, as awards the third Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1ST LT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

4. So much of paragraph 2 o, Sect I, GO 120, Hq, IX Bomber Command, dated 6 July 1944, as awards the fourth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1ST LT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

5. So much of paragraph 1, Sect I, GO 158, Hq, IX Bomber Command, dated 18 August 1944, as awards the Air Medal to 1ST LT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

6. So much of paragraph 2 c, GO 179, Hq, IX Bomber Command, dated 11 September 1944, as awards the first Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to 1ST LT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

7. So much of paragraph 2 f, Sect II, GO 31, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M) dated 17 Nov 1944, as awards the second Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal to CAPT GRANT H THIBEAULT, O-725921, is deleted.

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Sect V, GO 26, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 22 Feb 45.

8. So much of paragraph 1c, Sect IV, GO 21, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 13 February 1945, as awards the Purple Heart to Major Howard L Burris, O-471478, is amended to read BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the PURPLE HEART to Major Howard L Burris, O-24862.

9. So much of paragraph 1, Sect II, GO 27, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 10 November 1944, as awards the Air Medal to S/Sgt James C Spake, 34607094 is amended to read FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.

10. So much of paragraph 1, Sect II, GO 27, Hq, 9th Bombardment Division (M), 10 November 1944, as awards the Air Medal to Sgt Wilbur A Skroh, 37505524 is amended to read FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.

By command of Major General ANDERSON:

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

OFFICIAL:



C. C. VEGA, JR.,
Lt Col, Air Corps,
Adjutant General.

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